

Reporting the case of Japan: micro-credentials, innovative learning, and NQF

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“Navigating Future
Learning: Recognizing
Micro-Credentials”

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INQAAHE
talks

Q: Are there official micro-credentials in Japan?

Yes, there are... eeh...
No no, no there aren't...
you know, it's not
simple...



In short...

- As of September 2023, there is no official definition of a micro-credential in Japan.

meanwhile

- Some practices confer “micro-credentials” by individual HEIs.

therefore

- Before you start talking about “micro-credentials” in Japan, you are supposed to clarify what you are talking about.

Micro-credentials in this presentation

1) From the traditional "macro-credential" perspective



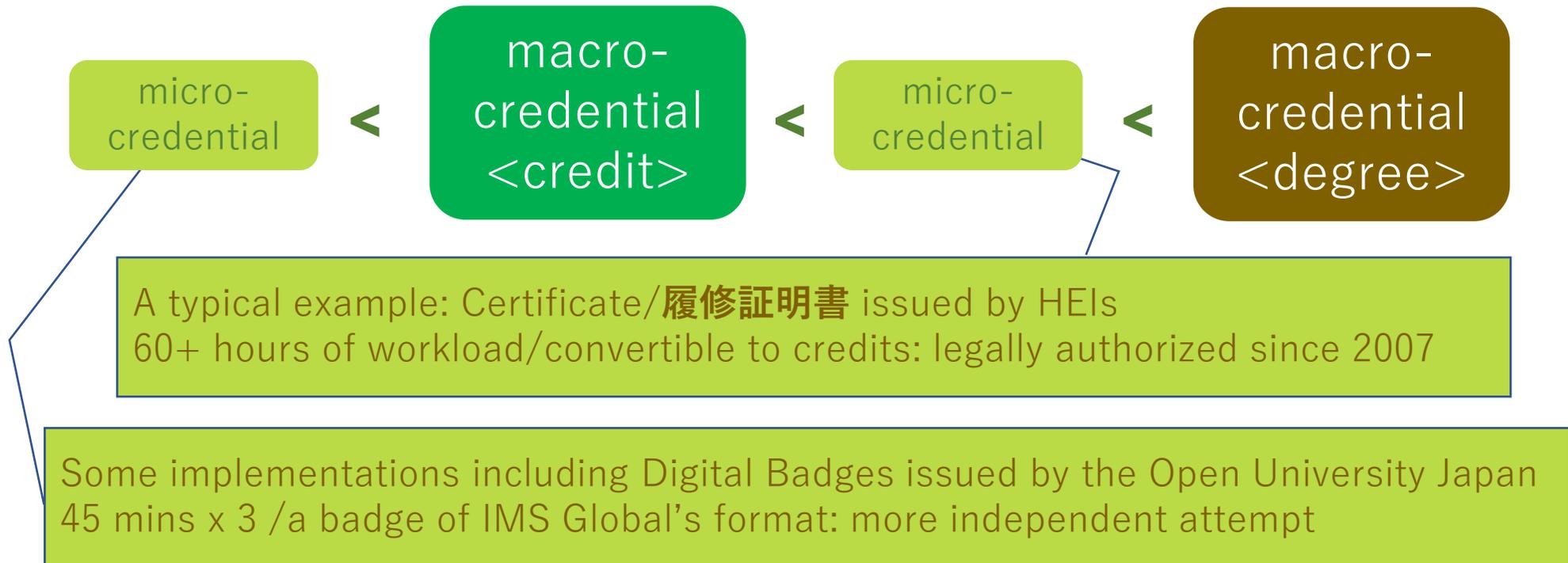
2) Sealing the learning outcomes beyond macro-formality

- Size may differ with different amounts of workload
- They can be conferred at any level of HE



Several implementation cases in Japan

- 1) Smaller than a degree: Certificates
- 2) Smaller than a credit: so-called micro-credentials

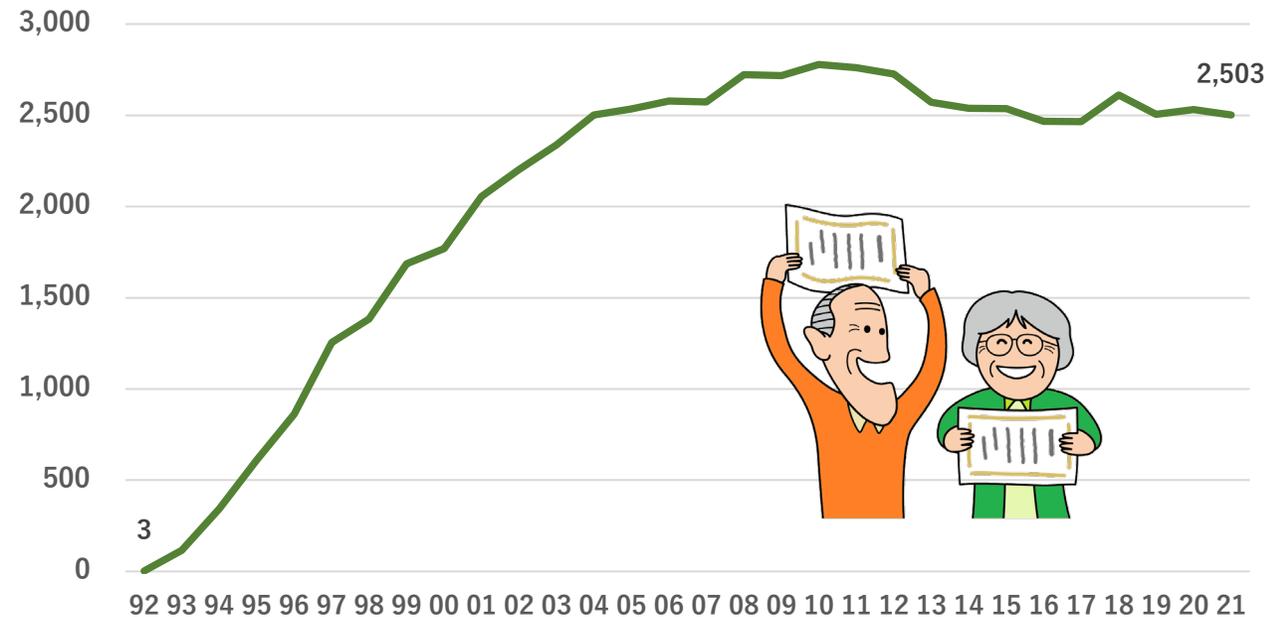


Degree awarding by NIAD-QE

NIAD-QE awards bachelor's degrees to learners who are not college students based on independent credit accumulation.

Literature	Commerce	Nutrition
Education	Business Administration	Engineering
Theology	Science	Design
Sociology	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Mercantile Marine Science
Liberal Arts	Nursing	Agriculture
Social Sciences	Health Science	Fisheries
Law	Acupuncture and Moxibustion	Home Economics
Political Science	Oral Health Science	Art
Economics	Judo Therapy	Physical Education

27 major fields/60 concentrations.



2,503 recipients in 2021

Lessons learned in 30+ year experience

- For innovative credentials, securing trust is essential

so, to promote MCs, we need

- Workload determination
 - macro-credentials (commonsense may work)
 - micro-credentials (commonsense may not work)
- Level determination
 - at which degree level the learning for this micro-credential has happened?

to secure

- Traceability of learning to guarantee stackability
 - for the authenticity of micro-credentials themselves
 - to ensure opportunities to earn a larger chunk of credential

in designing programs for MCs, NQF may help



Q: Is there an official NQF in Japan?

Eeh..., no...
I mean... not yet...
but...



Tentative Education Qualification Framework Proposed in 2023

Japanese Educational Qualifications Framework (tentative)

2023.8.21

Level	Qualifications
8	● Doctoral degree
7	● Master's degree ● Master of xxx (Professional) ● Master of Education (Professional) ● Juris Doctor ● Bachelor's degree (Medical, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences (Clinical), and Veterinary Medical Science)
6	● Bachelor's degree ● Bachelor's degree (Professional) ● Advanced diploma
5	● Associate degree ● Associate degree (Professional) ● Associate ● Diploma ● Certificate of Completion of two or more year advanced course in: - Upper secondary school - Upper division, secondary education school - Upper secondary department, school for special needs education
4	● Certificate of Graduation of one year course in professional training college ● Certificate of Completion of one year advanced course in: - Upper secondary school - Upper division, secondary education school - Upper secondary department, school for special needs education
3	● Certificate of Graduation - Upper secondary school - Secondary education school - Upper secondary department, school for special needs education - Upper secondary course, specialized training college ● Certificate of Completion of 3rd grade of regular course, college of technology ● Certificate of upper secondary school equivalency examination
2	● Certificate of Graduation - Lower secondary school - Compulsory education school - Lower secondary department, school for special needs education ● Certificate of lower secondary school equivalency examination
1	● Certificate of Graduation - Elementary school - Elementary department, school for special needs education

It has been proposed by
the Research
Department of NIAD-QE
(not a legal compact)

<https://niadqe.jp/news/6086/>



Thank you very much
for your attention!

Questions?

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