

# **Current Situation and Policy Challenges in Japanese Higher Education**

**Kobe University Brussels European Centre  
Opening Symposium**

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**Japan**

# Outline

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- I. Higher Education in Japan**
- II. Policy Challenges**
- III. Expectation for Future Japan-EU  
Collaboration**

# I. Current Situation of Higher Education in Japan

## a) Number of higher education institutions and students

### University (4 year)

	Number of 4-year university				Number of students (undergraduate course) (in 10 thousands)				Entry rate
	National	Public	Private	Total	National	Public	Private	total	
1999	99	66	454	619	47.6	8.8	188.5	244.9	38.2%
2009	86	75	576	737	45.2	11.8	195.7	252.7	50.2%
Change of number	-13	9	122	118	-2.4	3.0	7.2	7.8	+12.0%

### Junior college (2 year)

	Number of 2-year junior college				Number of students (in 10 thousands)				Entry rate
	National	Public	Private	Total	National	Public	Private	total	
1999	17	52	480	549	0.8	2.2	33.8	36.8	10.9%
2009	0	21	357	378	0	1.0	14.5	15.5	6.0%
Change of number	-17	-31	-123	-171	-0.8	-1.2	-19.3	-21.3	-4.9%

### Graduate school

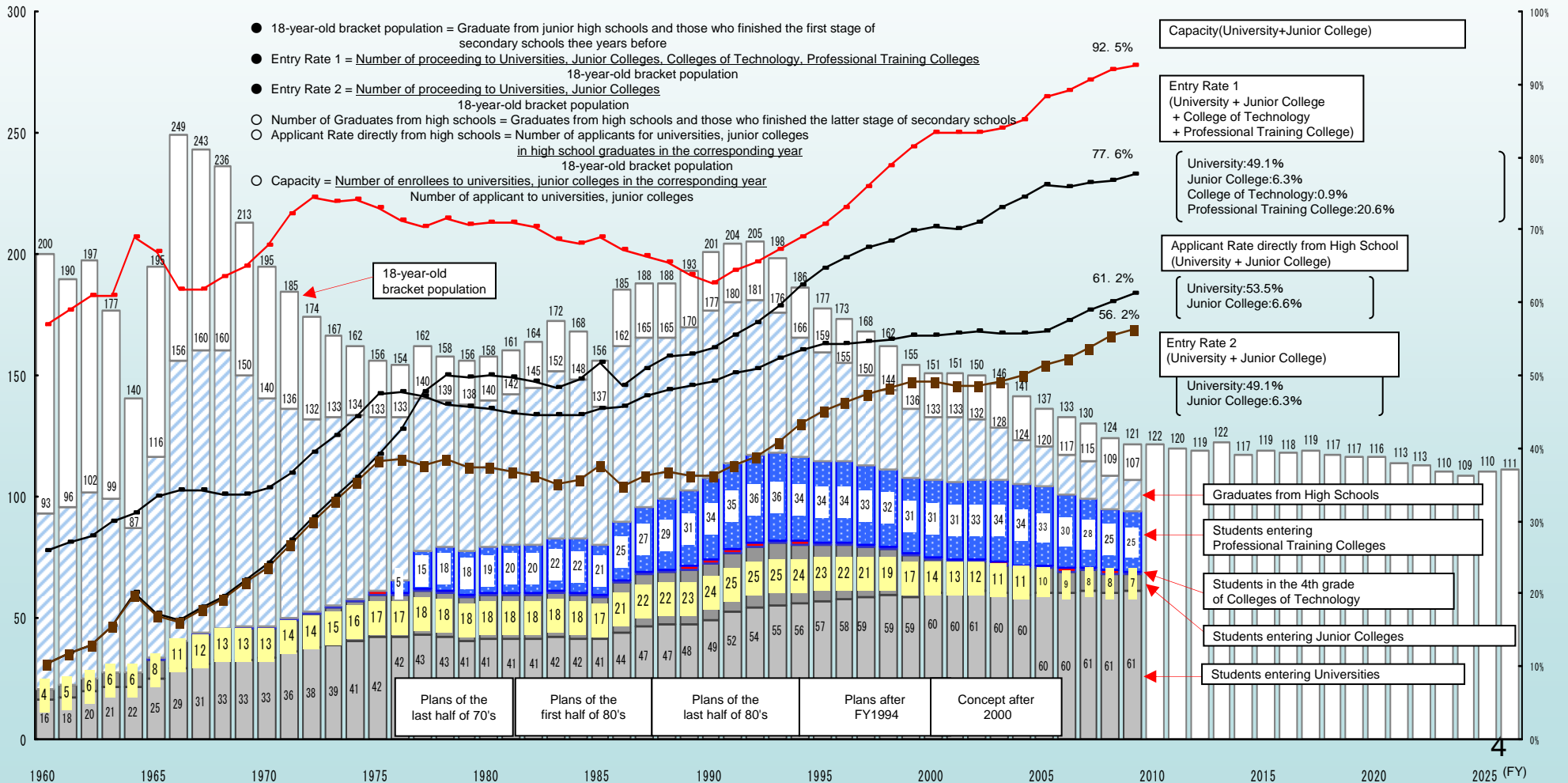
	graduate school				Number of students (in 10 thousands)				Not including professional courses <sup>3</sup>
	National	Public	Private	Total	National	Public	Private	total	
1999	99	45	319	463	12.1	0.8	6.2	19.1	
2009	85	68	433	586	14.6	1.5	7.9	24.0	
Change of number	-14	23	114	123	2.5	0.7	1.7	4.9	

# b) Declining 18yr old population; Entry rate exceeds 50%

In Japan, the percentage of the 18-year-old population that entry into universities and junior colleges has steadily increased since the Second World War, now exceeding 56%. If figures for enrolments in technical colleges and specialized schools are added, the total exceeds 77%.

(10,000 persons)

## Change in entry rate in Japan



# II. Policy Challenges in Higher Education

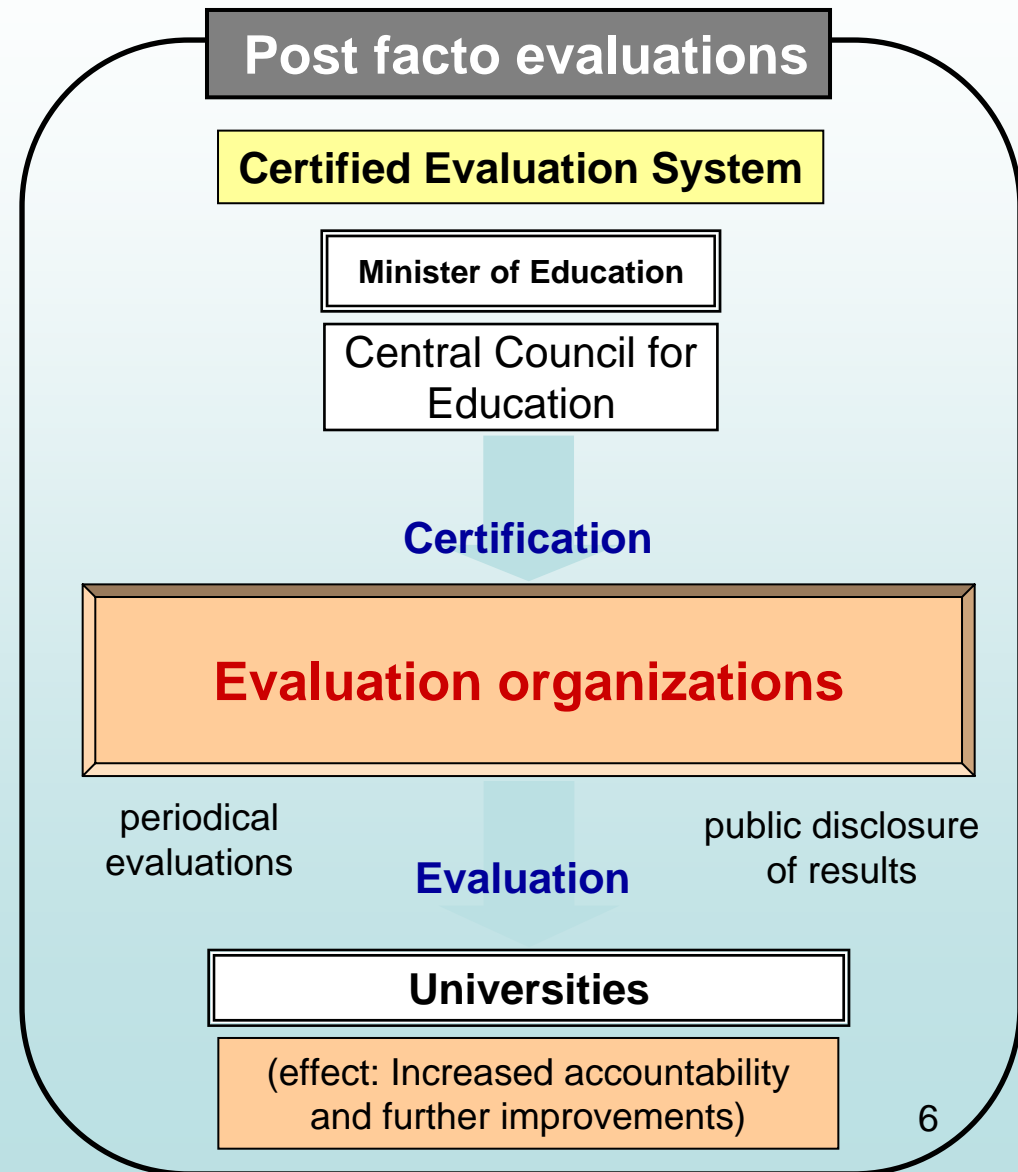
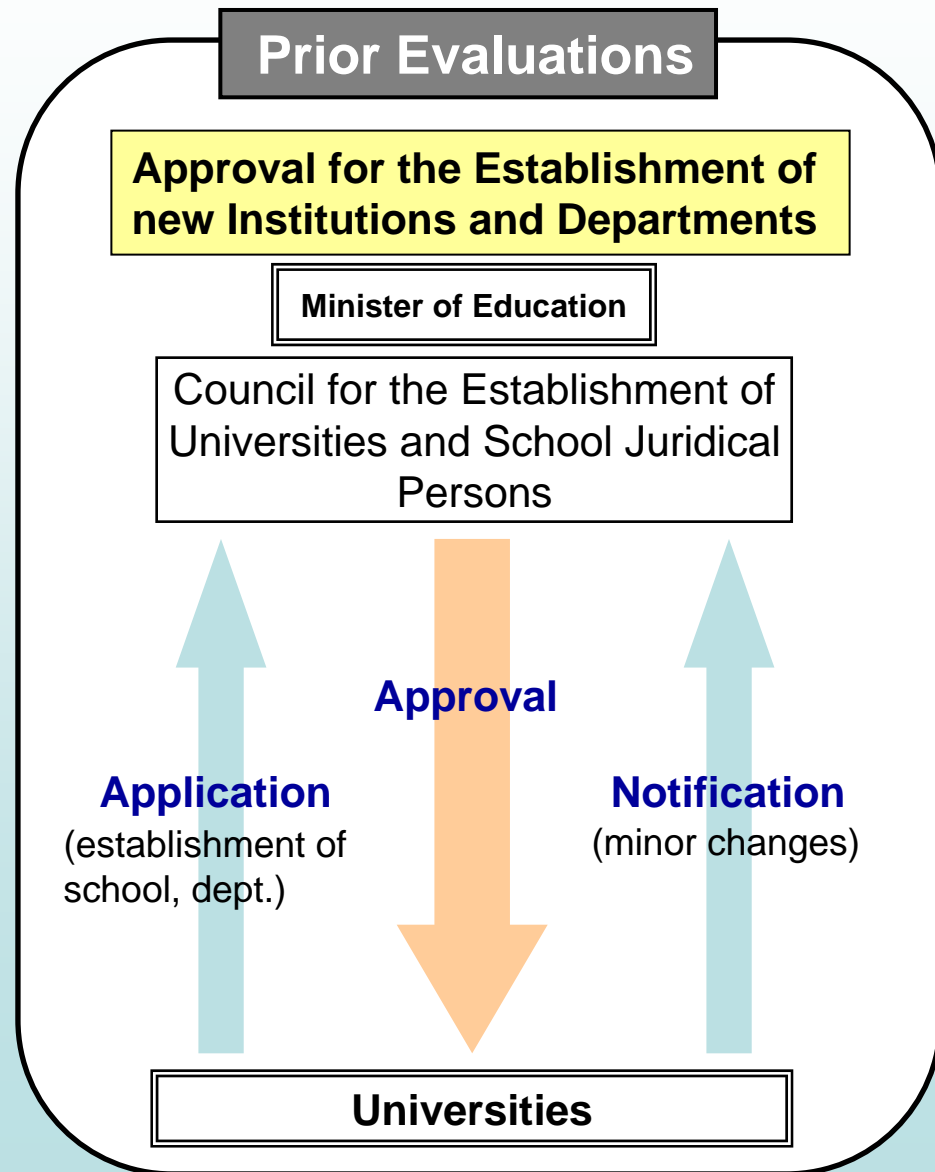
## Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education:

Objective: To define a comprehensive set of policies on the future of Japanese education over the next 10 years.

### Fundamental issues for higher education:

- Guaranteeing and improving the quality of education
- Formation of world-class centers of research and education
- Internationalization of Japanese universities

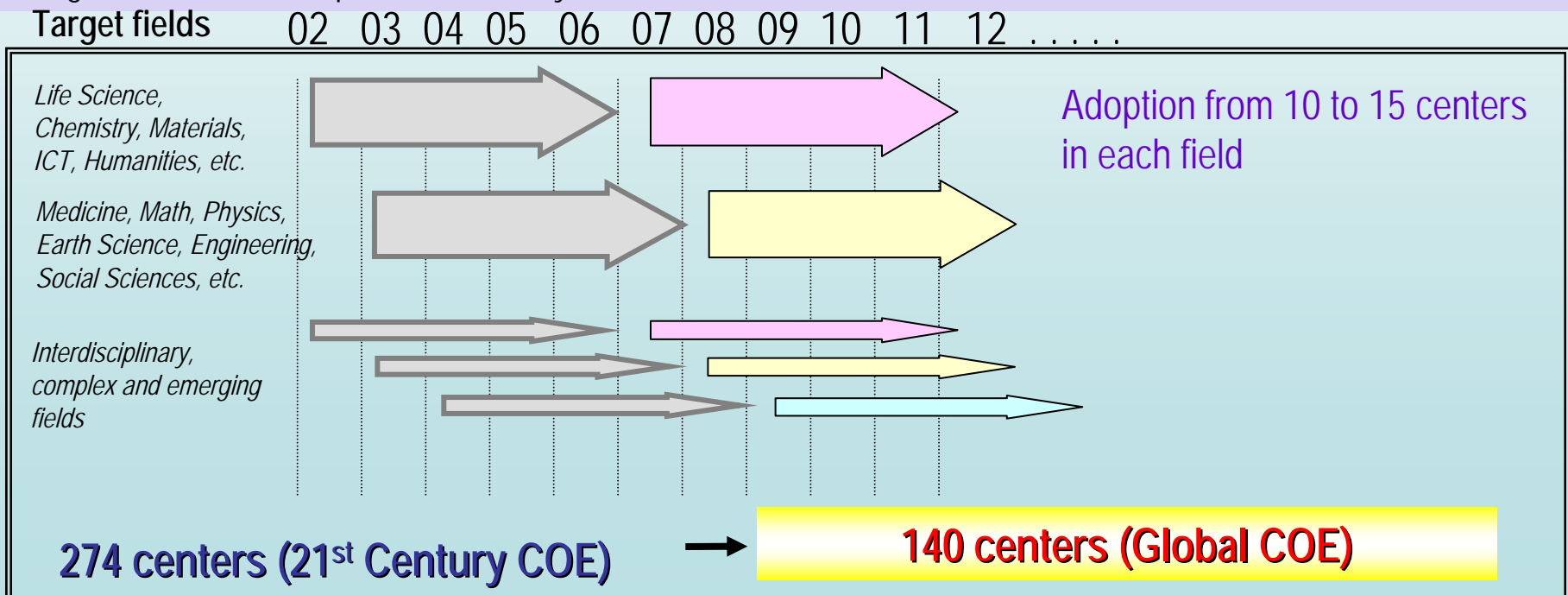
# Guaranteeing and Improving the Quality of Education



# Formation of world-class centers of research and education

## Global COE (Center of Excellence) Program

- (1) Post 21st Century COE Program
- (2) Prioritized support for and selection of education and research centers of international excellence  
274 centers (21<sup>st</sup> Century COE) --> 140 centers (Global COE)
- (3) Strengthening and enhancing the education and research functions of graduate schools to train highly creative young researchers
- (4) Strengthening the review and evaluation systems to judge international competitiveness
- (5) Each center can be established with overseas universities, if certain conditions are met such as inter-university agreements with a Japanese university at the center



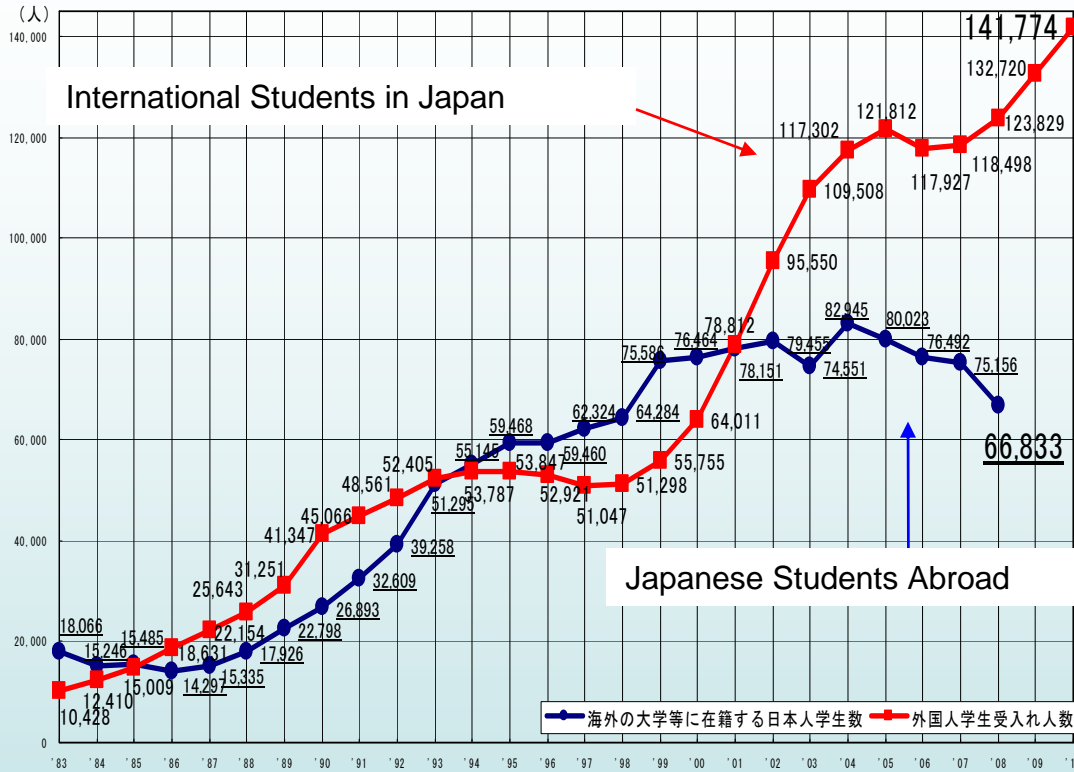
# Internationalization of Japanese Universities

- (1) Promotion of International Exchange of Students
- (2) Development of international cooperation between universities
- (3) Development of infrastructure to respond to globalization
- (4) Regional Cooperation in Asia



# (1) Promotion of International Exchange of Students

## ○Decreasing Japanese students abroad



Source: Acceptance: Surveys conducted by MEXT, JASSO  
 Dispatch: Surveys conducted by OECD, IIE; UNESCO Statistical Yearbook, etc.

## ○Trends in numbers of Japanese students abroad based on agreements between universities

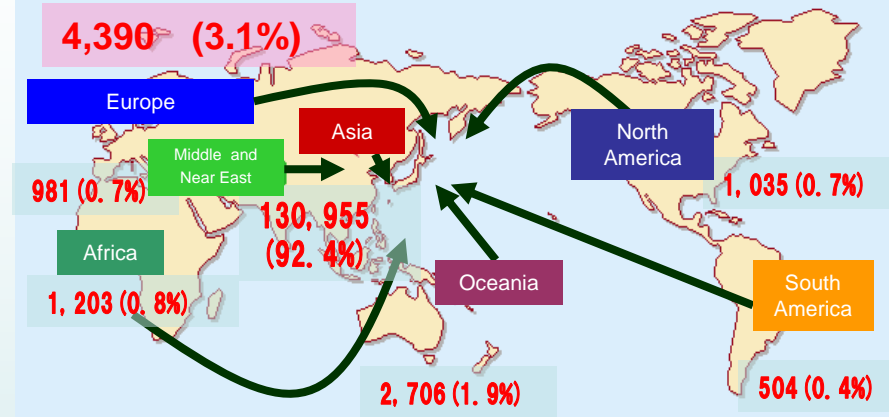
AREA	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
North America	5,467	5,341	6,103	6,948	7,460	8,359	8,623	8,798
Europe	3,245	3,730	4,208	4,875	5,019	5,607	5,559	6,042
Asia	3,068	3,402	2,453	4,081	4,727	5,769	5,805	5,640
Oceania	2,028	2,255	2,544	2,393	3,251	3,646	3,539	3,726
Others	153	210	256	273	232	252	280	302
TOTAL	13,961	14,938	15,564	18,570	20,689	23,633	23,806	24,508

Source: MEXT (FY2001-03), Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) (FY2004-08)

## ○International Students Coming to Japan

Total: 141,774

As of May 1, 2010

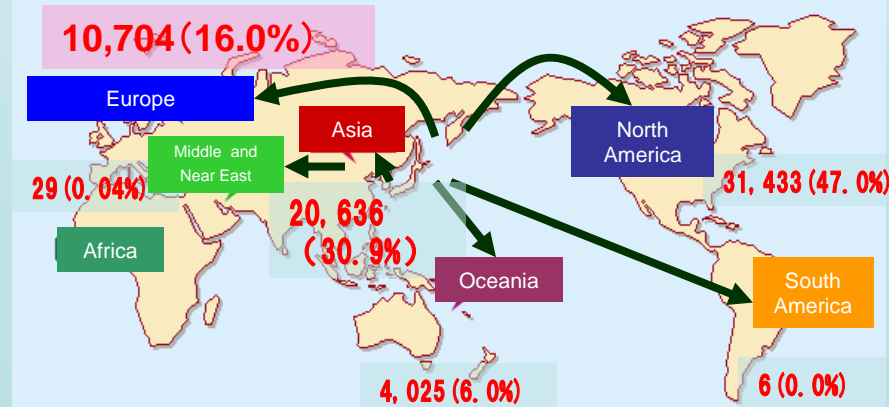


Source: Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

## ○Japanese Students Abroad

Total: 66,833

As of May 1, 2010



Sources: OECD "Education at a Glance," IIE (U.S.) "Open Doors," and others

## (2) Development of International Cooperation between Universities

There has been a definite increase in the number of agreements between universities to promote interaction, but due to a lack of attractive educational programs, some of these remain merely frameworks.

### ○ Trends in numbers of agreements

	National Universities	Public Universities	Private Universities	Total
Academic year 2003	4,674	393	5,724	10,791
Academic year 2004	4,828	365	5,643	10,836
Academic year 2006	5,534	474	6,745	12,753
Academic year 2007	5,407	519	6,914	12,840
Academic year 2008	6,329	600	7,927	14,856

\* Survey methods changed between academic year 2006 and 2007, so a simple comparison of data from before and after his period is not possible.

### ○ Locations of universities with which agreements have been formed

Asia	7,164	48.2%
North America	2,640	17.8%
Middle East	148	1.0%
Europe	3,666	24.7%
Oceania	717	4.8%
Central & South America	315	2.1%
Africa	180	1.2%
Other	26	0.2%
Total	14,856	100.0%

\* Top five countries with which agreements have been formed

1. China 2,995
2. US 2,198
3. ROK 1,668
4. UK 717
5. France 654

\* Source: Survey data obtained by MEXT in academic year 2008.

\* Others include cases where agreements exist between multiple partners representing regions

# (3) Development of Infrastructure to Respond to Globalization

➤ Foster human resources who will be world leaders with keen international perceptions

## The New Growth Strategy

### <<21 National Strategic Projects for Japan's revitalisation in for the 21th Century>>

- Create doctoral course consistent with international standard
- Cultivate internationality within international networks
- Broaden career paths through cooperation with industry
  
- Build Centres of Excellence such as "CAMPUS Asia" by Japan, China and Korea
- Create Cooperative Education Programmes with the US

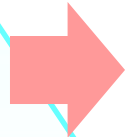
*Establish world "Leading Graduate School"*  
Build postgraduate education nases able to foster researchers who will lead the world (3.9 billion yen)



Foster young researchers who will be world leaders of companies, int'l organizations and research institutions

Attract excellent students and teachers from all over the world

*Strengthen universities' ability to expand around the world*  
Build bases for fostering Global Talents through cooperative education transcending boundaries (2.2 billion yen)



Foster Global Talents

*Promote students' two-way exchange*  
Accept overseas students and expand opportunities for Japanese students to challenge themselves abroad (2.2 billion yen)

## (4) Regional Cooperation in Asia

### - Inter-university and student exchanges:

#### Program on University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP)

- Program launched in 1991, with the participation of 331 universities.
- UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme launched in 1999.

### - Engineering network among ASEAN and Japanese institutions: AUN-SEED Net

- Network formed in 2003, with the participation of 19 ASEAN and 11 Japanese universities.
- 444 degrees conferred to ASEAN researchers as of 2008.
- Second phase launched in March, 2008.

### - Network of education and research centers to train young researchers and conduct joint research

- Since 1978, research in 30 fields including medicine, agriculture and environmental science, with the support of JSPS.
- 490 PhDs conferred to Asian researchers in 10 countries.
- Since 1988, admission of young researchers by Japanese universities.

## (4) Regional Cooperation in Asia

### - CAMPUS Asia Project:

#### Japan-China-Korea Committee for University Exchange

- Former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama made proposed fall 2009 Program
- Guideline for university with quality assurance considered
- Pilot program to be launched in 2011

### - Dialogue with all East-Asian Countries:

#### Symposium on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

- To be held in 17-18 March 2011
- Participants among governments, quality assurance agencies, universities, the industry from East Asian countries
- Diversities in university system, quality assurance system and their development in East Asia region

#### International Conference of States of the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, etc. in Asia and the Pacific

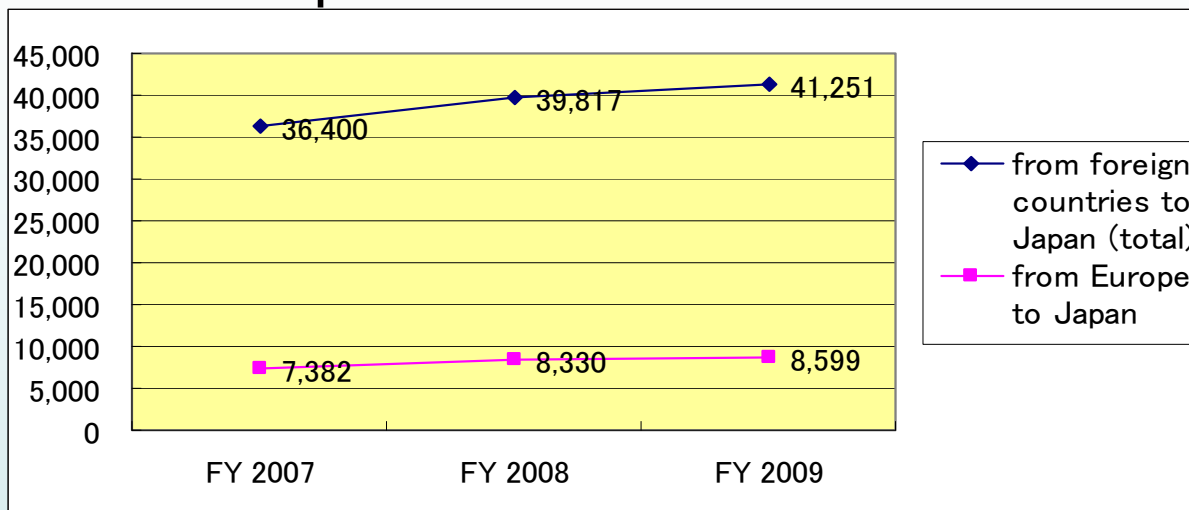
- To be held in 24-25 November 2011
- Objectives to discuss revision of the 1983 convention

# Research Cooperation

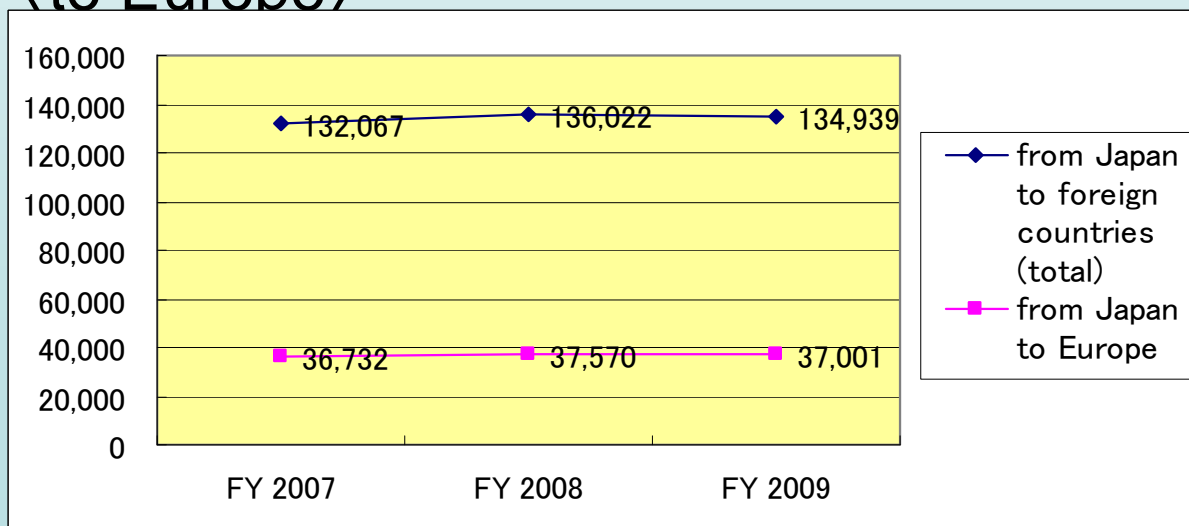
- (5) Researchers Exchange between Japan and Europe
- (6) S&T Cooperation between Japan and Europe
- (7) Japan-EU Agreement on S&T Cooperation
- (8) Japan-EU Summit

# (5) Researchers Exchange between Japan and Europe

〈from Europe〉



〈to Europe〉



## (6) S&T Cooperation between Japan and Europe

- Research exchange and joint research by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
  - Strategic International Cooperative Program  
(Matching Fund based on bilateral agreements at the governmental level)
    - Research exchange in Environment 2009~
    - Joint research in Superconductivity 2011~
  
- Research exchange programs by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
  - ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers  
(Provide young Japanese and European researchers opportunities to receive lectures from and hold discussions with leading , international experts)
  - JSPS Core-to-Core Program  
(Build and strengthen networks in cutting-edge fields of science between Japanese and European research institutes)
  
- Cooperation in Space, Ocean, Environment, Atomic Energy



## (7) Japan-EU Agreement on S&T Cooperation

### ○ November 30, 2009

Signed on Japan-EU Agreement on S&T Cooperation  
(Formalities in process to bring the agreement into effect)

### ○ April 15, 2010

Preparatory Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation between  
Japan and EU (Tokyo)  
(Discussion on possible collaborations in Realizing Low Carbon Society,  
Climate Change, Researchers exchange, Space, Materials Science,  
Health/Life science)

### ○ date TBD

The 1<sup>st</sup> Japan-EU Joint Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation  
(Tokyo)  
(Discuss concrete cooperation between Japan and Europe in the future)

## (8) Japan-EU Summit

○ April 28, 2010

The 19th Japan-EU Summit (Tokyo)

- Japan: Prime Minister Hatoyama

- EU: Van Rompuy , President of the European Council  
Barroso, President of the European Commission

Joint Statement on Japan-EU Summit

- Strengthen cooperation on R&D in innovative technology
- Promote cooperation based on the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the European Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology  
(Environment/Technology for Low Carbon Society, Materials Science, ICT, Space, ITER)

# **III. Expectation for Future Japan-EU Collaboration**

**More Japan and EU Collaboration**

- **Leading to find more COMMONALITY**
- **Still more collaboration!**

**-Good Practice**

**-Sharing Information**

**-Networking**

**-Universities, Institutes, Governments, Civil  
Organizations**

**Thank you for Listening**

**ご静聴ありがとうございました。**