

6. Gender Equality in Science and Technology, and Academic Fields

■ Creation of an Environment to Expand Women's Participation in Research

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is conducting “Supporting Activities for Female Researchers” to support efforts to create environments in which female researchers can balance childbirth, child-rearing, and nursing care with research so that they can utilize their abilities to the fullest extent. It is also expanding support through Special Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science so that outstanding researchers can make a smooth return to their research activities after taking a break for things such as childbirth or child-rearing.

■ Encouragement of Female Students' Choice to Science Courses

As a part of its efforts to stimulate young students' interest in science and technology, Japan Science and Technology Agency(JST) conducts a program “Support for female students interested in the science stream” , which encourages female junior and senior high school students to choose science courses. They are provided opportunities to contact with female scientists, engineers and university students active in the science field, to perform scientific experiments, to attend lectures by scientists, etc.