

## **4 Education/Study**

### **[Awareness of the Issues]**

In order to cope with great economic and societal changes including globalization, a diversification of values, and the declining birthrate, it is urgently necessary to change the conventional nationally uniform education system based on advanced regulations and to establish an ex-post-facto monitoring system to provide abundant education services to meet diversified values and needs of consumers.

To this end, it is necessary to promote the diversification of education bodies through the promotion of reform of existing public schools and academic juridical persons as well as to enhance their quality through an expansion of consumer choices and competition among education bodies.

At the same time, it is also necessary to urgently establish a system to support ex-post-facto monitoring, such as information disclosure and third-party evaluation, in order to ensure the quality of education and proper competition.

In addition, as for elementary and secondary education, the nationally uniform regulations, such as teaching guidelines, should be made flexible and the quality of teachers should be enhanced. As for higher education, regulations on the establishment of universities should be made flexible and the revitalization of university faculties and their collaboration with industry should be promoted in order to make it possible to provide high-quality education that meets the various needs of consumers and regional communities.

### **[Specific Measures]**

#### **1 Diversification of education bodies**

##### **(1) Entry of stock companies into the field of education [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2003]**

With regard to the entry into the field of education by private bodies other than academic juridical persons, while giving consideration to their public nature, stability and the continuity of education, desirable methods should be studied, particularly in the field of graduate-level vocational and practical education for workers, on the premise of ensuring the quality of education through accounting and other information disclosure systems and third-party evaluation, as well as the establishment of a safety net.

**(2) Improvement of the legal system to accept community schools [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2003]**

The significance of introducing community schools as a new type of public school is that they enable diversified, flexible school management in response to the needs of society and local residents and thus contribute to the development of ingenious, creative manpower by ensuring the uniqueness of individual schools with regard to school administration and education, including teacher recruitment, and by making them accountable to a "community school council (tentative name)" that includes community representatives and parents.

Based on these points, a study should be undertaken on establishing a legal framework for accepting community schools concerning, for example, the procedures for the establishment of community schools, the establishment and functions of a "community school council (tentative name)," local school board, and the power of the community school council to appoint teachers.

**(3) Relaxation of examination standards in approving the establishment of school juridical persons [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2003]**

The requirements of ownership of school premises and buildings in approving the establishment of school juridical persons have been relaxed as a special measure for special structural reform districts. A study should be undertaken on relaxing the requirements on a national level by comprehensively taking into account situations in the special districts and on conditions of ensuring the stable and constant operation of school education.

**(4) Measures to promote private school establishment**

**Promotion of the review of examination standards in approving the establishment of private schools by local governments [To be implemented in FY2002]**

With a view to promoting private school establishment, the Establishment Standards of Elementary Schools (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ordinance No. 14, 2002) and the Establishment Standards of Secondary Schools (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ordinance No. 15, 2002) were enacted in April 2002, clarifying that it is possible to borrow disused public schools if there are no problems in terms of education and safety. In light of the enactment purpose of the establishment standards of elementary and secondary schools,

local governments should be encouraged to review examination standards, such as school building and ground area requirements, in approving the establishment of private elementary or secondary schools.

**Review of Private School Councils [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2002]**

Private School Councils have been established to reflect the opinions of private schools in competent authorities's private school administration from the viewpoint of the respect for school autonomy. Article 10 of the Private School Law (Law 270, 1949) provides that the number of private members of the Council other than private school officials shall be less than one quarter of total Council members. However, there are concerns that the provision might excessively restrict private school administration by local governments. Therefore, the desirable functions of the above provision and of Private School Councils, including its members and operation, should be examined.

**(5) Active use of outside resources in education [To be implemented in FY2003]**

Although out-of-school educational materials and learning environments have already been actively used during comprehensive study hours, such efforts should be further promoted. From the viewpoint of effectively utilizing educational resources held by entities other than schools, such as private enterprises and non-profit organizations, guidelines should be prepared and systems should be improved so that individual schools by their own judgment can promote the use of outside human resources and learning environments, for example, in foreign language classes and IT education.

There are cases where the PFI method is utilized in the maintenance and management of school facilities, in the management of heated swimming pools for local residents, and in the operation of swimming schools and fitness clubs. From the viewpoint of promoting the outsourcing of school management, the scope of the management of school facilities for which the PFI method can be utilized should be clarified.

**(6) Improvement of systems concerning international schools [To be implemented in FY2002]**

The definition of an international school should be clarified and various support measures should be taken in order to treat international schools in the same manner as private schools based on Article 1 of the School Education Law (Law 26,

1947). International school graduates should be provided with more opportunities to enter universities or upper secondary schools in Japan, for example, by giving university entrance qualifications without having to take a high school equivalent test and by expanding the qualifications for which people can take the examination to include junior high school graduation.

**(7) Ways to guarantee the quality of higher education in response to the entry into Japan of foreign universities [To be studied in FY2003]**

The entry into Japan of foreign universities is significant in that it offers another choice for internationalized education to Japanese students and that it increases the number of foreign students in Japan. However, these “universities” are not accredited as a university in Japan, causing confusion among consumers.

Therefore, from the standpoint of guaranteeing the quality of universities and protecting consumers, a study should be undertaken on the desirable way to guarantee the quality of higher education in response to internationalization by, for example, allowing Japanese third-party organizations to accredit foreign universities.

**2. Promotion of information disclosure concerning education entities**

**(1) Review of accounting standards for school juridical persons [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2003]**

With regard to the review of the accounting standards for public corporations, a study group of the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications prepared an interim report in FY2001 and is expected to establish new standards based on drastically revised corporate accounting standards.

Therefore, a study should be undertaken as soon as possible on introducing new corporate accounting standards into school juridical persons serving public interests in order to enhance the transparency of business activities and to facilitate efficient operations, while paying attention to the characteristics of individual schools.

**(2) Promoting information disclosure on universities [To be implemented in FY2002]**

As the business environment surrounding universities is expected to become more severe due to the declining birthrate, etc., it is necessary to further promote information disclosure in order to facilitate judgment by students, parents, and business persons.

To this end, the study on the specific contents and method for disclosing the financial standings of private universities that has been under way since FY2001 will be concluded as soon as possible and its disclosure will be promoted. In that process, a study should be undertaken on making the method and contents easy to understand for students, etc.

Universities, for their part, should actively publish not only their financial standings but also other information, such as the educational environment (education policy, education contents, number of students per faculty, etc.), research activities, and career options for graduates (places of employment, employment rate, etc.) on their Web sites.

### **(3) Third-party accreditation of universities and the desirable way of accreditation**

#### **Introduction of an accreditation system by third-party organizations [To be Implemented in FY2002]**

The introduction of a continuous accreditation system by third-party organizations should be promoted. In order to establish a highly objective accreditation system reflecting social needs, a broad range of people, including private researchers, foreign researchers, and business persons, should be included in accreditation organizations.

#### **Self-monitoring and evaluation systems in schools and information disclosure [To be implemented in FY2002]**

With regard to kindergartens, elementary schools, lower secondary schools, and upper secondary schools, the establishment standards concerning self-monitoring and evaluation, and information disclosure have been created. Therefore, it is necessary for each school to properly set the evaluation items and contents of information to be disclosed, and to actively implement self-monitoring and evaluation, and information disclosure. In addition, it is necessary to promote school evaluation with an eye to eventually disclosing outside evaluation results.

Therefore, education boards should be encouraged to promote active efforts on the part of schools concerning self-monitoring and evaluation, and information disclosure, and to make evaluation items, evaluation methods, and the contents and method of information disclosure appropriate. Education boards should also be encouraged to promote school evaluation, including outside evaluation.

### **3. Revitalization of elementary and lower secondary school education**

#### **(1) Promotion of education program diversification [To be implemented starting in FY2002]**

The official school curriculum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology are a broad outline based on which individual schools can arrange their own curriculums. Although they are minimum standards, they are not flexibly employed by schools.

Therefore, from the viewpoint of fostering creative human resources, efforts at each school to arrange creative curriculums and offer diversified teaching, such as cooperation with other schools, should be promoted.

#### **(2) Enhancement of teacher quality by introducing a teacher evaluation system [To be implemented in FY2003]**

From the standpoint of enhancing teacher quality and promoting education in response to the needs of society, local residents, parents, and students, education boards will be encouraged to adopt a new teacher evaluation system that treats teachers properly in accordance with their ability.

With a view to enhancing English language education, an action program to foster “Japanese who can use English” will be prepared by the end of FY2002 and, with regard to lower secondary schools, the adoption of high quality foreign language teaching assistants (foreigners) as regular teachers will be promoted. Through these efforts to enhance the quality of teaching staff, the reform of public elementary and lower secondary schools should be promoted.

### **4 Revitalization of higher education and promotion of industry-university collaboration**

#### **(1) Relaxation of regulations on the establishment of faculties/departments [To be Implemented in FY202]**

In order to allow universities to organize faculties/departments flexibly by their own initiative, regulations on the establishment of faculties/departments should be relaxed before the planned corporatization of national universities by changing the procedures for the new establishment or abolition of faculties/departments that are not accompanied by a change in the type/field of degree from authorization systems to notification systems. Thereby competition among educational institutions should be

revitalized.

In addition, the development of highly professional workers should be clarified as one of the aims of graduate schools and "specialist graduate schools" that specialize in the development of highly professional workers should be established. A considerable number of the faculties of such specialist graduate schools should be composed of people with business experience and third-party evaluation should focus on social evaluation concerning the level of human resources.

## **(2) Review of regulations on the establishment/expansion of universities**

### **Review of examination standards concerning the establishment of universities and faculties [To be implemented in FY2002]**

With regard to various standards set forth at multiple levels, such as the university establishment standards (Ministerial Ordinance of Education, No. 28, 1956) and examination standards by the Council for University Chartering and School Juridical Person, the necessity of each standard should be fully reviewed, and minimum requirements should be strictly selected to make them a more defined list on a legal level, rather than on a ministerial notice level.

### **Review of restrictive policies in approval of the establishment of universities and faculties [To be implemented in FY 2002]**

The policy that states "the Government shall take a restrictive approach to the establishment of universities and faculties and changes in their fixed capacity (decision by university establishment subcommittee chairman of the Council for University Chartering and School Juridical Person)" as specified in the "Policy in dealing with the examination of university chartering after FY 2000" should be abolished, as it might have regulated new entries.

### **Drastically relaxing regulations on the ratio of students to school building area and the ratio of holding areas, in approving the establishment of universities**

Regulations on the ratio of students to school building area and the ratio of holding areas should be drastically relaxed. In addition, the provision in the by-law of the Council for University Chartering and School Juridical Person that stipulates "when the school building area and the athletic grounds of a university are in different places, the distance between the two shall be within one hour by using normal transportation means and that the school premises shall be more than half of the

standard area” should be abolished. **[To be Implemented in FY2002]**

In view of the fact that school premises are not required in the case of specialist graduate schools in structural reform special districts, a study should be undertaken on further reviewing the regulations on the ratio of students to school building area and the ratio of holding areas, while ensuring the quality of universities and giving consideration to their continuity. **[To be continuously studied in FY2002]**

### **(3) Relaxation of faculty members working conditions**

#### **Enhancement of the mobility of faculty members of national universities [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2003]**

From the viewpoint of revitalizing education and research activities at universities by enhancing faculty members mobility and utilizing highly specialized manpower in industrial circles, the introduction of a limited-term system should be promoted to make it possible for individual universities to offer better treatment depending on the abilities and achievements of so-called limited term guest instructors, when corporatizing national universities.

#### **Promotion of dual employment of faculty members of national universities [Study to be undertaken and concluded in FY2002]**

With a view to facilitating the prompt transfer of research results at universities, the authority of the National Personnel Authority to approve the double engagement of faculty members of national universities as a company director was delegated to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology in October 2002, making it possible to further delegate authority to university presidents.

Moreover, with the Commercial Code (Law 48, 1899) having been revised and creating a provision on outside board members (Clause 2-7-2, Article 188 of the Commercial Code), a study should be undertaken on lifting the ban on double engagement of faculty members of national universities as outside corporate board members after ascertaining the situation of consensus being built regarding the system change and its public interest nature.

#### **Clarification of the criteria for double engagement of faculty members of national universities during regular working hours**

Without waiting for the corporatization of national universities, in order to



promote dual engagement and business start-ups, faculty members of national universities should be allowed to concurrently serve as board members of a TLO (Technology Licensing Organization) approved business or a venture business in a structural reform special district during regular working hours by promoting flexible working styles (for example, a 20-hour work week), and they should also be allowed to engage in industry-university collaboration activities as non-board members during regular working hours under certain conditions. **[To be implemented from FY2003]**

With regard to faculty members whose occupation is believed to have the highest level of discretion, the desirable form of working house regulations should be studied promptly. **[To be studied in FY2003]** <See “Employment and Work” 3 (1)>

**Promotion of accreditation of out-of-school education [To be implemented in FY2002]**

In order to establish an environment conducive to collaboration between universities at home and abroad and private educational institutions, industry-university collaboration in the field of human resource development should be accelerated by, for example, promoting out-of-school studies of a certain level that contribute to fostering entrepreneurs and management staff, such as entrepreneurship lectures and internships provided by private corporations and NPOs, giving university credits to such studies.

**Promotion of the participation of young researchers [To be Implemented in FY2002]**

In funded research and joint research which is part of the collaboration between universities and industrial circles, in order to give invention opportunities and incentives to young researchers, such as post-doctors and graduate students, measures should be taken to promote their active participation in research funded by corporations as research representatives, and to allow universities to decide on the allocation of personnel expenses, etc. freely.