

11. Education, Research, Science Technology and Academic Fields

Education and Research Fields

- The National Curriculum Standards for elementary and lower secondary schools revised in 2017 and for upper secondary schools revised in 2018 continue to emphasize human rights, equality, mutual understanding, and cooperation between men and women; and the importance of respecting families built on mutual cooperation between men and women.
- The 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, decided by the Cabinet in January 2016, pursues the percentage of the employment target for female researchers in the natural science field as a whole to 30%.

Science Technology and Academic Fields

- To increase the number of women science and engineering professionals who will lead the next generation, the government is carrying out “Riko-challe”(Campaign to support choosing STEM fields*) to inspire female students to choose STEM careers. The number of the Campaign’s supporters, including companies, universities, and academic bodies, has reached 792 (as of January 2020). Since FY 2016, a Support Network comprised of members of industry, academia, and government has been developed to promote the exchange of information and strengthen cooperation, with the aim of further accelerating efforts to encourage female students to go into STEM fields.
*STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- With the cooperation of these supporters, the Campaign holds summer events mainly for women junior high and high school students over their summer break, which include hands-on experience, and facility tours, visits to STEM workplaces. In 2019, 100 organizations held 179 events nationwide. Approximately 36,000 people attended the events, including female children and students and their parents and guardians. Additionally, a website was established that publishes information on events, messages from women in STEM who serve as role models, and messages from companies and universities that support women in science and engineering.
- In June 2018, with a view to empowering female students who look to choose science and technology as a career path, the government appointed women from various fields who majored in science and technology as STEM Girls Ambassadors and sends them as lecturers to symposiums held by local governments and schools.
- In 2019, Cabinet Office held events for female students and their parents in ten cities across Japan. The event programs included presentations by STEM Girls Ambassadors regarding their own careers and achievements, presentations by female workers from local companies who majored in science or engineering, and scientific experiment workshops for children held by local companies and universities.



“Riko-challe” (support choosing STEM fields)



STEM Girls Ambassadors