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Towards privatisation? Restructuring of the national universities in Japan

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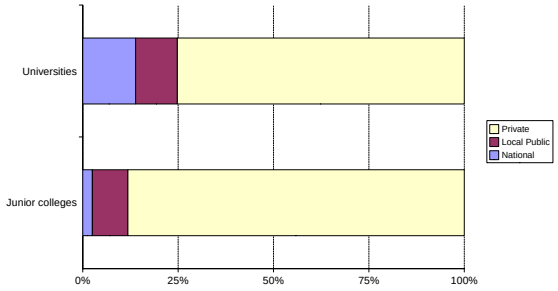
Japanese Higher Education

- Hybrid of models
  - German model
  - American model
- Coexistence of three sectors
  - national (national governmental)
  - local public (local governmental)
  - private (non-profit)
- Large proportion of private universities

Share of HE sectors by number of institutions (universities/junor colleges) in 2003

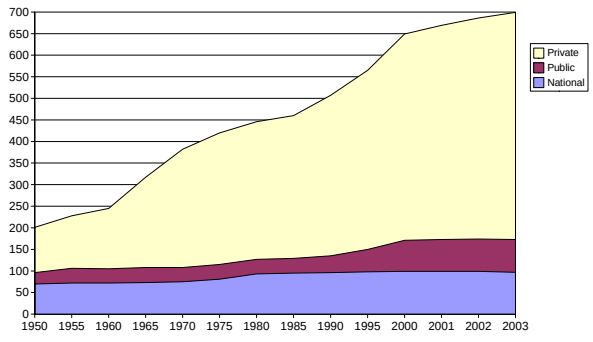


I Private Higher Education in Japan
II Public and private universities in direct competition
III Development of the evaluation system
IV Incorporation of national universities
V Are national universities going towards privatisation?
VI What is the future of Japanese higher education?
VII Concluding remarks

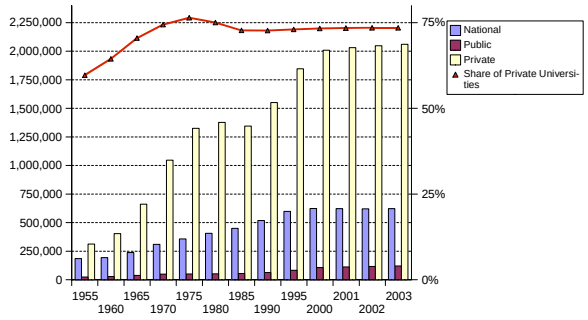
I Private higher education in Japan
1 A brief History

- Large national universities
- smaller private institutions – without university status at the beginning
- priority to national universities
- expansion of private institutions in mass higher education

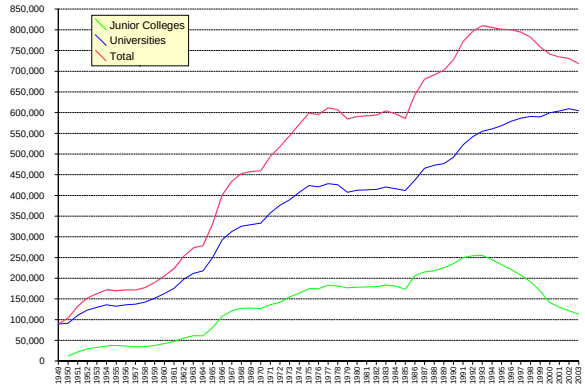
Number of universities by sector



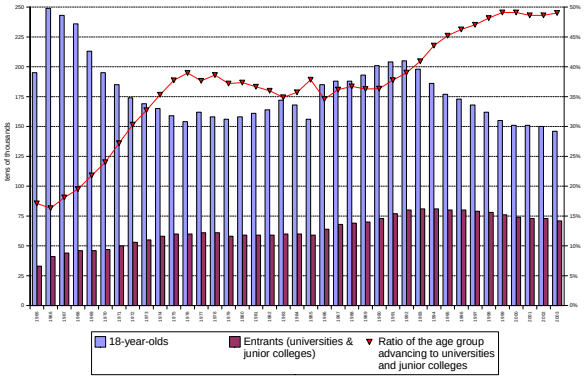
Student enrolment in universities



Number of entrants to HE institutions



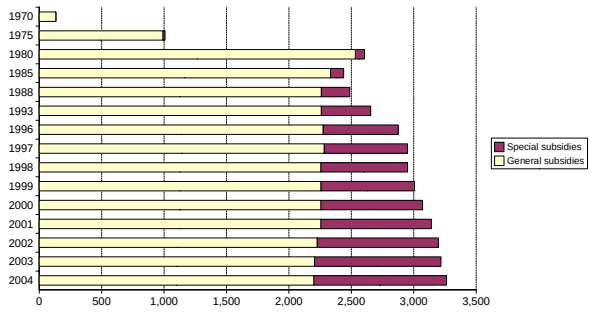
18-year-olds and access to HE



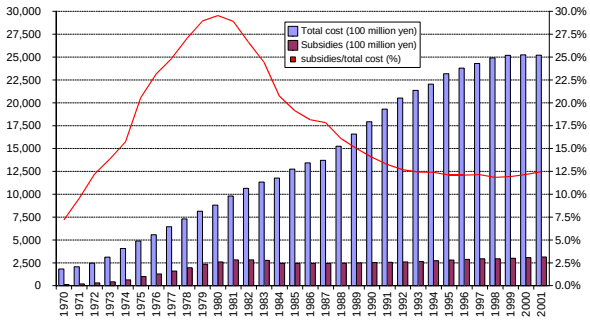
I-2 Public financing to private institutions

- Article 89 of the Japanese Constitution
- 1952 Private School Association
- 1970 Private School Promotion Foundation
- 1975 Private School Subsidy Law

General subsidies & Special subsidies to private institutions for the current expenditures (100 million yen)



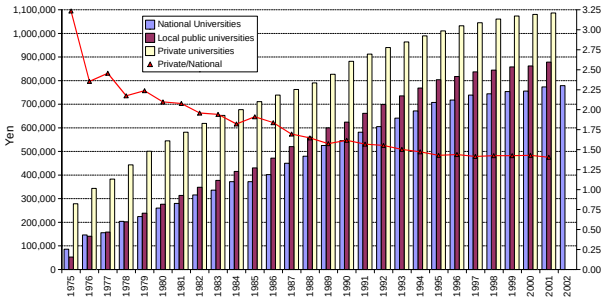
Current expenditures of private HE institutions and Government subsidies



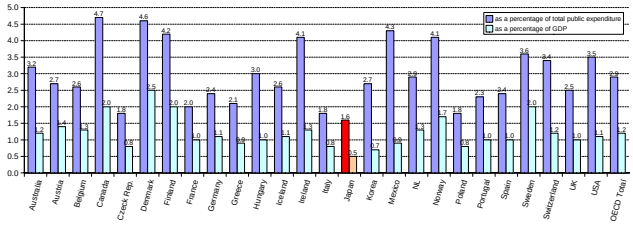
II Public and private universities in direct competition

- Government appropriation in FY2003
  - National institutions : 1,525,606 million yen
  - Private institutions : 321,750 million yen
- Strong pressure from private universities on the Government
- Spiral of tuition fees

Tuition fees (entrance fees included) by sector



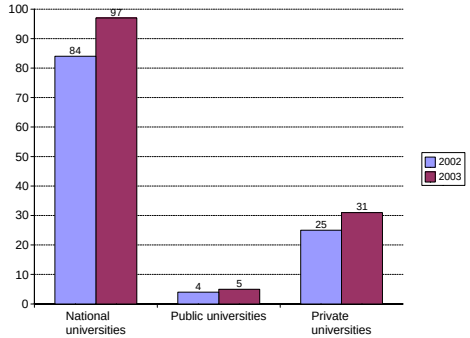
Public expenditure on HE in OECD Countries (2000)



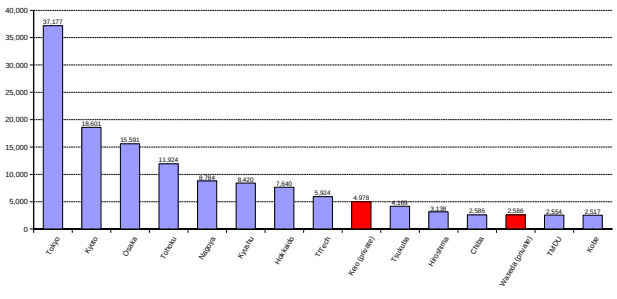
Increase in competitive funds open to public and private institutions

- Increase in special subsidies to private institutions
- Government funds indifferently open to public and private institutions
  - The 21st Century COE Programme
- Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research open to private companies

Number of COE projects adopted by the MEXT, by sector



Top 15 universities ranked by the amount of competitive research funds awarded by the Government (million yen)

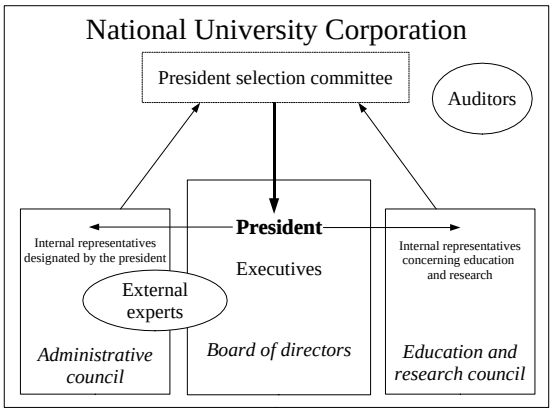


III Development of the evaluation system

- National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)
- A new quality assurance system
  - a continual third-party evaluation
    - an evaluation once every seven years
  - recognition of evaluation bodies by the Government

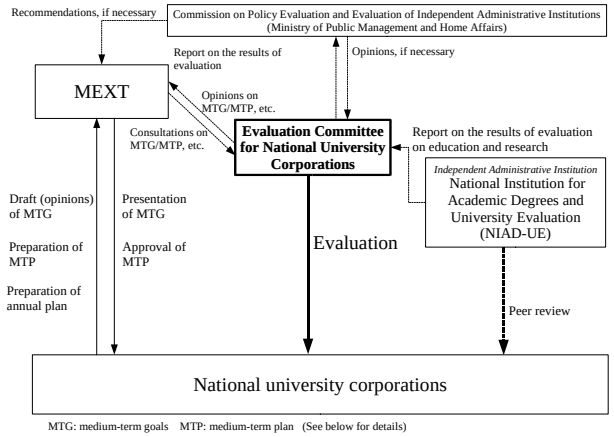
IV Incorporation of national universities

- 89 national university corporations
- Increased autonomy over the management, organisational structure, personnel affairs, budgeting, and so forth
- Medium-goals/plan presented or approved by the Minister of Education
- People from outside the university participating in the management



External members of the Administrative Council of Hiroshima University

Name	***Occupation (former)***
W. Imanaka	President, Chugoku Newspaper
K. Inai	President, Japan Audio Visual Educational Association (Former Secretary to the Minister of Education)
B. Johnstone	Professor of Higher and Comparative Education, State University of New York at Buffalo (Former President of State University of New York)
M. Ogasawara	President, Board of Education of Hiroshima Prefecture
M. Onami	Special Advisor, Kyoto Tachibana Women's University (Former President of Ritsumeikan University)
T. Shiiki	Lawyer
S. Takasu	Chairman, Chugoku Economic Federation / Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chugoku Electric Power Co. Ltd.
K. Tanabe	Secretary-General, Tokyo Conference for the Collaboration in Chugoku (Former Director-General, Chugoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI Chugoku))

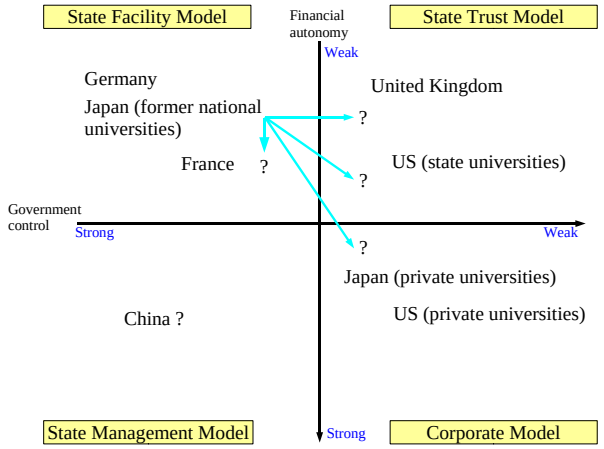


Examples of numerical targets

National University Corporation	***Target***
Muroran Institute of Technology	Increase external research funds, including the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, by around 10% within 6 years.
Tsukuba University	Maintain the the ratio of successful applicants for the National Medical Practitioners Qualifying Examination over 90%.
Tsukuba University	Organise job guidance activities more than 30 times every year.
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	Increase the number of faculty members engaged in commissioned research or joint research by 10% in comparison with the mean value of FY 2000-2003, for the period of medium-term goals.
Shizuoka University	Double the number of patents obtained (25 to 50) by the end of the medium-term goals/plan.
Kyushu Institute of Technology	Set up at least 5 research projects involving the whole university with a view to solving world-wide problems.
Takaoka Junior College	Open up over half of the classes to the local community.

V Are national universities going towards privatisation?

- Continuous discussions on the privatisation of national universities
  - Prime Minister Koizumi at the Diet
  - Opposition party's policy
  - Newspapers' questionnaire etc.
- Where are national universities going?



Based on the model presented by M. Kaneko

- Increasingly blurred distinction between public and private sectors

Principal differences between national and private universities can be seen in

- the nomination of the president and the auditors by the Minister of Education;
- the presentation of medium-term goals and the approval of the medium-term plan by the Minister of Education;
- systematic institutional evaluations by the evaluation committee;
- development and maintenance of important facilities;
- regulations on tuition fees and other important regulations;
- some programmes restricted to national universities.

- Declining Government institutional support to national universities
  - reduction of the operational grants by 1% a year

VI What is the future of Japanese higher education?

- Closing distance between the public and private sectors.
- National universities will survive, at least for the time being.

- Functional differentiation being more important.
- Difficult institutional evaluation.
- The Government should be more supportive.
  - rather than controls or evaluations
  - *paraeducational activities* or *services*

VII Concluding remarks

- Increased presence of private higher education
- Public and private sectors in direct competition for increasingly scarce resources
- Privatisation of national universities is unlikely, for the time being at least. It will remain a political affair.
- Difficult institutional evaluation
- Increasingly important functional differentiation
- Redefinition of the Government's roles is necessary.