

NIAD-UE

Overview of National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation

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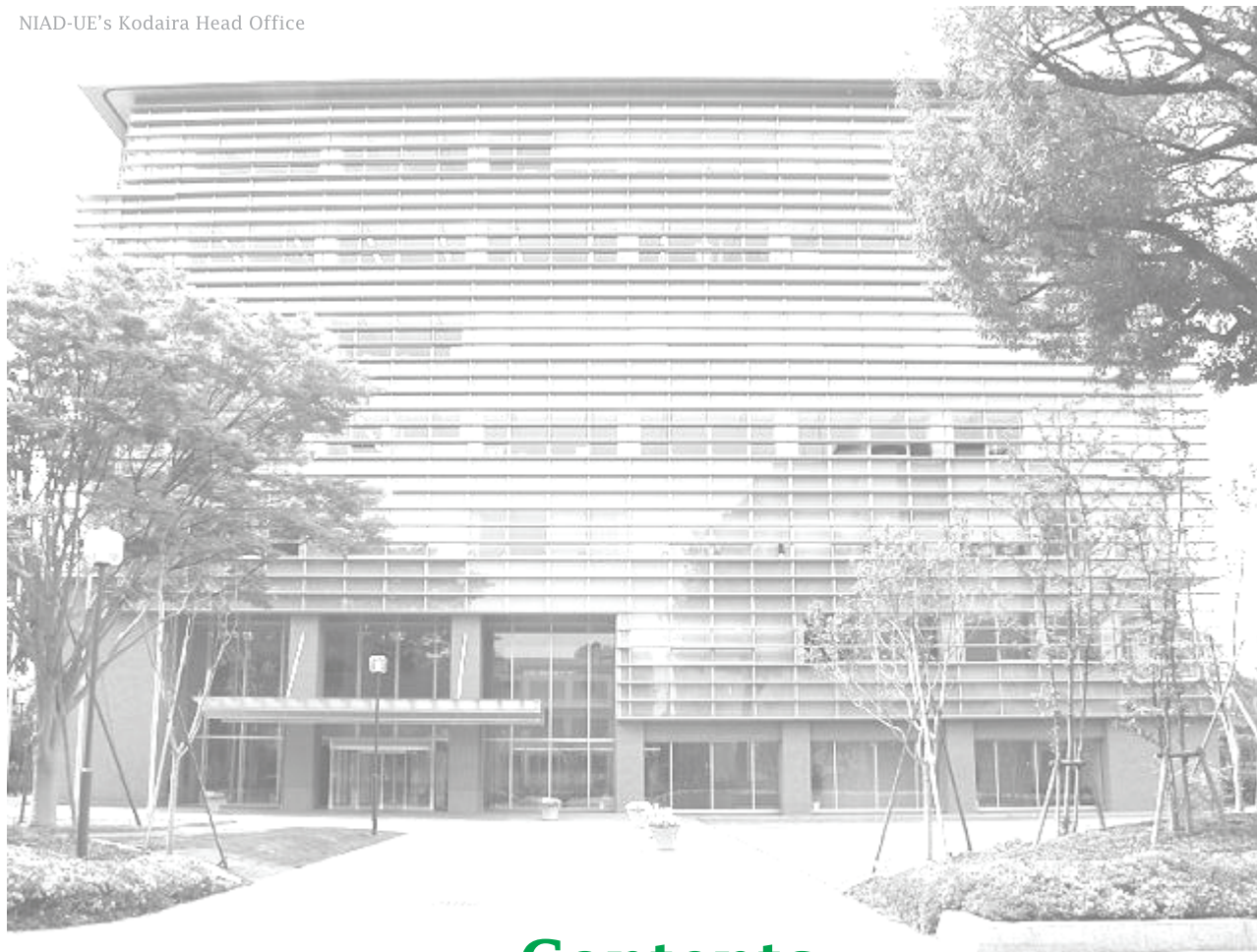
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Overview



Introduction

The National Institution for Academic Degrees (NIAD), the predecessor of National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), was founded in 1991 as a national body to award degrees to graduates of higher education institutions run by Ministries other than the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

The establishment of NIAD-UE was led by the 1998 Council for Higher Education Report. It recommended the introduction of third-party evaluation and the establishing of third-party evaluation organizations, in consideration of the necessity to assist in enhancing the qualities of higher education by multiple evaluation frameworks including third-party evaluation. In response to the Report, a new function of university evaluation was added to NIAD and the institution was renamed as NIAD-UE in 2000.

Certified evaluation and accreditation was introduced in 2004, after conducting trial evaluation for developing new evaluation frameworks. NIAD-UE has conducted this evaluation as an evaluation and accreditation organization certified by MEXT. The first evaluation process was completed, and its results were published at the end of March 2006. In addition, NIAD-UE undertakes a part of the National University Corporation Evaluation, at request of the Evaluation Committee of MEXT.

NIAD-UE strives to develop its evaluation systems and disseminate the “quality assurance culture” that will contribute to further developments of higher education through conducting evaluation and other activities.

Objectives

- To contribute to the improvement of qualities of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology through conducting evaluation of their education and research activities
- To contribute to a society that can value the learners' academic ability appropriately through awarding academic degrees to learners who mark additional achievement

Responsibilities

- To conduct evaluation of education, research and other activities of universities and institutions, and provide the evaluation results to the targeted institutions and the public
- To award academic Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in accordance with the guidelines set under the School Education Law
- To conduct research activities on evaluation of higher education and assessment of learners' learning outcomes for awarding academic degrees
- To collect, file and disseminate information on evaluation of higher education and learning opportunities at universities
- To conduct evaluation of education and research activities of national universities and inter-university research institutes, at request of the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee of MEXT and provides the evaluation results to the Committee, targeted institutions and the public

Corporate Plan

NIAD-UE's Mid-Term Plan is the strategic plan of its work on a five-year term cycle (current term: 2004-2009). It covers all aspects of works including evaluation, awarding of academic degrees, international cooperation, research activities, and management. It is created based on the 'Mid-Term Goal' (five-year term goal) presented to NIAD-UE by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, comprising the objectives which NIAD-UE should achieve to contribute to the further development of Japanese higher education. Based on the Mid-Term Plan, an Annual Plan is also created. These plans and goal are made public.

General Information

Location

NIAD-UE has two offices, which are Kodaira headquarters in the city of Kodaira, western Tokyo, and Takebashi Office in Chiyoda ward, the central part of Tokyo.

Incorporated Administrative Agency

NIAD-UE is an incorporated administrative agency, a non-governmental body with public funds to undertake public affairs and programs in response to policies made by MEXT.

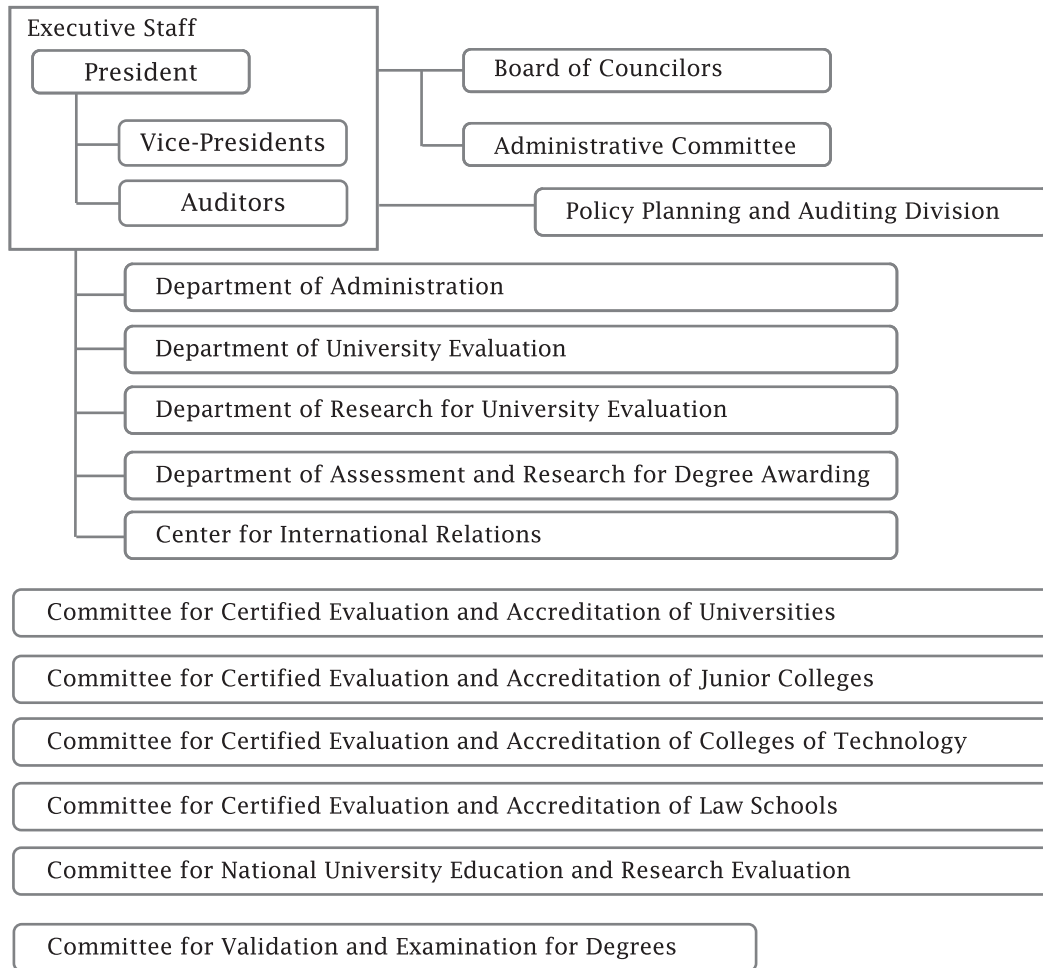
Budget in FY2007

The total amount of revenue is 2,324 million JPY. About 85 percent of the revenue is management expenses grants from the government.

Organization

The total number of full-time staff is 152: the President, two Vice-Presidents, 120 administrative staff and 29 academic staff.

Figure 1: Organizational Chart of NIAD-UE (as of April 2007)

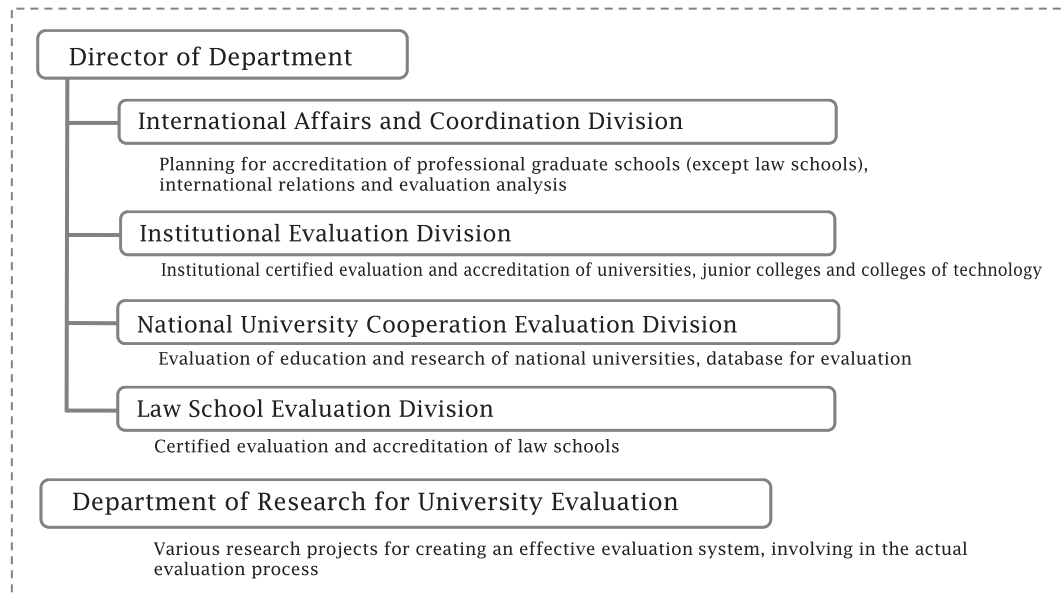


Evaluation Activities

NIAD-UE mainly conducts the following evaluation activities aiming to meet the organizational objective, 'contribution to the qualitative improvement of activities of universities and colleges'. More than half of the staff members engage in these works.

- **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation**
 - Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
 - Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate Schools
- **Evaluation of Education and Research of National Universities**
(Focusing on the Attainment of Mid-Term Goals of Education and Research)
- **Verification of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation**
- **Collecting and Providing Information on Quality Assurance**

Figure 2: Organizational Chart for Operating Evaluation Activities



Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

A mandatory evaluation and accreditation for universities and colleges on conditions of education and research conducted by certified evaluation and accreditation organizations. NIAD-UE was certified in 2005. Universities must select from the organizations and be assessed in periods stipulated by the government.

- Objectives

- To ensure the qualities of education and research activities of higher education institutions
- To make use of evaluation results for the improvement of the institutions
- To assist the institutions in accounting their activities to the public

- Cycle

Universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology must undergo the institutional certified evaluation and accreditation at least once in seven years, and professional graduate schools the certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate schools at least once in five years.

- Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation

Standards for evaluation and accreditation are specification of aspects, elements or principles for judging the qualities of universities' education and research. NIAD-UE's standards are composed of 11 standards including:

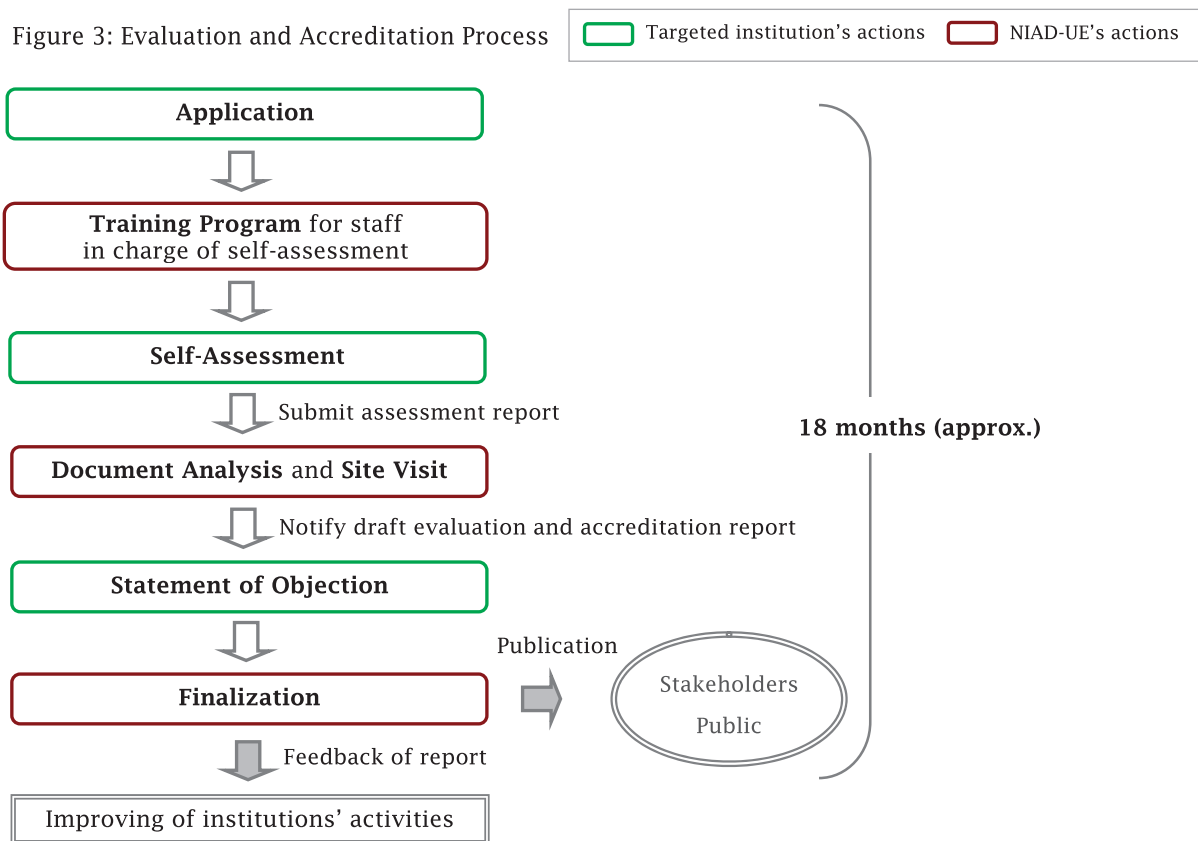
- Objective
- Organization and Teaching Staff
- Student Admission
- Academic Programs and Performances
- Student Supports
- Internal Quality Assurance Systems
- Finance, Management, and Facilities

- **Evaluation and Accreditation Teams**

Committees for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation are set for organizing the evaluation and accreditation process and making final judgments. Subcommittees set under the Committees carry out the actual process. They are composed of presidents, academics, and experts such as journalists and economists. NIAD-UE provides training programs to them to ensure their mutual understanding and the fair, appropriate, and smooth implementation of the process.

- **Process**

Figure 3: Evaluation and Accreditation Process



- Judgments

Evaluators scrutinize conditions of targeted institutions for judging whether they meet each standard. The institutions have to qualify all standards for receiving successful evaluation and accreditation results from NIAD-UE. The results also indicate their good practices and improvements that have been made. This is one of the characteristics of NIAD-UE's process in meeting the objective, 'to make use of results for the further improvement of institutions' activities'.

Institutions which receive successful result are conferred a certificate and logo from NIAD-UE (See the right figures). The logo may be used in their websites and brochures to clearly present to the public that they have satisfied NIAD-UE's quality standards.



- Applications/Practices

Table 1: Number of participations

	2008*	2007	2006	2005
Universities	11	38	10	4
Junior Colleges	2	2	1	2
Colleges of Technology	2	20	18	18
Law Schools	18	9	--	--
Preliminary Evaluation and Accreditation of Law Schools	--	3	13	4

* Number of applications

Evaluation of Education and Research of National Universities

NIAD-UE undertakes part of the National University Corporation Evaluation. This is performance-based evaluation, focusing on each university's attainment of mid-term goals of education and research.

- **National University Corporation Evaluation**

This is the evaluation of national university corporations and inter-university research institute corporations as to attaining their mid-term goals, mid-term plans and annual plans for education, research and management. The National University Corporation Evaluation Committee set in MEXT takes all responsibility for this evaluation.

- **Background and Aims**

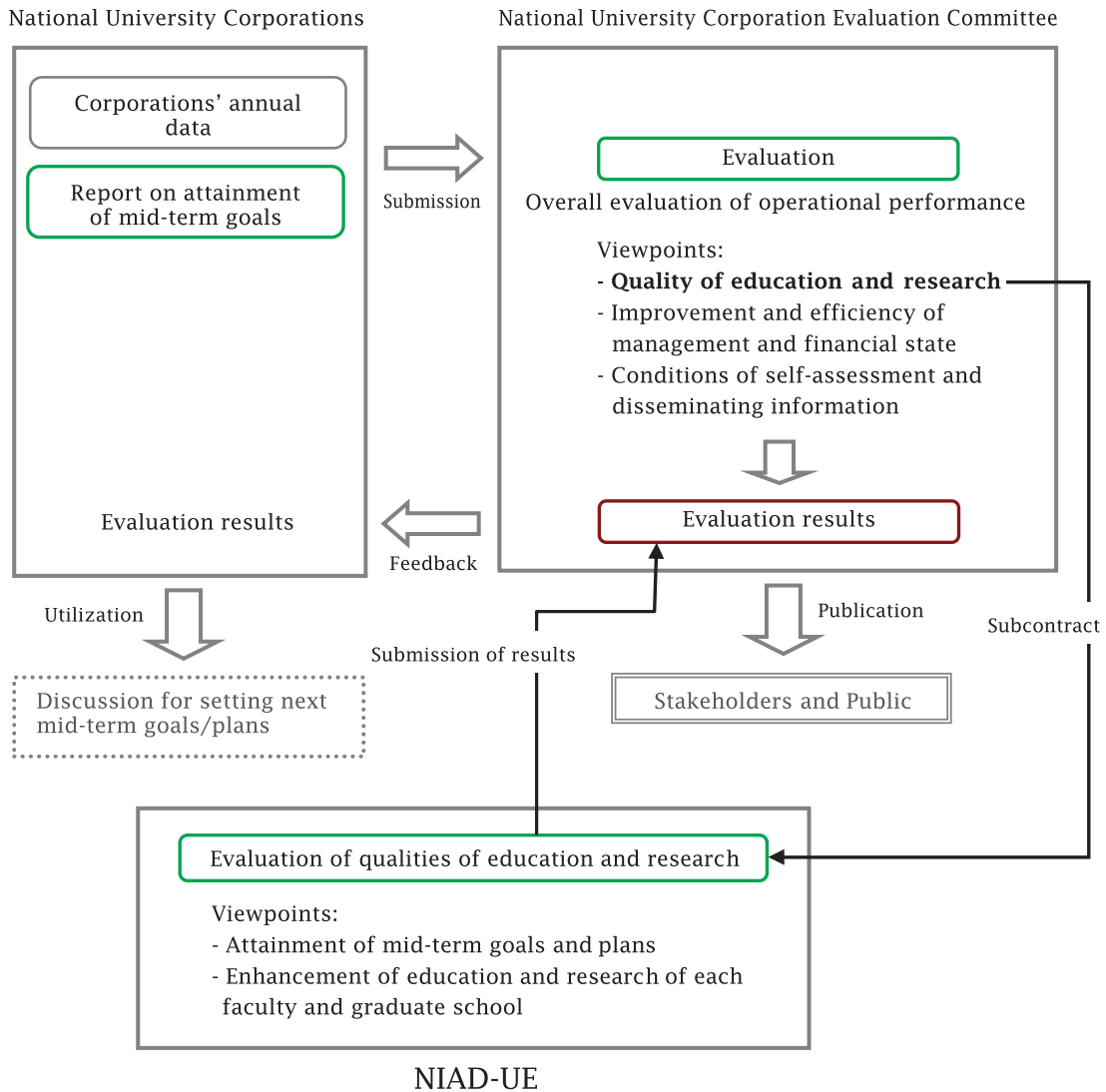
All national universities and inter-university research institutes were incorporated in 2004. MEXT set mid-term (six-year) goals of each corporation by respecting their ideas put forward. The corporations set mid-term (six-year) plans in accordance with the goals, which are authorized by MEXT. The Committee assesses the performances in achieving their goals and plans aiming to:

- Contributing to the improvement of the qualities of the corporations' education and research and the developments of their distinctiveness and diversification
- Justifying their performances due to the accountability to stakeholders and the public

- **Toward Implementation in 2008**

NIAD-UE has arranged the evaluation framework including evaluation teams toward its implementation in 2008. The Handbook for the Evaluation and the Guidelines for Reporting of Performances are provided to the corporations in advance.

Figure 4: Overall Image of the National University Corporation Evaluation



Verification of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

NIAD-UE implements verifications of its own evaluation activities for judging its appropriateness and assuring its transparency. The results are used for improving its system and efficiency.

- **Verification Reports**

The verification reports of the 2006 and 2005 certified evaluation and accreditation published on NIAD-UE's website are based on the questionnaire of staff in targeted institutions and external evaluators. Items of the questionnaire cover all aspects of the evaluation and accreditation process so that NIAD-UE can make use of them for analyzing its works and seek improvements.

Collecting and Providing Information on Quality Assurance

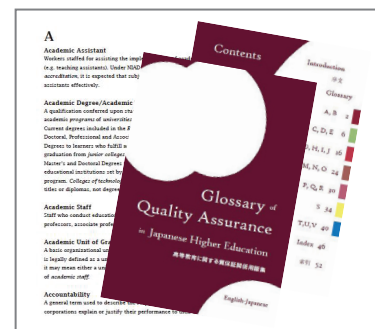
NIAD-UE collects and provides useful information on quality assurance in higher education. This activity is aiming to disseminate the “Quality Assurance Culture” into the higher education sector in Japan, as well as to contributing to the improvement of universities' performances.

- **University Evaluation Information Portal**

This site opened in November 2007 aiming to providing useful information on universities and colleges' evaluation activities and assisting in their informatization through posting their institutional information on this site.

- **Booklet ‘Glossary of Quality Assurance in Japanese Higher Education’**

NIAD-UE produced this booklet under the cooperation with the United Kingdom's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). It aimed to promote the understanding of Japanese higher education systems and quality assurance systems, and develop international partnerships in the area of quality assurance through providing useful information. This glossary contains 117 key terms considered important for the clear understanding of those systems and NIAD-UE's works.



International Activities

The mobility of students and academics under transnational higher education provisions has grown due to the globalization and information-based society. It is of great importance to assure the qualities of the provisions and conferred academic degrees.

Based on the awareness of the need of effective approach to quality assurance of transnational higher education, NIAD-UE set a strategic policy on international collaboration. Through various activities in line with this policy, it strives to assure and enhance its evaluation activities to an internationally acceptable level.

Outline of NIAD-UE's Policy on International Collaboration

Aims

- To enhance and internationalize our evaluation works through collecting and utilizing information on overseas quality assurance systems in higher education
- To contribute to improving the quality of education and research activities in higher education institutions by providing the collected necessary information
- To safeguard stakeholders in the higher education sector by raising the internationally acceptable level of our works and higher education institutions

Methods

- 1) Actively engage in APQN¹ activities, and link its works with INQAAHE² as APQN's leading organization
- 2) Establish closer relationships with quality assurance organizations in China, aiming to raise the internationally acceptable level of quality assurance in Eastern Asia and to show its presence in Asia-Pacific and Europe
- 3) Establish a strategic alliance with QAA³ and carry out collaborative works
- 4) Collect information of international organizations including UNESCO and OECD

Recent Activities

• Contribution to International Quality Assurance Networks

NIAD-UE is actively contributing in APQN as a full-member. As NIAD-UE's Vice-President Dr. Kawaguchi took up the role of APQN Vice-President on October 2007, NIAD-UE is engaged in the network activities including finance and Board Meeting. The APQN 2008 Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held and organized by NIAD-UE. NIAD-UE also participates in events of INQAAHE to share experiences and good practices with other countries.

• Concluded MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)

- Feb 2007 - QAA (United Kingdom)
- Sep 2007 - HEEC⁴ (China)

The initial project with QAA to produce a glossary has been completed and a glossary booklet is now published. They are planning the next project in parallel with exchanging information on each other's work. A first project on terminology has also been launched with HEEC just after concluding the MoU.

• Symposia and Seminars hosted by NIAD-UE

- Jun 2007 - Forum of Japan-UK Higher Education Programme of Collaboration
- Nov 2006 - Seminar on quality assurance in Chinese higher education
- Sep 2006 - Japan-Nordic Symposium



Signing Ceremony between NIAD-UE and QAA



Japan-China Seminar

¹ APQN: Asia-Pacific Quality Network

² INQAAHE: International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

³ QAA: Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

⁴ HEEC: Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education

Reference



Higher Education in Japan

Types of Higher Education Institutions

- Terms of Study
- Degrees awarded after graduation

- **Universities**
 - Four years (six years for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and certain parts of pharmacy)
 - Bachelor's Degree
- **Graduate Schools**
 - Master's Programs**
 - Two years
 - Master's Degree
 - Doctoral Programs**
 - Five years (four years for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and certain parts of pharmacy)
 - Doctoral or/and Master's Degree
 - Professional Degree Programs**
 - Two years (three years for law schools)
 - Master's Degree (Professional) or Juris Doctor
- **Junior Colleges**
 - Two or three years
 - Associate Degree
- **Colleges of Technology**
 - Five years (five years and six months for mercantile marine studies)
 - Title of Associate
- **Professional Training Colleges**
 - More than one year
 - Diploma for more than two years of completion and more than four years for conferring Advanced Diploma

Figures

Number of Higher Education Institutions (as of May 2007)

	National	Municipal/ Prefectural	Private	Total
Universities	87	89	580	756
Junior Colleges	2	34	398	434
Colleges of Technology	55	6	3	64

Number of Students (as of May 2007)

	Number of Students
Universities	2,828,635
Graduate Schools	262,124
Master's Programs	165,231
Doctoral Programs	74,810
Professional Degree Programs	22,083
Law Schools	15,095
Junior Colleges	186,664
Colleges of Technology	57,985

[Source: MEXT, School Basic Survey, 2007]

Higher Education Reform

Background

Regarding the rapidly growing need of international competitiveness due to globalization of economics, society, culture and advanced information society, it is strongly required for higher education institutions in Japan to cultivate human resources with expert knowledge and skills, and to conduct advanced and unique education and research.

The higher education reforms were initiated from the 1980s, for the purpose of improving and enhancing qualities of the higher education system to which it could meet requests from the public.

Deregulation of University Act

Educational laws including the Standards for the Establishment of Universities were significantly amended in 1991. This was executed on the purpose of making existing systems more flexible, to enable universities to develop their distinctiveness under their missions and objectives.

Consequently, the number of universities and junior colleges increased and general education courses in universities were abolished due to enhancing professional education.

The frameworks for quality assurance were arranged simultaneously with the reforms, in response to the necessity of systematic systems for assuring the level of higher education.

University Reform Policy Introduced

Since 2001, the government reform was executed in consideration of downsizing population and rapid changes of the environment of the society. "A Policy for the Structural Reform of Universities" was reported by MEXT in 2001 as part of the reform. This report gave overall direction to the university reform to which they could create and disseminate expertise/skills in response to public interests. It indicated these be done by:

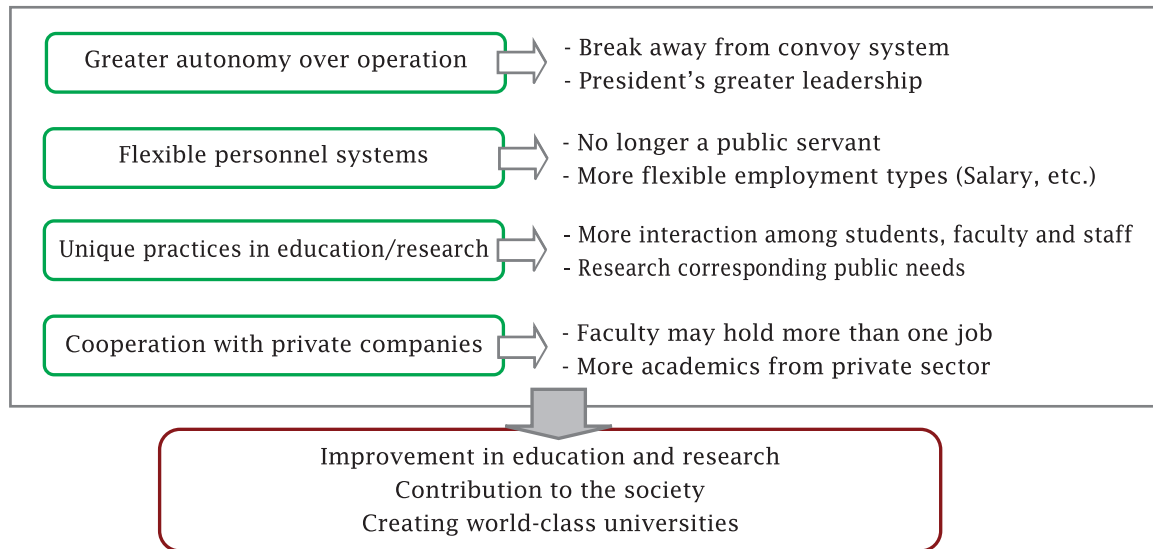
- Reorganizing and merging national universities
 - Strengthening higher education and enhancing research infrastructure
- Converting national universities to university corporations
 - Introducing private-sector management methods

- Introducing the principle of competition by using third-party evaluation
 - Distribution of funds according to evaluation results
 - Setting various competitive funds including the 21st Century COE Program

National University Incorporation

As part of the significant reform, all national universities were incorporated in 2004 with respect to the Report by MEXT.

Figure 5: Effects of National University Incorporation



Future Vision

Due to the acceleration of low birthrates, aging of population and growing mobility of higher education, it can be easily assumed that various types of learners will wish to receive higher education. With being conscious of the interaction with the society, higher education institutions and related organizations should strive to fulfill their needs, through providing high-quality programs with international credibility, and assuring their qualities through multiple evaluation systems.

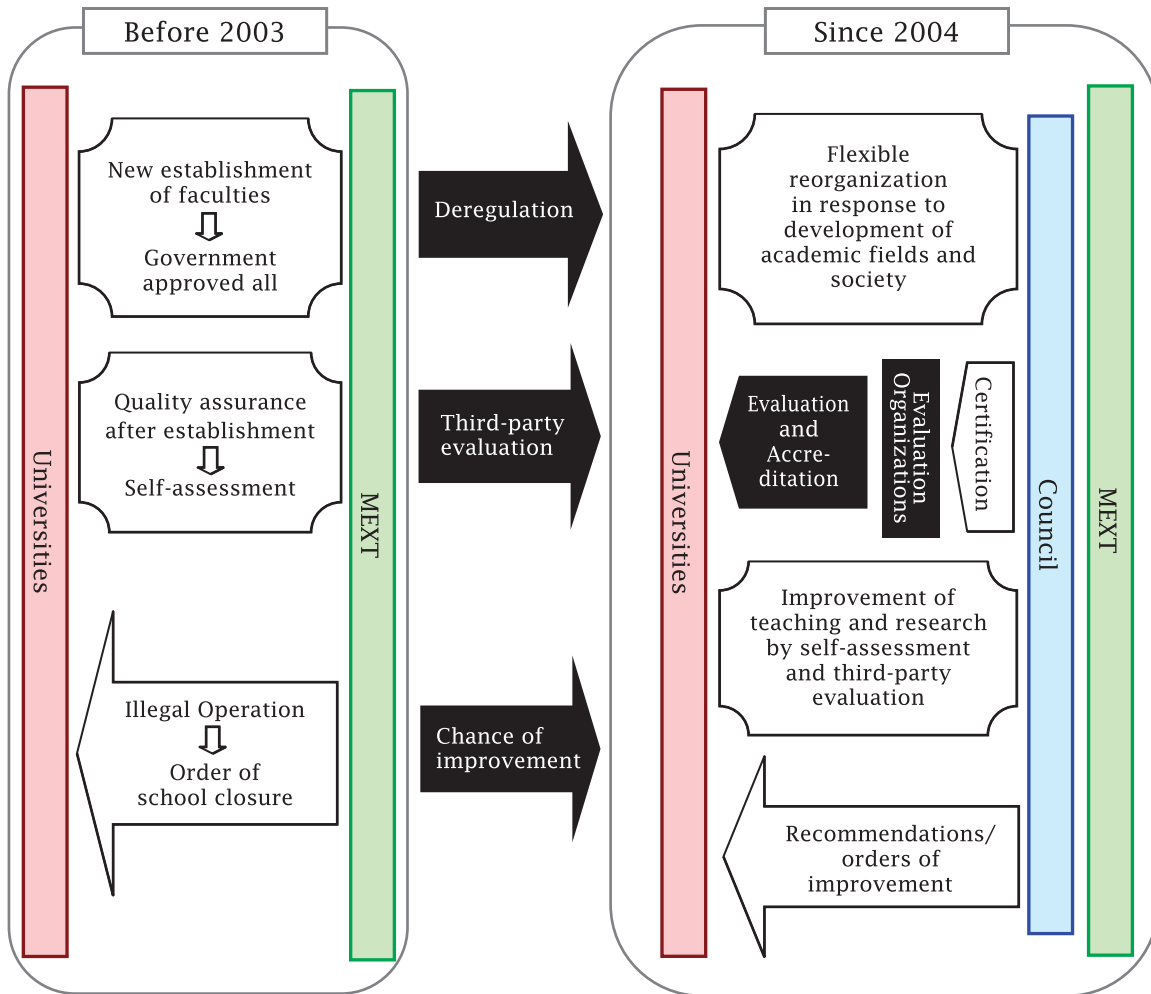
Evaluation of Higher Education

The origin of evaluation of higher education in Japan was the Deregulation of University Act in 1991. Since then, systematic evaluation frameworks including self-assessment and third-party evaluation were introduced, which have contributed to the enhancement of qualities of higher education.

Chronology

- 1991** The item of self-assessment of universities was stipulated as a task which they should strive to conduct, due to the deregulation of the Standards for the Establishment of Universities.
- 1998** The Council for Higher Education Report introduced third-party evaluation, and stated it mandatory for universities to conduct self-assessment.
- 1999** The items of self-assessment of universities were stipulated by the Standards. Evaluation by external evaluators was also set as a task which universities should strive to conduct.
- 2000** National Institution for Academic Degrees was reorganized as NIAD-UE as a third-party evaluation organization, in response to the 1998 Council Report.
- 2003** The item of self-assessment of universities was newly stipulated by the School Education Law. The Law also declared that universities must undergo certified evaluation and accreditation periodically.
- 2004** National Universities were incorporated. The National University Corporation Evaluation was initiated by the Evaluation Committee.
- 2006** Certified evaluation and accreditation organizations including NIAD-UE published the results of evaluation and accreditation for the first time.

Figure 6: Major Educational Reform of Quality Assurance System



Types of Evaluation System

The types of evaluation stipulated by the laws are:

- Self-Assessment
- Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
- National University Corporation Evaluation

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Organizations

Certified by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Name	Targeted Institutions
NIAD-UE	Universities Junior Colleges Colleges of Technology Law Schools
Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)	Universities Junior Colleges Law Schools
Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation (JIHEE)	Universities
Japan Association for College Accreditation (JACA)	Junior Colleges
Japan Law Foundation	Law Schools



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