



The Universities' Role in Fostering Innovation and Societal Change

Hideto Matsumoto
Director, Office for International Planning
Higher Education Bureau



MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN



The trend of reform in higher education in Japan

- Responding to the changes in industrial structure and meeting new needs
- Strengthening of local universities as “Knowledge Hubs”
- Internationalizing universities
- Enhancement of graduate school education and strengthening of universities’ research capacity
- Governance reforms and preparing foundations of Higher Education



Responding to the changes in industrial structure and meeting new needs

- ✓ Legislating of “Higher education institutions, which provide practical vocational education ”
- ✓ Strengthening capabilities of vocational graduate schools and colleges of technology
- ✓ Promotion of adult lifelong learning



Strengthening of local universities as Knowledge Hubs

- ✓ Overcoming population decline and revitalizing local economies by universities that function as centers of community

Program for Promoting Regional Revitalization by Universities as Centers of Community (COC+ Program)

【Background/Issues】

A downward spiral looms, entailing a shrinking population causing local economic contraction, with local economic contraction then causing further population decline.

Growing economic disparity between rural areas and Tokyo are causing extreme concentration in the capital and migration of young people from the countryside into Tokyo.

【Operational overview】

Universities
In the countryside

.. work together with local governments and small businesses to **draft plans to create local jobs and increase the number of graduates who stay local**

Universities
In Tokyo area

.. **work together with universities in the countryside, local public organizations and small businesses** to draft plans to contribute to increasing local appeal

- Universities work with various local organizations to create and open up jobs that are attractive to students, while **implementing education reform in order to train professionals needed by local communities**
- **Place coordinators to promote COC+ then strengthen partnerships among local communities collaborating on the projects and manage their progress**

⇒ Combine the educational, research and social contribution strength of universities in order to meet objectives set by organizations collaborating on the projects.



Internationalizing universities

- ✓ Internationalizing educational environments and teaching program contents
- ✓ Promotion of international student exchange programs

Selected universities for “Top Global University Project”

Legend

framed : Top Type none : Global Traction Type
 Black : National Blue : Public Red : Private

Kansai

- Kyoto U
- Osaka U
- Kyoto Institute of Technology
- Nara Institute of Science and Technology
- Ritsumeikan U
- Kwansei Gakuin U

Tohoku

- Tohoku U
- Akita International U
- U of Aizu

Kanto

- U of Tsukuba
- U of Tokyo
- Tokyo Medical and Dental U
- Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Keio U
- Waseda U
- Chiba U
- Tokyo U of Foreign Studies
- Tokyo U of the Art
- International Christian U
- Shibaura Institute of Technology
- Sophia U
- Toyo U
- Hosei U
- Meiji U
- Rikkyo U
- Soka U

Hokkaido

- Hokkaido U

Kyushu, Okinawa

- Kyushu U
- Kumamoto U
- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific U

Chugoku, Shikoku

- Hiroshima U
- Okayama U

Hokuriku, Koshinetsu, Tokai

- Nagoya U
- Kanazawa U
- Nagaoka U of Technology
- Toyohashi U of Technology
- International U of Japan

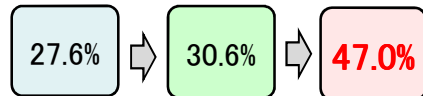
- Top Type :
13 universities
- Global Traction Type :
24 universities

Goals set by the 37 universities selected for Top Global University Project

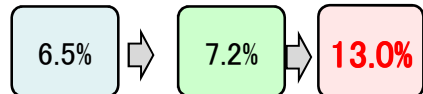
(2013→2014 → 2023:average)

1.Internationalization

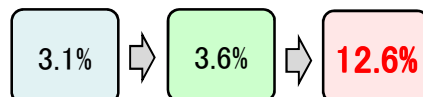
1. Percentage of **international full-time faculty staff** and full-time faculty staff who have received their degrees at a foreign university



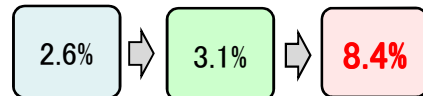
2. Percentage of **international students**



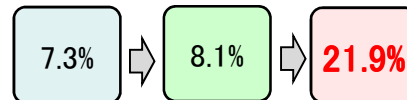
3. Percentage of **Japanese students** who have experienced study abroad (credit earning)



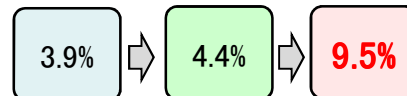
4. Percentage of **Japanese students** studying abroad under inter-university agreements



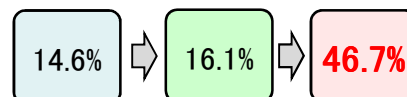
5. Percentage of **classes** conducted in foreign languages



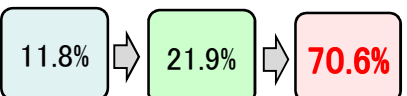
6. Percentage of students enrolled in **degree programs** in foreign languages



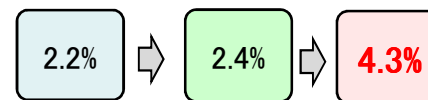
7. Percentage of **students** who meet foreign language standards



8. Percentage of **syllabus** translated in English



9. Percentage of Japanese students who stay in **international dormitories**



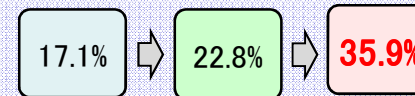
2013
result

2014
result

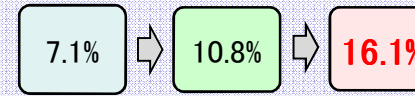
2023
goal

2.Governance

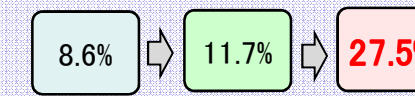
1. Percentage of **annual salary system**



2. Percentage of **tenure track system**

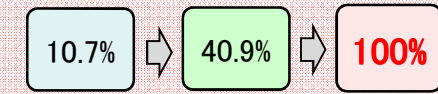


3. **Upgrading of administrative staff** (percentage of administrative staff who meet foreign language standards)

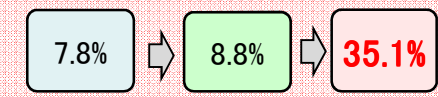


3.Educational Reform

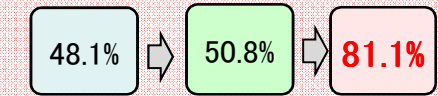
1. Percentage of **course numbering**



2. Percentage of **use of external test** such as TOEFL in entrance examination



3. Percentage of **classes** where evaluation by students is conducted



The 37 universities have **630 thousand people (550 thousand students and 80 thousands faculty staff)** in total

→ **Approximately 20%** of all students (2.82 million) and faculty staff (400 thousand) in Japanese universities



Enhancement of graduate school education and strengthening of universities' research capacity

- ✓ Giving shape to “Program for inter-institutional Collaboration on innovative Doctoral Education(provisional naming)” framework
- ✓ Fostering creative and outstanding researchers through “Prominent researchers” system

Relationship between Designated National Universities, Program for inter-institutional Collaboration on innovative Doctoral Education(provisional naming), Leading Excellent Researchers, Top Global Universities

Policies Points of Comparison	Designated National University System	Program for inter-institutional Collaboration on innovative Doctoral Education (provisional naming)	Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER)	Top Global University Project
Objective	To create incorporated national universities that will lead Japan's academic research and professional development by conducting the world's highest standards of education and research	To lead creation and use of new knowledge and to cultivate PhDs who can bring about social innovation	To open up new career paths at industry-academia-government research institutions while creating an environment for young researchers conducive to advancing stable and independent research	To improve the international viability and international competitiveness of Japan's higher education
Eligible Institutions	National universities	Public (including national) and private universities	Public (including national) universities, private universities, national R&D corporations, private corporations, etc.	Public (including national) and private universities
Selection Method	Designate those applying national university corporations that conduct education and research at the world's highest standards, in accordance with the Act of National University Corporations.	Determine aid recipients from among applying universities after competitive vetting. This requires: • Commitment from university headquarters; • Drafting of plans to solidify operations, including measures for aggressive acquisition of various external funds from domestic and foreign corporations and research institutions	Receive applications from young researchers, simultaneously with the presentation by research institutions of available posts; selection of excellent researcher made after peer review and employment coordination.	Receive two types of applications from each university, then determine the aid recipient after a competitive vetting. ○ Top-type (13 universities) Universities with the potential to rank in the top 100 worldwide ○ Global traction-type (24 universities) Universities that have tackled cutting-edge trials that went beyond their already impressive record and that drive the globalization of Japanese society
Details	○ Special provisions on interim targets (must be based on the operations of foreign universities that conduct the world's highest level of education and research) ○ Including expansion of investment targets to promote use of research findings	○ Anticipated actions include: • Partnership with multiple universities, university-joint-use organizations, private corporations, national R&D corporations, top overseas universities, etc. • Draft systematic and organized curricula that integrates master's and doctoral courses • Provide economic aid to outstanding students in an amount equivalent to living costs • Promote acquisition of doctoral degrees by outstanding adult members of society • Professional development through student participation in joint research with partner institutions	○ Extent of research fields All fields of natural sciences, humanities and social sciences ○ Number of researchers About 150 each academic year ○ Aid figure per researcher Research costs: About 6 million yen per year for two years Research environment preparation costs: About 3 million yen per year for five years	○ Provide priority support to universities that advance internationalization in a thorough fashion through university reform and partnership with high-caliber overseas universities, in order to raise international viability and international competitiveness.



Governance reforms and preparation of a foundation

- ✓ **Strengthening the functions of national universities** (revision of methods of providing operational grants, creation of “designed national universities” system etc.)
- ✓ **Enhancement of university presidents’ leadership** (the development of professional support staff and the establishment of support system across all universities to support presidents)
- ✓ **Improvement and enhancement of a comprehensive system for quality assurance of university education**



Thank you for your attention!