

## Background and Objectives

Achieving universal quality education is a common goal of paramount importance throughout the world. Japan has been promoting efforts through international organizations such as UNESCO and the occasions of G8 Summits and Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in attempts to realize the goals of Education for All (EFA) by 2015. Since international cooperation in education is essential for realizing human security, in 2010, Japan launched its new education cooperation policy based on the guiding principles of “supporting self-help efforts and sustainable development,” “answering the needs of the marginalized populations” and “respecting cultural diversity and promoting mutual understanding”.

Today, the movement and interchange of people, finances, goods, services and information have been accelerated across borders. This globalization has transformed the environments of education and had great influence on education itself, skills and the state of jobs and nature of work. Increases in the number of international students and partnerships with overseas schools, particularly within institutions of higher education are such cases. In these arenas, Japan has made active efforts to promote and develop human resources on a global level. However, the impact of globalization on the expansion of education, particularly of good quality basic education in developing countries has not been well-discussed. Therefore, Japan’s abundant field-based experiences of school improvement are highly expected to contribute to the development of education in developing countries.

The 11th JEF will focus on education in developing countries in the context of globalization and with the theme of “Globalization, Education and International Cooperation”. Keynote speeches from a global perspective and a developing countries’ perspective will concentrate on how education in developing countries is influenced by globalization and what roles education plays in an increasingly globalized society. With prominent practitioners in educational development invited from international organizations as well as noted scholars specializing in educational cooperation, this year’s JEF will address how globalization influences education in developing countries, anticipating the post-2015 years. We will also discuss how Japan can contribute to international cooperation in education, while exploring models of education corresponding to the transformations that globalization brings about. We warmly welcome all participants to actively join the discussion.

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The Japan Education Forum (JEF) is an annual international forum established in March 2004 through governmental and academic collaboration as part of Japan’s educational cooperation. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for open and frank exchanges of opinions and ideas by officials in the public sector, practitioners of international development and NGOs, and scholars on ways of promoting self-efforts of developing countries toward sustainable educational development and of effective international cooperation in education. The forum also offers an opportunity to present Japan’s own experiences in educational development and its international cooperation in practice.