



# 15th OECD/Japan Seminar Summary Comments

# Globalization of higher education and international competition

- Higher education cannot be immune from the impact of globalization progressing at a rapid pace all over the world.
- The trend towards massification of higher education around the world gives a great impact on each country's higher education policies, such as governance, funding and so on. It also poses a question about how higher education should be in the globalized society.

- It is extremely important to consider how higher education institutions can contribute to the capacity building of the people in the world, ranging from intellectuals to skilled workers.
- Higher education institutions are pushing forward the reform of management and organizational governance, while seeking for the way they contribute to the globalized community.

- Higher education institutions are no doubt extremely important for a nation's international competitiveness, since they are the sources of knowledge, innovation and also an instrument of human resource development which will bring about socio-economic development to the nation in a globalized society.

○ Different countries have different strategies to cope with globalization. Some countries, such as the U.K., prioritize the market mechanism, or student choice, while pushing forward reform in a competitive environment.

Some other countries aim to become an international education hub by inviting top universities in the world to the country that serve as an international base for world-class research and education.

# Role of Government

- It is interesting to notice that the widespread impact brought about by globalization and intensified international competition of higher education provide us with a good opportunity to revisit the role of the government.
- The government of each country has been trying to develop strategies to reform its higher education in order to catch up with the world trend of globalization.

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- In order to push forward globalization of universities and to create internationally attractive universities, each government is expected to play an increasingly important role in grand design, vision making and other strategies so that their system complies with international standards and they can compete internationally.
- It seems that the intervention of a government in universities is increasing with the progress of globalization and prevalence of market mechanism. It is of overriding importance for all the stakeholders to think “What should a government do for a university to maintain autonomy while providing high-quality education and services and carrying out high-quality research in a competitive environment.

# Next Step

- ◆ With the increasing globalization of university around the world and the progress of knowledge-based society, what should be taught at higher education? What is required as a strategy for each country to create world-class universities with international attractiveness?

- ◆ How should we build an international cooperation framework geared toward encouraging the development of highly skilled and capable human resources who can contribute to the development of the international community while respecting differences in each region and country's education system as well as each other's historical and cultural diversity?

- ◆ What are the challenges toward establishing a common framework and an implementation structure for international and regional quality assurance in line with globalization?
- ◆ What kind of roles and authority can be best expected for each player involved in quality assurance, such as governments, universities, quality assurance agencies as well as international quality assurance networks?