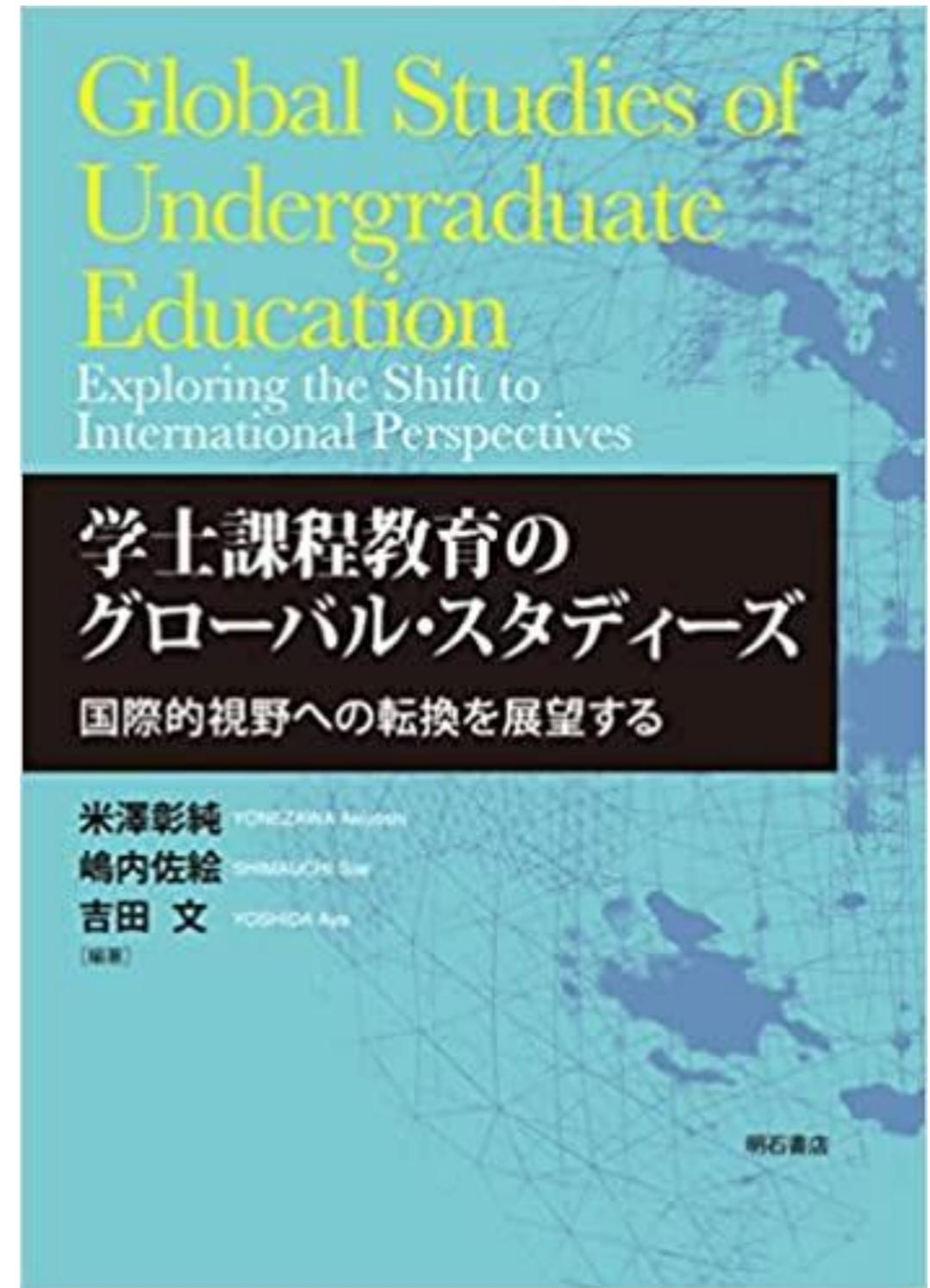




Internationalization of Japanese Universities Moving forward

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Internationalization of Higher Education

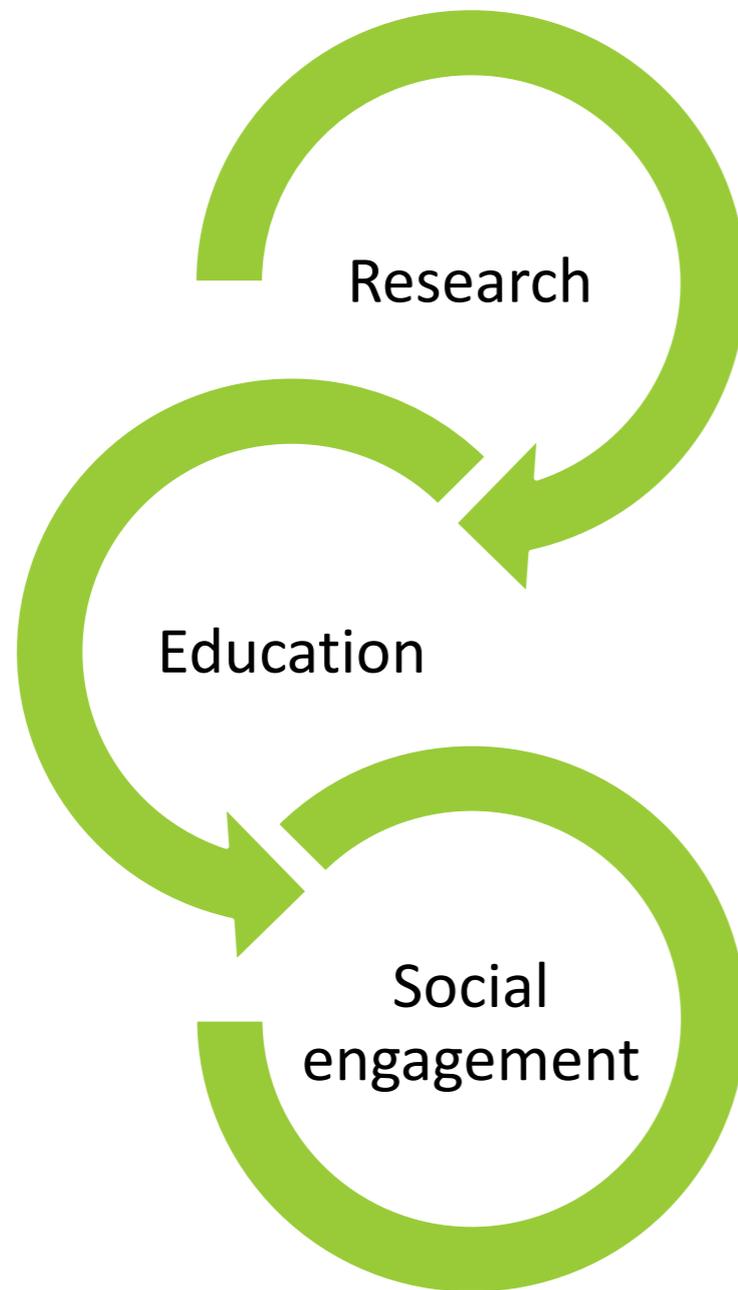
The **intentional process of** integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, **in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society.**“

De Wit, H., Hunter F., Howard L., Egron-Polak E. (Eds.) (2015)
Internationalization of Higher Education, European Parliament,
Brussels: EU).

Japan and Internationalization of HE

- Japan's HE achieved its international presence mainly through the national integration, not from through the internationalization (by 1980s)
- Japan started the active commitment in internationalization of HE movement relatively early. (1990s)
- Japan made clear policy link between internationalization of HE and the nation building under the global knowledge economy. (2000s-2010s)
- Japan is now facing challenges to redesign its direction on HE and the internationalization of HE (2020s)

Rationales for Internationalization of HE



- Academic excellence
- Human resource development
 - Inbound mobility
 - Outbound mobility
- Global and regional engagement
- Idea behind
 - Brain gain, brain circulation, brain linkage

Tendency / Mindset

- Japan should catch up advanced economies and lead the frontier of global trends

Internationalization of HE = (Academic) excellence

- Japan should take an important role in the global community (for survival)

Internationalization of HE = intentional process for to making a meaningful contribution to society

3 types of AElS in Japan

1. funding for improving the research activities at specific top research centers and groups of universities
 2. **funding to support the internationalization of universities**
 3. the concentration of public budgeting to a limited number of top universities and requiring the transformation of university finance, governance, and management toward suitability for world-class research universities
- Toyama Plan (2001): setting the policy goals of developing the “top 30” national, local public, and private universities in Japan toward the world’s highest level
 - actively promote the restructuring and integration of national universities
 - introduce a private-sector approach to management at national universities
 - introduce the principle of competition through third-party evaluations of universities

1. Supporting Top Research Centers

- Centers of Excellence
 - 21st Century Centers of Excellence scheme (**21st Century COE**) (2002-)
 - select and support research units (typically departments, centers, or smaller research groups) to conduct world-class research and education for five years.
 - open to all national, local public, and private universities
 - 274 units were selected through the peer reviews by the academics of the respective fields.
 - Each unit was funded around 100 million Japanese yen (0.7 million USD) on average per year.
 - Global Centers of Excellence (**Global COE**) (2007-)
 - 140 units from 41 universities supported. Each unit was funded 200 million Japanese yen (1.7 million USD) per year
- World Premier International Research Center Initiative (**WPI**) for fostering research excellence among the country's top universities and non-university research institutes (2007-)
 - under Research Promotion Bureau, MEXT
 - Linked with Basic Plan for Science and Technology
 - supports a limited number of world-leading research centers for 10 years. T
 - At the beginning 1.4 billion Japanese yen (12 million USD per WPI institute per year, with budgetary changes and an extension having been made reflecting the results of interim and final assessments
 - As of 2021, only 13 research centers from 10 national universities and two national research institutes
 - Selected and monitored by international academic peer reviews

2. Internationalization of top universities

- Stress of internationalization as a tool for achieving academic
 - widely shared views that the performance and capacity of researchers at Japanese universities were not fairly recognized because of the language barrier
 - Japanese top universities attracted graduate students mainly from Asian countries, but they had to get high level of Japanese language competence in order to develop their career linked with Japanese enterprises and universities
 - the promotion of internationalization as a part of the world class university policies was attractive approach for the justification under the limited financial resources for research investment
- Strategic Fund for Establishing International Headquarters in Universities (**SIH**) (2005):
 - 20 universities, 10–40 million Japanese yen (77,000 to 309,000 USD) per institution each year for five years
 - in line with the science and technology policy under the Basic Plan for Science and Technology
- **Global 30** to support 30 universities as leading models of university internationalization
 - 13 (7 national and 6 private) first-round universities in 2009
 - criteria stressing research capacity and large-scale academic activities at comprehensive universities, specifically targeting major indicators similar to those in the joint rankings by Times Higher Education and QS.
 - 200 to 400 million Japanese yen (1.7 to 3.5 million USD) per year; however, this funding was reduced each year.
 - 2nd round (rest of 30 in total) not implemented 2008 financial crisis, further cut back and changes under change of ruling party (Democratic Party in Japan from 2008).

Top 100 Ranking

- **Top Global University (TGU) Scheme**

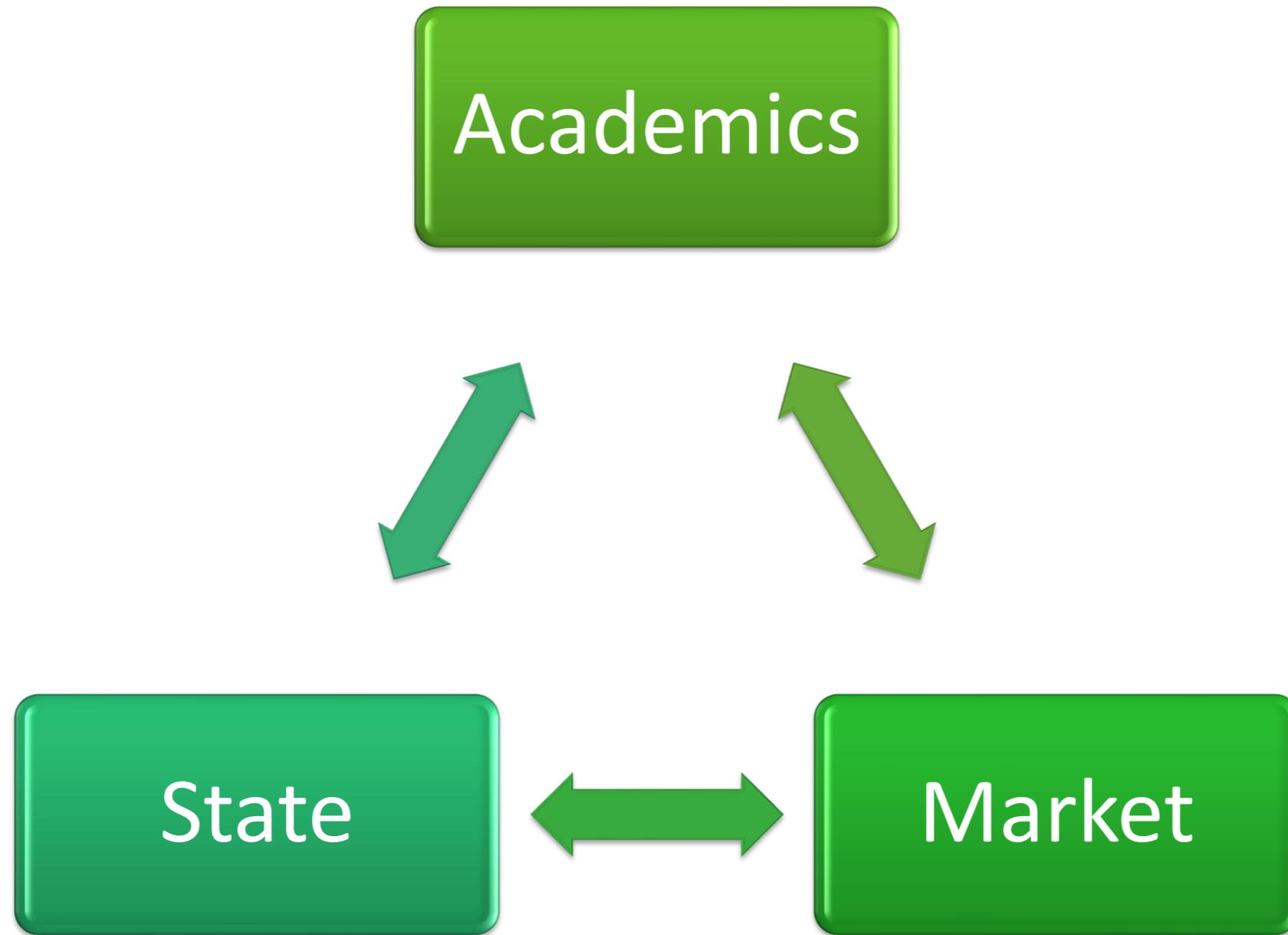
- Linked with Abe's plan to put 10 Japanese universities into top 100 within 10 years (2013)
- 13 (11 national & 2 private) comprehensive universities that pursued comprehensive internationalization (Type A) and 21 universities with specific good practices in internationalization (Type B).
- started in 2014 as around 500 million Japanese yen (4.9 million USD) (Type A) and 200 to 300 million Japanese yen (1.9 to 2.9 million USD) (Type B) for each university per year, gradually decreased by less than half each year

- **Capacity Development of Research Universities (RU Program)**

- 10-year project in 2013. In this program, 19 (17 national and two private) universities and 3 national research institutes
- each granted 200 to 400 million Japanese yen (2.0 to 3.9 million USD) annually.
- operated by the Research Promotion Bureau under the MEXT.
- intensive research environment reforms to help researchers concentrate on their research
- the employment of university research administrators (URAs) responsible for research strategies and intellectual property management

3. Distinguished Status

- **National University Budgeting (2016-)**
 - Choose categories for performance assessment
 - (1) local communities
 - (2) in specific fields, and
 - (3) outstanding in line with the world's top universities.
 - Funding based on mainly research related performance indicators
- **Designated National Universities (DNS) (2017-)**
 - authorization process for top research universities aiming to be among the top universities in the world.
 - 10 DNUs compete against one another within the advantaged budgetary allocation for the DNUs, based on their performance from 2022
- **National “University Fund” Scheme (2022-?)**
 - a national fund (based on government bonds) for supporting top universities toward globally competitiveness in terms of academic excellence. 4.5 trillion Japanese yen (44 billion USD) in its national budget of 2021 and is planning to fund up to 10 trillion Japanese yen (97 billion USD) in the near future
 - Select very limited number of International Excellent Research Universities (IERUs) and provide tens of billion Japanese Yen (hundreds of million USD) = around 20% or more of annual income among top universities?
 - Selected universities are expected to grow financially and develop their own endowment



government, employers

**national, local
context**

**global common
goals**

academics, educators

government, employers

China

UK

Japan
Government policy

Japan
Industry's request

Malaysia

Australia

national, local
context

Global common
goals

Japan
University academics

Netherlands

South Korea

Europe (traditional
German)

US (Elite)

academics, educators

More inclusive, wide range of internationalization vs further pursuits for academic excellence?

- Forum among selected universities leading internationalization
- More stress on wide-dissemination
- More attention to the human resource development for the future perspectives
- 10 trillion national university fund
 - Support highly limited university to be globally competitive
 - Support young talents in STEM fields

Digital transformation of international education

<https://www.jv-campus.org/>

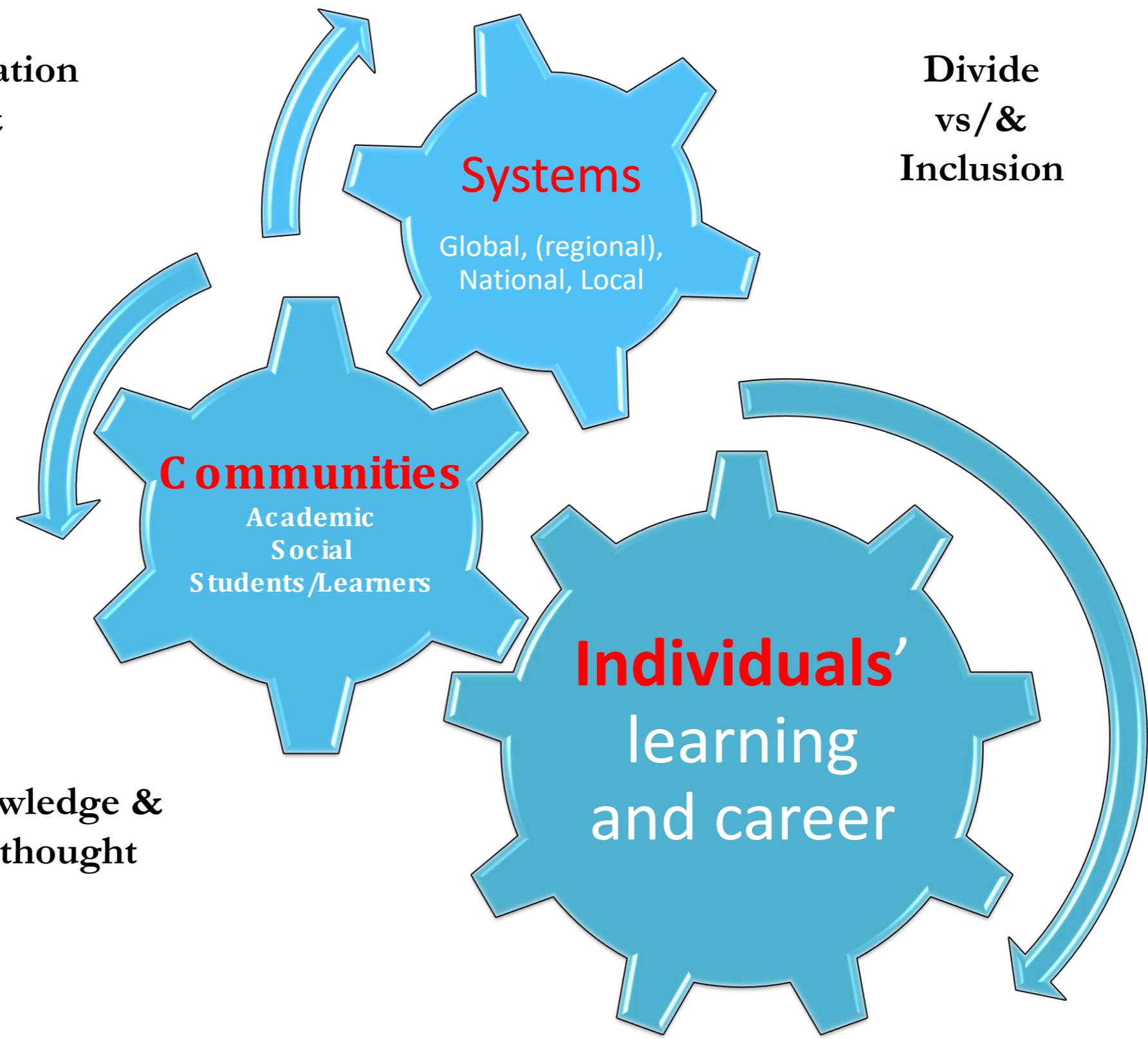
**Neo-liberal,
knowledge arms
race based visionary
making**



**Global and stakeholder
engagement based
visionary making**

Digitalization
vs/ &
Real

Divide
vs/ &
Inclusion



**Skill, Knowledge &
Human thought**



Thank you very much!
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