

JAPAN 2008 AND HEREAFTER

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September 12, 2008

International Education Policy for the Future

- In 2003, after Japan reached its goal of accepting 100,000 international students, the MEXT asked the Central Education Commission to discuss the next phase in promoting international education. In outlining the basic direction for a new international student policy, the Commission stressed the following point:
- “...[I]n advancing international student exchange for the future, individual universities will need to become more active and play a major role. In the forthcoming years the government will support those universities that actively engage in expanding international student exchange.
- “Forming attractive programs for accepting international students will be a necessary condition for both international students as well as domestic students. For this reason, individual universities will need to plan on improving their international student exchange programs by strengthening their international competitiveness, and improving their educational and research program contents to meet international standards and acceptability.”

International Education Policy for the Future



- In July 2008, the government presented the details to the 300,000 international student plan that was announced by the Prime Minister in January. The contents is a culmination of the discussion since 2003.
- The plan calls for more active involvement of individual universities from beginning to end. And, the financial assistance and promotion of this process will be done jointly by the related ministries and organizations.

Assistance for University Education Reform

- Budget for Competitive Grants 2008 → approximately 68 billion yen (\$680 million)
- -\$86 million for Improving and Advancing University Education Quality;
- -\$50 million for Improvement of University functions and Human Resource Development in accordance with social needs;
- **-\$20 million for Internationalization and Advancement of International Student Policies;**
- -\$379 million for Global Center of Excellence (COE) Programs
- -\$51 million for Graduate School Education Reform Assistance Programs
- **-\$30 million for Strategic University Alliance Programs**
- -\$43 million for University and University Hospital Doctor Development Systems
- -\$15 million for Programs Strengthening University and Business Alliances for Developing Advanced Human Resources and Education

Competitive Grants for University Education Reform

- Examples of Programs being approved for “Internationalization and Advancement of International Student Policies”:

- Data from 2006:

	National Univ.	Public Univ.	Private Univ.	Joint	Total
□ Applicants	114	14	38	2	168
□ Approved	28	1	6	1	36

Competitive Grants for University Education Reform

-Examples of Projects and Proposals Approved-

- “Developing Counseling Skills through International Alliances Japan/U.S./Canada” (Hokkaido University of Education)
- “Developing Realistic International Standard Models for First Year Student Education: Taking into consideration International Student Training” (Tokyo University)
- “Improving Quality of University Education through Internationalization of Faculty Development Activities” (Nagoya University)
- “Internationalization of Children’s Sports Instruction” (Nara University of Education)
- “Program for Developing Advanced Skills for Medical Personnel” (Hiroshima University)
- “Developing and Improving Study Abroad Programs” (Waseda University)
- “International Joint Education in the Field of PCS” (Tokyo University of Foreign Languages, Australian National University, Geneva University, Cornell University, Leeds University, Phenom Peng National University, University of Indonesia)
- “Developing Legal Education Environment through International Alliances” (Nagoya University, Wisconsin University, Fudan University, Lindz University, Mongolia National University)
- “Advancing International Alliances for Strategic Education on Cultural Heritages” (Sophia University, Cambodian Royal University of the Arts)
- “International Cooperation Model for Developing System Engineers” (Fukuoka University of Technology)

How Universities Are Approaching Internationalization

- According to a survey (see, Yokoto, et.al, 『岐路に立つ日本の大学 (Japanese Universities Standing at the Crossroads) 』 (科研、基盤研究B, pp. 114-15 (2008)) conducted during the years of 2003-2005, the top 10 approaches to internationalization were as follows:
 1. Acceptance of international students;
 2. Hiring foreign faculty and researchers;
 3. Exchange student programs;
 4. Overseas language studies, short-term internships;
 5. Academic exchange with overseas universities;
 6. Establishing an office in charge of international affairs;
 7. Sending personnel to study or train on international exchange related topics;
 8. Providing for language promotion courses (TOEFL Courses...)
 9. Providing for a multi-lingual homepage for international recruiting;
 10. Establishing a residence for international students and faculty, etc.,...

(Providing for English taught major courses is #13; and English taught programs for Short-term exchange is even lower at #20)

Internationalization Strategy at Hiroshima University of Economics

- Three year plan/strategy to make the study environment for international students more attractive (ending academic year 2008)
- 1) More staff and student involvement in orientations and guidance programs for international students at the entrance stage;
- 2) Creating more opportunities for academic and health counseling for international students;
- 3) Personalized career placement starting in the first year of enrollment to assist international students in putting them in the same position as Japanese students by the time of graduation;
- 4) Internationalizing the community to promote international student awareness.

- From 2009, we plan to announce a new international education plan that will go in accordance with the new 300,000 international student plan.



Thank you for your attention.