

7. Promotion of Gender Equality in the Fields of Education and Research

Promote and Advance Learning Activities for the Formation of a Gender-equal Society

Appropriate guidance should be provided in school education in accordance with student stage of development about gender equality and mutual understanding / cooperation between both sexes. Also, career guidance for higher education and employment is being amplified to assist both male and female students in acquiring the capacity and attitude to voluntarily choose their own career path in accordance with their own life plan, capacity and aptitude. In social education the aim is to provide opportunities for male and female students to participate in all fields by making the most of their personal qualities and capacities.

Promotion of women's participation in science and technology is listed as one of the areas that need new initiatives in the "Basic Plan for Gender Equality (the 2nd Plan)," and accordingly, support for career guidance to encourage female students at upper secondary schools to study science and technology in higher education is actively being extended.

Promote of women's participation in research fields

Although the percentage of women among all researchers in Japan has been slowly increasing, it still stands at only 13.0% in 2009 and still remains low compared with Western countries. Against this background, measures are being undertaken to assist female researchers to balance research and maternal/childcare responsibilities and make the most of their potential. The government also supports junior/senior high school girls to select science courses.

National Women's Education Center

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) – the only national center for women's education – was established to promote women's education on gender equality and women's empowerment and thereby contribute to realizing a gender-equal society. Pursuant to its objectives, NVEC is actively implementing projects to train core leaders, provide positive research outcomes and studies on issues of urgency, to liaise with facilities and organizations for women's education and to make international contributions for the issue.

In fiscal 2008 the Women's Archives Center was opened to collect, organize and preserve historical materials on women's activities. The Women's Digital Archives System went public on the Internet to provide access to part of the materials owned by the Women's Archives Center.

NVEC continues to build up its various databases and improve its information services. NVEC promotes international exchange with the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE) and other organizations outside Japan, and organizes various activities as a hub for women's education in Asia, including training seminars for administrative officials from developing nations in charge of women's education commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).