

## Higher Education in Japan

- Incorporation of national universities and the development of private universities -



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## I Higher education in Japan

### Foundation of modern higher education institutions

- Establishment of the University of Tokyo (later Imperial University, then Tokyo Imperial University) by the government in 1887
- Other imperial universities in major cities

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- Characteristics of these institutions
  - Governmental institutions
  - Organised on the German model
  - Bureaucratic system with quasi-autonomous academic units (faculties)

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- Integration of the German model and the Japanese system
  - faculties of engineering and agriculture, generally classed in a polytechnic system in Europe
- cf. In the 1990s in the world
  - integration of polytechnics into university system (UK, Australia, etc.)

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- Other institutions
  - Governmental institutions other than imperial universities
  - Local public institutions
  - Private institutions
- University Order in 1918
  - acknowledgement of the university status to non-governmental institutions

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### After the war (as of 1949)

- 70 national universities without difference in legal status among them
- 17 local public universities
- 81 private universities
- Junior colleges (regarded as provisional)

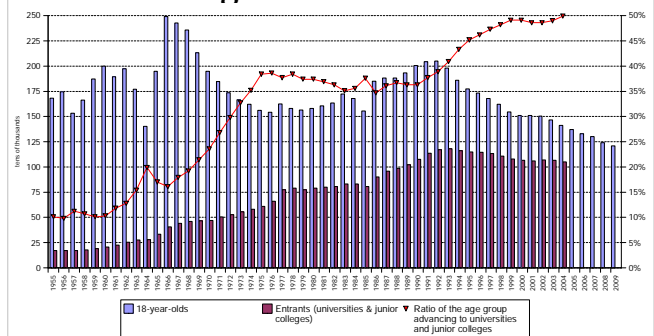
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## University education after the war

- Introduction of the American model
- Two layers of undergraduate education
  - general education
  - two-year specialised education
- School of liberal arts

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## Trends in 18-year-old population and access to higher education



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## II Incorporation of national universities

### 1. The University Council and de-regulation in higher education

- Towards the universal phase (M. Trow)
  - Over 50% in 1987 (non-university sector included)
- Decade plan was over in 1986
- Establishment of the University Council in 1987
  - academic and non-academic members
  - comprehensive study on higher education

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- Abolition of subject areas in 1991
  - structure curricula reflecting their own educational ideals and objectives
  - no definition of subject areas, such as general education and specialised education
  - no requirement on obtaining a certain number of credits in each subject area (acquisition of a minimum total number of credits only)

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### 1998 Report *A Vision for the University of the 21st Century and Future Reform Measures : Distinctive Universities in a Competitive Environment*

- Improve the quality of education and research with the purpose of nurturing the ability to investigate issues;
- Secure university **autonomy** by making the educational and research system structure more flexible;
- Establish university administration and management with **responsible decision-making** and implementation; and
- **Individualise** universities and continuously improve their education and research by establishing multiple evaluation systems.

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### 2. Incorporation of national universities in 2004

- Change in the status of the governmental institutions
- Legal personality and more autonomy
- Non-public servant status for staff
- Participation of external people in university administration

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## After incorporation - what has happened and problems

- Finance
- Governance
- Evaluation

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## Financial stability of national universities

- Operational grant to be diminished from FY2005
- Rise of the standards of fees set by the MEXT
  - revision of tuition fees up to each university
- Difficulty in finding other sources

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- Cost of the increased autonomy
  - Confrontation with student and staff unions
  - Pressure from the community
- Different fees among national universities?
- Very precarious situation of national universities

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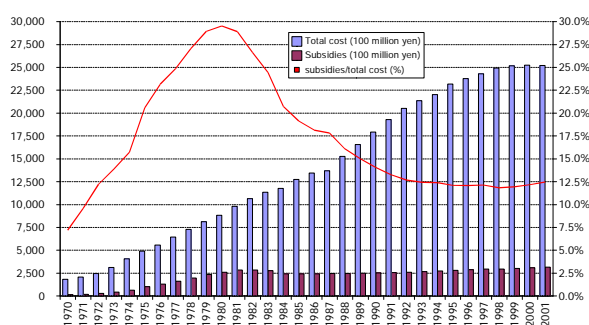
## III The development of private universities

### 1. Public financing to private institutions

- Expansion of private institutions instead of public institutions
- Private School Promotion Subsidy Law in 1975

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## Current expenditures of private HE institutions and Government subsidies



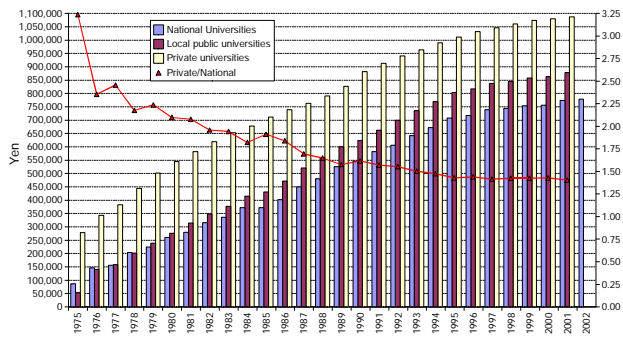
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### 2. Public and private universities in direct competition

- Governmental funds to HE institutions in the FY2003
  - 97 national institutions and others : 1,525,606 million yen
  - 989 private universities and junior colleges : 321,750 million yen

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The first year tuition fees (entrance fees included) by sector and the ratio of tuition fees of private universities to those of national universities



## IV 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.
  - political
  - administrative

- Functional differentiation being more important.
- Difficult institutional evaluation.

- The Government should be more supportive.
  - rather than controls or evaluations
  - *paraeducational activities or services*

For your information

## Breakdown of the international students by their region of origin (2004)

