

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”(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 756 (as of January 2019). To further accelerate the efforts for encouraging women students to choose STEM, the Support Network comprised of members of industry, academia, and government is being developed on a full-scale basis since FY2016.

*STEM: Science, Thchnology, 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 visits to STEMworkplaces, hands-on experience, and facility tours. In 2018, 123 organizations held 165 events nationwide. Approximately 24,000 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, an event entitled “How will your life change depending on your future course? Science course will make you have greater choice for the future 2018” was jointly held by Cabinet Office, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Aimed at junior-high and high school girls, parents and guardians, and educators, the event served to enhance interest and understanding regarding the “future image of choosing STEM career” through experts, female researchers and engineers excelling in the field.
- In June 2018, the STEM Girls Ambassadors initiative was started. The ambassadors serve as diverse role models to generate momentum in society for encouraging female students to choose STEM careers.



“Riko-challe” (support choosing STEM fields)



STEM Girls Ambassadors