

## International Students and the Multiculturalization of University Education

- Trends in University Education Reform and Japan
  - The Case of Japan and South Korea –

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If we consider contextual similarities in higher education (such as the switch from mass to universal-style higher education, the fact of not having English as an official language, and the difficulties involved with accepting international students as a business) it becomes clear that concrete policies, such as South Korea's Study Korea Project for receiving international students, have been conceived of after careful study of the development of Japan's policy of accepting a hundred thousand international students. The severe lack of foreign advertising and networks for acquiring international students, the fact that support offered for international students is limited to their time enrolled in Japanese institutions and support for job seeking is inadequate, and the insufficient development of educational programs in English are often pointed out as deficiencies with regard to Japan's policy plan.

These problems are given particular emphasis in South Korea's policies, reflecting this situation in Japan. The need for foreign recruitment of international students and formal and systematized support for them throughout the entire process of enrollment to life at higher education institutions, and then continuing into job searching and employment after graduation, is well understood in South Korea, and forms the basis for policy there. Examples of this can be seen in the practical use of foreign networks created by South Korean government bodies in encouraging students to study in South Korea, increasing support supplied in association with business for international student recruitment and employment, support for universities who establish education programs in English, and increasing efforts to manage the residential status of international students enabled through links with universities and the Ministry of Justice. In particular, beginning with the leading universities, clear numerical targets have been set to increase the number of lectures carried out in English on regular courses. Numerical targets have also been set for overall international student numbers. These increases in the percentage of lectures delivered in English and the numerical targets for international students are symbolic of the promotion of internationalization and acceptance of international students by South Korea's top universities.

As the Japanese government has newly created plans to accept three hundred thousand international students it is necessary to carefully study the policy strategies of different countries around the world – not only in order to improve the situation in Japan – but to ask what kind of measures can be taken to build a representative educational hub in Asia as a whole.