

Creating A Bright Future By Investing In People

About SME Universities

"Company success depends on its people. Human resource development is the foundation of business management." This concept is timeless and can be applied to all countries.

In Japan as well, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) cannot achieve growth without human resource development. However, SMEs have limited resources and often face difficulties when developing human resources on their own.

Organizations that provide consulting and other forms of managerial support play a significant role in supporting SMEs, so it is important to develop human capacity building.

It is essential that the government should develop human resources for SMEs and their supporting organizations. Such policies are fundamental and occupy the most critical place among SME policies.

In this regard, the government established a research institute in 1962 that became the predecessor of Tokyo SME University. Since 1980, SME Universities have been established in each regional area of Japan in order to contribute to local SMEs, and training programs have been continually strengthened.

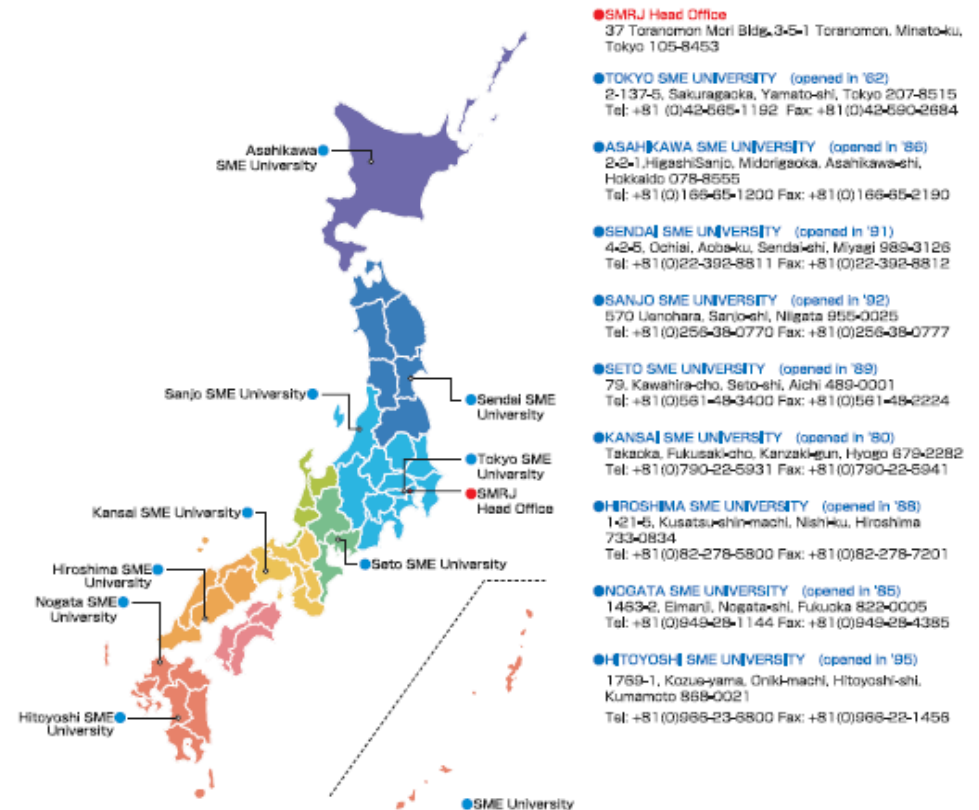
The Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN (SMRJ) is a governmental independent administrative organization which implements national SME support policies. Through its nine SME universities across Japan, SMRJ offers a variety of training programs, which develop the capable human resources that are essential for SMEs to pursue diverse management innovation and creatively develop business.

About the term "SME University"

It is different from a normal university that targets high school graduates and grants university degrees after four years of study.

The term "SME University" is used to mean "a high-level institute" where SMEs obtain practical skills useful in actual business operation.

SMRJ's SME Universities



Asahikawa SME University



Sendai SME University



Sanjo SME University



Seto SME University



Kansai SME University



Hiroshima SME University



Nogata SME University



Hitoyoshi SME University

Training Features

About Tokyo SME University

The mission of Tokyo SME University is to provide high-level professional training to SMEs and SME supporters. Since its opening in 1962, Tokyo SME University has trained approximately 156,000 participants and taken the role of the flagship campus of the nine SME Universities nationwide.

In order to carry out this important mission, Tokyo SME University offers various training programs for SME Management Consultant (Shindanshi) development, SME supporters, and a program for SME members that targets business executives, successors, managers, as well as potential entrepreneurs.

Course content at Tokyo SME University has been developed using know-how cultivated from over 45 years of experience. With the aims of (1) emphasizing the improvement of practical skills, (2) responding to key issues of SME policies, and (3) promoting human network building and cross-industry interaction through dormitory stays, the training programs focus on ensuring that trainees obtain everything from the basics to applied skills, by using uniquely designed, specific, hands-on methods.

Web-based training programs are also available by using the Internet. Trainees can join the programs whenever and wherever and get support via e-mail.

As the business environment surrounding SMEs continues to change, the issues and needs of SMEs continue to diversify and deepen. As an institution specializing in SME human resource development in Japan, Tokyo SME University constantly aims to further enhance its quality for the growth of the SMEs of tomorrow.

What is an "SME Management Consultant (Shindanshi)"?

An SME Management Consultant (Shindanshi) is a person who provides expert assessment and consulting concerning SME business issues. All SME Management Consultants are nationally certified in accordance with the SME Support Law and registered by the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry. By registering those with business assessment and consulting ability beyond a certain level, this system makes it easy to select a qualified SME Management Consultant for proper business assessment and consulting services.

What is an "SME supporter"?

SME supporters are officers and staff of organizations that contribute to SME development, for example by providing consultations and information for SMEs.

Examples of SME supporting organizations:

- National and local governments, and their policy implementing organizations
- Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Societies of Commerce and Industry
- Small Business Associations
- Credit Guarantee Corporations, etc.

What is the definition of an "SME"?

Industry	Manufacturing and others	Wholesale	Retail	Service
Capital (yen)	300 million or less	100 million or less	50 million or less	50 million or less
Number of employees	300 or less	100 or less	50 or less	100 or less

1 Practical curriculum

Not only classroom lectures, case studies, group discussions, but also field lectures and exercises at companies are adopted into the curriculum, which enables trainees to acquire everything from the basics to applied skills in a practical way.



2 Systematic learning

Trainees systematically gain the abilities that every business person needs, and the business skills necessary for success in any office department. Skills are effectively built upon through the courses.



3 Human network building

Through lots of group discussions in class and interaction while staying together in the dormitory, trainees can meet up with each other, exchange information, and expand their human network.



4 Reasonable tuition fee

Two-thirds of the direct training costs are subsidized by the government as part of national measures, thus tuition fees for trainees are quite reasonable.

5 A rich and diverse teaching team

Tokyo SME University instructors are at the forefront of SME business, e.g. business executives, professors, SME Management Consultants (Shindanshi), professional engineers, certified tax accountants, etc. As such, instructors are not full-time staff members, but rather specialists who are individually selected based on the specific theme of each training program.

6 SME University Web-based Training

A new style of training. Web-based training is accessible year-round. Whenever and wherever, trainees can learn and receive support through e-mail.

