

Chapter 6 Assistance for children and young people who will carve out a creative future

Section 1 Development of human resources who will play important roles in a global society

1 Deeper understanding of Japanese traditions and culture, etc.

- In the current national curriculum standard, the contents regarding a deeper understanding of Japanese traditions and culture have been enriched in each subject.

2 Promotion of foreign language education

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is promoting efforts such as development of new teaching material and training material to correspond to curriculum and accelerate foreign language education in elementary schools, disseminating the results of surveillance study with leading efforts such as teaching method/ learning evaluation for schooling, and the training of the "English education promotion leader" which plays a role as lecturer and counselor in each local community. MEXT is also promoting the "JET Programme, which is a project to invite foreign young people as language instructors and for other jobs", in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

3 Promotion of studying abroad and acceptance of foreign students, etc.

Figure 31 Japanese students studying abroad

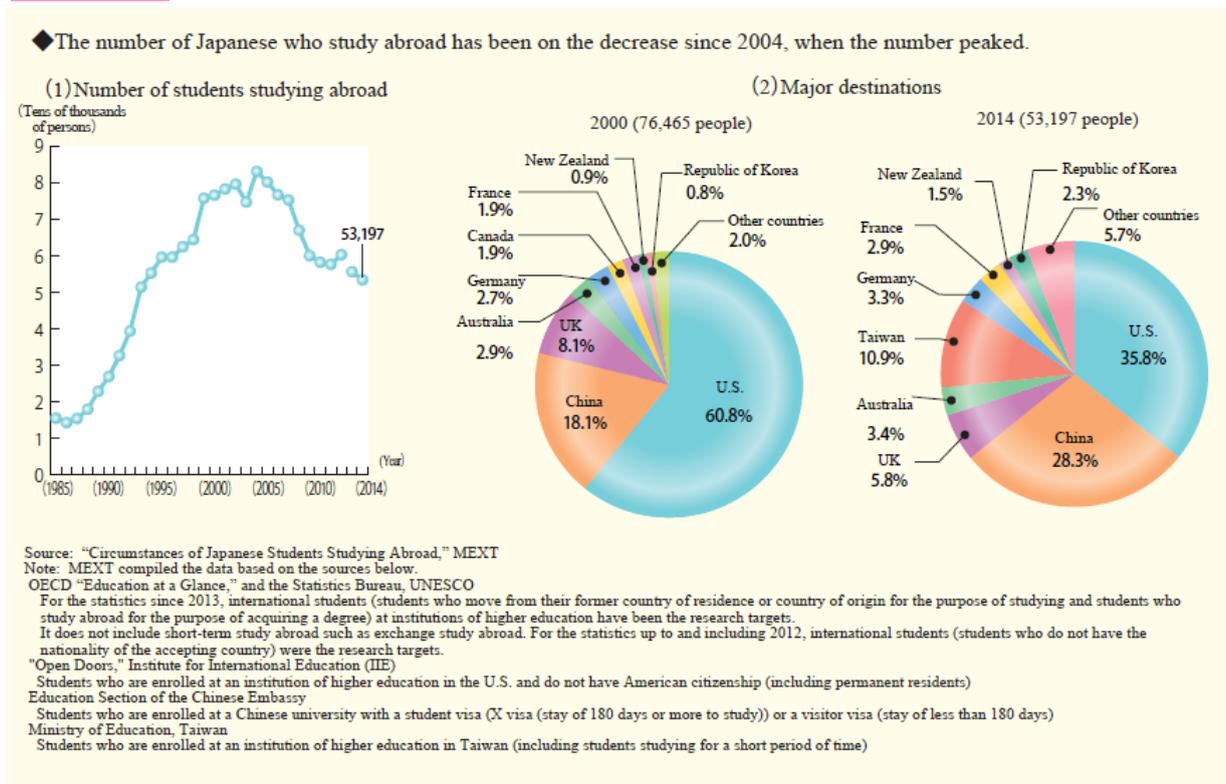
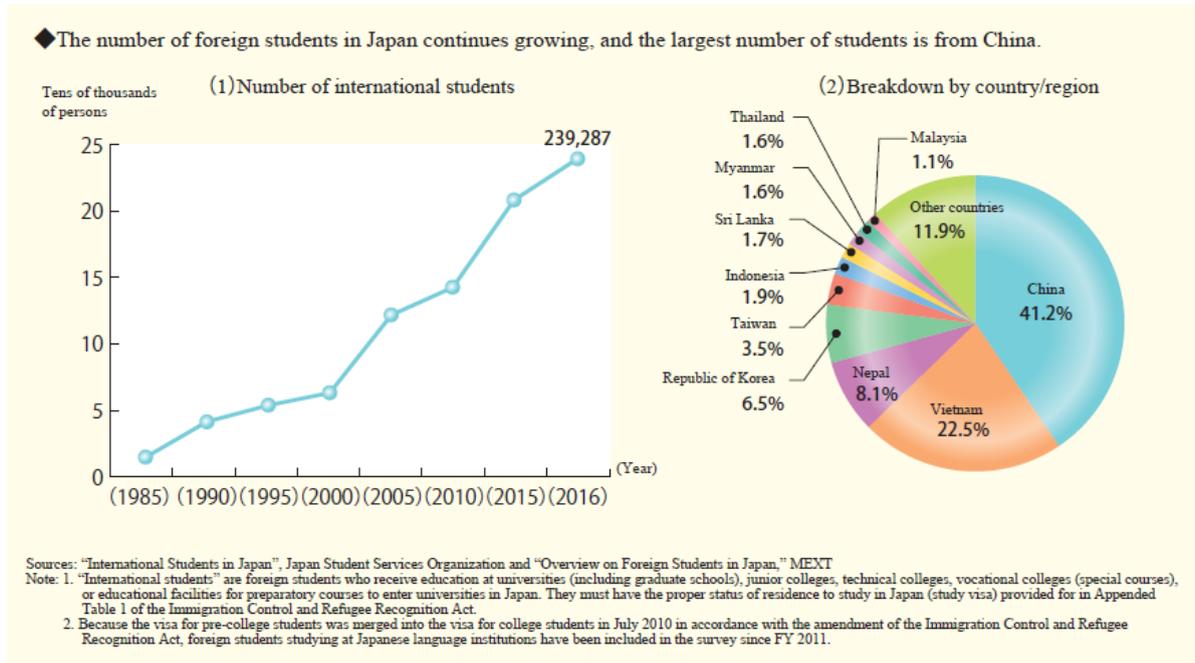


Figure 32 International Students



- MEXT supports efforts made for partial financial support for high school students' study abroad expenses, the short-term transfer of foreign high school students to Japan's high schools, and the holding of study abroad fairs and other activities.
- MEXT designates and supports "Super Global High Schools (SGHs)", which conduct research and development for and implement courses of education that develop students who can succeed internationally as global leaders in the future by acquiring interests and knowledge related to social issues, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and other international knowledge.

4 Enrichment of education for Japanese children living abroad

- In order to enrich and improve education for Japanese schools and Supplementary lesson schools abroad, MEXT makes efforts to dispatch teachers from compulsory education schools in Japan. Also, MEXT is making more efforts to secure temporary teachers of great quality and ability by dispatching retired teachers as temporary senior teachers, for example.

5 Promotion of Olympic and Paralympics education

- In light of holding of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics Games, MEXT promotes Olympic and Paralympics education, so as to develop human resources with global perspectives who can play important roles in attaining world peace through a new understanding of the value and effects of sports.

6 International exchange activities

(1) Development of global human resources through international exchange activities.

- The Cabinet Office provides international exchange opportunities through inviting and sending young people inside and outside of Japan by conducting the International Youth Exchange Program. The programs that have been conducted in FY 2016 are as follows: 'the International Youth Development Exchange Program', 'the Japan-Korea Youth Friendship Exchange Program', 'the Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange Program', 'the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program', 'the Next Generation Global Leaders Program: "Ship for World Youth Leaders," (Ship for World Youth Leaders)' and 'Community Core Leaders Development Program "Local Community Core Leaders Program"'

(2) International exchange for young people

- MEXT conducts projects including the International Exchange Utilizing Youth Education Facilities so that

children and young people can have opportunities to experience various values through communication with people from inside and outside of the country.

(3) International exchange for sports

- Japan Sports Agency supports programs that involve young people such as international sports exchange programs with Asian countries through the Japan Sports Association and the Japan Olympic Committee.
- MOFA conducts programs to send Japanese young people to foreign countries and invite foreign young people to Japan and makes efforts to broaden their international perspective through international exchange and the development of an international understanding and an understanding of Japan.

(4) Other efforts made for developing global human resources

- MOFA recruits, selects, trains, and sends people aged 20 to 39 who possess techniques and skills that developing countries have requested for two years in principle through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program under the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- MEXT promotes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); the Japan's Implementation Plan for Global Action Program on ESD was formulated at the inter ministerial meeting in March 2016, and efforts have been proceeding.

Section 2 Development of human resources in science and technology who will be responsible for innovations

1 Promotion of science and mathematics education

- MEXT designates high schools that provide advanced science and mathematics education as Super Science High Schools (SSHs) and universities which develop and provide international human resource development programs as Global Science Campuses, and supports them.
- The METI has implemented "science-based female success promotion support project" to promote science-based females' activities.

2 Development of entrepreneurs

- MEXT conducts advanced human resource development through the "Enhancing Development of Global Entrepreneur Program for young researchers and graduate students (EDGE program)" from 2014, so that they can acquire knowledge such as knowledge about entrepreneurship, know-how to start up businesses, and the means to create ideas.

3 Support for business startups

- METI provides low-interest loans through the Japan Finance Corporation to young people whose new businesses have been started within the last seven years using the Loan Program for Supporting Female, Young, and Senior Entrepreneurs.

Section 3 Development of human resources who can adapt to and utilize the evolution of information and communications technology

1 Development of human resources in the information and communications technology

- MEXT is making efforts to promote and spread practical education such as problem-based learning through industry-academia collaboration regarding the establishment of a base for the development of human resources in the information technology field who will support growing industries. In 2016, MEXT is also beginning to make new efforts for undergraduate students in addition to efforts targeting graduate students.

Section 4 Assistance for young people who are playing important roles in the revitalization of local communities

1 Promotion of regional development by young people

- The Cabinet Secretariat Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan promotes efforts made for contributions to solving local issues by developing human resources who support local industries, strengthening ties with the young generation in regions and local communities, etc.
- Since FY 2015, MEXT has been conducting the Promotion of Universities as the Center of Communities Plus Project (COC+); COC+ supports projects in which multiple universities establish project collaboration institutions in cooperation with not only local governments which promote local revitalization, but also local companies which accept human resources and NPOs and private entities which conduct activities aiming to vitalize local communities, while making efforts for creating employment and increasing the number of graduates who stably settle down in local communities by leveraging the advantages of the institutions' members. This project will be promoted as well in FY 2016.
- MIC promotes the Community-Reactivating Cooperator Squad system, which is a system to encourage people living in urban areas to migrate to rural areas including depopulated areas and then to settle down or reside in such areas while carrying out activities to contribute to local communities for a certain period of time.

Section 5 Development of next-generation world-class athletes and emerging artists, etc.

1 Development of next-generation athletes

- In FY 2016, it was intended to develop, and strengthen next-generation athletes who are expected to play important roles in 2020, while supporting the routine and continuous athlete-training activities conducted by each sports association.

2 Development of emerging artists, etc.

- In terms of developing human resources such as young artists, directors, stage experts, human resources of arts management, and other human resources who will take charge of Japanese culture and art, MEXT provides networking opportunities at training sessions, including performances, exhibitions, and international symposia for acquiring practical, advanced techniques and knowledge.