



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
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Super Global University

Japanese Government has selected 37 “Super Global Universities.” The selected universities will receive either (A) Yen 420 million (\$4.2 million) or (B) Yen 170 million (\$1.7 million) per year for 10 years. Thirteen universities will receive the (A) award and 24 will receive the (B) award. Most of the (A) recipients are research universities whose super global activities include hosting prominent researchers from overseas, having cooperative education programs with prominent universities overseas, and increasing the rate of the foreign students. The (B) awardee universities plan to increase the number of classes conducted in English, to increase the number of students who have over 700 Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) score, and establish problem-solving classes in cooperation with companies that promote global businesses.

The Super Global University program was established to open Japanese universities to the world by improving Japan’s international engagement in faculty exchange and research collaboration. For example, the ratio of foreign faculty members to all at Harvard is 30% and 40% at Cambridge. In contrast, it is just 4% average at Japanese universities. Similarly, the ratio of foreign students to all in undergraduate and graduate programs is 2.9% on average at Japanese universities, which is far below the OECD’s average of 7.8%. Finally, the ratio of the papers based on collaborative research is just 26.4% in Japan, whereas it is 33.4% in the U.S. and 52.4% in the U.K.

Each university’s progress towards accomplishing its goals will be reviewed periodically.