

3. Methods of analysis

(1) Theme-specific analysis

In Chapter III, analysis is conducted according to each of the nine themes mentioned earlier. Each theme is discussed in three parts: (i) “Trends and issues”, (ii) “Notable activities” and (iii) “Analysis and recommendations”.

In (i) “Trends and issues”, prevailing conditions in Japanese universities are described from the theme in question. Survey data is introduced to underpin the presentation of current awareness of these conditions. Specific issues that need to be addressed are highlighted.

In (ii) “Notable activities”, unique initiatives that are applicable to other universities are extracted from analysis of international activity in the 20 pilot institutions. Since this report is an interim report produced just two years after the project was initiated, it is too early to assess outcomes in any definitive manner. Accordingly, rather than identifying “best practice” in this report, more attention is given to “notable activities” that have the potential to become best practice in the future.

In (iii) “Analysis and recommendations”, we consider not only why certain activities are notable but also what aspects of them may be particularly useful to other universities. Alongside recommendations for individual institutions, this section provides some recommendations demanding consideration at the governmental level.

(2) Scope of analysis

This report’s analysis targets international activities carried out by the pilot institutions in the first two years of the SIH project. Other progressive initiatives for internationalization are also included even if they prior to the project. Certain activities that are not directly funded by SIH are also addressed, provided they are headed by international strategy headquarters established under SIH and are consistent with the international strategy of the pilot institutions in question.

Although this project has the policy objective of contributing to the “development of methods for the internationalization of research environments,” we also attach importance to improving overall infrastructure for strategic and institutionally organized international expansion throughout the institution, including in the field of education. Accordingly, rather than ignoring conjunctions with educational affairs, this report aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the full spectrum of international activities in universities in fields ranging from education to research. In analysis of educational activities, emphasis is placed on graduate- and postgraduate-level initiatives, reflecting the priority of training a new generation of researchers.

References:

- 1) Ashizawa Shingo (2006) “Shihyô sakutei puroseshu to pairotto sutadi ni mukete [Towards the Process of Developing Evaluation Indicators and a Pilot Study]”, Chapter 5 in *Daigaku no kokuhaika no hyôka shihyô sakutei ni kansuru jisshôteki kenkyû [Developing Evaluation Criteria to Assess the Internationalization of Universities]*, Final Report of Research Activities for Fiscal Year 2004–2005 MEXT Grant-in-Aid (Scientific Research (A) (2) headed by Prof. Norio Furushiro). Online: <http://www.gcn-osaka.jp/project/project-finalreport.htm>
- 2) National Agency for Higher Education (NAHE) (2005) *The Internationalization of Higher Education in Sweden*. NAHE.
- 3) NIFU STEP (2005) *Internationalisation policies and international practices in higher education institutions: A case study of five Norwegian higher education institutions*, NIFU STEP Working Paper 23.