Internationalization of Higher Education in Japan

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MEXT Senior Vice Minister Kyoko Nishikawa

Universities Today

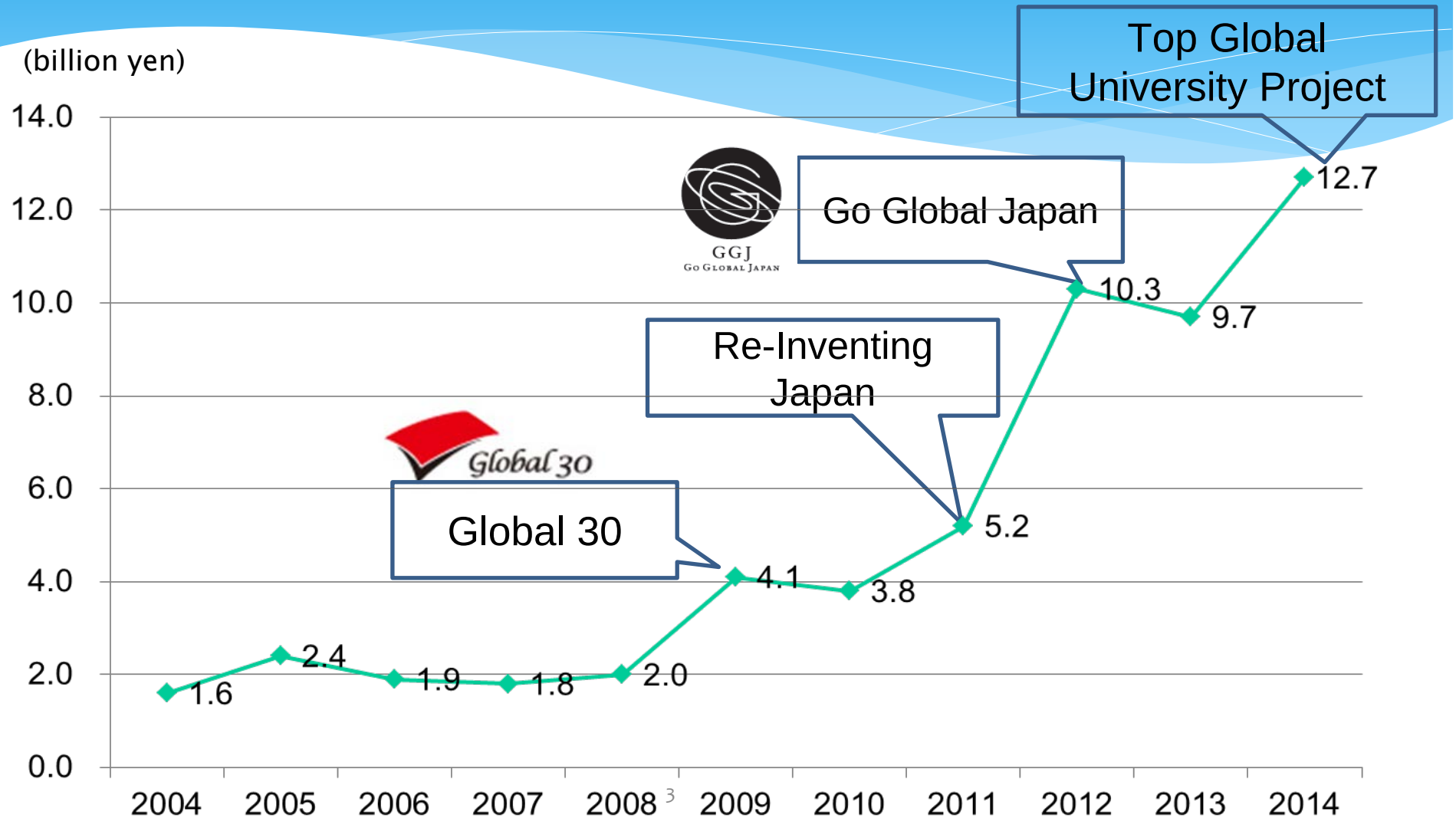
- The ratio of students going on to university in Japan jumped from 10.3% in 1960 to 55.1% in 2013.
- Japanese universities have high international reputation among Asian universities.

  Ex: University of Tokyo 23rd in the world and first in Asia,
  Kyoto University 52nd in the world
  in Times Higher Education "World University Rankings 2013-2014"

- However, internationalization of universities remains insufficient, including fewer foreign students than other countries.

  Ex: The percentage of foreign students in bachelor or master's courses(2011)
  Japan: 3.1%, the OECD average: 7.1%

Expansion of Support for Internationalization of Universities



The Abe Cabinet and "Rebuilding Education"

○Establishment of the *Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding*, under the direct authority of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (January 2013)

- MEXT Minister Hakubun Shimomura also serves as Minister in Charge of Education Rebuilding
- *University Education and Global Human Resource Development for the Future* (Third Proposal) (May 2013)

University Education and Global Human Resource Development for the Future

(Third Proposal: Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding)

1. Creating an educational environment that is responsive to globalization
2. Building educational and research environments for the creation of society-leading innovation
3. Strengthening educational functions for training students and sending them into society with necessary skills and capabilities
4. Strengthening universities and professional training colleges' continuing education functions
5. Strengthening their management by reforming universities' governance and enhancing universities' financial basis

1 . Creating an educational environment that is responsive to globalization

I. Resolutely proceeding with internationalization and creating educational environments at universities that can compete with the best in the world

II. Doubling the number of Japanese students studying abroad to 120,000 and increasing the number of overseas students in Japan to 300,000

III. Cultivating Japanese identity and spreading Japanese culture to the world

I. Resolutely proceeding with internationalization

○ Top Global University Project

Strongly support top universities with world-class education/research and global universities driving internationalization.

- **Top Type: (10 universities)**
  Universities aiming to rank in the top 100 in the world

- **Global Traction Type: (20 universities)**
  Universities that attempt to make pioneering trial runs based on their performance thus far and that will lead the push of Japanese society toward globalization

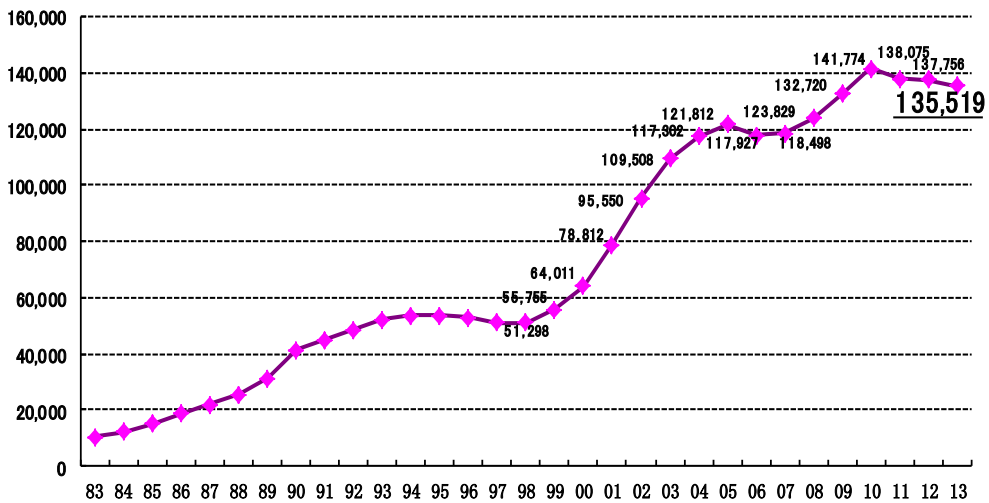
II. Doubling the number of Japanese students studying abroad to 120,000 and increasing the number of overseas students in Japan to 300,000

○Aim to realize “300,000 International Students Plan” and promote the strategic acceptance of excellent international students.

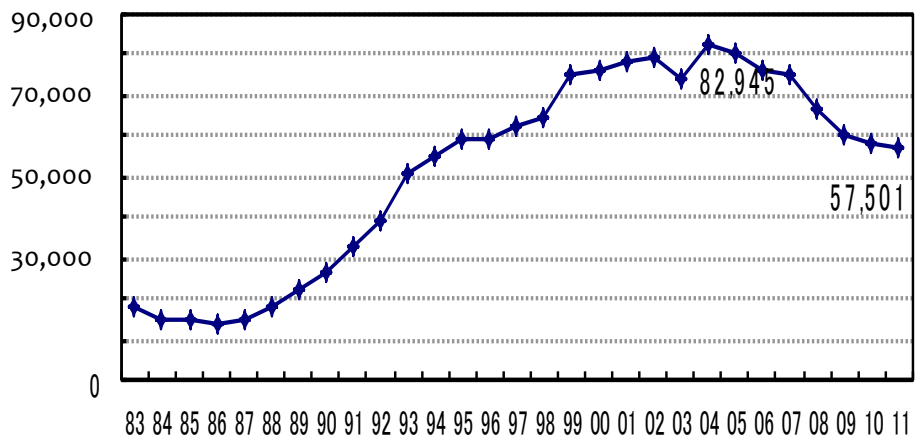
○Motivating young people to study abroad through the “Tobitate ! Study abroad Japan” campaign.

○A new system where public and private sectors cooperate to lighten the economic burden of students to study abroad.

Number of foreign students



Number of Japanese students studying abroad



III. Cultivating Japanese identity and spreading Japanese culture to the world

○ "Japan is a society and civilization unique to itself."
- *The Clash of Civilizations ?*(Samuel P. Huntington,1993)

○ The first Abe Cabinet revised the *Basic Act on Education*, clarifying the objectives of education as fostering an attitude of "respect for our traditions and culture and love for the country and region that nurtured them."
(December 2006)

○ Efforts to deepen Japanese language education as well as understanding of Japan's tradition and culture.
Promote understanding of Japanese culture and learning of Japanese language overseas.

- Program for Japanese students who study abroad to assist in teaching the Japanese language and introducing Japanese culture.

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Conclusion

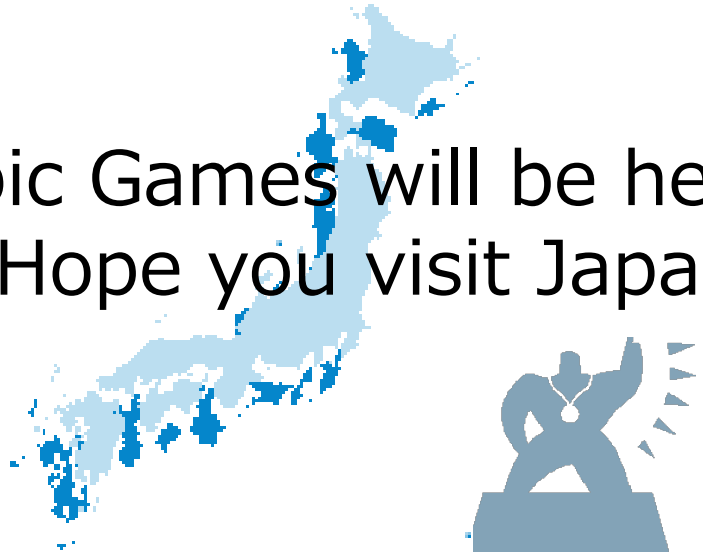
I. Thorough internationalization of universities

II. Doubling the number of students studying abroad in both directions

III. Strengthening Japanese identity, spreading Japanese culture

Strengthen the international competitiveness of universities

Strengthen Japan's international competitiveness

Thank you for your attention.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo in 2020. Hope you visit Japan!