Country Report

JAPAN
Recognition of Foreign Degrees and Credits

1. Requirement for admission of Japanese universities/graduate schools

1) A person who is permitted to be enrolled in a university/graduate school shall be a person who has graduated from Japanese high school (for university) or university (for graduate school)

2) A person who is deemed to have equal or greater academic ability than a person who has graduated from high school (or university: in case of graduate school), based on an individual screening by a university and reaches the age of 18 years (or 22 years: in case of graduate school)
Credit transfer and accreditation of acquired credits are permitted between Japanese universities as well as between a Japanese university and an overseas university when a university deems it to be effective from an educational standpoint.

<Maximum number of credits that can be acquired>

- For university (faculty): A maximum of 60 credits can be acquired within the 124 credits required for graduation
- For graduate school: A maximum of 10 credits can be acquired within the 30 credits required for graduation
Credit Transfer System of Japan

1. Outline of the Credit Transfer System

- The credits which students acquired for courses studied in other universities can be considered as credits acquired by completing the courses in the concerned university.

- A maximum of 60 credits can be transferred for the faculties.

- By utilizing the credit transfer between multiple universities, a degree can be granted from both universities (double degree).

(View of Credit Transfers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations</th>
<th>Curriculum (in the case of faculties)</th>
<th>Total: 124 credits or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Universities</td>
<td>Credits acquired in a Japanese university (64 credits or more)</td>
<td>(Considered as being acquired in a Japanese university)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Universities</td>
<td>Credits acquired in a foreign university (60 credits or less)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Guidelines for Building Organized and Continuous Cooperation with Universities in Foreign Countries

Under the Central Council for Education Working Group on the Promotion of Globalizing Universities, the "Draft Guidelines for Building Organized and Continuous Cooperation including Double and Joint Degree Programs between Universities in Japan and Universities in Foreign Countries" were established in May of 2010.

**Outline of Guidelines**

1) Consolidation of terminology
- A “double degree” and a “joint degree” are defined according to the consolidated terminology on the left.
- In addition to the above, the terms, such as “dual degree”, “joint degree” and “multiple degrees” and etc., are used in each university. The definition of these terms are considered to be included in one of the definitions of a “double degree” or a “joint degree” (each university can use terms other than “double degree” and “joint degree”).

2) Method of degree inscription and indication of degree, name and etc.
Guidelines for Building Organized and Continuous Cooperation with Universities in Foreign Countries

3) Checkpoints from the viewpoint of assuring the quality of the program
- Issues should be confirmed at the outset
- Agreements on joint implementation
- Organization of curriculums
- Graduation approval
- Evaluation and accreditation
- Student support
- Disclosure of information

Numbers of Japanese universities introducing a double degree program based on exchange agreements with overseas universities and other institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality Assurance of Higher Education
- Illustration of Quality Assurance Framework in Japan -

Universities
- Conducts issuing degrees, admission process, constructing curricula appropriately
- Publishes information
- Self-examination and evaluation

Assuring that universities continue to assure quality internally while respecting the principle of independence and autonomy

National Quality Assurance Framework

Standards for establishing universities (SEU)
- Stipulating minimum standards and desirable goals and duties of universities by various regulations

Establishment- approval system (EAS)
- Assuring through peer review by specialists that application to establish universities meet the SEU, have enough possibility to accomplish what it states, and continue to provide programs

Quality assurance and accreditation system (QAAS)
- Conducting by certified agencies accreditation on satisfaction of SEU, working also as encouragement to enhance quality of academic activities

Coordination management
Working as legal framework for sustaining quality assurance and improvement of universities’ academic activities
International Symposium on Exchange among Universities with Quality Assurance in East Asian Region

- Held on September 29 and 30, 2011, Tokyo

- More than 380 participants from governments, quality assurance institutions, universities and industries from East Asia and ASEAN member countries

- Shared widely with the East Asian Region the outcome of the concept of “CAMPUS Asia” and several university exchanges in ASEAN countries and also discussed the desired future path of the concept

- 1st day: Opinions exchanged in three working groups
- 2nd day: Chair’s statement finalized after reporting the result of each working group

- In the Chair’s statement, it was confirmed that it is important to tie the experiences gained from implementing programs to future efforts in building a shared quality-assured university exchange framework in East Asia
International Conference of States (ICS) to Examine and Adopt to 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (November 2011, Tokyo)

Japan hosted ICS on 25-26 November 2011, in Tokyo, to examine and adopt the amendments to the 1983 Regional Convention.

【Viewpoint of revision】
- Quality assurance of education
- Exclude reference to recognition of practice of profession

The Conference ended with the adoption of the revise text and the signing of the revised Convention by nine Member States.

(Official participants)
Armenia • Australia • Bangladesh • Bhutan • Cambodia • China • India • Indonesia • Iran (Islamic Republic of) • Japan • Kazakhstan • Lao People’s Democratic Republic • Malaysia • Maldives • Mongolia • Nepal • New Zealand • Philippines • Republic of Korea • Sri Lanka • Thailand • Timor-Leste • Turkey • Uzbekistan • Viet Nam • Holy See
※Signatory of the 1983 Convention