



# **University Reform in Japan**

**2 May, 2006**

**Higher Education Bureau, MEXT**

# Outline

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Main Characteristics of Higher Education in Japan

Incorporation of National Universities

Three other reforms

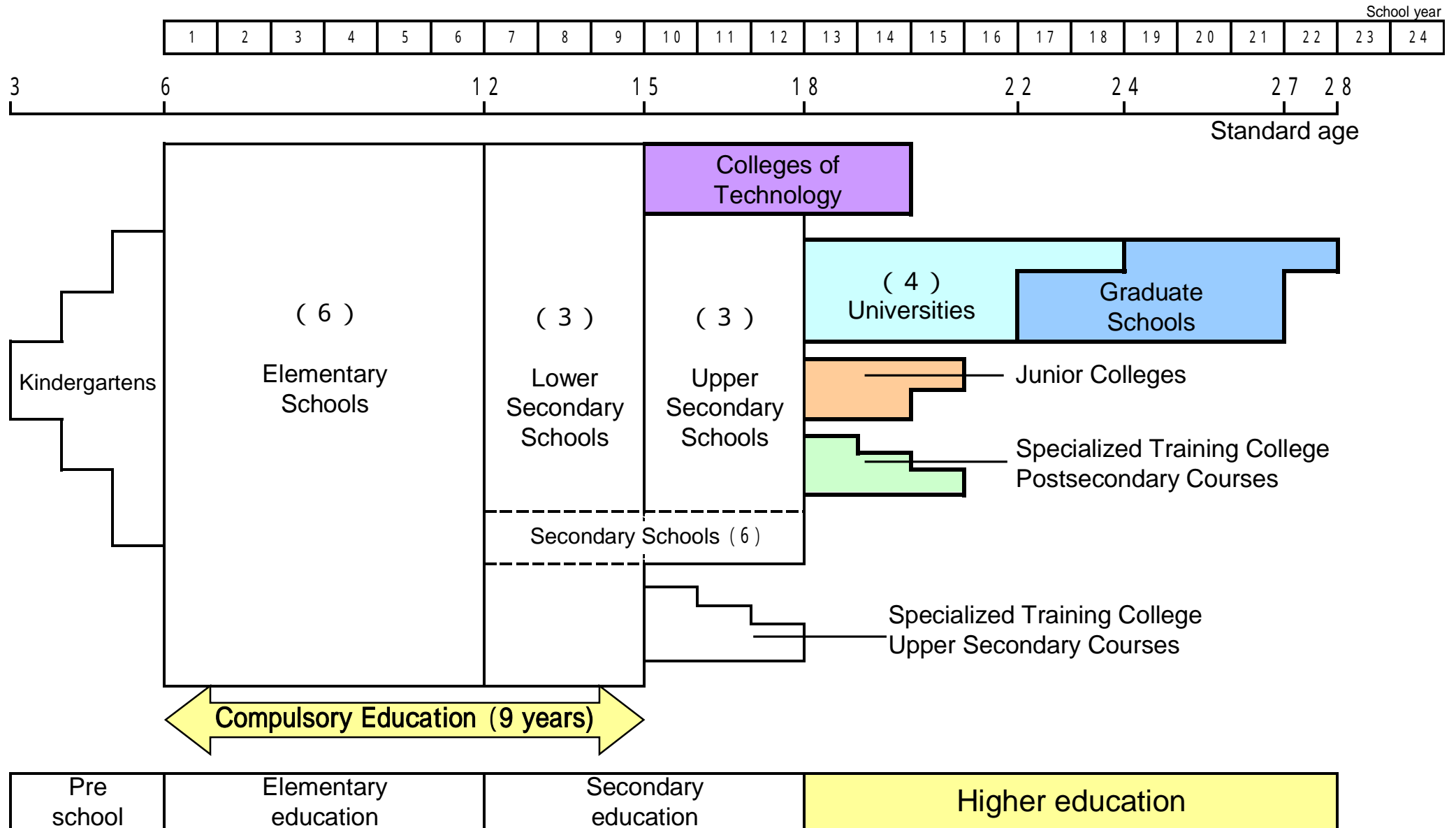
# I Main Characteristics of Higher Education in Japan

# Japan's Higher Education System

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- Japanese higher education system is **diversified and multi-functional**.
- Private initiative has played a strong role in the realization of mass higher education in Japan and **private institutions** produce a majority of graduates of higher education.
- In terms of total admission capacity, universities and colleges in Japan will be able to **admit all the applicants by 2007**.

# - Organization of the School System in Japan -



- Number of Institutions and Students by control of institution in 2005 -

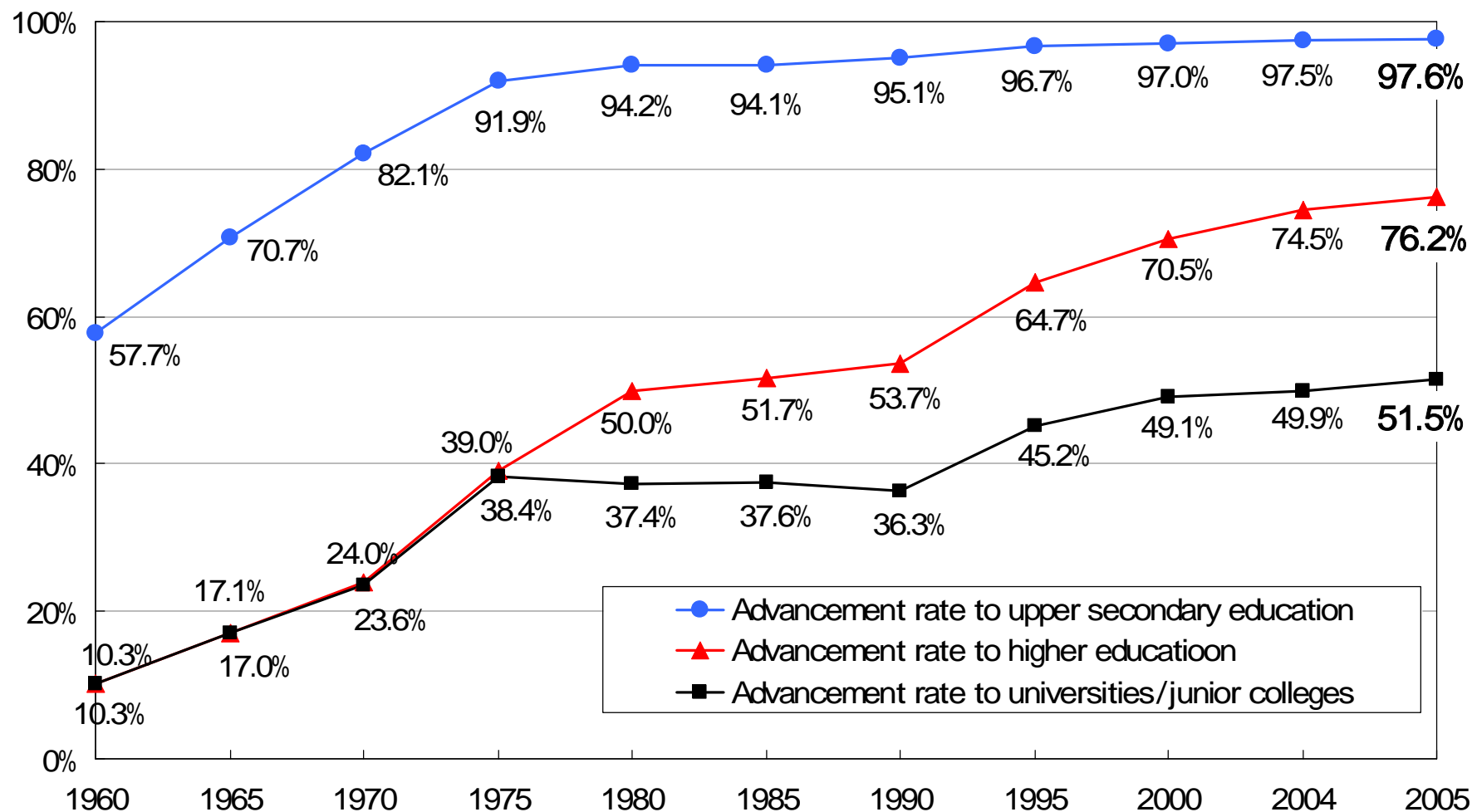
	Number of institutions				Number of students			
	National	Public	Private	Total	National	Public	Private	Total
<b>Universities</b>	87	86	<b>553</b>	726	627,851	124,910	<b>2,112,306</b>	2,865,067
<b>Graduate schools</b>	87	74	<b>408</b>	569	<b>150,781</b>	13,928	89,774	254,483
<b>Junior colleges</b> (regular courses)	10	42	<b>428</b>	480	1,643	14,347	<b>203,367</b>	219,357
<b>Colleges of Technology</b> (fourth and fifth grade)	<b>55</b>	5	3	63	<b>18,833</b>	1,727	964	21,524
<b>Specialized Training College</b> (Post-secondary courses)	13	194	<b>2,766</b>	2,973	732	27,895	<b>668,468</b>	695,472

Source; Basic Survey on School, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

The percentage occupied by private institutions is extremely high.

ex. Private University ; Institutions 76% , Students 74%

# - Trends in Advancement Rates -



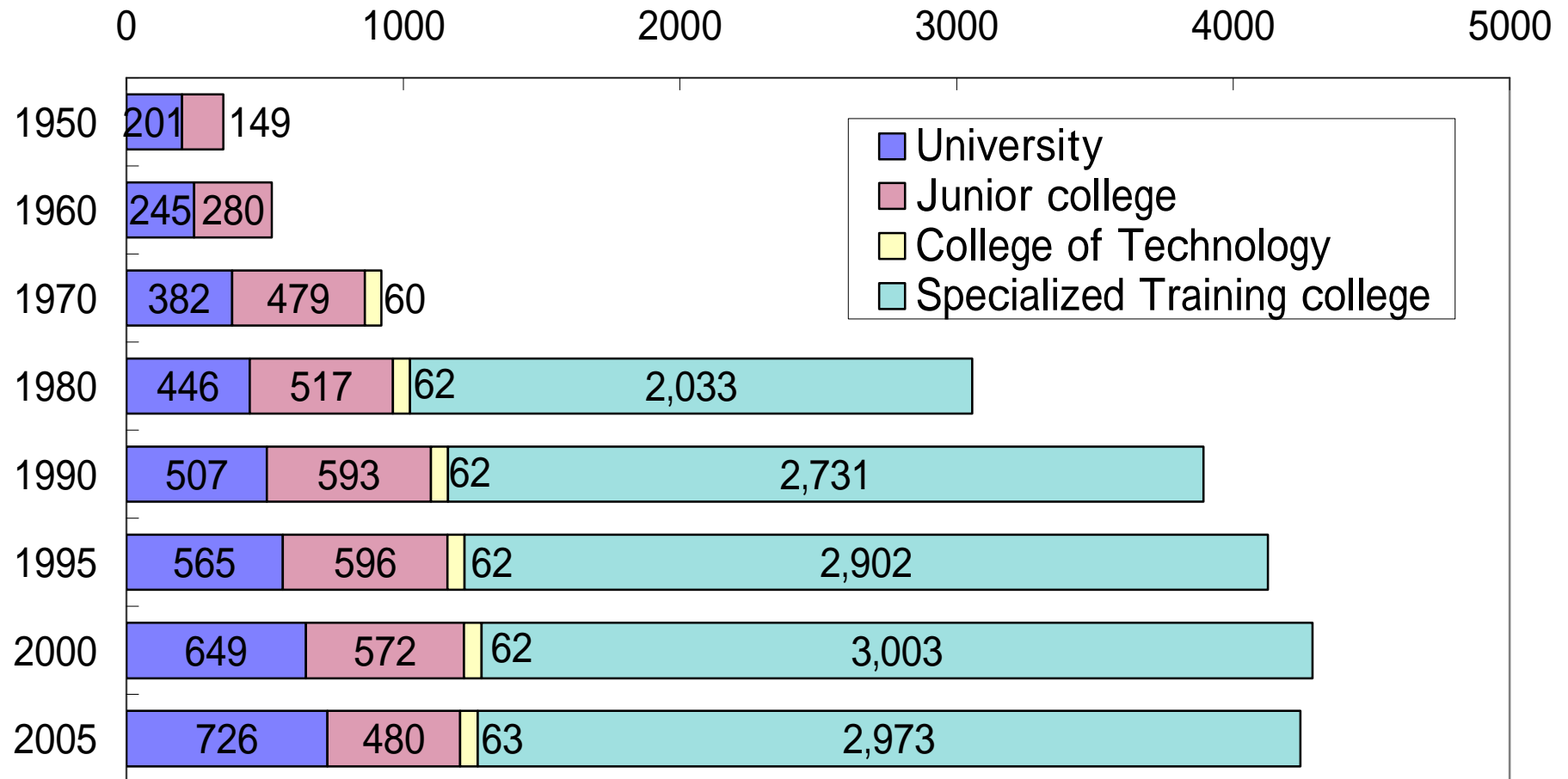
\* Advancement rate to upper secondary education : The ratio of new graduates advancing to upper secondary education, divided by the total new graduates. Before 1985, the advancement rate had excluded those entering correspondence school.

\*\* Advancement rate to higher education : The ratio of students enrolling in university undergraduate programs, junior college regular courses and specialized training college postsecondary courses (including those enrolling over a year after graduating from upper secondary school and secondary school) and the number of students in the fourth year of colleges of technology, divided by the total of students who completed lower secondary school or lower division of secondary school three years ago.

Source : *Basic Survey on School, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology*

# - Trends in Number of Institutions -

(institutions)

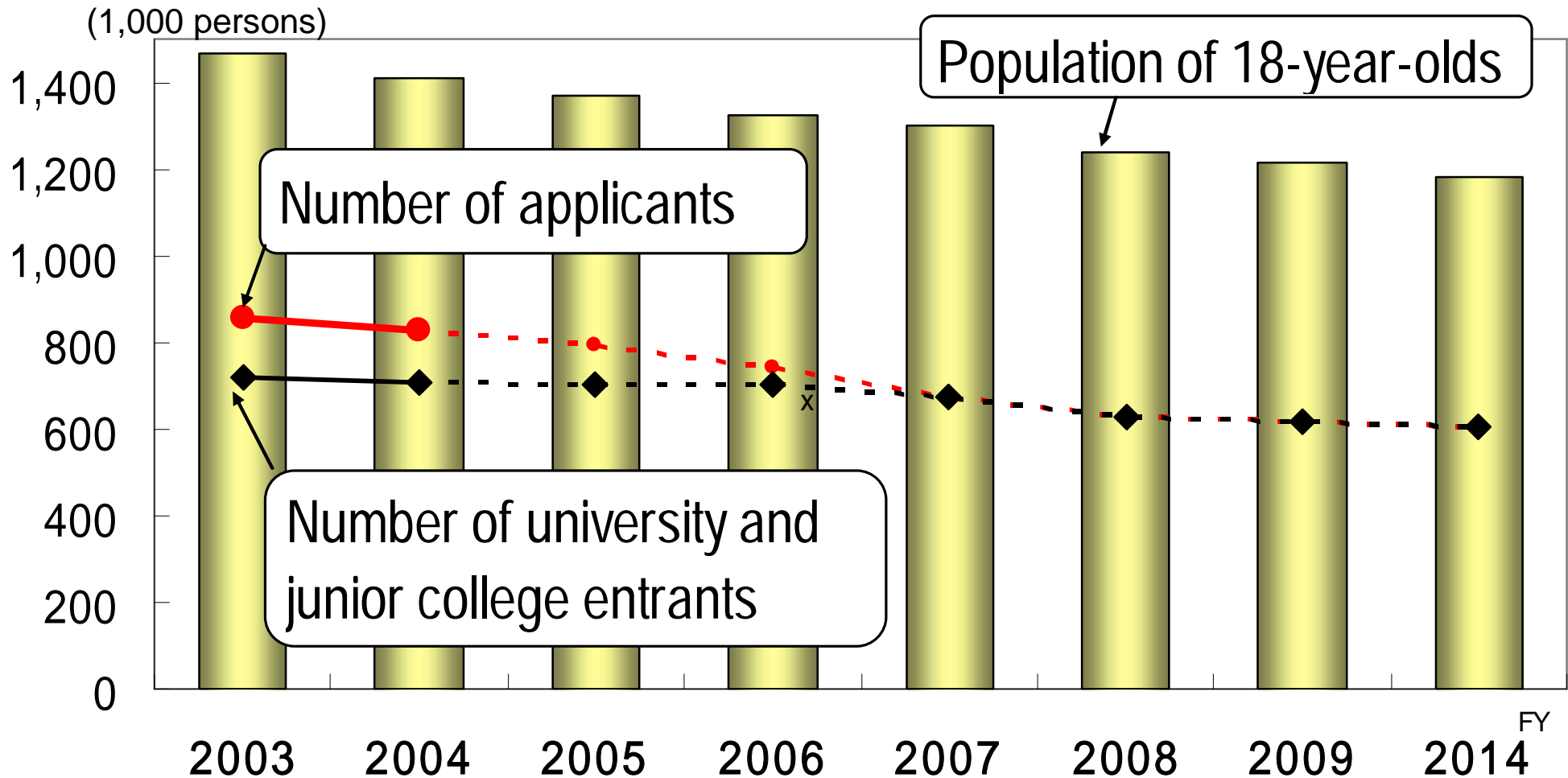


Source; Basic Survey on School, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

The number of universities has increased consistently.



## - Trends in the Population of 18-Year-Olds, Number of Entrants and Number of applicants -



In terms of total admission capacity, universities and colleges in Japan will be able to **admit all the applicants by 2007**. It almost fulfills the demand on a quantitative side of the higher education.

# **Incorporation of National Universities**

# Foundation of National Universities

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- National universities **existed** as a type of national **organizations** based on the “Law on the Establishment of National Schools”
- Several reports proposed that the foundation form of national universities should be reviewed to **increase autonomy and responsible independence** in university administration

Report of the Central Education Council (1971)

Third Report of the Ad Hoc Council on Education (1987)

# Progress of the Incorporation of National Universities

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April, 1999 Cabinet meeting decision

“Transformation of national universities into independent administrative institutions will be considered as one of the reforms of universities with respect to university autonomy, with a conclusion by 2003.”

March, 2002 The Concerned Study Team in MEXT

The Final Report of ' A New Image of National University Corporations'

June, 2002 Cabinet meeting decision

“Incorporation of national universities will be basically implemented from FY2004.”

July, 2003 The National University Corporation  
Law was legislated

April, 2004 National University Corporation  
system launched

# National University Corporation System ( )

**Minister of Education**

**National University Corporation  
Evaluation Committee**

- Drafting the mid-term goal and mid-term plan of each university
- Proposal of a candidate for president

- Establishment of mid-term goals, Approval of mid-term plan
- Appointment of the university president
- Issuance of subsidies for management expenses

- Evaluations (Ex-post facto checks)

Setting up objectives

Realizing strategic operations  
Encouraging individualization

Non-civil servant type personnel

Flexible personnel system  
Promoting cooperation with the industrial sector  
Appointing foreigners as university president, etc.

**National University Corporation**

( Representatives )

**President Selection Committee**

( Representatives )

Select, with the participation of non-university experts as well, well-qualified candidates for president

Deregulation

University's responsibility to determine the budget/organization

More than half to be from outside the university

**Administrative Council**

( Mainly deliberate on managerial matters )

External experts concerned with management

**President**

**Trustees**

Top-management based on private-sector concepts

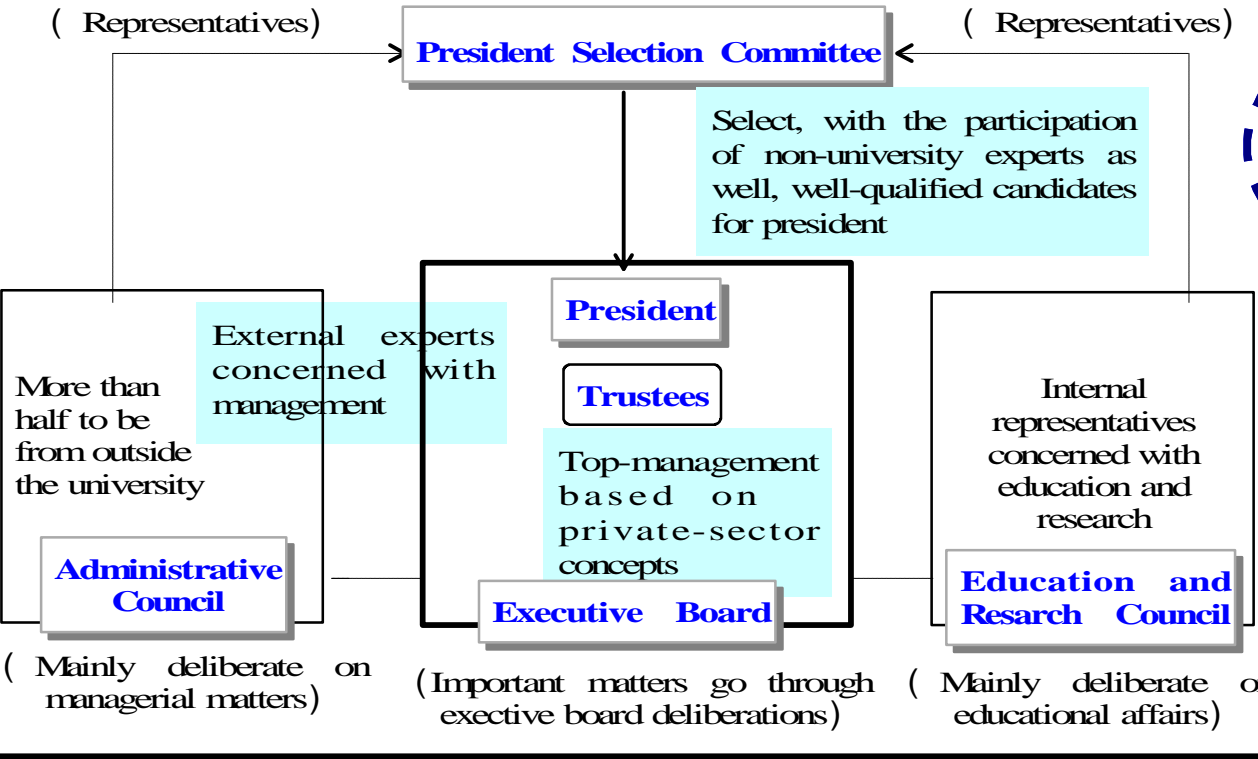
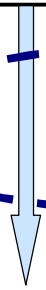
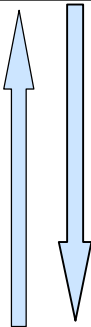
**Executive Board**

( Important matters go through executive board deliberations )

Internal representatives concerned with education and research

**Education and Research Council**

( Mainly deliberate on educational affairs )



# National University Corporation System ( )

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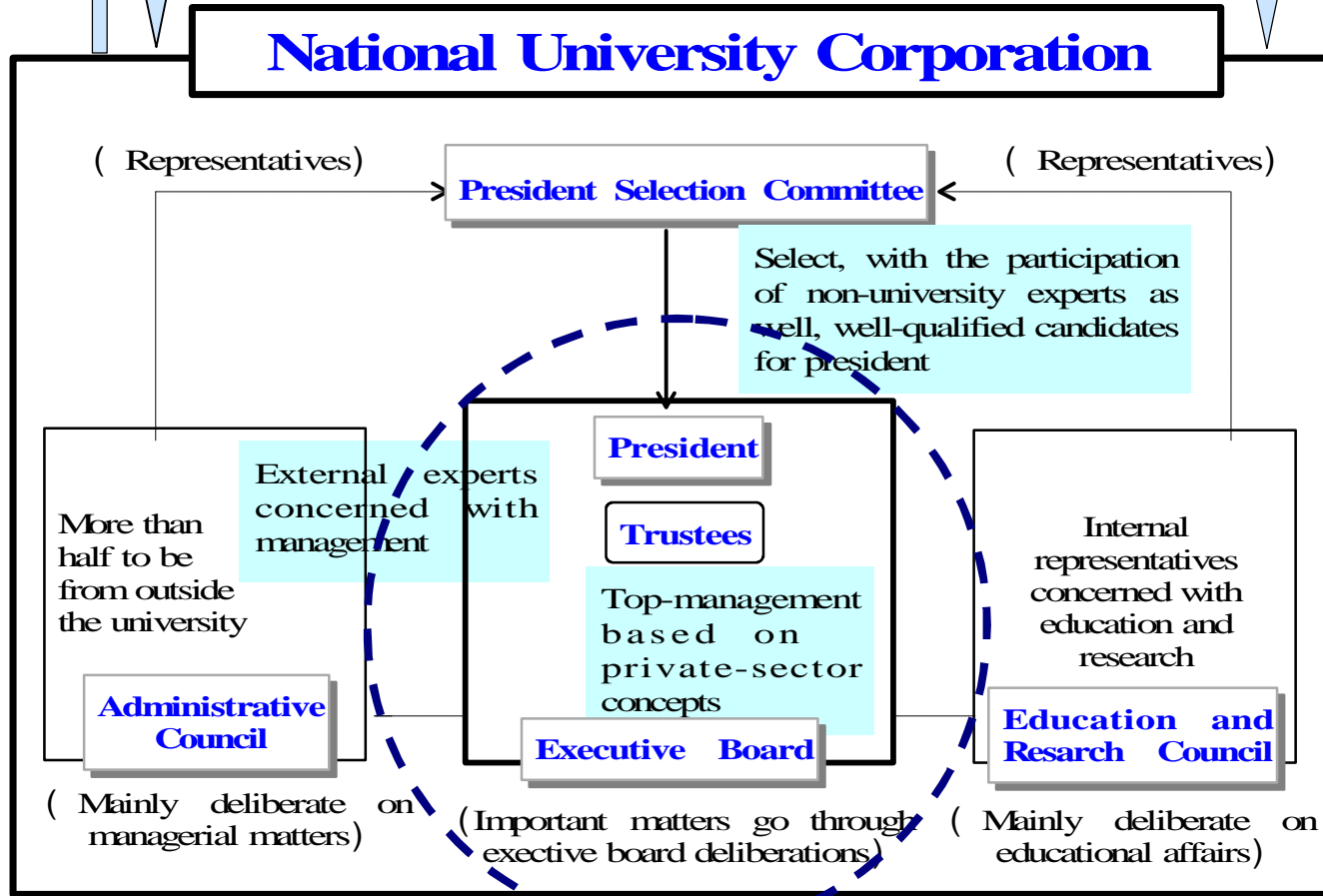
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University's responsibility to determine the budget/organization



# Organizations of National University Corporations

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Establish a decision-making system which can effectively utilize the expanded discretion of universities

- The presidential selection committee shall select well-qualified candidates for president, with the participation of external experts
- More than one of trustees shall be appointed from outside the university
- Important matters shall go through **Executive Board** deliberations
- Managerial matters shall be deliberated on by the **Administrative Council**, which is composed of both external experts and internal representatives
- Educational and research affairs shall be deliberated on by the **Education and Research Council**, which is composed of internal representatives

# National University Corporation System ( )

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**National University Corporation Evaluation Committee**

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**National University Corporation**

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# Mid-term Goals and Plans

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Set up and publicize mid-term (6-year) goals to clarify basic philosophy and priority areas at each university

- Each university shall submit a draft of its mid-term goals for 6 years to the Minister of Education, and the Minister shall determine them with respect given to the draft
- Each university shall draft mid-term plans and forward them for the Minister's approval
- With regard to mid-term goals and plans, the Minister shall listen beforehand to the opinions of the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee

# Significance of Incorporation

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- To respond to expectations of vitalizing universities in the “era of knowledge”
- To develop distinctive educational and research functions on the basis of management autonomy and university independence, as a result of the incorporation
  - Strengthen educational and research functions
  - Contribute to the local region and promote cooperation with the industrial sector
  - Establish maneuverable and strategic management system

Three other reforms

# 1. Promotion of the 21st century Centers of Excellence(COE) Program(FY2002-)

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## Aims

- Promote **competitive academic circumstances** among Japanese national, public, and private universities **through introduction of third-party evaluation**
- Provide **prioritized** support to creation of world-class education and research centers in the doctoral courses

**Screening**      Implemented by the committee outside MEXT

**Period**            5 years (Interim evaluation implementation)

**Funding**            100 to 500 million yen a year for each project

## Projects

FY2003: 113projects at 50 universities

FY2004: 133projects at 56 universities

FY2005: 28projects at 24 universities

## 2. New system of quality assurance

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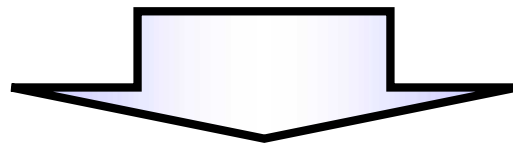
- “Self-inspections and Self-evaluations” was introduced in 1991.
- The School Education Law was revised in 2002.
  - Deregulation of authorization
  - Introduction of a third-party evaluation system

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➤ Deregulation of authorization (from FY 2003)

Only notification, rather than ministerial authorization, is required.

(In case the reorganization does not result in changes in the kinds and fields of degrees awarded by the university)



**Greater flexibility in reorganizing faculties and department**

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## ➤ Introduction of a third-party evaluation system (from FY 2003)

- ◆ Universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology will be required to ask an evaluation body to **conduct an evaluation once every 7 years.**
- ◆ The results are to be reported to each institution and the minister and are made available to the general public.
- ◆ The Japanese government has authorized **5 third-party evaluation bodies** such as NIAD-UE (National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation).



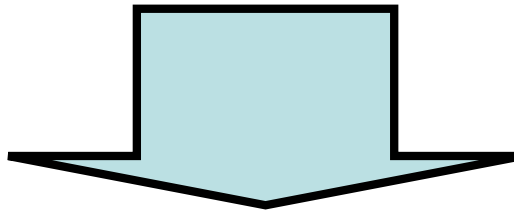
Evaluation by varied evaluation bodies promotes voluntary reforms of universities



### 3. The University's Third Mission

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“Contribution to local society, economic society and international society”



Promotion of technology transfer and new business start-ups through collaboration between universities, industry, and government







**Thank you**