

### 1. Domestic Activities

#### (1) Ms. Sanae Takaichi Appointed as Minister for Gender Equality

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was inaugurated on September 26, 2006, in which Ms. Sanae Takaichi was appointed as the Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Science and Technology Policy, Innovation, Gender Equality, Social Affairs and Food Safety.

Upon her appointment Minister Takaichi expressed her resolve to implement plans for women's renewed challenges and the Second Basic Plan for Gender Equality that was formulated and approved at the end of 2005. The new minister emphasized that the realization of a gender equal society where both men and women can fully utilize their abilities and individualities is of the utmost importance in shaping Japanese society in the 21st century.



#### (2) Measures to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective, as trafficking in persons is transnational organized crime.

In April 2004, the Japanese government established an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee (Task Force) regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons. In December of the same year, the government formulated the “Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” with the aim of swiftly constructing integrated and comprehensive measures.

The Action Plan clearly states that victims of trafficking in persons are eligible for protection, and is comprised of the following measures: Protect victims of trafficking in persons such as offering temporary protective custody, supporting the victims' returning to their native countries, Prevent trafficking in persons through strengthening immigration controls etc., and Eradicate trafficking in persons through criminalizing it by revising the Penal Code, etc.

The Japanese government steadily promotes the above mentioned measures in collaboration with related organizations and NGOs.

The Cabinet Office attempts to raise public awareness concerning the “trafficking in persons as a grave violation of human rights” and “prostitution as a root cause of trafficking in persons” in close cooperation with other ministries and agencies and local governments. Through these efforts, the Cabinet Office is actively implementing publicity and enlightenment activities targeting the general public on the need to eradicate trafficking in persons.



"Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2006" Poster



"Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women 2006" Poster

### (3) Japan Legal Support Center (JLSC) Begins Operations

The Japan Legal Support Center (JLSC), or “Hou Terasu” as it is popularly called, began its operations across the country on October 2, 2006. This nationwide organization was established on April 10, 2006, with the aim of creating a society in which the provision of information and services necessary to settle legal disputes can be received anywhere in the country.

For instance, JLSC offers information on useful support systems and the most appropriate specialized organizations to women who have suffered violence at the hands of their husbands or boyfriends, or those subjected to discrimination at the workplace (free of charge). Free legal advice is available to those with limited financial resources. Further, JLSC provides legal aid to pay for the cost of litigation and legal documents required to be submitted to the court. For crime victims, JLSC supplies information on support groups and refers them to lawyers active in helping such victims.

To use the services of JLSC, call its call center first at 0570-078-374 for instructions to be given by the operator.

The homepage of JLSC is as follows: <http://www.houterasu.or.jp>. For information on crime victim support, call 0570-079-714.



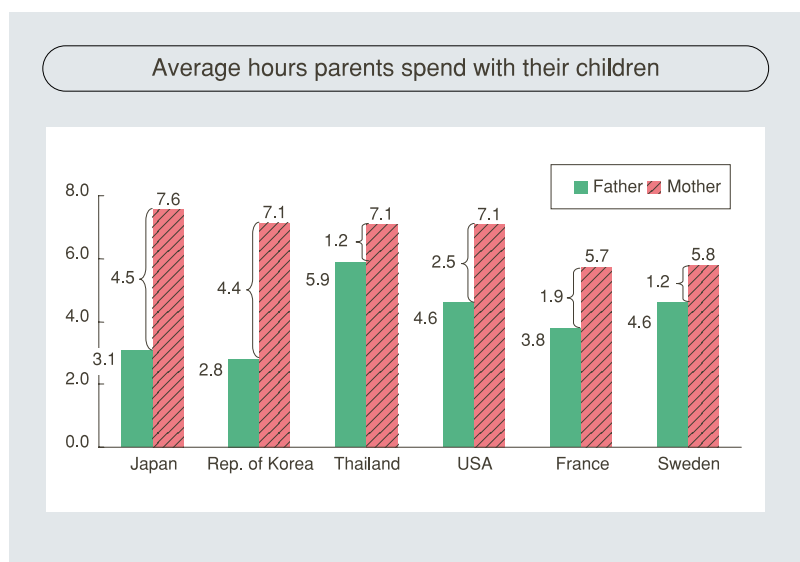
The official name of *Hou Terasu* is "Japan Legal Support Center".

*Hou Terasu* gets its name from the resolution to "light up society with knowledge of legal rights" and "provide a space where people can relax in comfort, just like reclining on a sunny terrace (*terasu*)".

### (4) International Survey on Home Education

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) conducted an International Comparative Survey on Home Education in 2004 and 2005. The surveys covered about 1,000 parents with children 12 years old or younger in Japan, Rep. of Korea, Thailand, the United States, France, and Sweden. The focus was on changes that had taken place in homes and families, the situation of children's education at home, and parents' approach to home education. Through comparison with other countries' situations, the surveys are designed to illustrate the characteristics of home education in Japan and related issues. In the surveys the parents were asked about such matters as daily patterns with their children, discipline and expectations for children, balance between work and family life, support for childcare, and household composition, as well as the current circumstances of the parents and the children.

Japanese fathers spend 3.1 hours on average with their children during weekdays. They spend more hours than in Republic of Korea (ROK) fathers, but less than in other countries' fathers. On the other hand, Japanese mothers spend the longest hours with their children among the six nations, resulting in the widest gap between the hours fathers and mothers spend with their children. In Japan, such tasks as preparing meals, child training, and attending parents' meetings are mostly left to women. In particular, Japanese fathers are least involved in preparing meals at home. About 40% of Japanese fathers are concerned that they “do not spend much time with children,” and those who are concerned about this problem rose 13 percentage points from the 1994 survey. The recent surveys also show reduced opportunities for future parents to learn about childcare and engage in hands-on parenting experiences prior to becoming parents.



## (5) Women's Information Portal Site "Winet" (Women's Information Network) Opens at National Women's Education Center

In April 2006, the National Women's Education Center (NVEC) opened a women's information portal site "Winet" (<http://winet.nwec.jp/>) as a window to provide information on actual conditions and relevant issues and to help improve women's status and formulate a gender-equal society.

Winet comprises the following three pillars:

- Information navigation for women (a link to useful resources on the Internet).
- Database produced by the National Women's Education Center.
- CASS (Cross Access Search System) that aids information retrievals from the center's database and other sources.

The information navigation system guides users to useful resources on the Internet, linking them to over 800 sites and homepages in fifteen different areas. For instance, "Social Issues/Social Activities" is further divided into such topics as "declining birthrates and the next generation," "aging society," "community revitalization," "NGO/NPO," and "trafficking in persons." These segments are each linked to relevant laws, surveys and groups. Under "Language, Information, Media" is an English site on Japanese women. All of these sources are expected to be utilized by a lot of concerned parties as a valuable resource for Japanese women.



Top page of Women's Information Network "Winet"

## (6) Enhancement of Laws on Equal Employment Opportunities for Men and Women

It is an important task to build a labor environment where workers can make the most of their abilities without being discriminated on the basis of gender, and where motherhood capacity is protected. To tackle this task, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare submitted to the Diet in March 2006, a bill to revise Law on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment.

The bill, which was passed in June 2006 and will enter into force in April 1, 2007, includes the following points:

- (1) Expansion of the scope of prohibiting gender discrimination, such as prohibiting discrimination against men, adding some more employment stages where gender discrimination is prohibited, and prohibiting indirect discrimination;
- (2) Enhancement of the regulation on prohibition of detrimental treatment due to pregnancy and childbirth, such as prohibiting not only dismissals but also other detrimental treatments, and invalidating dismissal of female workers who are pregnant or who gave birth in the past 12 months;
- (3) Enhancement of anti-sexual harassment measures, such as strengthening the employer's obligation to take measures to prevent sexual harassment against both male and female workers;
- (4) Effective implementation of the Law, such as adding matters relating to sexual harassment and motherhood-health management to the subjects to be dealt with in the conciliation system and the public announcement system revealing the names of offending corporations;
- (5) Relaxation of regulations regarding underground work done by women.

## **(7) Commendation for Enterprises Promoting Equal Employment**

Since 1999, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has commended enterprises which have taken positive actions to encourage female workers to exercise their abilities, and has made these enterprises' actions widely known.

There are two categories, the Award from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Best company award and Excellent company award) and the Award from the Director-General of the Prefectural Labour Bureau (Excellent firm award and Incentive award). The government advertises for the candidates.

These awards were presented in June this year during "One Month Campaign on Equal Employment Opportunity between Men and Women." The Minister gave the award and commemorative items to the recipient enterprises.

- Award of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (2006)(Excellent company award)  
Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd.
  
- Award of the Director-General of the Prefectural Labour Bureau (2006)  
40 companies were commended nationwide. The full list of the recipients is listed on the official website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

## **(8) Annual Reports on Working Women**

The Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare compiles data on working women and publicizes it every year as the "Annual Reports on Working Women." In the 2005 edition, Chapter I describes the current conditions and distinctive characteristics of working women in 2005, while Chapter II is focused on the labor situation and approach toward work of middle-aged women, aged 45 or older, including baby boomers aged 55-59.

## **(9) Submission of Opinions on the Introduction of the Short-time working system for child care**

Measures for balancing work and family life are called for to deal with the rapid decline in the birthrate in Japan. The National Personnel Authority (NPA) has been taking various measures to balance work and family life targeting health care management of employees, the decline in the birthrate, and aging society. On August 8, 2006, the NPA submitted opinions to the Diet and the Cabinet, concerning to amend the Law concerning Child Care Leave of public servants to introduce the Short-time working system for child care.

The NPA's submission calls for the introduction of a system under which employees can work 4 hours a day, three days a week, etc. while retaining their full-time position until their children reach grade school age. These employees are required to obtain their appointing officers' approval for such requests. It is also recommended that the introduction of a system under which their appointing officers should be able to appoint a fixed-term part-time employee who can work 10 to 20 hours a week to compensate for a reductions in workforce, and a system under which two full-time employees who are working 20 hours a week under the short-time position can be appointed to the position that becomes vacant as a result.

These measures allow employees to participate in both work and child care over an extended period of time while retaining the quality of public services they provide, and are expected to encourage more male employees to take part in child care.

## (10) Women's Conference Japan - 2006 Shimonoseki

Women's Conference Japan - 2006 Shimonoseki, took place on October 6 and 7, 2006, in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture. The main theme of the conference was "Believing in others if you don't know yourself. Supporting each other when you don't know."

The conference was opened by participants raising high lamps as the "shining ray of hope" that symbolized a determination to realize a gender-equal society. The opening ceremony was followed by a Keynote Program, which included report on the second Basic Plan, presented by the director-general of the Cabinet Office's Gender Equality Bureau, and a lecture by Prof. Masumi Shiraishi of Toyo University on the social environment surrounding women. In the Keynote Program, journalist Mika Yamamoto emphasized the importance of knowing others with different cultural backgrounds and of making efforts to promote mutual understanding, based on her experience as a reporter embedded with military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the second day of the conference, 14 subcommittees met in the morning to discuss 12 themes based on the 12 priority fields laid out in the Basic Plan for Gender Equality, concerning the basic direction for measures designed to promote gender equality. In the afternoon, actress Etsuko Ichihara gave the commemorative lecture. The closing ceremony began with the coordinating committee chair for the conference reading aloud a declaration, handing the lamp of hope on to the executive committee of the next conference to be held in Hiroshima.

It is hoped that the momentum that grew during the two days of the conference will spread far and wide across Japan, further enlarging the circle of gender-equality promotion activities.



Women's Conference Japan - 2006 Shimonoseki

## (11) White Paper on Gender Equality 2006

The government presents the White Paper on Gender Equality to the Diet every year in accordance with Article 12 of the Basic Law for Gender Equality. The White Paper details the situation of gender equality in Japan and describes various governmental measures to promote the formation of a gender-equal society. The 2006 White Paper, took up the main theme of a society supportive of women's renewed challenges. It analyzed the situation for women who have stopped working at some point in the working lives due to childbirth or child rearing, but who are now trying to find jobs again or start their own business. The government's support measures for these activities were also described.

([http://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/white\\_paper\\_index.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/white_paper_index.html))

### ○Outline of the White Paper on Gender Equality 2006

FY2005 Annual Report on the State of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society

Part 1: The State of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society

Feature article

Toward a society that would encourage women's renewed challenge: Gender equality and countermeasures on the falling birthrate are closely connected to each other

Chapter 1. Women's participation in decision-making processes

Chapter 2. Gender equality in the workplace

Chapter 3. Balancing work and childcare

Chapter 4. Living of senior citizens

Chapter 5. Violence against women

Chapter 6. Support lifelong health for women

Chapter 7. Gender equality in the media

Chapter 8. Gender equality in education

Part 2: Policies Implemented in FY 2005 to Promote the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society

Policies to be Implemented in FY2006 to Promote the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society

## 2. International Cooperation (ODA, international conferences, etc.)

### (1) 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place at the UN headquarters in New York from February 27 to March 10, attended by the world's representatives including a Japanese delegation of 20 people led by Dr. Yoriko Meguro. During the meeting, national representatives, UN agencies, NGO representatives and others presented over 110 statements. Delegates also took part in a high-level round table discussion on the themes of “Promotion of women's participation in development” and “Incorporating gender perspectives into national development strategies,” and also engaged in a panel discussion on equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels. Discussions on resolutions and agreed conclusions were also conducted.

During these meetings agreed conclusions were reached on the enhanced participation of women in development and the equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels. Discussions continued towards the adoption of other resolutions. The main results of this international gathering include the agreements reached on the abovementioned two topics, and resolutions adopted on the issue of HIV and AIDS, and on future organization and methods of work.



### (2) East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting

The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting took place in Tokyo on June 30 and July 1, 2006, focusing on the theme “Toward gender equality in East Asia.” The meeting represented the first-ever ministerial-level meeting to be held on the theme of gender equality in East Asia. The host nation was Japan and the meeting was presided over by the then Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi. Of the 16 countries and two international organizations invited to the meeting (China, Republic of Korea, 10 ASEAN nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia), Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, ESCAP, UNDP), 14 delegations were represented by officials of ministerial rank and the meeting benefited from various national reports and a series of significant and meaningful discussions on the various themes.

The first-ever East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting was a great success, culminating in the unanimous adoption of the “Tokyo Joint Ministerial Communiqué” which included a decision that the meeting will become an annual event in the future. Delegates confirmed the deep significance of holding a regional ministerial level meeting on gender equality issues, praising the first meeting highly as an historic first step towards gender equality, peace and development in East Asia. It was agreed to hold the next ministerial meeting in India in 2007 and then in the Republic of Korea in 2008.



East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting

### (3) Former Minister Inoguchi's visit to the United States and Republic of Korea

The then Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi paid a visit to the United States from July 11 to 14 in 2006, followed shortly after by a visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) from July 18 to 19. In the US, in her capacity as chair of the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting, in accordance with the wishes of ministerial colleagues that the content of the meeting be communicated to a wider audience, Dr. Inoguchi handed a review of the results of the meeting to Ms. Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations. In response, Ms. Bárcena stated that the UN was aware of the need to promote gender equality in the world at a local level, and that efforts in East Asia would serve as a useful source of reference. During a meeting with Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Dr. Inoguchi discussed measures to hire more women in official positions and create an environment where women can continue to work while raising children. She also referred to the general election held in Japan in 2005, resulting in a record number of female representatives being elected to Japan's lower house. Dr. Inoguchi also referred to the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, drawing strong interest from Ms. Chao. During her visit Dr. Inoguchi delivered lectures at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan.

On her visit to the ROK, Dr. Inoguchi met with Ms. Han Myeongsuk, the ROK's first female prime minister. During the meeting Prime Minister Han showed strong interest in Japan's strategies to tackle the declining birthrate, emphasizing the importance of continuing bilateral exchanges between Japan and the ROK. During a meeting with Ms. Jang Ha-Jin, Minister for Gender Equality and Family, it was confirmed that the two countries would play active roles in fostering further understanding and progress, based on the decision reached at the first East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting that the third meeting would be hosted by the ROK in 2008. In a meeting with Mr. Rhyu Si-min, Minister of Health and Welfare, the two ministers exchanged opinions on the situation concerning the declining birthrate in Japan and the ROK, two countries where the decreases in the birthrate are among the steepest in the world. It was agreed during these meetings to further tighten the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, through such measures as promoting information and human exchanges and conducting joint research and seminars on the declining birthrate and gender equality.

### (4) Former Minister Inoguchi's meeting with UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Obaid

On May 11, 2006, the then Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi met with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Thoraya Obaid, during which Ms. Obaid referred to UNFPA's two major undertakings (providing technical support for population and health surveys, and the promotion of reproductive health). Dr. Inoguchi explained Japan's approach to gender equality and measures to cope with the declining birthrate. In particular, she pointed to the reality that about 70 percent of women leave their jobs due to childbirth and that many of them find it difficult to return to the labor force, which is a major factor behind the country's declining birthrate. She explained the government's efforts to create a social system that makes it easier for women to continue working while raising children and for men to take part in child rearing.

In response, Executive Director Obaid referred to the situation in many developing countries where pregnant women are forced to engage in hard labor and return to work immediately after giving birth. She emphasized the urgent need to construct viable social systems such as rights to temporarily leave for child rearing, social security, and health insurance. Dr. Inoguchi and Executive Director Obaid also exchanged opinions on special care for women in natural disasters and ODA-related gender issues.



## (5) Japan-Norway Joint Seminar on Gender Equality

A Japan-Norway Joint Seminar on Gender Equality took place at the Center for the Advancement of Working Women (CAWW) in Tokyo, on September 12, 2006. The seminar featured Norway's Minister of Children and Equality Karita Bekkemellem, who talked about her country's handling of gender equality and progress, and the then Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi who detailed Japan's approach to gender equality and measures to tackle the declining birthrate. Their keynote speeches were followed by an active panel discussion.

The panelists included Prof. Takashi Kashima of Jissen Women's University, Prof. Machiko Osawa of Japan Women's University, Director General of the Department of Family and Gender Equality Arni Hole of Norway, and Logistics/IT Manager Nina Tsukamoto of Laedal Medical Japan KK. The seminar proved highly useful as it presented an opportunity for experts from Japan to discuss gender equality and birthrate problems with their counterparts from Norway, a country which leads the world in dealing with such issues.



## (6) JICA Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II, Model Project on Political and Institutional Support for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Cambodia

### JICA Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II

The Cabinet Office and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held “Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II” from November 7 to December 9, 2006, with the aim of enhancing the national machinery in developing countries and training human resources who can contribute to gender equality and greater social status for women in those countries. These efforts have taken place since 1990 as part of Japan's ODA activities.

Ten participants who took part in the seminar from 10 Asian, Pacific and African countries received lectures on gender equality measures being promoted by the Japanese government and the involvement of local governments and NGOs. The participants also engaged in discussions and field trips, and for the duration of the program also actively exchanged opinions and information among themselves on their own countries' approaches to these topics. Toward the end of their stay, these participants produced action plans on gender equality and other relevant issues to be implemented after their return to their home countries.



### Model Project on Political and Institutional Support for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Cambodia

To promote ODA from the perspective of gender equality, the Cabinet Office has been conducting the “Model Project on Political and Institutional Support for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Cambodia” since 2005, under which it accepts trainees from Cambodia and dispatches experts to hold local seminars and workshops within the framework of JICA technical cooperation projects. Through these efforts the Cabinet Office provides comprehensive intellectual support to Cambodia in its efforts to promote gender equality. In 2006, the office held among other events a seminar on monitoring and gender impact assessment and evaluation of gender equality measures in Japan.



## (7) UNDP and Japan WID Fund Symposium and Workshop

On July 31 and August 1, 2006, The Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized the “UNDP/Japan Women in Development (WID) Fund Symposium and Workshop” in Tokyo. During the symposium held on July 31, keynote speeches were given by internationally renowned experts, and reports were presented by development practitioners. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were discussed, in addition to the issue of gender-sensitive budgeting (GSB) as a tool to achieve gender equality and MDGs, and ways to promote GSB. The symposium was attended by about 100 people including government officials, university professors, and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO).

The then Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi opened the symposium by providing an introduction to domestic efforts to promote the formation of a gender-equal society. She referred to the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting that took place in Tokyo on June 30 and July 1. Attended by representatives of 16 countries and two international organizations, the conference adopted the Tokyo Joint Ministerial Communiqué which sets out measures for coordinated efforts by East Asian countries to promote gender equality. Dr. Inoguchi was followed by Deputy Director-General Nobuki Sugita of the Economic Cooperation Bureau (now the International Cooperation Bureau), who talked about how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs raises the awareness of ODA officials in order to implement Gender and Development(GAD) initiative and enhance coordination with other international organizations, donors, and NGOs in promoting gender equality.

The workshop held on August 1 included lectures on the basic principles of gender-sensitive budgeting (GSB) and introduction of cases that had taken place. These lectures and talks were aimed at relevant government officials and those in organizations that provide assistance to developing countries.

## (8) Successful examples of ODA projects that incorporate a gender equality perspective (Technical Cooperation Project)

### Good practices of ODA projects incorporating a gender equality perspective (Technical Cooperation Project)

In Ethiopia, Community-based Basic Education Improvement Project “Manabu” is being implemented with the aim of establishing a participatory basic education model through the enhanced collaboration between education administration and local residents, and development of capacity for planning and implementation of local administrators. This project selects model areas not only based on the overall education needs of districts, but also gender gap, targeting the areas that have wider gender gaps. This project makes it easy for children to commute to schools by constructing new schools and making the commuting distance shorter. This component of the project aims to eliminate not only the risk of danger due to undeveloped school roads, but also the risks which challenge girls during commuting to schools such as kidnapping for the purpose of human trafficking. Further, in the school management committee at the school level in this project, the following two points are being promoted in the selection of committee members: (1) women's participation in the village committees that select school management committee members, and (2) women and men have to be selected equally as members of the school management committee.



Female students studying at newly constructed schools (Photo: JICA)

### Good practices of ODA projects incorporating a gender equality perspective (Yen Loan)

In Vietnam, Phan Ri-Phan Thiet Irrigation Project aims at improving agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes through the improvement of irrigation facilities, and rural infrastructure besides strengthening of agricultural extension services. In the explanatory meetings for the project, both women and men were provided with opportunities to express their opinions. In these explanatory meetings, opinions from women's view point were offered during discussions concerning both women and men such as compensation for land acquisition and issues such as domestic water supply and disposal of domestic wastewater. Based on these opinions, the establishment of wells and sewage tanks were added to the project.



Women in the project site (Photo: JBIC)

## (9) GAD-Related Training Programs in 2006

Training Course		Period	No. of trainees	Target
1	Seminar on Women in Environment and Development II	Jan. 16 - Mar. 8	8	Government officials and NGO workers in charge of environment conservation and/or women issues
2	Seminar on local educational administration (Sub-sahara African countries) II	Jan. 17 - Feb. 18	12	Central/Local government officers in charge of administration of local education
3	OISCA Rural Life Improvement and Community Development for Women	Jan. 18 - Dec. 19	11	Advocates of agriculture and lifestyle improvement and/or local female supervisors
4	Gender Mainstreaming in fishing community development	Jan. 22 - Mar. 8	5	Central/Local government staff, fishing community leader or NGO staff
5	Seminar on Women's Entrepreneurship Development - training for leaders II	Feb. 5 - Mar. 10	8	Government officials and NGO workers promoting economic empowerment of women
6	Seminar on Promotion of Education for Girls and Women	Feb. 12 - Mar. 12	12	Government officials and managerial staff in charge of developing and promoting education for women and girls
7	The role of agricultural cooperatives to be played in activation of rural economy II	May 9 - Jul. 13	11	Personnels engaged in the offices of cooperative service and expected to work in cooperative movement
8	Human resources development in the field of maternal and child health	May 16 - Jul. 8	8	Professors in charge of nurse or midwife training in University or equivalent, or head nurses or equivalent in charge of nurse and midwife training in hospital
9	Empowerment of Rural Women II	May 22 - Aug. 5 Aug. 28 - Nov. 11	19	Technical experts and government officials in charge of providing support to rural women
10	Farming management in upland crops area	Jun. 6 - Aug. 3	10	Regional government or local public officer engaged in extension service and in the leading position in the regional agriculture, providing guidance on farming management of field crops directly to farm households
11	Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming for Government Officers	Jun. 12 - Jul. 15	7	Government officials engaged in formulating policies to improve the status of women
12	Seminar on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	Jun. 20 - Jul. 15	11	Government officials and NGO workers in charge of the administration, planning, and implementation of adolescent reproductive and sexual health education programs
13	Planning of Fisheries Community Development	Jul. 11 - Sep. 23	9	The government officers who have experiences in fisheries development
14	Seminar on Agricultural and Rural Development	Jul. 18 - Aug. 26	10	Central/Local government officers who take charge of regional promotion or rural development in agricultural sector
15	Participatory Local Social Development: Project Planning and Management II	Aug. 7 - Sep. 13	10	Personnels engaged in the social development projects in their countries
16	Reproductive Health Seminars for NGO Senior Officers	Aug. 22 - Sep. 12	11	Senior government officials and NGO workers responsible for the administration, planning, and implementation of RH/FP programs
17	Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II	Nov. 7 - Dec. 9	10	Senior officials of national machineries promoting gender equality
18	Nutrition and Diet Improvement for Women Leaders II	Nov. 14 - Jan. 27	8	Officials of national and public institutions involved in providing guidance on nutrition, hygiene and improved dietary habits
19	Integrated Agriculture and rural development through the participation of local farmers III	Nov. 19 - Dec. 23	9	Regional government or local public officers engaged in the field of agricultural and rural development
20	Seminar for Leaders of Improvement of Women's Life Style	Nov. 20 - Dec. 13	8	Local government officers or persons who have an occupation associated with governmental services for local groups or organizations in the field of the improvement of lives and social status of women

## (10) Seminar for Promotion of Education for Girls and Women

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) held the “Seminar for Promotion of Education for Girls and Women” for four weeks from February 11 to March 12, 2006, for administrative officials engaged in women's education and relevant issues in developing countries. Entrusted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the center has been holding the seminar every year since 2001. This year, the seminar was attended by 12 participants from 12 countries.

These participants attended lectures and discussions on Japanese education systems, presented country reports, and toured local elementary schools, junior high schools and girl's schools. Through these activities they drew up action plans so that they could better understand various problems inhibiting educational opportunities for girls and women and formulate education-promoting measures in their own countries. Their findings will be incorporated in educational reforms after they return home.



Seminar trainees and lecturer

## (11) NVEC International Symposium on Trafficking in Persons

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) held an International Symposium on Trafficking in Persons at United Nations University on February 25, 2006. Attended by about 300 people, the symposium opened with greetings from Professor Akiko Yamanaka, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mayumi Moriyama, Member of the House of Representatives. The following delegates also gave speeches on the theme of the current situation and measures to combat trafficking in persons: Richard Danziger, Head of Counter Trafficking Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM); Keiko Otsu, Director of HELP Asian Women's Shelter; and Toru Ogino, Counsellor, Cabinet Secretariat.

In the first session of the symposium's second part focused on “international cooperation to eradicate trafficking in persons,” Thai and Colombian officials; Tsuyoshi Iguchi, Chief Superintendent and Director of the Consumer and Environment Protection Division, Community Service Bureau, National Police Agency, Japan; Kristiina Kangaspunta, Officer in Charge of Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of UNODC, and others discussed problems, legal systems and coordinated efforts in their countries. In the second session, the focus was on “towards the establishment of bases for women's empowerment and its international network,” and Indonesia's Sumarni Dawam Raharjo, Deputy Minister for Child Protection, Ministry of Women Empowerment; The Philippine's Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director, Development Action for Women Network (DAWN); Japan's Yoko Kamikawa, Member of the House of Representatives; Yoko Yoshida, lawyer, Co-chair of Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP); and Prof. Kimio Ito of Kyoto University Graduate School of Letters engaged in active discussions on the establishment of bases for women's empowerment at administrative, political, and NGO levels, how problems are being approached, and the necessity of raising men's awareness.

Finally, the participants recognized the vital need to construct an international network through the close cooperation of governments, NGOs, other international organizations and citizens' groups, and local communities.



Establishing Bases for Women's Empowerment and Building a Global Network

## Milestones in the advancement of women since International Women's Year

		United Nations	Japan
	1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of International Women's Year by the General Assembly (Goals: Equality, Development and Peace)</li> <li>• <b>The World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City)</b></li> <li>• Adoption of the World Plan of Action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Headquarters for the Planning and Promoting of Policies Relating to Women</li> <li>• Convening of the Council on Women's Issues</li> </ul>
Proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) by the General Assembly	1977		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of the National Plan of Action</li> </ul>
	1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 34th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations</li> <li>• Adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</li> </ul>	
	1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (Goals: Equality, Development and Peace)(Copenhagen)</b></li> <li>• Adoption of the Program of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women</li> </ul>	
	1981		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of the Priority Targets for the Second Half of the Period Covered by the National Plan of Action</li> </ul>
	1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCAP Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1985 World Conference (Tokyo)</li> </ul>	
	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women (Goals: Equality, Development and Peace) (Nairobi)</b></li> <li>• Adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of the Nationality Law (employing a bilinear system)</li> <li>• Promulgation of Law on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment</li> <li>• Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</li> </ul>
	1986		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of the Headquarters for the Planning and Promoting of Policies Relating to Women (the organization was expanded to all ministries and agencies; mandate was also expanded)</li> <li>• Convening of the Advisory Council to the President of the Headquarters for the Planning and Promoting of Policies Relating to Women</li> </ul>
1987		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of the New National Plan of Action towards the Year 2000</li> </ul>	
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEDAW* 7th Session: Consideration of Japan's first periodic report on implementation of the Convention (New York)</li> </ul>		
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The 34th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women</b></li> <li>• Adoption of the First Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)</li> </ul>		
1991		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promulgation of the Child Care Leave Law</li> </ul>	
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCAP Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Jakarta)</li> <li>• The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (Cairo)</li> <li>• Adoption of the Cairo Declaration and Programme of Action</li> <li>• CEDAW 13th Session: Consideration of Japan's second and third periodic reports on implementation of the Convention (New York)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Office for Gender Equality, the Council for Gender Equality and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality</li> </ul>	
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing)</b></li> <li>• <b>Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision of the Child Care Leave Law (legal establishment of the Family Care Leave System)</li> </ul>	
1996		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Liaison Conference for the Promotion of Gender Equality (Egalite Network)</li> <li>• Formulation of the Plan for Gender Equality 2000 - The National Plan of Action for Promoting a Gender - equal Society by the Year 2000</li> </ul>	
1997		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Council for Gender Equality by Law</li> <li>• Revision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law and related laws</li> <li>• Promulgation of the Law concerning Long-term Care Insurance System</li> </ul>	
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting (Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for Women 2000 General Assembly) (Bangkok)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promulgation and enforcement of the Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society</li> <li>• Promulgation and enforcement of the Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas</li> </ul>	
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly "Women 2000" (New York)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality</li> </ul>	
2001		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the newly formed Council for Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bureau</li> <li>• Enforcement of the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims</li> <li>• The first Gender Equality Week</li> <li>• Cabinet Decision on the Policy on Support Measures for the Balancing of Work and Child Raising</li> <li>• Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women decided by the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality</li> </ul>	
2002		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convening of the Advisory Council on Assistance to Women in Afghanistan</li> </ul>	
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEDAW 29th Session: Consideration of Japan's fourth and fifth periodic reports on implementation of the Convention (New York)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Promotion of Measures to Support Women's Challenges</li> </ul>	
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting (Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for "Beijing+10") (Bangkok)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Enlargement of the Recruitment and the Promotion of Female National Public Officers decided by the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality</li> <li>• Enforcement of the amended Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and Protection of Victims</li> </ul>	
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing+10) (New York)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of the Plan of Support for Women's Renewed Challenges</li> <li>• Formulation of the Second Basic Plan for Gender Equality</li> </ul>	
2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting Participation of Female Members in National Advisory Councils and Committees decided by the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality</li> <li>• Revision of Law on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment</li> <li>• Convening of the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting</li> </ul>	

\* The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discriminations against Women