

11. International Collaboration /Cooperation

Promotion of the formation of a gender-equal society is closely linked to efforts by the international community. The Basic Act for a Gender-equal Society upholds “international cooperation” as one of the basic principles for the formation of a gender-equal society.

Collaboration with the United Nations and other international organizations

Efforts are being made to incorporate international standards and criteria as well as guidelines for initiatives for the advancement of the status of women in domestic initiatives, such as the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and discussion at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2009, the Sixth Periodic Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, submitted by Japan in 2008, was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following its deliberation, the Committee published its concluding observations on the Japanese government’s report.

The APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) meeting has been held once a year in a country hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings of the year, for women who have taken on leadership positions in the economic sector and other sectors in the APEC region. Japan will serve as the chair of APEC in 2010 and the WLN will accordingly convene its next meeting in Japan.

International Cooperation

- **The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting**

On the initiative of Japan, the first East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting was convened in Tokyo in 2006. The second meeting was held in New Delhi (India) in 2007, followed by a third meeting in Seoul (South Korea) in 2009.

- **PR activity**

To introduce initiatives being undertaken in Japan for gender equality, the Cabinet Office produces information brochures in English for distribution to the governments of foreign countries and to international organizations.

- **Bilateral cooperation**

The Cabinet Office invites intellectuals from abroad and organizes seminars.

In implementing Official Development Assistance (ODA), based on the “Initiative on Gender and Development (GAD)” formulated in 2005, in addition to the assistance Japan has traditionally provided for projects with a focus on the three priority areas of education, health, and economic and social participation, Japan is stepping up assistance to projects aimed at promoting gender equality and advancement of women, while respecting the ownership of developing countries.