3rd International Symposium
Educational Policy and Reform in a Global Age
Cross-Cultural Perspectives
11-12 December 2004
Contents

• Education-Economy Link in Japan – “J-Mode”
• Declining Effectiveness of J-Mode
• Towards J+
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• Education-Economy Link in Japan – “J-Mode”
• Declining Effectiveness of J-Mode
• Towards a "J + "
The Role of Government (1)

• Commitment to Basic Education- investment on basic education at early stages of development

• Continued Investment
  – Completion of universal completion
  – Rural areas
  – Urban immigrants

• Continued Investment (2)
  – Qualitative improvement
  – Extension of compulsory education to 9 years
  – Wage increase for teachers
The Role of Government (2)

• Control
  – Strict Instruction Standards
  – Rigorous application

• Finance
  – Basic responsibility at local government
  – National government provides Half of teachers’ salary, construction costs
  – Concentration of resources for formation of strategic manpower at higher education
The Role of Government (3)

- Higher Education
  - Legal framework to allow private universities to take up excessive demands
  - Concentration of government resources on formation of strategic manpower
The Role of Family (1)

- **Duality in Economic Structure**
  - High wage premium in the modern sector
  - Educational credential as the qualification for employment at modern sector

- **Increases in family income**

- **Social commitment to education**

Aspiration for education
The Role of Family (2)

• Strong demands for secondary/higher education
• Limited demands / Hierarchy among institutions
  – Selection of entrants by examination
  – Widening range of participation
• Examination as a means of selection of basic competences
The Role of Family (3)

- High aspiration and competition Gave children
  - Obvious goal for learning
  - Family / Peer pressures for learning
- Psychological pressures
- High motivation for learning
Academic Achievement in Japan

• High Average Academic Achievement

• Relatively Small Variance in Achievement
Education-Economy Link

Family/Students

Aspiration/Motivation

School System

Education Policy

Government

Family Income

Incentive

Human Resource

Policy Objective

Tax Revenue

Economic Structure

Work Places

Cost
Production of human resources – Path B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Education</th>
<th>Secondary Education</th>
<th>University Occupational Education</th>
<th>Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Specialized Knowledge Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Occupational Knowledge Skills</td>
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<td>Academic Knowledge</td>
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<td>Core Competence</td>
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Production of Human Resources

- Life-time commitment to one firm
- High core competences among workers
- Informal OJT

- Learning at work place
- Sharing particular knowledge to the work place – *Contextualized Knowledge*
- Cooperative work and improvement of production process
Structure of Knowledge at Work
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Shift in Structure of Economic Growth

• Globalization - Restructuring of Economy - Increasing Mobility of Labor

• New knowledge industries

• OJT becomes less effective
Shift in Value and Family

- Affluent Society – Declining Aspiration for Improvement
- Demographic Change – Less Competition for entrance examination
- Decline in Motivation for Learning
Shift in Political Environment

- Problems of excessive competition for entrance examination
- Social/Political Pressure for Educational Reform
- Relaxation of Requirements in Curriculum and Entrance Examination
Strategy

Strong Control

Structured / Academic

East Asia

Japan

New Competence / Participation

Singapore Korea
Hours Spent for Study
Hours Spent for Study
2003 PISA Results

• Decline of achievement among low achievers
• Weakness in active interests in learning
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Policies and Politics

J-Mode

Progressive Reforms
- Relaxed requirements
- Active learning

Decline in Effectives
- Erosion of Social/Economic Environment

MAD Strategy
- Marketization
- Accountability
- Deregulation

Learning Crisis
MAD Strategy

• Marketization
  – School choice
  – For-profit schools

• Accountability
  – Control by results
  – Education as an agenda in local politics

• Deregulation, Decentralization
  – Relaxed requirements/ curriculum
  – Budget transferred to local governments
J-Mode

Progressive Reforms
- Relaxed requirements
- Active learning

MAD Strategy
- Marketization
- Accountability
- Deregulation

Learning Crisis

Decline in Effectives
- Erosion of Social/Economic Environment

Segmentation of education system
Further decline in low-achieving group

Weakening of human resources
Towards J+

- No single model for success
- Problems created by thinking on a single scale
- New combination of alternatives in many axis
Towards J+  - Major Issues

• Core academic competences
  – Motivation,
  – new skill requirements,
  – measurement, standards

• School/Teachers
  – Differentiation/Stratification
  – Accountability of school/teachers
  – Professional competence of Teachers

• Policy
  – Evaluation/Monitoring Instruments
  – Level of Control
  – Level of resource
Role of Research

• Critical analysis of policies
• Widen perspectives for alternatives
• Create grounds for social consensus
• Thank you