

Seminar on higher education at the Official Residence of the Japanese Ambassador,
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Higher Education in Japan

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



University of Tokyo

Jun Oba

Research Institute for Higher Education
Hiroshima University, Japan

oba@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

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

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

- 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.)

- 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

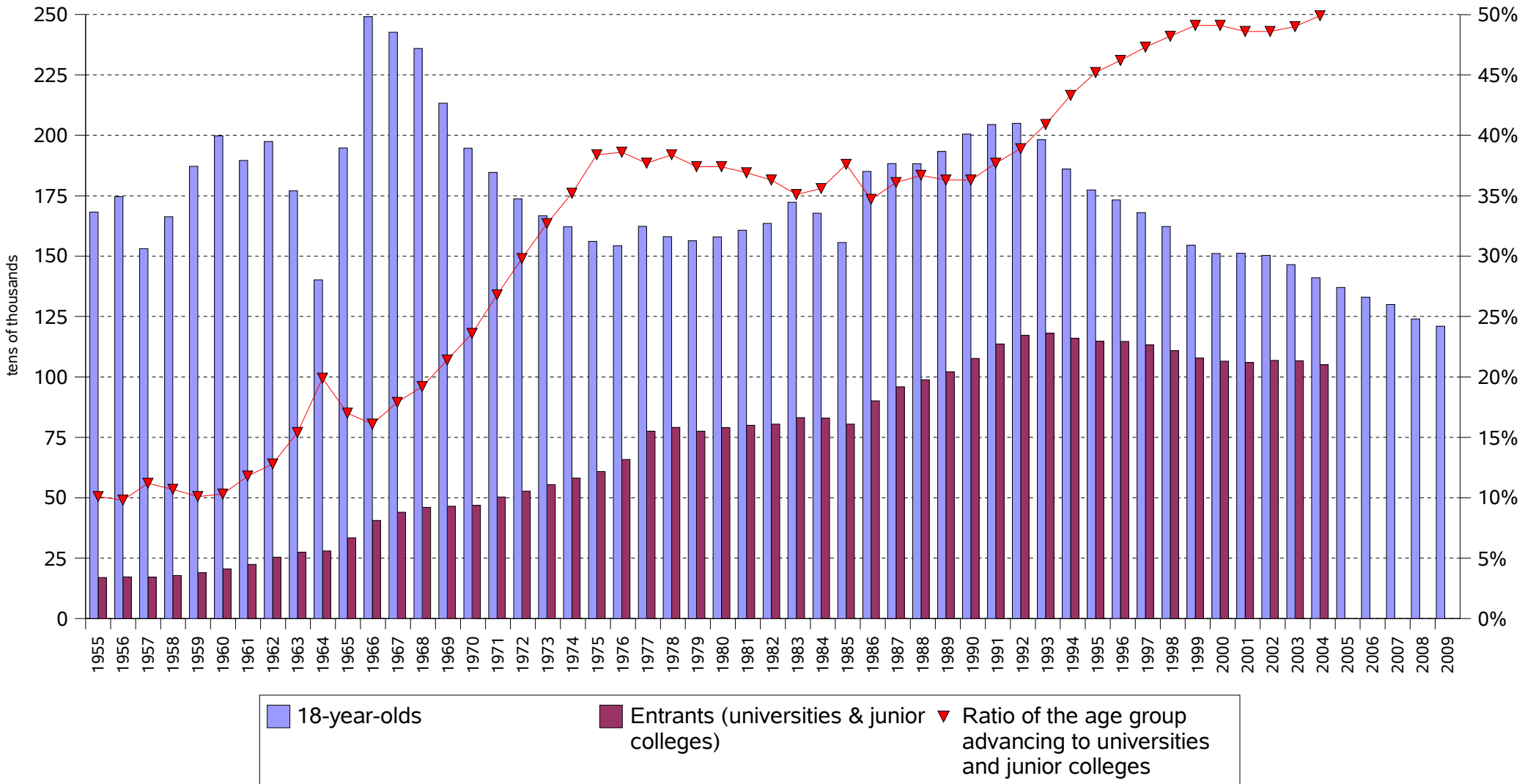
After the war (as of 1949)

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

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

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



II Incorporation of national universities

1. The University Council and deregulation 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

- 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)

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.

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

After incorporation - what has happened and problems

- Finance
- Governance
- Evaluation

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

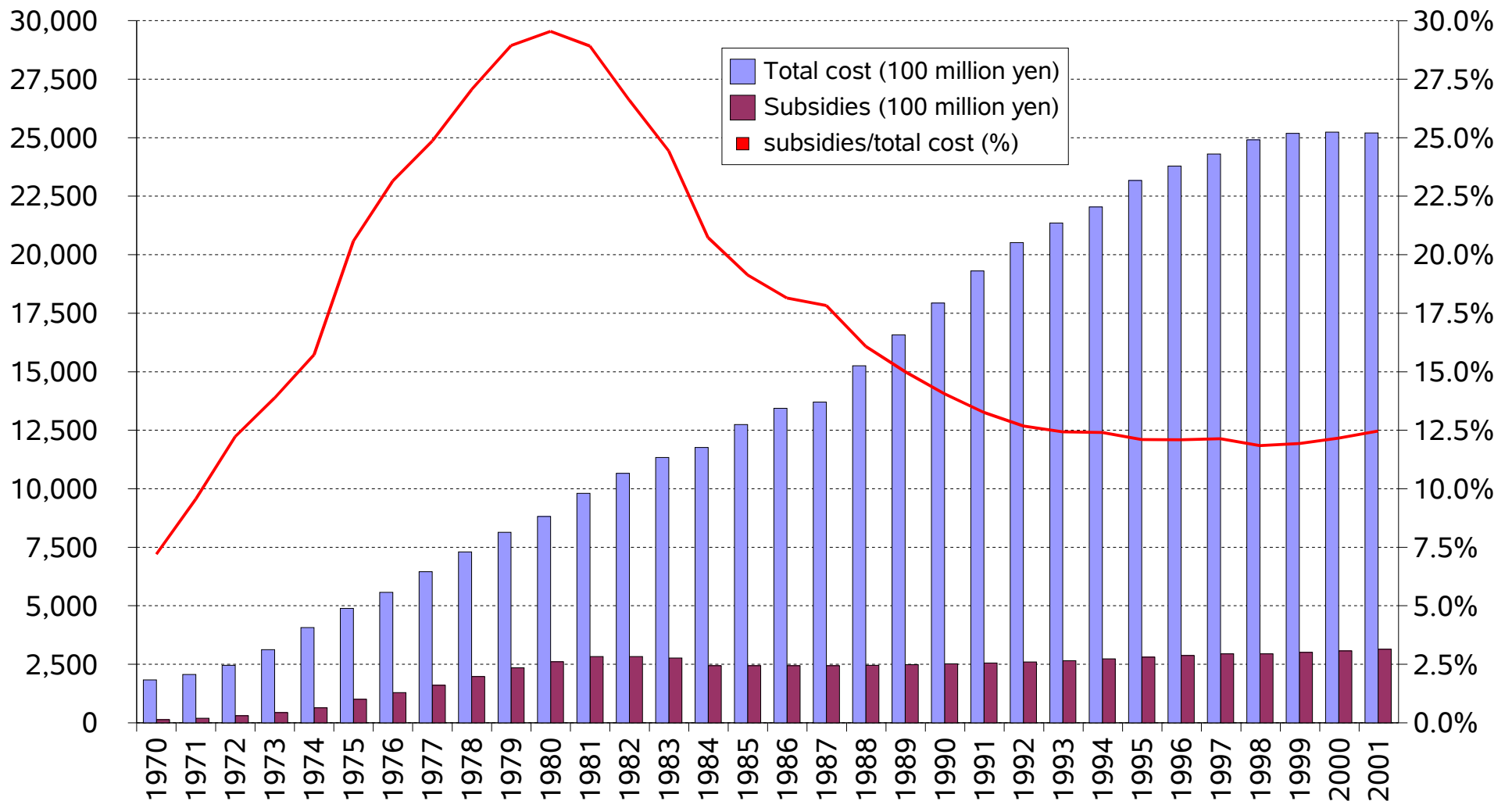
- Cost of the increased autonomy
 - Confrontation with student and staff unions
 - Pressure from the community
- Different fees among national universities?
- Very precarious situation of national universities

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

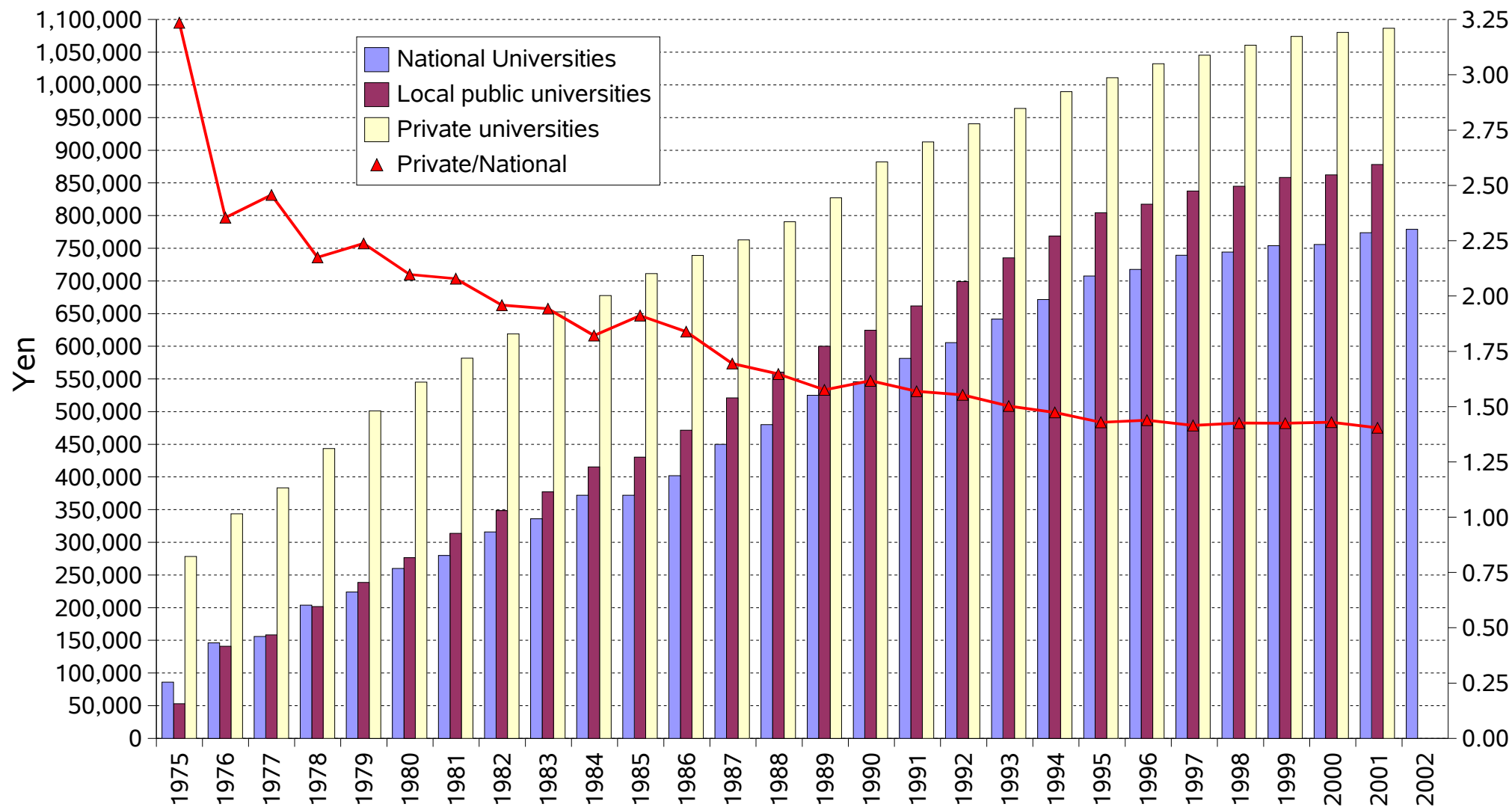
Current expenditures of private HE institutions and Government subsidies



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

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)

