

Policies for the Reform of National Universities [Outline]

Purport of Establishment

- Based on the Report by the Central Council for Education, "Grand Design of Higher Education toward 2040," **discussions were held with people from the Japan Association of National Universities, etc.**
- Acceleration of initiatives for the latter half of the third medium-term goal period and the direction of reform and related issues were pointed out to trigger discussions for establishing the fourth medium-term goals and plans.
- Based on the policies, **in-depth talks should be held with respective national universities.**

Future Society

- Paradigm shift to a knowledge-based society backed by digitalization
- Globalization of higher education
- Need to respond to a declining birthrate combined with an aging population and creation of a geographically-distributed society



- Sustainable and inclusive society
- Diversified society

Functions and Roles of National Universities

- National universities play **roles as bases of integrating knowledge and human resources** that lead knowledge and create innovation in a knowledge-based society. **National universities function as a driving force for social transformation.**
- They serve as regional education and research hubs to extract the latent potential of respective communities and **contribute to regional revitalization.**

Strengths of national universities

National universities where knowledge and human resources gather are strategically located nationwide.

Future Direction of Reform

1. Thorough educational reform

- Foster human resources with cross-sectoral and integrated knowledge covering diverse areas both in arts and sciences
- Secure learning hours and strictly manage graduation

2. Innovation hubs leading knowledge of the world

- Strengthen fundamental research which serves as the basis for innovation
- Promote appointment and participation of diversified human resources, including female researchers and young researchers

3. Advanced and diversified brain power circulation in society and in the world

- Accelerate internationalization of the entire organization of each university
- Enhance recurrent education

4. Provision of advanced knowledge as the core of each region

- Formulate regional initiatives via the Platform for Regional Cooperation (provisional title)
- Play central roles in regional revitalization and activate regional economies

5. Robust governance

- Reform management of personnel affairs and salaries
- Make education and research costs visible

6. Diversified and flexible networks

- Share education and research resources by utilizing the Corporation for Promotion of Collaboration among Universities (provisional title)
- Build an online system to share educational infrastructure

7. Optimal sizes of national universities

- Discuss optimal sizes of respective universities that will allow them to fulfill their expected roles
- Enhance universities and faculties for fostering teachers and seek collaboration and integration with other universities



In-depth talks with respective national universities

Process to establish the fourth medium-term goals and plans

Further development and clarification of the characteristics and functions of respective universities

Initiatives by MEXT

○ Further development and clarification of the characteristics and functions of respective universities

- Strategic allocation of resources for achieving various initiatives
- Development and utilization of indicators for outcomes regarding calculation of the amount of operational subsidies

○ Deregulation and system development

- Further deregulation and diversification of financial resources for designated national university corporations
- Deregulation for active utilization of assets and introduction of flexible tuition fees for international students