



Staying Connected:

Promoting U.S.-Japan Youth Exchange

United States Embassy, Tokyo

Deputy Chief of Mission

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December 12, 2010

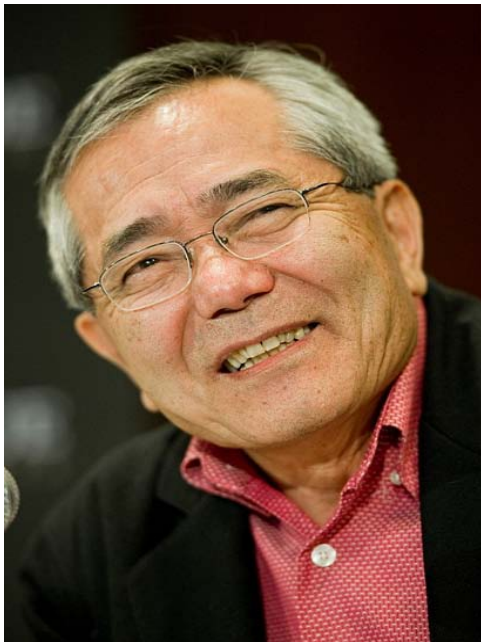
Fukui

Omedeto, AFS Fukui!

- Congratulations on 25 years supporting international educational exchange!
 - Hosted more than 105 students from the United States but also from New Zealand, Germany, Australia and Thailand since 1984.
 - Dispatched more than 94 students to the United States, Australia, Germany and Switzerland.

Famous Exchange Students

Ei-Ichi Negishi
根岸英一
Nobel Laureate
Purdue University



Sadako Ogata
緒方 貞子
UN High Commissioner
for Refugees
Georgetown University
UC Berkeley

Takeshi Niinami
新浪剛史
President of Lawson, Inc.
Harvard Business School



One of Japan's First Exchange Students: Taro Kusakabe



- In 1870, Fukui's own Taro Kusakabe graduated from Rutgers College in New Jersey, making him one of the first Japanese exchange students ever to graduate from an American college.
- Kusakabe-san was followed by hundreds of Japanese students who pursued education in the United States during the Meiji Period, and many, many more thereafter.

One American Exchange Student's Experience in Japan



Jim Zumwalt in Komaba Toho High School uniform: Tokyo, 1973



Komaba Toho grads with a U.S. connection meeting in Tokyo.

Benefits of Youth Exchange

留学で得られるもの

- For Exchange Students:

- English language skills
- Critical thinking
- Confidence
- Experiencing diversity

- For Host Country:

- Deeper Cultural Appreciation & Understanding



Jim Zumwalt (center) with high school friends in Japan (1973)

Positive Youth Exchange Trends

日米交流：明るい展望

- Increase in American youth exchange to Japan
 - JET Program
- Success Stories
- U.S. universities welcoming international students
- Total number of exchange programs increasing

More American Students are Studying in Japan. Why?

- ❖ Language / study abroad requirement
- ❖ Competitive job market in the U.S.
- ❖ Interest in Japanese pop culture

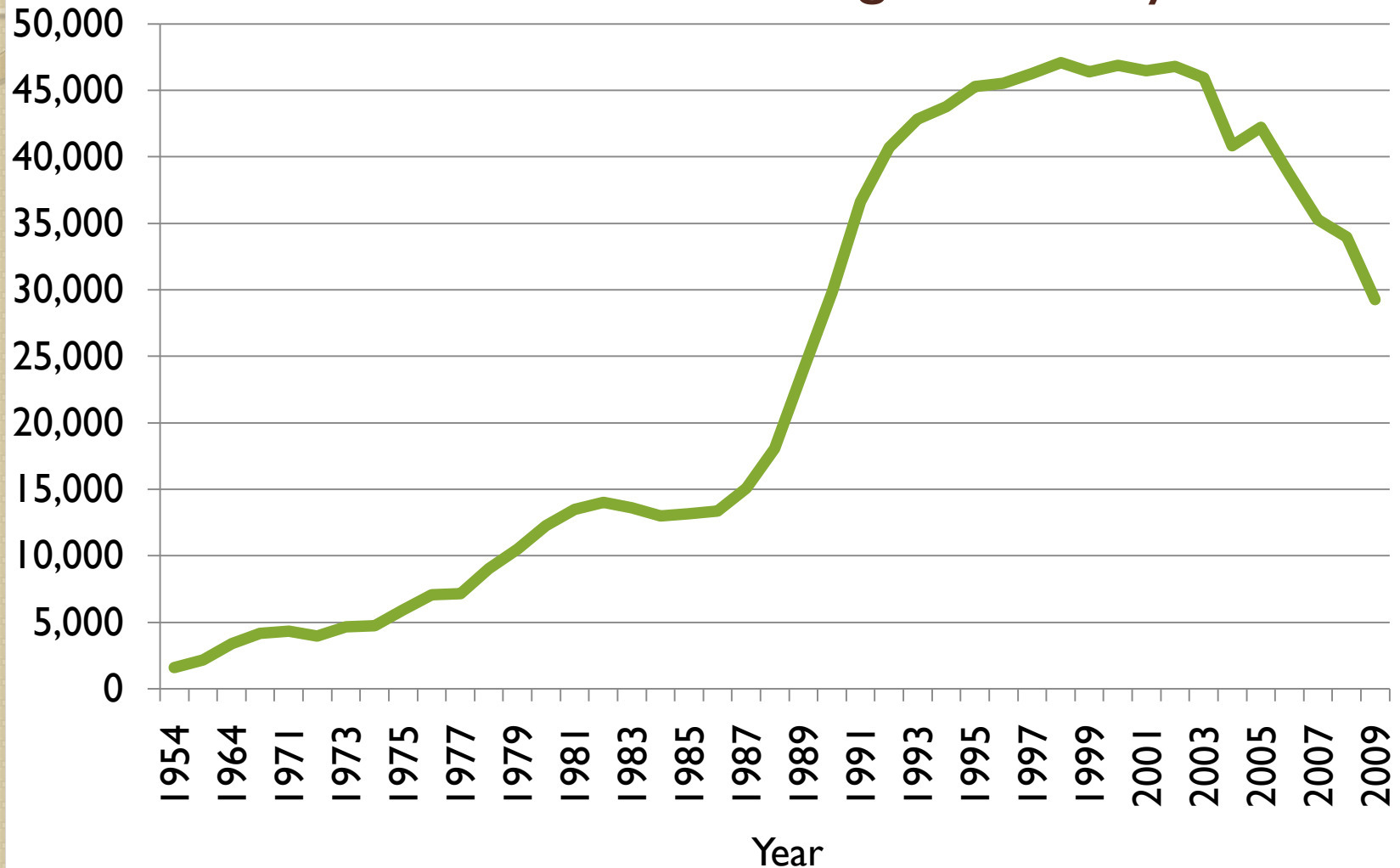


U.S. Universities Welcome Students from Japan

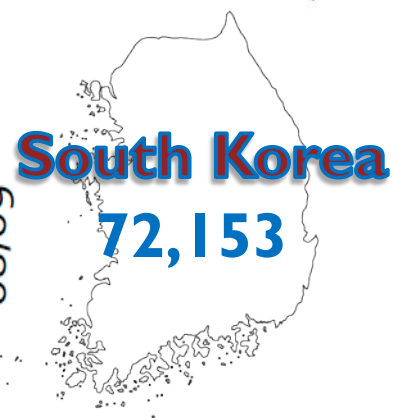
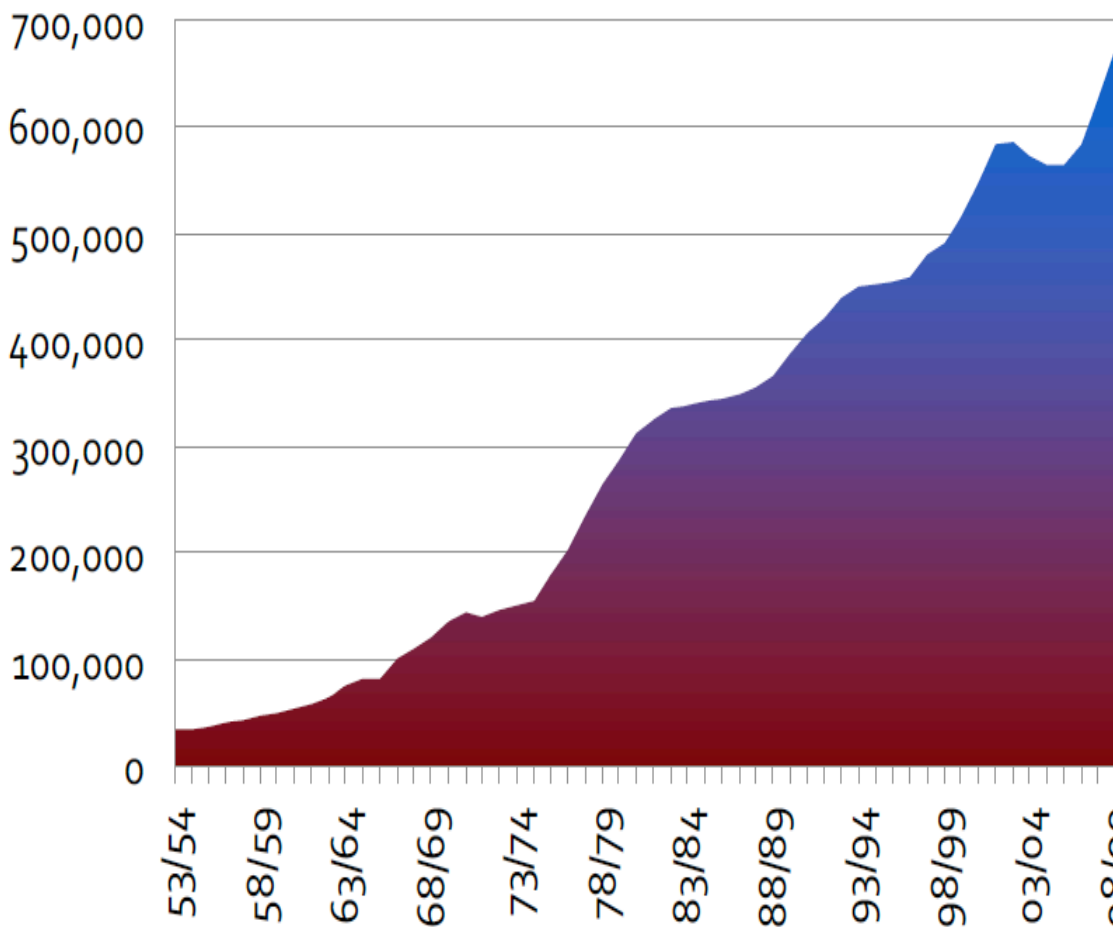


Japanese Students in the U.S.:

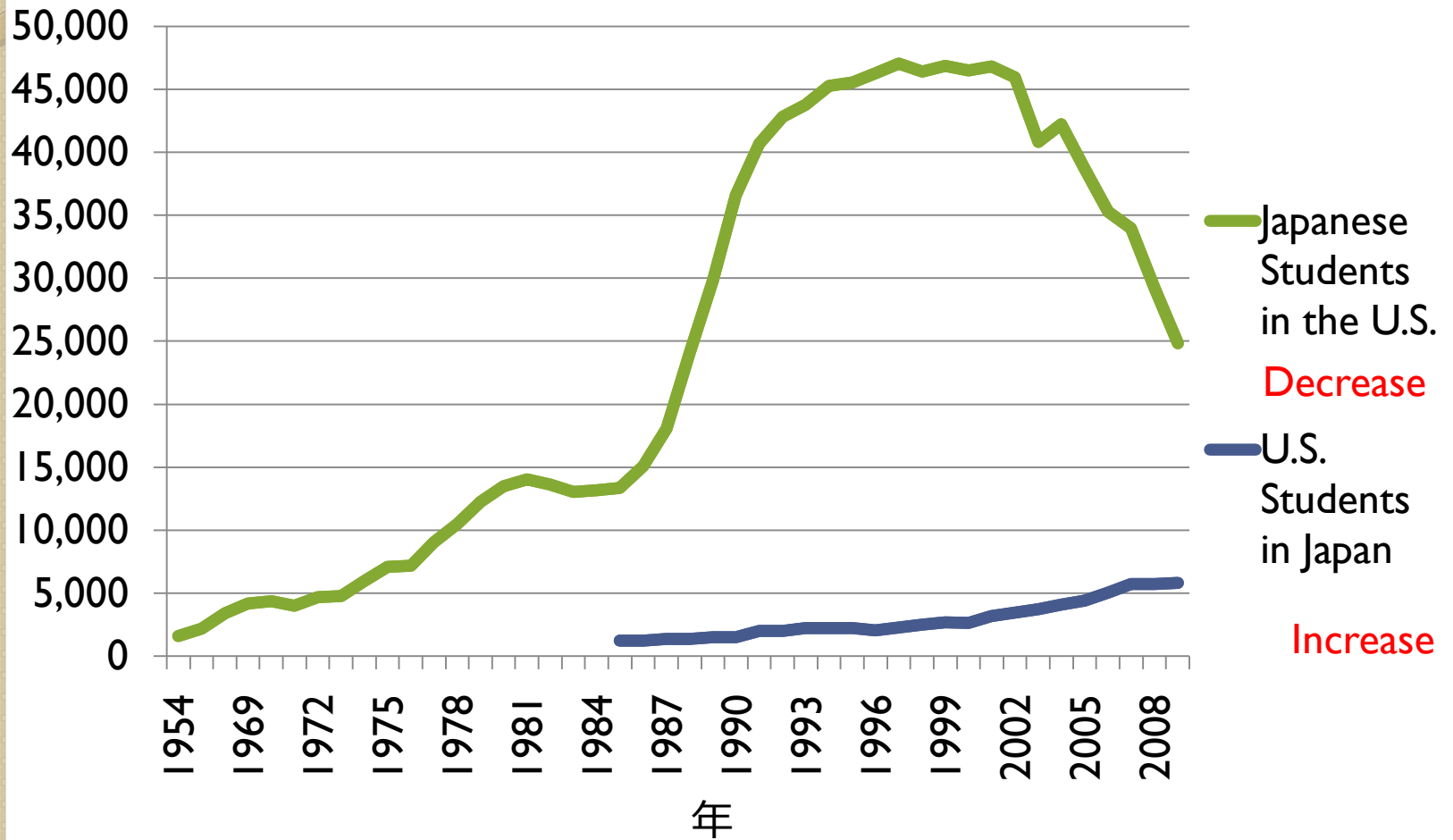
decreasing in recent years



International Student Enrollment at U.S. Universities



U.S.-Japan Educational Exchanges



Main Challenges

克服すべき課題



Student Visa applications



Safety Concerns



School applications



Financial Hardship



Domestic Employment
Competition



Student Complacency:
内向的



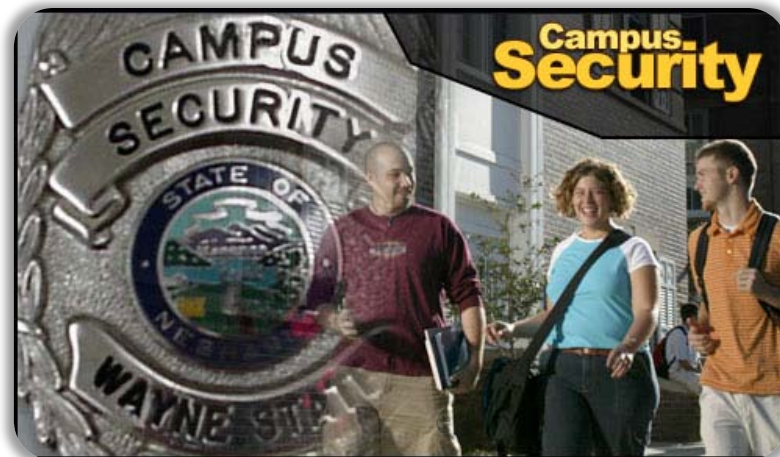
Student Visas 学生ビザ

- Short, simple interviews with bilingual staff
- Appointments made quickly, with visas ready in about a week
- The U.S. government does not limit the number of visas issued in Japan
- <http://japan.usembassy.gov> for more info



Ease Safety Concerns 治安面の不安の解消

- Personal safety resources
 - iaclea.org



School Application Resources

- EducationUSA advising
 - Walk-in, phone-in, or e-mail
 - ConnectUSA (日本語):
<http://connectusa.jp/study/index.html>
 - EducationUSA: www.educationusa.info/japan
- Admissions info sessions
 - <http://fulbright.jp>
 - Monthly sessions in Tokyo
 - Annual sessions at American Centers throughout Japan



Tuition Comparison: Japan vs. U.S.

U.S. tuition significantly higher than at Japanese universities

Japan Tuition & Fees U.S. Tuition & Fees

Exchange Rate: \$1 = ¥90

Public B.A.	65万円	157万円	141% higher
Private B.A.	131万円	227万円	73% higher
Private M.A.	108万円	204万円	89% higher
Private Ph.D.	104万円	278万円	167% higher

Sources: Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), Student Living Survey 2006
College Board, Trend in Higher Education Series - Tuition 2008-09

What Can We Do?

我々に出来る事とは？

- Scholarship resources
 - fulbright.jp
- Promote university partnerships
- Encourage local families to sponsor & host students
- Encourage more companies to fund study in the U.S. for current employees
- Encourage alumni of U.S. universities to speak to potential students and their parents about the value of U.S. education



Domestic Employment Competition 就職活動

- Students miss junior year job search
- Loss of optimism concerning value of exchange experience
- Disconnect between employers' expectations and student concerns



Summer & Short-Term Programs



- Programs last from a few weeks up to three months
- Some Japanese universities offer summer and short-term programs with U.S. institutions.
- Consider extracurricular, sports, & cultural exchange programs in the United States!

Overcoming the Employment Challenge

就職難を克服するには

- Encourage students to study abroad earlier
- Many employers highly value abroad experience
- 英語公用語化 “English as official language”



- Push employers to publicly speak out for candidates with experience abroad

Create Employment Opportunities 就職活動の支援

- Organize career fairs for students abroad
 - Boston Career Forum 2010: September 17-18
 - Los Angeles Career Forum 2010: October 22-24
- Create employment database emphasizing experience abroad



Student Complacency 內向的

- Inspire students to be more adventuresome
- Encourage younger students to participate in exchange programs
- Michelle Obama:
“In the end, the simple act of opening your mind and engaging abroad... can change your definition of what’s possible.”



Useful Resources

- <http://iie.org>
- <http://fulbright.jp>
- <http://connectusa.jp/study>
- www.educationusa.info/japan
- www.careerforum.net
- www.FundingUSStudy.org
- www.InternationalScholarships.com



Our Challenge

今後の課題

- Contact universities to encourage international partnerships
- Organize initiatives to aid exchange students in job search

