

Kosen - Colleges of Technology

The late 1950s saw the beginning of Japan's rapid economic growth. To meet the pressing demand from industry for junior high school graduates trained in technology, the Japanese government introduced a unique 6-3-5 school system in 1961. The next year, the first national colleges of technology were founded to produce qualified engineers who could contribute to the social progress of our country. At present, there are 57 colleges of technology, of which 51 are national, 3 municipal and 3 private.

The engineering education of Kosen is different from that of university in that it emphasizes practical technical training. The curriculum is wedge-shaped. In the beginning, most of the class hours are allotted to general education, and then increasingly more time is spent on specialized subjects. In addition to lectures, a particular emphasis is placed on laboratory work.

Those who wish to continue studying after graduation can apply for entry into either the advanced course of a college of technology or into the third year of a university for a bachelor's degree, and then further their studies at a graduate school for a master's or doctor's degree (see the figure below).

