



The Emerging Presence of Japanese Public Institutions

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Revised version

Background

- Nation
Located on the western edge of the Pacific Rim, Japan is among East Asian nations including China and South Korea with its population of 127 million and Japanese as the common language of communication. While still maintaining its third largest economy in the world, the nation has scarce natural resources thus relying on imports/exports and outsourcing with the help of other countries in order to get by. The nation is currently making an on-going effort to reinvigorate local communities hit by a declining birth rate, an aging population and recent major natural disasters.
- Interactions across cultures
As domestic labor and consumer markets shrink due to such drawbacks, the private sector along with local governments are expanding their overseas activities for further growth. Meanwhile, an increasing number of employers in local communities are filling their job openings with individuals from other countries because of labor shortage in some key industries, which in turn are making local communities culturally and racially more diverse.
- Need for locally and globally competent individuals
As such, need for individuals who can interact comfortably and effectively with people from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds are greater than ever in today's workplace and communities. However, there has been chronic labor shortage of both locally and globally competent individuals, partly because of an increasing number of employees reluctant to be assigned overseas due to lack of L2 proficiency reported in the 2013 Sannodai survey. The bright side of the coin though is that there is a growing number of young Japanese nationals who are positive about placing themselves in other cultures also shown in the survey to coincide with the latest upward trend in study abroad reversing its downward trend for the past decade.
- Increased roles of HEIs
Back in 1980s through mid-1990s before the current prolonged recession, private corporations would provide their young employees with training opportunities such as degree study at business schools abroad or language training after work. That was then. They are now turning to HEIs for that intercultural training role as they cannot afford to wait for them to become globally competent and comfortable individuals. There are 1,190 HEIs with their enrollment of 3million in the nation comprised of 47 prefectures. The HEIs have been undergoing some kind of university reform led by the Japanese government since early 1990s.
- Increased support for international education
In response to such growing need for globally competent individuals, the government and private sectors have been significantly increasing their support for higher education institutions in the form of major project or study abroad scholarship grants to advance internationalization at home, partnerships and student mobility, which is also a primary component of on-going university reform as well. MEXT

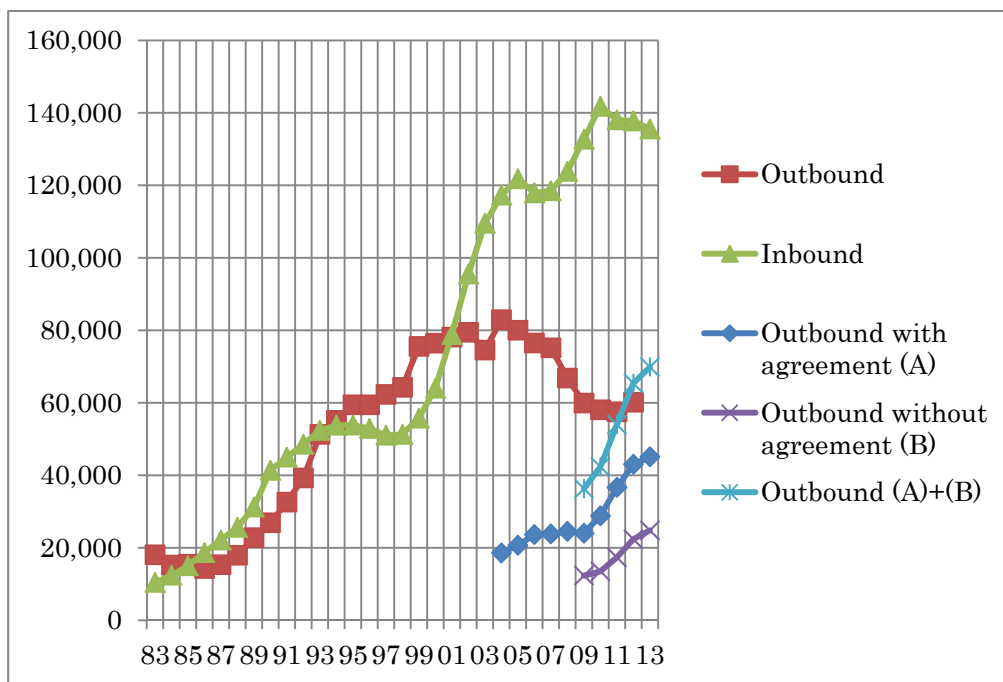
maintains its dual goals of 300,000 incoming international students and 120,000 outgoing domestic students by 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympic games.

Japanese HEIs and their enrollment

Type of HEIs	National	Public	Private	Total
4-year	86	92	603	781
Institutions	612,509	148,042	2,094,978	2,855,529
2-year	51	21	337	409
Institutions	51,725	11,222	131,264	194,211
Total	147	113	940	1,190
	664,234	159,264	2,226,242	3,049,740

Compiled from the 2014 school survey by MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology)

Student mobility



Compiled from the 2014 student mobility surveys conducted by MEXT & Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

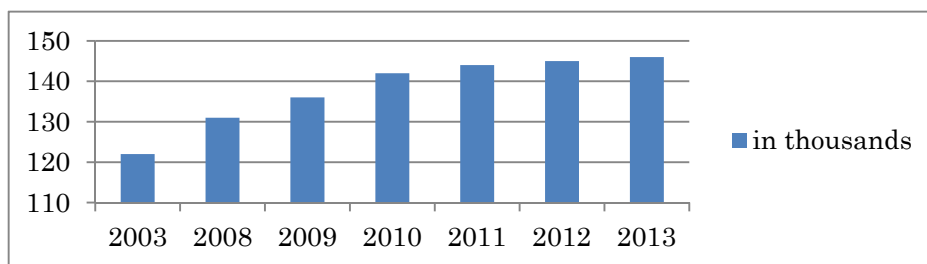
Emerging – in what way?

- Invisible to visible

Despite their very competitive constituents, Japanese public institutions have long been invisible behind their national and private counterparts up until mid-2000s when their incorporation began with a liberal arts university. Since then public institutions have been emerging with a strong potential for their increased roles in the international higher education scene.

- Increased roles and needs for higher education in the region
 Public institutions originally served to meet specific educational needs of their region for nursing and health sciences etc. They still do but are also responding to broader regional needs that have arisen in recent years such as producing culturally competent graduates. With this growing need for higher education in the region, the number of public institutions and their enrollment have been increasing from 76 to 92, 122,000 to 148,000, respectively during the 2003 to 2013 period (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or MEXT 2014).

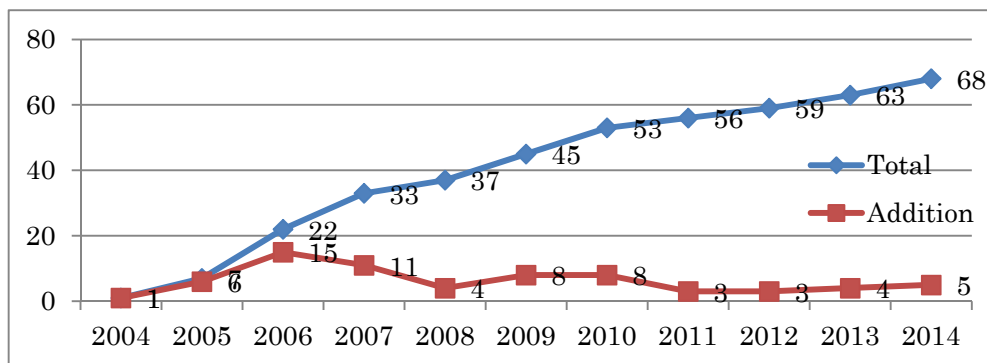
Increased Enrollment



Compiled from MEXT's annual school survey 2014

Increased autonomy

To date, sixty-eight public higher education institutions have been incorporated under a college or university system since 2004. This reform allows them to manage themselves independently while their short- to mid-term goals are monitored and evaluated by the local governments that subsidize the institutions.



Compiled from The Japan Association of Public Universities Fact Book 2013 and The Portraits of Public Colleges and Universities in Japan 2014

- Increased research grants
 The number of applications for and recipients of grants-in-aid for scientific research during the 2006 to 2013 period has been growing from 8,631 to 10,651, 3,194 to 5,260, respectively according to the 2013 fact book of the Japan Association of Public Universities compiled based on JSPS data.
- Increased conference appearances and media attention
 Public institutions are making their debut in major International education conferences in recent years such as NAFSA and APAIE to join their national and private counterparts to together promote study in Japan. The latest issue of NAFSA's International Educator magazine features education in Japan which contains an article and ad about its HEIs including public institutions.

Conference booth appearances

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
National	3	2	4	6	23
Public	0	0	2	2	4
Private	16	18	29	47	50

Source: Japan Network for International Education (JAFSA); Conferences : NAFSA, EAIE & APAIE

International Education

- Study abroad & exchange

As the latest trend implies, an increasing number of colleges and universities students in Japan are actively participating in education abroad recently. Like their national and private counterparts, public institutions are sending and receiving comparable or even surpassing numbers.

Outbound & inbound mobility

Length	Undergraduate			Graduate		
	National	Public	Private	National	Public	Private
Outbound						
2-4weeks	38%	41%	38%	19%	23%	17%
6-12months	16%	23%	14%	6%	13%	12%
Inbound						
up to 2weeks	14%	17%	12%	9%	9%	4%
6-12months	37%	44%	19%	15%	15%	13%

Source: <http://www.asahi.com/edu/hiraku/article05.html> Asahishimbun-Kawaijuku survey 2014

- Partnerships

Latecomers in the field of international education because of their traditional regional focus and interest, public higher education institutions (PIs) may not have been nearly as active in partnering with overseas institutions in the past as their national and private counterparts. PIs are now showing their keen interest in expanding their partnerships across borders.

- International offices forming

International offices and centers have been being formed in growing numbers being gradually recognized as university-wide coordinating organizations. As of 2014, at least thirty-three public institutions now have an international office or center.

- International programs

They are being developed in unique ways in the form of international nursing training, multilingual learning space, curriculum articulation for globally competent individuals between HEI and HS, English villages and cafes, internship abroad, international dormitories, academic English programs (AEP), a minor in global education program, international symposium for revitalization and disaster mitigation to name a few.

- Potential for increased diversity

The present relatively low non-Japanese faculty and student ratio at 4.4% and 2.5% respectively at public institutions, compared to that of their national (3.6%/5.5%) and private (4.5%/2.9%) counterparts, should in turn have a potential for increased diversity as PIs are expected to continue showing their presence in the international education scene for years to come.

- Increased support for international education
 Public institutions (PIs) started receiving major project and study abroad scholarship grants to support their initiatives for internationalization. In fact, there have been a growing number of grant applications submitted from PIs and corresponding acceptances such major government grants as the Project for the Promotion of Global Human Resources Development (Global 30 plus) and other programs.

Major project grant recipients

	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014
National	7	13	26	6	28
Public	0	1	4	1	2
Private	6	5	24	4	15

Japan Society For the Promotion of Science: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants04.html>

Characteristics of Japanese Public Higher Education Institutions

- Governance
 Public institutions are mostly prefectural, municipal or both and are headed by a chancellor, a vice chancellor /president, or a president.
- Prefectural - 57 institutions (67.8%), 44 incorporated
 City - 22 institutions (26.5%), 18 incorporated
 Prefectural/municipal - 1 institution (1.2%) incorporated
 Others – 3 institutions (3.6%)
- Admission
 PIs admit one in five and enroll very competitive students. The majority of the students enrolled at public institutions are from a household with its annual income less than 8 million yen or US\$66,000, figures lower than that of national or private institutions.

	2011	2012	2013
Applied	169,789	166,053	165,794
Admitted	36,175	36,770	36,436

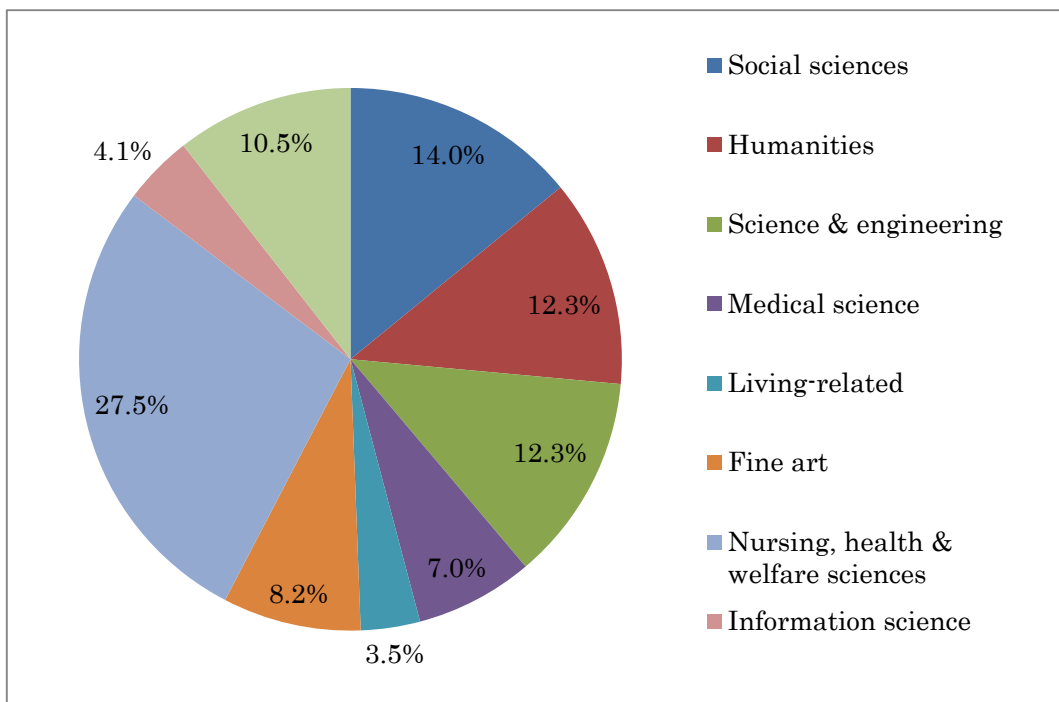
Source: The Japan Association of Public Universities

- Small to middle size
 About three-quarters of public institutions enroll 2000 or fewer students with their average faculty-student ratio at 11.4 (2013) providing an excellent learning environment. Public colleges or universities are found in 43 of the 47 prefectures in Japan.

Enrollment	Institutions	Percentage
1,000 or fewer	34	41.0%
1000-2,000	27	32.5%
2,001 or more	22	26.5%

Source: The Japan Association of Public Universities

- Fields of study
 Out of 171 faculties across 92 public institutions, 47 are nursing, health, or welfare science (27.5%), 25 are social sciences (14.6%), 21 arts and humanities (12.3%), 21 science and engineering (12.3%), 14 fine arts (8.2%), 12 medical science (7%). 54 institutions have doctoral programs.



Source: The Japan Association of Public Universities

- Affordable education
 Like most other institutions in Japan, public colleges and universities adopt flat tuition and fees for all incoming students regardless of their residential or student status; i.e. within or out of prefecture, domestic or international students. Tuition is similar to that of national institutions and is modest compared to that of private institutions.

List of Japanese Public Colleges and Universities

Northeast – Hokkaido & Tohoku Regions

- Akita International University
- Akita Prefectural University
- Akita University of Art
- Aomori Public University
- Aomori University of Health and Welfare
- Fukushima Medical University
- Future University Hakodate
- Iwate Prefectural University
- Miyagi University
- Nayoro City University
- Sapporo City University
- Sapporo Medical University
- The University of Aizu
- Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences
- Yamagata Prefectural Yonezawa University of Nutrition Sciences

NAFSA 2015 Boston
May 28, 10:00-12:00
A. Kuwamura

East – Kanto & Koshinetsu Regions

Advanced Institute of Industrial Technology
Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
Gunma Prefectural College of Health Sciences
Gunma Prefectural Women's University
Ibaraki Prefectural University of Health Sciences
Kanagawa University of Human Services
Maebashi Institute of Technology
Saitama Prefectural University
Takasaki City University of Economics
Tokyo Metropolitan University
Tsuru University
Yamanashi Prefectural University
Yokohama City University

Central – Tokai & Hokuriku Regions

Aichi Prefectural University
Aichi University of the Arts
Fukui Prefectural University
Gifu College of Nursing
Gifu Pharmaceutical University
Ishikawa Prefectural Nursing University
Ishikawa Prefectural University
Kanazawa College of Art
Nagano College of Nursing
Nagaoka Institute of Design
Nagoya City University
Niigata College of Nursing
Shizuoka University of Art and Culture
Toyama Prefectural University
Tsuruga Nursing University
University of Niigata Prefecture
University of Shizuoka
Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences

West – Kinki, Chugoku & Shikoku Regions

Ehime Prefectural University of Health Sciences
Fukuyama City University
Hiroshima City University
Kagawa Prefectural University of Health Sciences
Kobe City College of Nursing
Kobe City University of Foreign Studies
Kochi University of Technology
Kyoto City University of Arts
Kyoto Prefectural University

NAFSA 2015 Boston
May 28, 10:00-12:00
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Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine
Mie Prefectural College of Nursing
Nara Medical University
Nara Prefectural University
Niimi College
Okayama Prefectural University
Onomichi City University
Osaka City University
Osaka Prefecture University
Prefectural University of Hiroshima
Shimonoseki City University
Tottori University of Environmental Studies
University of Hyogo
University of Kochi
The University of Shiga Prefecture
The University of Shimane
Wakayama Medical University
Yamaguchi Prefectural University

South – Kyushu & Okinawa Regions

Fukuoka Prefectural University
Fukuoka Women's University
Kushiro Public University of Economics
Kyushu Dental University
Meio University
Miyazaki Municipal University
Miyazaki Prefectural Nursing University
Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences
Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing
Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts
Prefectural University of Kumamoto
The University of Kitakyushu
University of Nagasaki

Related websites:

Study in Japan – Japan Student Services Organization
http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/index_e.html
The Japan Association of Public Universities (Japanese)
http://www.kodaikyo.org/?page_id=718 (info on public institutions)
http://www.kodaikyo.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/portrait_2014.pdf (Portraits)
University Info (Japanese)
<http://top.univ-info.niad.ac.jp/>