

## ABSTRACT

Title : Activities Encouraging Japanese Students to Study Overseas

— The Case of the University of Tsukuba

In the last several years, the number of Japanese students studying overseas has been decreasing year by year. For instance, according to the recent data provided by MEXT, the number of Japanese students studying overseas in 2004 was 82,945, but the same number went down to 66,833 in 2008. The University of Tsukuba (UT) used to face this similar problem until 2007.

However, in order to increase the number of our Japanese students studying overseas, UT started additional efforts in 2008 for this purpose. UT, for instance, dispatched its mission to Australia and New Zealand to increase the number of universities to collaborate with UT in receiving UT's Japanese students for short-term language training courses. Furthermore, UT succeeded in setting up its original scholarship system of **"Tsukuba Scholarship"** in 2009 and started to offer financial support to Japanese students for both (1) exchange student programs and (2) short-term overseas programs (language training, etc.). Thanks to these additional efforts, the number of UT's Japanese students studying overseas has almost doubled in the last four years, from 148 students in 2007 to 287 students in 2010.

In addition, during the academic year 2010, UT commenced its new class lecture titled "Studying at TSUKUBA with a Global Perspective" for first-year and second-year students in all departments of UT as a class in the liberal arts (general education) course. This new class lecture organized by the Department of Global Activities aims to let the students think about their life plan as well as their campus life plan by knowing the present international circumstances of UT and learning the significance of studying abroad for the arts and sciences, and working at international organizations such as the World Bank, United Nations and JICA.

Consequently, a student evaluation questionnaire was compiled and the new class lecture "Studying at TSUKUBA with a Global Perspective" finished in the top 10 classes that students found satisfying, among the 58 class lectures in all the general education subjects in the second quarter of 2010 in UT.

It means that demand on the part of the students has been strong too!