

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 new National Curriculum Standard revised in 2017, the contents regarding a deeper understanding of Japanese traditions and culture have been enriched in each subject, such as Japanese language culture, main cultural assets in the prefecture and traditional annual events, Japanese and local traditional music, Japanese musical instruments, martial arts, Japanese food and kimono etc.

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 to correspond to new curriculum and accelerate foreign language education, 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.

- 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 lessons, 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.

5 Promotion of Olympic and Paralympics education

- MEXT are developing Olympic and Paralympic education nationwide so that children will deepen their understanding of the value of sports, norms, international and cross-culture through the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and deepen understanding of norms, international / cross-culture, cohesive society, etc.

6 Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- MEXT is promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Based on the Japan’s Implementation Plan for Global Action Programme on ESD formulated at the inter-ministerial meeting, MEXT are developing various measures to promote ESD.

7 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 Programs. The programs

conducted in FY 2017 are: “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 Ship for World Youth Program” and “the Community Core Leaders Development Program”

(2) International exchange for young people

- MEXT conducts projects including the International Exchange Promotion Program in Local Communities 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 through sports

- MEXT supports international sports exchange activities that involve young people such as sports exchange programs in Asian region by the Japan Sport Association, as well as exchange programs for improving international competitiveness by the Japanese Olympic Committee.
- MEXT and MOFA with public-private partnership are promoting an international cooperation and contribution project, “Sports for Tomorrow”, introducing the value of sports, and contributing to healthy growth of young people.

(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.

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 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has implemented “science-based female success promotion support project” to promote science-based females’ activities.

2 Development of entrepreneurs

- MEXT has been conducting advanced human resource development through the “Next Generation Entrepreneur Training Project” since FY 2017. MEXT supports universities not only to create ideas but also to develop practices that implement efforts related to national entrepreneurship development, such as building programs and new networks essential for nurturing entrepreneurs, with programs that undergraduate students, graduate students, and young researchers, etc. can participate.

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.

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

- Cooperating with relevant ministries, the Cabinet Secretariat and the Cabinet Office, based on “Comprehensive Strategies for Overcoming Population Decline and Revitalizing Local Economies (2017 revised edition),” are putting efforts for promoting the learning and employment of young people in local areas with creation of job opportunities for young people and the development of universities in local areas, 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 2017, while supporting the common and continuous athlete-training activities conducted by each national sports association, the government made efforts to identify, develop, and strengthen next-generation athletes who are expected to be successful in the Tokyo 2020 Games and beyond along with each national sports association and prefectural 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.