

Japan seeks to export school system that molds model students to developing countries

- ①Japan's highly standardized and efficient educational system, exemplified by uniform curriculums, classroom school lunch programs and cleaning and other duties assigned to students, may soon be a model for developing countries.
- ②The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has unveiled an ambitious plan to provide the system for countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. It will also assist Japanese school operators and education-oriented businesses in making inroads in foreign markets.
- ③The ministry plans to include a subsidy and other budgets for precursory projects in its budget request for fiscal 2016.
- ④Japan's educational system, especially in elementary and secondary schools, is hailed by experts around the world for developing disciplined students with high-level academic abilities.
- ⑤The key elements of the Japanese school system that the ministry hopes to export are various on-campus duties assigned to students, year-around school events such as athletic festivals, standardized curriculums and textbooks that are uniform throughout the country, among other things.
- ⑥To promote the Japanese educational system, the ministry will set up a conference comprising representatives from school operators, nongovernmental organizations, local governments, educational businesses and foreign embassies.
- ⑦The conference, tentatively named the "Public-private cooperation platform to export Japanese-style education," will first identify the countries that plan to import specific elements of the Japanese educational system. Then, it will discuss personnel exchanges and other measures to help implement such systems.
- ⑧The ministry said that it has received requests from Myanmar, India, Egypt and other developing economies to import a Japanese educational system. These countries want to create a compulsory education system modeled after Japan's elementary and junior high school systems or introduce Japanese-style education to nurture morals and discipline among students.
- ⑨It is believed that year-around school events, club activities, periodic disaster drills and cleaning and other on-campus duties assigned to students at Japanese elementary and junior and senior high schools are effective in developing collaborative minds and problem-solving capabilities among students.



⑩Japan's "kosen" five-year technological college system is also highly regarded by overseas education experts as a system that nurtured skilled engineers who sustained Japan's postwar economic development.

⑪In the past, Japan has assisted the establishment of a Turkish technological college by providing its know-how in operating a technological institute. [August 23, 2015 / The Asahi Shimbun / By YUKIHITO TAKAHAMA]

←Students work together in cleaning their classroom at an elementary school in Kishiwada, Osaka Prefecture. (Asahi Shimbun file photo)

mold 型に入れて作る ①exemplify<…を>例証する, <事が><…の>よい例となる ②make inroads (<…に>)食い込む; 進出する ③precursory 先駆の ④hail<すぐれたものだと>認める ⑤among other things なかでも, とりわけ ⑦tentatively 仮に ⑧nurture<子供を>養育する, 育てる ⑨periodic 定期的 collaborative 協同(作業, 研究)の

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Please explain the current compulsory education system in Japan. What are some features of it?
2. What do you think are advantages and disadvantages of the current compulsory education system in Japan?
3. According to the article, some activities are effective in developing collaborative minds and problem-solving capabilities among students. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Why did the Japanese education ministry decide to export the educational system?
5. Do you think the Japanese educational system will be applicable to other countries? Why or why not?
6. Do you know about education system of other countries that Japan can learn from?
7. Make sentences using the following words: mold, exemplify, precursory, hail, nurture and collaborative.

政府は鉄道の輸出などのインフラ輸出を「成長戦略」の重要な柱としているが、「教育の分野でも『成長戦略』につなげたい」として文科省は来年度、各国のニーズを調べたり、広報・交渉活動を担ったりする組織を設立するとしている。日本の清掃や部活動や防災訓練などの活動の「輸出」も想定しているという。