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From Global 30 Project to Beyond: Going Global

Panel: Language and Education

With the strong initiatives of Education Ministry of Japan, the “Global 30” Project was launched in 2009. Since then, the 13 top universities in Japan have been offering degree programs in English under this project. By doing this, these universities have broken down the language barrier which was one of the obstacles preventing international students from studying in Japan.

Although some people are still skeptical and critical about these efforts by saying “Why English in Japan?,” it is obvious that Global 30 Project has contributed to the internationalization and student diversity of Japanese universities. For example, approximately 70% of international students for regular Japanese classes are Chinese, while, for G30 English classes, the figure falls down to approximately 30%.

This is because G30 English classes/programs attract students from China, Vietnam, Thailand, Canada, USA, and Korea almost equally. However, with the termination of the subsidies from the Ministry, the G30 English programs are now facing financial difficulties.