

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony of Gender Summit 10

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Hitotsubashi Hall

Your Highness Princess Somaya  
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Researchers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to say a few words as a co-organizer at the Opening Ceremony of Gender Summit 10.

Organizing important international congresses, such as this conference, is one of main activities of Science Council of Japan. We are pleased to welcome participants from all over the world.

Science Council of Japan is a representative institution of Japan's scientific communities in all kinds, from Humanities to Engineering, including Life and Natural Sciences. Our primary purpose is to develop and advance scientific outcomes to ensure that the science is reflected in, and infiltrates policy making, industry, and people's lives.

Nowadays, It has been more important than before to incorporate the dimension of gender into field of policy, academic research, and innovation. In this aspect, Science Council of Japan has published various recommendations about gender equality for the last decades.

Taking this opportunity, let me introduce our practices for promoting gender equality. Science Council of Japan has 210 council members selected on a merit basis among scientists of various fields. In terms of gender balance, 25% of council members are women currently. And we expect that this figure will be more than 30% in the next selection in October this year. This is one of the highest woman ratio of science academies in the world. In addition, we have two women vice-presidents out of three, and six women executive board members out of 16.

Based on the strong presence of women in the council, we have a standing committee and several ad-hoc committees on gender issues.

Looking around academic institutions in Japan, however, women's participation is not enough especially in some of the fields. The field of engineering for example, in which I am serving as President of a university, doesn't have many women faculty. Therefore, we even invited only women applicants for some of our new positions to increase women in our faculty.

In this regard, I hope this conference will be another turning point to stimulate Japanese academic institutions to tackle with the gender equality issue.

I hope that, at this conference, there will be intense discussions among gender equality experts and other researchers beyond existing disciplines to construct better society.

Once again, I would like to express my wish for the great success of this conference. In addition, I hope that you will have an enjoyable and memorable stay in Tokyo.

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Thank you for your attention.