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Transformation of Japan's higher education in response to global challenges

Japan's higher education has experienced increasing pressures of transformation to meet the needs of students and society. This presentation highlights the recent trials experienced by Japan's universities and the government in the reform of education, research, and governance. In particular, the analysis focuses on how the different stakeholders (i.e., political leaders, government officials, university managers, academics, and students) perceive the international dimensions of higher education and society and the manner in which they react to global challenges. Lastly, the presentation stresses the importance of mutual dialogue and collaboration between Japanese and German universities for the purpose of global well-being.

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With a background in sociology, Prof. Akiyoshi Yonezawa mainly conducts research on comparative higher education policy, focusing specifically on world-class universities, the internationalization of higher education, and public-private relationships in higher education. In April 2016, he returned to Tohoku University after having gained work experience at the University of Tokyo, Tohoku University, Nagoya University, Hiroshima University, the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), and the OECD. He is currently serving as a board member of the Japan Society of Educational Sociology and the Japan Association for Higher Education Research. He is also a co-editor of a new book series Higher Education in Asia: Quality, Excellence and Governance published by Springer.