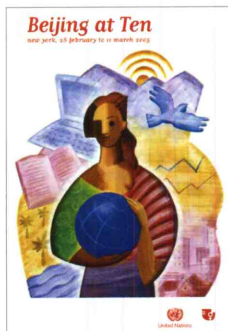


3 International Cooperation

3-1 The 49th Commission on the Status of Women ("Beijing plus Ten," February 28 to March 11, 2005)

The 49th Commission on the Status of Women (49th CSW) was held at the UN headquarters (New York) as a high-level meeting, commemorating the 10th anniversary ("Beijing plus Ten") of the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing Conference) in 1995. Approximately 6,000 participants from more than 160 government delegations, NGOs, etc. attended the CSW session. The Japanese government sent a delegation composed of more than twenty members, including NGO representatives, headed by Parliamentary Secretary NISHIME, Cabinet Office. The Japanese government made a statement on the efforts and the outcomes for achieving gender equality in the ten years since the Beijing Conference. The delegation also took an active part during the CSW session such as



organizing a side-event on "GAD (Gender and Development) Initiative," briefings for Japanese NGOs. The Commission adopted the Declaration in which the representatives of Governments reaffirmed the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" and the "Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly - Women 2000," welcomed the progress made thus far, and called upon the international society to intensify its contributions to the full and accelerated implementation of the outcome documents.

Following the "Beijing plus Ten, the Conference "Beijing 2005: the 10th Anniversary Commemoration of the 4th World Conference on Women" was held from August to September in Beijing, China. This Conference was co-organized by the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council, All-China Women's Federation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and UNDP China Office. About 900 participants from representatives of 80 governments/regions and NGOs attended the Conference. Japan sent two government officials including the Director General of Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office, as well as about twenty NGO representatives. The Director General Natori made a statement on Japan's efforts and outcomes for achieving gender equality.

Poster of UN 49th Commission on the Status of Women (*Beijing plus Ten*)

3-2 Cooperation with International Organizations

1. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW is comprised of 23 experts on women's issues, elected by the meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"). Japan ratified the Convention in 1985 and has been occupying a seat at CEDAW since 1987. Currently, Ms. Fumiko Saiga, the Japanese ambassador to Norway, is the representative of Japan with a four-year office term from 2002 to 2006.

States Parties of the Convention are obligated to submit a report regularly on implementation of the Convention. Japan has submitted its periodic report five times so far, which were considered at the session of CEDAW (the most recent consideration was given in 2003). Regarding the "Concluding comments of the Committee," released by CEDAW in 2003, on the consideration of the Japan's periodic report, the Japanese government implemented monitoring and follow up activities through a specialist committee under the Council for Gender Equality in 2004 and 2005. As the result of these activities, the government compiled policies/measures to be taken in accordance with the recommendations of the concluding comments. In 2006, the government will prepare and submit the sixth periodic report on implementation of the Convention.

2. APEC Gender Focal Point Network Meeting (GFPN)

The Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) was established by agreement at the 2nd APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women. The 3rd GFPN Meeting was held in Kyongju, Republic of Korea, in September 2005. Fifteen member economies including Japan participated in this meeting. The Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office attended the meeting as Japan's GFP (Gender Focal Point) and actively participated in discussions and information sharing with other member economies.

At the meeting, participants compiled recommendations such as (1) request all APEC Fora to appoint a GFP and attend the GFPN meetings; (2) encourage APEC Fora and Member Economies to apply the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC and to note the poor implementation of the Framework; (3) agree that the APEC Secretariat's Gender Integration Program Director be a member of the Secretariat Group assessing Projects seeking APEC funding to ensure that project proposals include gender dimensions. GFPN also agreed to report these recommendations to the APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

3. Workshop on Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming within ESCAP Member Countries' Development Program

In December 2005, the Indonesian government and

ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) co-organized a workshop to enhance gender mainstreaming in the region. Officials from fourteen countries including Japan attended the workshop.

Opening remarks at the workshop were from Indonesian Minister of Women's Empowerment and

ESCAP director in charge, followed by the three thematic sessions: (1) national machinery and the achievements of MDGs; (2) emerging issues and the role of national machinery; and (3) partnerships with NGOs and civil societies. At the end of the workshop, Participants adopted a recommendation for enhancing gender mainstreaming.

3-3 Announcement of the "Initiative for Disaster Reduction through ODA"

Japan announced the "Initiative for Disaster Reduction through ODA," at the United Nations' World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe in January 2005. This Initiative illustrates basic policies and concrete measures of Japanese ODA on disaster reduction, of which Japan has a comparative advantage. The initiative recognizes "Gender perspective" as one of the basic policies, and expresses that Japan will provide assistance based on a gender perspective in respect of all aspects of cooperation on disaster reduction. In developing countries, women are more vul-

nerable to disasters than men due to gender disparities in various aspects such as participation in political decision-making and socio-economic activities and access to information. Therefore, with the view to enhancing women's awareness and abilities against disasters on a routine basis, Japan will support developing countries with the social services that strengthen protective measures for women during emergencies. Japan will also encourage women's participation in development planning and disaster reduction planning in their community.

3-4 Best Practices of ODA Programs incorporating a Perspective of Gender

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) implemented the Kilimanjaro Agrotechnician Training Center Program to improve the productivity of wet-rice agriculture through training programs for farmers and agricultural counselors. To improve the effectiveness of this aid program, JICA is attentive to gender equality in the following two areas: equal work-sharing between men and women in production/reproduction activities, and gender equality in accessing and managing household revenues and expenditures. Recognizing that women assume heavier work burdens in gathering firewood and removing weeds in agricultural fields, JICA has facilitated the installation of improved heat-efficient furnaces and simple hoeing machines. After introducing hoeing machines that contributed to productivity improvement, male farmers also began assisting women with weed removal. As a result, the improvement in agricultural techniques has increased the productivity of rice cropping, and encouraged incentives for both men and women to work.

JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) also implemented the Western Bangladesh Rural Infrastructures Improvement Program to narrow the gap between urban



People using hoeing machines introduced by Japan's ODA in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania



Women engaging in plantation, Bangladesh

and rural areas by improving infrastructures, such as roads and markets in low-income rural areas. This program has contributed to low-income women's economic empowerment by encouraging the participation of women. Specifically, the program aims at organizing women's groups, and providing training sessions on necessary tree plantation skills. Such training enables women to plant trees, which are necessary for enhancing roadsides after constructing or improving road infrastructures. These efforts are expected to expand the income-generating opportunities for women in low-income rural areas, which will encourage poverty reduction in these areas.

3-5 GAD Related Training Programs in 2005

	Training Program	Period	No. of trainees	Target
1	OISCA Rural Life Improvement and Community Development for Women	Jan 17 - Dec 16	15	Advocates of agriculture and lifestyle improvement and/or local female supervisors
2	Seminar on Women in Environment and Development	Jan 17 - Mar 9	9	Government officials and NGO workers in charge of environment conservation and/or women issues
3	Seminar on local educational administration(Sub-sahara African countries) II	Jan 18 - Feb 20	12	Central/Local government officers in charge of administration of local education
4	Seminar on gender understanding in fishing community development	Jan 23 - Mar 9	7	Central/Local government staff, fishing community leader or NGO staff
5	Seminar on Women's Entrepreneurship Development - Training for program managers	Feb 8 - Mar 13	10	Government officials and NGO workers promoting economic empowerment of women
6	Seminar on Promotion of Education for Girls and Women	Feb 13 - Mar 13	10	Government officials and managerial staff in charge of developing and promoting education for women and girls

7	Community Health Services	Mar 28 - Jul 15	13	Government officials and NGO workers with experience in administration of public health programs
8	Counter-measure for Improvement of Maternal & Health Indices II	Apr 26 - Jun 13	9	Physicians and/or senior medical officers involved in formulating national policies for public health and medical treatment
9	The role of agricultural cooperatives to be played in activation of rural economy	May 11 - Jul 11	13	personnels engaged in the offices of cooperative service and expected to work in cooperative movement
10	Human resources development in the field of maternal and child health	May 18 - Jul 11	9	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.
11	Farming management in upland crops area	Jun 6 - Aug 8	9	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
12	Seminar on Policies to Mainstream Gender for Government Officers	Jun 14 - Jul 18	12	Government officials engaged in formulating policies to improve the status of women
13	Integrated Agriculture and rural development through the participation of local farmers II	Jun 22 - Aug 1	10	Regional government or local public officer engaged in the field of agricultural and rural development
14	Planning for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health	Jun 22 - Jul 16	14	planning, and implementation of adolescent reproductive and sexual health education programs
15	Planning of Fisheries Community Development	Jul 6 - Oct 2	7	The government officers who have experiences in fisheries development
16	Seminar on Agricultural and Rural Development	Jul 20 - Aug 28	10	Central/Local government officers who take charge of regional promotion or rural development in agricultural sector
17	Reproductive Health Seminars for NGO Senior Officers	Aug 31 - Sep 26	13	Senior government officials and NGO workers responsible for the administration, planning, and implementation of RH/Family Planning programs
18	Empowerment of Rural Women II	Aug 30 - Nov 6	12	Technical experts and government officials in charge of providing support to rural women
19	Project planning and management in participatory local social development	Sep 27 - Nov 15	9	personnels engaged in the social development projects in their countries
20	JICA-NGO Partnership training course on practical participatory rural development	Oct 4 - Nov 14	12	Leaders or project managers of local/national NGOs engaged in rural development projects in their countries
21	Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II	Oct 25 - Nov 26	10	Senior officials of national machineries promoting gender equality
22	Nutrition and Diet Improvement for Women Leaders II	Nov 9 - Dec 11	8	Officials of national and public institutions involved in providing guidance on nutrition, hygiene and improved dietary habits

3-6 JICA Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II / Model Project on Political and Institutional Support for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Cambodia

I. JICA Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II

The Cabinet Office and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a "Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality II" from October 25 to November 26, 2005.

The Seminar aims at contributing to the development of human resources for strengthening the functions and mandates of national machineries, and thus promoting gender equality and the advancement of women in developing countries.

Ten participants from eight countries in Asia, Africa etc. attended lectures on the Japanese government's policies, measures, as well as those taken by local governments and NGOs, for achieving gender equality. Participants also had active discussions among themselves, site visits, and exchanging information and opinions on the measures taken by



Participants of JICA Seminar listening for lecture.

national machineries in their home countries. One of the outcomes of this Seminar is the Action Plan for the promotion of gender equality, which each participant prepared to implement after returning home.

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

To contribute to the promotion of ODA programs from the viewpoint of gender equality, the Cabinet Office has been conducting "Model Project on Political and Institutional Support for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Cambodia" since 2005. Aiming to provide comprehensive political and institutional supports to Cambodia's efforts on gender mainstreaming, the Cabinet Office accepts trainees in Japan, dispatches its staff to hold local seminars/workshops etc., under the framework of JICA Technical Cooperation Project Scheme. In 2005, the Cabinet Office held the local seminar on violence against women through this Model Project.

3-7 UNDP/Japan WID Fund 10th Year Anniversary Symposium

In November 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) held the "UNDP/Japan WID Fund 10th Year Anniversary Symposium" in Tokyo under the auspices of

the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and in cooperation with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and JBIC (Japan Bank for International

Cooperation). While commemorating the 10th anniversary of UNDP/Japan WID (Women in Development) Fund (JWIDF) established by Japan in 1995, this symposium aims at evaluating past project activities and sharing experiences and lessons learned among participants. One hundred and fifty participants such as government officials, embassy staff in Tokyo and NGOs attended the symposium.

Shigekazu Sato, Director-General, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA gave the opening speech, saying that Japan would further strengthen its partnership with the UNDP and make additional efforts to contribute to

gender equality in developing countries. After explaining the government's efforts to achieve gender equality inside the nation, Kuniko Inoguchi, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs expressed her views. She said it was necessary to focus on the roles of women and local communities in poverty reduction.

With regard to a perspective of gender, the Japanese government announced the "GAD (Gender and Development) Initiative" in March 2005 for actively support ODA programs from a perspective of gender, in accordance with the Initiative.

3-8 Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality 2005

Aiming at encouraging gender equality from global perspectives, the Cabinet Office held the symposium titled "Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality 2005" by inviting gender equality experts from nations/organizations that share common issues with Japan.

[Tokyo Symposium]

- Venue: the Center for the Advancement of Working Women (CAWW), Minato-ku, Tokyo
- Participants: approx. 220

Tokyo Symposium was held on November 17 with theme "Further Actions and Initiatives towards Gender Equality." At the beginning, Prof. Inoguchi, Minister of State for Gender Equality gave her opening remarks, saying that Japan puts a top priority on achieving gender equality and that cooperation and support from every Japanese citizen are definitely necessary to achieve this goal.

Then, H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia gave a keynote speech on Cambodia's efforts, achievements and challenges in realizing gender equality and improving women's status. Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the Secretary General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations made another keynote speech on the UN's gender equality efforts, achievements, and challenges since the 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. After that, panelists at home and abroad (Ms. Vibeke Abel, Deputy General Secretary, Head of Department of Gender

Equality, Kingdom of Denmark; Dr. Pawadee Tonguthai, Co-convenor, Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW); and Prof. Yozo Yokota of International Law at Chuo Law School, Chuo University) made their presentations and discussed each other. To conclude the symposium, coordinator Yoriko Meguro, Professor of Sophia University, Japanese Representative of UN-CSW pointed out the necessity to take realistic approaches such as relating gender equality with economic policies; sending "win-win" messages. She also stressed the importance of effective partnerships between government and NGOs.

[Fukui Symposium]

- Venue: The Lifelong Learning & Women's Center (You-I Fukui), Fukui City, Fukui
- Participants: approx. 220

On November 19, the Fukui Symposium was held with the same theme as the Tokyo Symposium. The symposium had keynote speeches by H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia and Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the Secretary General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations. Then, participants listened to presentations and discussions of/between panelists: Ms. Fusako Fujiwara (journalist), Ms. Sumiko Masano (Director, The Lifelong Learning & Women's Center) as well as the coordinator Makiko Arima (Adviser to Yokohama Women's Association for Communication and Networking).

Ms. Fujiwara pointed out that changes in perceptions of men & women as well as in society are much slower than those of legislations/programs on gender equality. Ms. Masano reported on the state of formation of a Gender-equal Society in Fukui and the achievement/challenges of their efforts. To conclude the symposium, Ms. Arima pointed out the importance of the concept "Think globally, act locally," learning from foreign countries experiences.



Panel discussions at Tokyo Symposium



Ms. Rachel MAYANJA, Secretary General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations (keynote speaker)



H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha PHAVI, Minister of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia (keynote speaker)

3-9 Partnership and Cooperation with Nordic Countries

Japan actively promotes collaboration with Nordic countries such as Norway, which are recognized as advanced countries in gender equality, by co-organizing events on the issue.

1. Norway-Japan Joint Seminar on Gender Equality "Promoting Gender Equality-Public and Private Sector Strategies"

Commemorating the centennial of Japan-Norway diplomatic relations, the Norwegian Ministry of Children

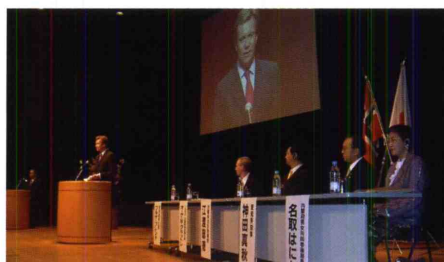
and Family Affairs, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tokyo, and the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office organized the Norway-Japan Joint Seminar on Gender Equality on April 10 in Aichi Prefecture, the venue of EXPO 2005 Aichi, Japan. Following a message from the HRH Crown Prince Haakon, remarks by Parliamentary Secretary Eto of the Cabinet Office and Governor Kanda of Aichi Prefecture, Mr. Brende, Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry, and Ms. Natori, Director General of Gender Equality Bureau made keynote speeches on "Women's

Roles in the Era of a Declining Birthrate, an Aging Population and a Decreasing Working Population-Supports for Balancing Work and Family Life through Industry-Academic-Government Cooperation." Afterwards, representatives from Japanese and Norwegian national machineries, the private sector and labor unions attended the active panel discussions and confirmed that the two nations would continue collaboration for improving gender equality measures with each other, through sharing their best practices on specific topics related to gender equality.

2. Round Table Meeting between the Nordic Countries and Japan

On July 1, the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office and the Nordic Council of Ministers organized the Round Table Meeting, with the theme "Gender Equality and the Demographic Challenge - Nordic and Japanese Experiences, at the Royal Norwegian Embassy. After Chief Cabinet Secretary Hosoda explained Japan's status and efforts on gender equality and the demographic challenge

at the beginning of the session, Ms. Davøy, Norwegian Minister of Children and Family Affairs and Ms. Arnljotsdottir, Icelandic Vice Minister of Social Affairs, reported on the completed childcare leave program of each country. According to their presentations, these programs have contributed to achieving gender equality and mitigating a declining birthrate. Afterwards, Japanese and Nordic experts, including the above mentioned two reporters actively exchanged their opinions and information in questions and answers session.



Keynote Speech of Minister Brende

3-10 Seminar for Promotion of Education for Girls and Women

The National Women's Education Center (NWECC) held the "Seminar for Promotion of Education for Girls and Women" for four weeks from February 13 to March 13, 2005. NWECC has been organizing this seminar every year since FY2001. In 2005, ten participants from ten countries attended the seminar (NWECC will hold this seminar from February 12 to March 12, 2006).

The participants attended lectures and discussions on Japan's educational programs, and presented their own country reports. In addition, they visited Japan's elementary, junior high, and girls high schools. At the end of the seminar, partici-



Seminar participants with President Kanda and NWECC staff

pants prepared Action Plans for identifying problems that prevent girls' education, formulating specific policies/ approaches on educational reforms in their own country. They utilized all the experiences and knowledge obtained/learned throughout the seminar for preparing them.

3-11 International Training Course on Processing Women's Information

The National Women's Education Center (NWECC) held an "International Training Course on Processing Women's Information" for ten days from December 2 to 11, 2005. The course provides training sessions on women's information-processing for female government officials and female NGO leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan. This year, 30 trainees from 18 countries (including Japan) participated in this program.

This year program puts emphasis on how to effectively

send messages on women's issues in participants' home countries, utilizing gender statistics. During the first half of the training course, participants prepared leaflets of gender statistics. In the second half, they developed websites. To deepen their understanding on Japan's women-related facilities and women's issues, participants also visited Tokyo Women's Plaza and U.N. University Library. As a part of the training program, they attended NWECC's "International Forum on Women's Learning," held on December 10 and 11.

3-12 International Forum on Women's Learning

On December 10-11, the National Women's Education Center (NWECC) held its "International Forum on Women's Learning." The theme was "Disaster and Women's Empowerment."

During the morning events on the first day, the forum presented keynote speeches by Keiko Kiyohara, Director, Hyogo Prefecture; Jean D'Cunha, Regional Programme Director, East & Southeast Asia Regional Office, UNIFEM; and Akihisa Matsuno, Professor, Osaka University of Foreign Studies (representative of the Japan NGO Network on Indonesia (JANNI)). That afternoon, the forum held three section meetings for reports and discussions.

During events on the second day, the forum held the

symposium "Strategies for Disaster Prevention, Reduction, Rehabilitation and Support through Gender Equality" moderated by Yasuko Aikawa, editorial writer of Kobe Shimbun, as well as other experts from home and abroad.

During these two days, the forum yielded productive dialogues as participants actively exchanged their viewpoints.

Panelists are discussing the topic "Strategies for Disaster Prevention, Reduction, Rehabilitation and Support through Gender Equality."

