

# Some thoughts on the role of multicultural Japanese researchers in international collaboration

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International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2025  
February 11-12, 2026

# Main message

To foster future researchers who can enhance Japan's capability in research, the country should invest more in study abroad programs for high-school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

# My background

- Ecologist
- Today, speaking from personal experience
- Experience limited to ecology and where I have lived
  - 24 years in Japan
  - 25 years in the US (Wisconsin, Tennessee, Hawaii, California)
  - 3 years in New Zealand
  - 1.5 years in Europe (Netherlands, Denmark)
- Working to promote “two-eyed seeing” at 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma



**Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area**

January 28 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

This weekend we brought a sacred Fire back to our homeland for the first time in nearly a century and a half. Together with our neighboring kin from the North Fork Mono Tribe, we ignited a long-awaited revival through our Cultural Burn ceremony, in partnership with **Stanford University's Jasper Ridge**.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who lent their efforts, strength, and presence—our communities and allies alike—in making this historic and powerful moment possible.

We offer our prayers to the Land, the Spirits, and the Fire.

#muwekmaohloneland #jasperridge  
#TrailofTruth #JusticeForMuwekma See less



Photo by Marina Dewinara Luccioni

# Outline

1. Japan has much to offer in sustainability research.
2. But realizing this potential takes bicultural researchers.
3. Japan should provide more opportunities for future researchers to become bicultural.

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Sustainability = “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UN 1987)

Institutional News

September 1st, 2022 |

# Opening day for the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability

On Sept. 1 the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability officially opens, with the inaugural Dean Arun Majumdar at the helm. His personal and professional experiences have guided his early decisions and vision for the school.

## Cultures in Japan - Ainu, Ryukyu, Shinto, etc.

- What is unique about them compared to cultures of English-speaking countries?
- How do cultures of Japan and English-speaking countries coexist in Japan?
- What are challenges?
- What are opportunities in the future?
- What lessons can Japan provide other countries?

# Science is a cultural product.

The definition of science varies between dictionaries and institutions, but at its most basic ‘science’ is considered to be “knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation” (Merriam-Webster n.d.). Every culture and society has science and a culturally appropriate way to understand and communicate knowledge about the world around it. So why has it long been assumed that the only valid “science” is the body of knowledge and institutionalized practices created by historically male-dominated scientific practitioners descended from Western schools of thought? All scientific knowledge is a cultural product, inherently biased by the minds that produced it, and born of the process of science, which no culture owns.

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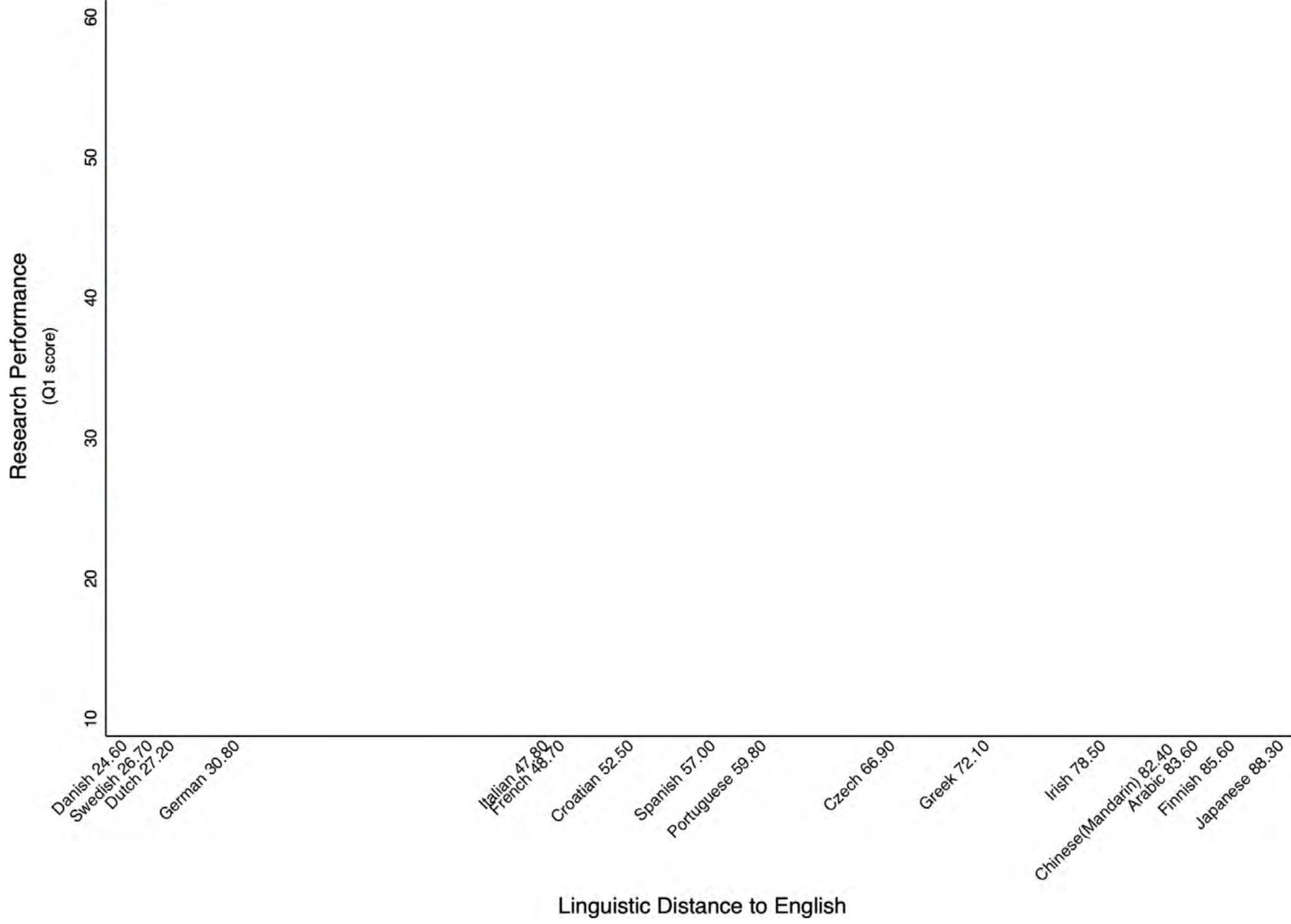
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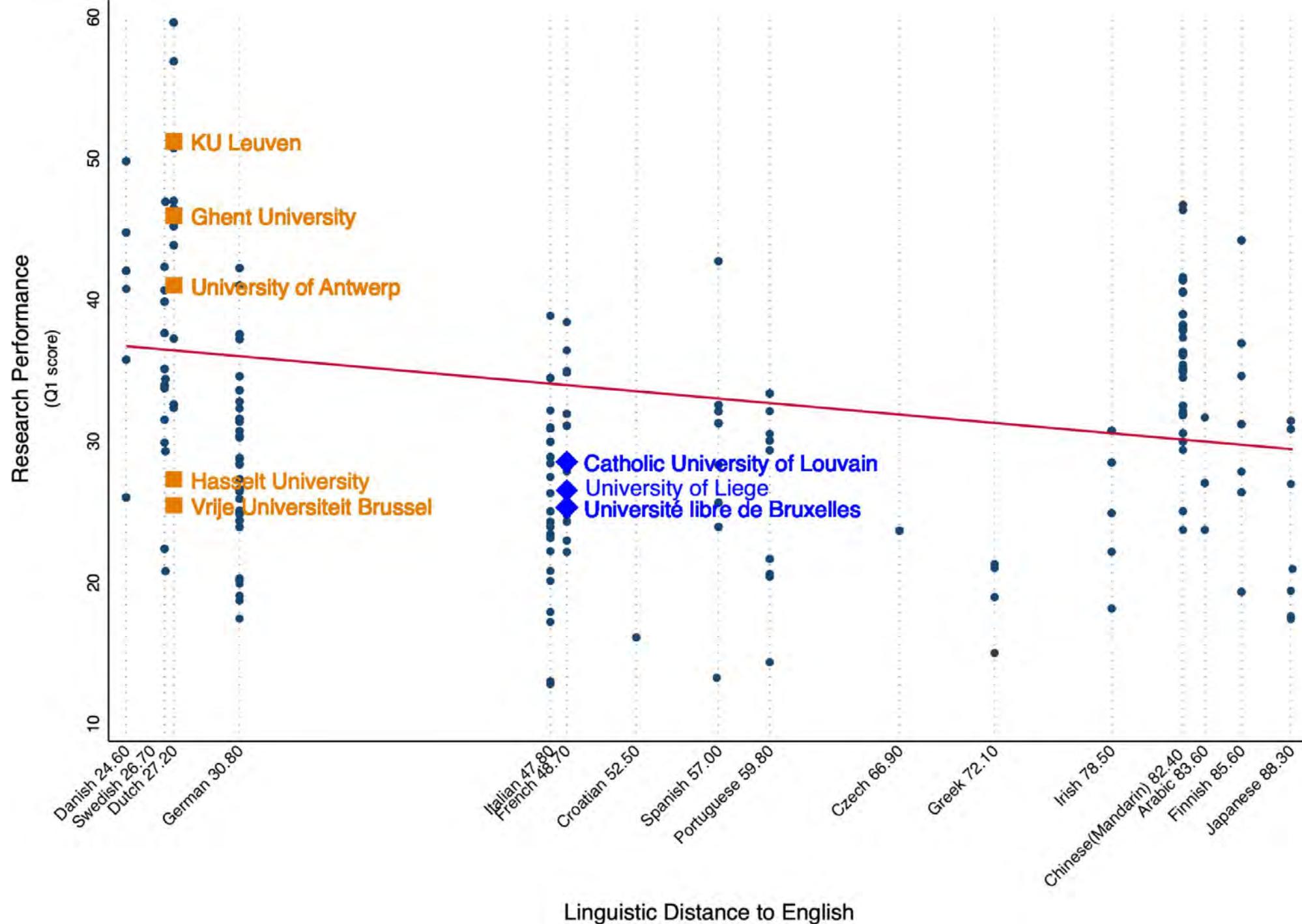
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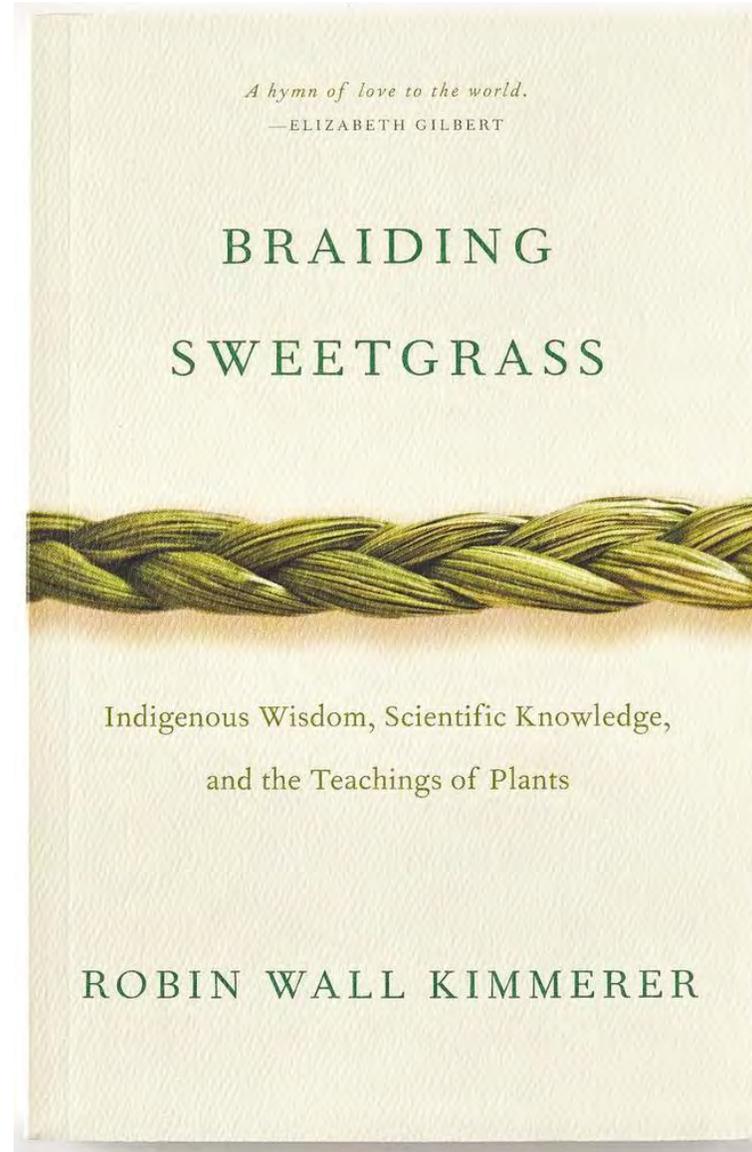
- English differs greatly from Japanese
- Need to be truly bicultural to know how to speak to the international audience







# Robin Kimmerer



Ron Goode



**Putting Fire on the Land:  
The Indigenous People Spoke  
the Language of Ecology, and  
Understood the Connectedness  
and Relationship Between Land,  
Water, and Fire**

**RON W. GOODE**

North Fork Mono Tribe

**STEPHANIE FARISH BEARD**

Consultant to North Fork Mono Tribe

**CHRISTINA ORAFTIK**

Consultant to North Fork Mono Tribe

Lara Jacobs



# INDIGENOUS

CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON  
Traditional Ecological Knowledge

EDITED BY Lara A. Jacobs

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- Need to support more overseas experience, as that is the most effective way to become bicultural
- Also, critical mass of researchers who understand importance of being bicultural is needed to break the cycle.

Proposal:

Provide more study abroad programs for high-school, undergraduate, and graduate students

- Postdocs often too late to become bicultural
- Returnees (帰国子女) and int'l school students often not truly bicultural

# The White Paper on Gender Equality 2025



June 2025

Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

## White Paper on Gender Equality

- An annual report that must be submitted to the Diet each year based on the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society (statutory report).
- Cabinet decision and report to the Diet were made on June 13 for the 2025

[www.gender.go.jp](http://www.gender.go.jp)

## Gender equality ranking

This year	(Last year)	146 countries	Gender gap score
1	1	Iceland	Improvement ↑
2	3	Norway	↑
3	2	Finland	↑
4	4	New Zealand	↑
5	5	Sweden	Deterioration ↓
6	10	Germany	↑
7	7	Nicaragua	↑
8	8	Namibia	↓
9	11	Lithuania	↑
10	14	Belgium	↑
43	27	United States	↓
105	99	South Korea	↓
107	102	China	↓
125	116	Japan	↓
146 (lowest)	146	Afghanistan	↓

Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2023 by World Economic Forum

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