2. Program implementation (2014 academic year)

■ Common Performance Indicators and Goals

Participation in Globalization

Student Support Systems driven by the students themselves

Meiji University has established a Community Coordinator System at the Komae International House. The community coordinators and junior community coordinators support the studies and life of students, and organize events to encourage interaction among dormitory residents.

At our Nakano Campus, an International Exchange Promotion Office has been established at the School of Global Japanese Studies to serve as a location for individuals who have studied abroad to discuss their experiences and present information on their place of study. This provides opportunities for students who will study abroad or hope to do so in the future, strengthens networking among students, and promotes among our students a greater interest in the potential of foreign study.

International Symposia

Meiji University presented a Commemorative Symposium on the Ministry of Education’s Selection of Meiji University for the “Top Global University Project.” The symposium was called “Developing Mutual Understanding and Mutual Trust in the East Asia Region — Toward Forming a Stable and Thriving East Asia,” and was held on March 31, 2015.

Working in collaboration with Northeastern University, Duke University, Peking University and Yonsei University, the symposium included a panel discussion conducted by the inviting parties. Presentations were given by students, and the symposium offered practical experience for participants, developing skills that are essential for global human resources (such as independently considering difficult challenges and developing solutions).

Establishment of the International Students Incentive Scholarship Program and the Special Grant for Privately Financed International Students

To attract talented foreign students, during the 2014 academic year Meiji University established two assistance programs: the International Students Incentive Scholarship Program, and the Special Grant for Privately Financed International Students. Selections have already been done preparatory to grant award. Also during 2014 academic year, our representatives were sent abroad to international partner universities, to promote stronger ties with them and discuss the assistance programs. These efforts spread knowledge of the assistance programs, and enhanced our dissemination of information that is useful in attracting talented foreign students.

Governance Reforms

Establishment of a Global Education Center (provisional name), and Examination of a Tenure track system

We intend to establish a Global Education Center (provisional name) as one part of our organizational restructuring efforts aimed at promoting globalization. As a first step, we established a review system to develop a Globalization Subject Group (provisional name). We also examined the experience of other universities that are introducing a tenure track system, to consider which type of system will be best for our own teaching staff. During the current 2015 academic year we are revising relevant university bylaws, and during the next 2016 academic year we will adopt procedures for advertising positions and hiring, with a view to making new appointments beginning in the 2017 academic year.

Adoption of globalization promotion Measures, and considerations for establishing a task force

The Council of Deans, which is the highest decision-making body on pedagogical matters, was given management authority over this program. Under its authority, bylaws were introduced for the establishment of a steering committee to develop a range of specific relevant policies. To assist in the implementation of those policies, a Top Global University Promotion Team was established with members from relevant departments throughout the university.

Implementation of overseas language study programs

To raise the quality of teaching staff, in March 2015 Meiji University conducted international faculty development (FD) training sessions at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. During lectures held in English, teaching staff participants acquired practical skills, including methods useful for bi-directional lectures and active learning.

Under the overseas learning program (dispatch to overseas educational institutions), in August 2014 Meiji University sent 10 of its young employees to the University of California —Irvine in the United States to improve their ability to promote globalization projects. And, as part of our long-term overseas study program, we sent a university employee who had been granted a Fulbright scholarship to an American university to obtain a Master’s degree.
Educational Reforms

Lecture on the use of TOEFL and other external tests
For the February 24, 2014, faculty development (FD) training session held to examine improvements to entrance exams using TOEFL and other external tests, we invited a specialist in the four English-language skills (listening, conversing, reading and writing), and organized a lecture within the university entitled English Language Education and Reform of the University Entrance Exam System: Using Tests To Evaluate the Four English Language Skills. During the lecture, participants learned about the significance and use of entrance exams that employ external tests, and examined examples of how such tests have been adopted at other universities.

Development of a system to publish an English-language syllabus
To assist individuals from other countries who take our entrance exam in the hope of studying at Meiji University, as well as students enrolled in English credit courses at the university and those who wish to take subjects in English, beginning in 2017 academic year we will offer English translations of all course syllabuses. To permit these syllabuses to be viewed in Japan and abroad, we have taken steps to develop a publishing system for them.

The own performance indicators and goals of Meiji University

Establishment of a Global Campus based on cross-cultural exchange
In addition to target sending 4,000 students to study abroad annually by 2023, we also intend to accept 4,000 international students at our university by 2023. Meiji University has been given first place (Humanities category) for three years in a row as the university most recommended to international students by Japanese language school instructors. Our university is highly regarded for its acceptance of international students, and offers them excellent support systems including enhanced Japanese-language education.

The Cross-cultural Experience Opportunities in Japan program envisages interaction with the 4,000 international students who will be accepted to our university every year. The program offers this type of opportunity in Japan even for Japanese students who have no plans to study overseas. We are enhancing our programs for international students, such as the highly popular Cool Japan Summer Program, the Law in Japan Program, and programs accepting international students from the University of Southern California, North Eastern University. At the same time, we are strengthening our promotion of interaction among international students and Japanese students. We also organize problem-solving programs, sending students to recommend ways to reinvigorate local communities in Japan. These activities, which are designed to establish stronger links with local communities, attract the participation of some of our international students and, together with the Cross-cultural Experience Opportunities in Japan program, provide synergies for local community tie-ups.

Innovative steps designed to take advantage of unique university characteristics

Knowledge creation from world city Tokyo
Meiji University hosted an annual meeting of the World Cities, World Class University Network (the WC2, established by City University London). Representatives from eight prestigious universities in world cities attended. During the three-day meeting, Meiji University teaching staff also participated in theme-oriented clubs, shining a bright light on some of our research activities.

In August 2015, an inaugural WC2 Symposium also takes place in London, to provide opportunity for faculty member and students from across the WC2 network to gain new insights and share perspectives in academic areas. It will also support the development of cross border relationships and learning communities both as a platform for professional development and collaborative research. This type of international university network is strengthening our ties with major universities in the world, also helping our teaching staff enhance their own person-to-person networks.

100 Programs to Go Global
Under the Top Global University Project of Meiji University, we plan sent out all 8,000 annual graduates of our undergraduate and graduate programs into the world as talented human resources with a Frontier Spirit for the Future. For them to be imbued with such a Frontier Spirit for the Future, it is critical that they practice proactive learning. And the most important way to assist them in this is to offer opportunities for study abroad. The project’s plan calls for 4,000 students to be sent each year from Meiji University for study overseas. This adds up to 16,000 students over four years. Since Meiji University has about 32,000 students, this works out to half of all students studying overseas during part of the four-year program. In other words, the plan envisions half of the student body gaining experience as foreign students.

The 100 Programs to Go Global serves as the driving force for sending students to overseas studies. Meiji University believes that taking specialized subjects in English makes it possible to acquire world-class useful knowledge, thinking and English language skills. So far, Meiji has signed agreements with eight universities including the University of California, Berkeley for summer sessions lasting about three months, and is sending many students to those sessions. Under the project, we will expand the number of universities to 20, and to send 600 students annually. In addition, we offer “100” opportunities for our students to study in other parts of the world. For example: overseas study programs linked to English Language Study (ELS) support institutions; summer study sessions in law at the University of Cambridge’s Pembroke College; a French Fashion Program (short-term overseas lecture series); a study program at the Lyon Institute of Political Studies; and a semester internship program offered in conjunction with Walt Disney World.