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**Abstract**

This article focuses on the process of internationalization of higher education in Japan since 1995 from two main points of view: 1) the improved quality and efficiency of university education and 2) the increased openness to students from any background. Governmental initiatives, intended to increase the number of international students, also enabled drastic changes in financial and human resource allocations at both national and institutional levels. Individual institutions have been strongly influenced by these initiatives and some have actively utilized internationalization as a way to enrich their university education. Equal opportunity for university admission has not been fully secured for ethnic minorities residing in Japan. The meaning of internationalization should be now considered from a broader perspective. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Horie, Miki, E-mail: mikih@nanzan.ac.jp