Short-term Exchange Programs and the Internationalization of Japanese Universities: A Case-study

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The ‘Plan to Accept 100,000 Foreign Students’

The chart shows the number of foreign students accepted for each year from 1978 to 2004. The green bars represent the total number of foreign students accepted, while the orange bars represent the number of foreign students who received government scholarships. The red dashed line indicates the target of 100,000 foreign students.
Japan’s International Student Composition
(As of May 2003)

Total: 109,508
Note: Figures in brackets show the number of Japanese government scholarship students (9,746)
International Student Composition in Japan: Top 10 Countries of Origin  
(as of May 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Number of foreign students in Japan (Unit: person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>70,814 (1,748)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>15,871 ( 971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>4,235 (   - )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2,002 ( 276)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,641 ( 622)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1,479 ( 598)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,336 ( 510)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1,310 ( 125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>974 ( 467)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>714 ( 240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>9,132 (4,189)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>109,508 (9,746)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Home countries of International Students at Nagoya University (May, 2005)

Top 20 countries at NU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| China       | 494    | 43.0%
| Korea       | 129    | 11.2%
| Taiwan      | 52     | 4.5%
| Indonesia   | 38     | 3.3%
| Thailand    | 38     | 3.3%
| Malaysia    | 37     | 3.2%
| Vietnam     | 36     | 3.1%
| Cambodia    | 28     | 2.4%
| U.S.A.      | 26     | 2.3%
| Bangladesh  | 21     | 1.8%
| Uzbekistan  | 20     | 1.7%
| Mongolia    | 19     | 1.7%
| Philippines | 18     | 1.6%
| India       | 12     | 1.0%
| Brazil      | 12     | 1.0%
| France      | 12     | 1.0%
| Laos        | 10     | 0.9%
| Turkey      | 10     | 0.9%
| Sri Lanka   | 8      | 0.7%
| Egypt       | 7      | 0.6%
| Bulgaria    | 7      | 0.6%
| Russia      | 7      | 0.6%

Red: non-Asian countries
Short-term Student Exchange Promotion Program by MEXT (1995)

- Facilitating undergraduate student mobility: Junior Year Abroad; ERASMUS
- Slow-down of the ‘Plan to Accept 100,000 Foreign Students’
- Private universities’ experiences of student exchange (since the ’80s)
- US ⇒ Japan: Receiving exchange students
  - Big imbalance in 1992 (Japan⇒US 36,610; US⇒Japan:1,245)
- CULCON (US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange) (1993 Joint Statement)
  ⇒ Ministry of Education (MEXT)
Short-term Student Exchange Promotion Program (1995)

- Ministry of Education (MEXT)
  - New semi-governmental scholarships (AIEJ ⇒ JASSO) based on student exchange agreements (tuition waiver recommended)
  - Japanese National Universities
    - Establishment of programs instructed in English
    - Budgeting for two faculty members & one administrative staff member for program coordination
Strategy for Establishing NUPACE
(Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange)

1. Diversification of international student body
   ○ 85% from Asia ⇒ regional balance
2. Internationalization through education
   ○ increasing the number of courses taught in English; broadening the outlook of Japanese students
3. Activation of academic exchange agreements and partnerships
   ○ research-oriented partnerships (some are defunct) ⇒ inter-university or inter-school partnerships
4. Promoting the return of exchange students as postgraduate degree-seeking students
5. Improving infrastructure for international students
   ○ supporting organizations, housing, advising etc.
## National Universities Establishing Short-term Student Exchange Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Est. Year</th>
<th>Accep. Stu. Num</th>
<th>Fields of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Tsukuba</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>about 40</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tokyo</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>about 30</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nagoya University</strong></td>
<td><strong>1996</strong></td>
<td><strong>about 50</strong></td>
<td>Humanities, Soc. Sci., Sci. &amp; Tech., Med.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo University of Foreign Studies</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National U. of Electro-Communications</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>about 30</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otaru University of Commerce</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Economics and Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka University of Foreign Studies</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo U. of Agriculture and Technology</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Institute of Technology</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Gakugei University</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>about 20</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Sciences, Education</td>
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NUPACE Features

- Autumn (late Sep) & Spring (early Apr) admission
  one semester or one year (4 months minimum)
- Flexible Program meeting students’ interests
  - Japanese language courses, Japan area and intercultural studies & courses in the student’s major
  - undergraduate courses taught in English: general courses covering humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering
  - no compulsory courses (but 12 credits per semester required); acceptance of research students
  - graduate courses: more courses for international development, law and politics
  - Degree-seeking courses taught in Japanese are open to students having adequate Japanese language proficiency
  - Guided independent study supervised by academic advisor

- Mixed dormitory (international and Japanese students) <since 2003>
- Life in Japan: convenient location in city, less expensive, good local community support, etc.
Exchange Students Received at NUPACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Self-financed</th>
<th>Received from TIMES Top 100 Univ.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'95</td>
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<td>'96</td>
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<td>'05</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NUPACE Student Breakdown by Country of Institution: Feb 1996 – April 2006
(550 students, 81 institutions, 21 countries)

- Asia: 52%
  - China: 97
  - Taiwan: 2
  - Korea: 94
  - Mongolia: 1
  - Cambodia: 1
  - Vietnam: 2
  - India: 2

- Europe: 23%
  - Russia: 4
  - Uzbekistan: 7
  - Belgium: 2
  - France: 33
  - UK: 38
  - Germany: 19
  - Poland: 23
  - Denmark: 1

- North America: 23%
  - USA: 120
  - Canada: 2
  - Australia: 16

- South America: 0.3%
  - Brazil: 1

- Oceania: 3%
  - Philippines: 11
  - Indonesia: 37
  - Thailand: 34
  - Mongolia: 1

- Other: 52%
NUPACE Student Breakdown by Country of Institution: April 2005 – October 2005 (60 students)

- **Asia**: 45%
  - China: 14
  - Korea: 10
  - Thailand: 1
  - Australia: 1
  - USA: 14
  - Uzbekistan: 1
  - Indonesia: 2
  - Uzbekistan: 1

- **North America**: 18%
  - USA: 14
  - UK: 6
  - Germany: 1
  - France: 5
  - Poland: 2
  - Belgium: 1

- **Europe**: 33%
  - Sweden: 2
  - Ireland: 1
  - France: 5

- **Oceania**: 2%
  - Sweden: 2
  - Germany: 1
  - France: 5

- **Self-financed/non-JASSO**: 21%
  - Asia: 12%
  - Europe: 5
  - N. America: 4
NUPACE Successes

1. Diversification of international student body
   ⇒ 50% from US, European and Australian universities

2. Internationalization through education
   ⇒ motivating Nagoya University students to study abroad
   ⇒ an international community and rapid growth in study abroad

3. Activation of academic exchange agreements and partnerships
   ⇒ concluding new agreements with tuition waivers and
   assessing strategic importance of partnership

4. Promoting degree-seeking returnee students
   ⇒ 10 % students are returnees

5. Improving the infrastructure for international students
   ⇒ housing, facilities, international student services, English-
   language documents and signs, etc.

◆ Enhancement of Japanese university education quality leading
  to comparisons with leading international universities
Study Abroad Destinations of Nagoya University Students

Europe
Oceania
Africa
S. America
N. America
Asia

All regions
Academic Exchange Agreements and Tuition Waivers at Nagoya University

- Academic exchange agreements
- Tuition waiver agreements
- Institutions sending NUPACE students
Academic Exchange Agreements Concluded by Japanese National Universities
Number of International Students and International Education-oriented Organizations/Programs at Nagoya University
MEXT internationalization policies aimed at Japanese Universities (1)

- “Development of New Policies for International Student Exchanges"
  (December 2003, Subdivision on Universities, Central Council for Education)

1. Emphasis on mutual exchange; not admission only
2. Improvement in foreign student admission system and securing of higher quality foreign students
3. Strengthening of student support system
MEXT internationalization policies aimed at Japanese Universities (2)

“Project of International Strategy Headquarters in Universities”
(FY 2005 through FY 2009)

20 institution pilot projects selected (16 national, 3 private & 1 prefectural; 1 national institute) including Nagoya University

“Nagoya University International Strategic Plan”

- Promote competition for international intellect and establish an internationally competitive research environment in Japanese universities to attract distinguished researchers both from inside and outside of Japan.

- Develop an inter-departmental organization "International Strategy Headquarters" to support university-wide organizational, international activities.

- Develop an outstanding international development strategy and create a standard for the promotion of autonomous consideration.
MEXT internationalization policies aimed at Japanese Universities (3)

- Competitive Budget: “Promotion Programs for the Internationalization of University Education” (from FY 2005)
  - International collaboration on university education
    - 4-year project: 25 million yen/year
    - admitted: (FY05) 15, (FY06) 5 projects incl. Nagoya Univ.
  - Learning of overseas universities’ education practice
    - 1-year project: 10 million yen/year
    - FY05: 19, FY06: 31 projects
      - 8 universities cooperative project (incl. Nagoya Univ.): Faculty development program for short-term student exchange program
      - Nagoya University project: Faculty development collaboration program with partner universities
Short-term Student Exchange Programs and the Internationalization of Japanese National Universities

- Short-term exchange students v. degree-seeking students
  - Degree-seeking students: Mostly from developing countries
    - Fewer incentives to improve the university system
  - Short-term students
    - Comparison with home universities' systems
    - Positive and flexible in communicating with faculty members, students and staff

- Departmental sectionalism to university-wide cooperation
  - President's leadership in university-wide projects
    - International HQ function
  - Importance of university's own long-range strategy for internationalization
    - Organization and staff for international activities
    - Budgeting
  - Enhancement of quality of university education to compete with leading universities in attracting international students
Thank you very much for your attention

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