

## Message from the President of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality



Prime Minister and President  
of the Headquarters  
for the Promotion of Gender Equality  
**Junichiro Koizumi**

[Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office]

Women's active participation in various societal fields will generate new ideas and sense of values, give positive impacts on men's activities, and lead to the energizing of Japanese society as a whole. Promoting gender equality is bearing an important part in the Japanese government's current policy, "structural reform in our daily life" to create a new society where all citizens will look to the future with hope and peace of mind.

The Japanese government is supporting the challenging spirit of women so that they will be able to perform active roles in various fields, such as starting their own businesses and contributing to rural development activities. The government is also pushing ahead with support measures for the balancing of work and child-raising, including the "Campaign for a Zero Waiting List for Day-Care Centers" to increase capacity at day-care centers in Japan.

To create a gender-equal society where all people will be able to perform to the best of their potential regardless of their gender, the Japanese government will continuously work in collaboration with local governments and voluntary bodies.

## Message from the Minister for Gender Equality



Chief Cabinet Secretary  
and Minister for Gender Equality  
**Hiroyuki Hosoda**

Under the strong leadership of the Cabinet, the Japanese government has been taking gender equality measures by enhancing the national machinery, such as appointing the Minister for Gender Equality in 1992 as well as establishing the Council for Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bureau within the Cabinet Office in 2001.

As for contribution to the international community, the Japanese government revised its ODA Charter in 2003. The basic policies of the revised ODA Charter place a priority on the perspective of gender equality as an important issue that should be taken into consideration at every phase of Japan's ODA, from policy formation to implementation. Moreover, the Japanese government newly established "Initiative on GAD (Gender and Development)", that clearly defines basic approaches at above mentioned phase, such as enhancing gender analysis and encouraging women's active participation. By implementing ODA projects based on these policies, Japan intends to contribute further to gender mainstreaming in the world.

In the *Ten-Year Review and Appraisal Meeting*, Japan will actively contribute to ensure the success of this meeting by providing knowledge and experiences obtained from actions undertaken, such as reinforcement of national machinery. Paying due attention to new perspectives raised during the *Ten-Year Review and Appraisal Meeting*, Japan will further promote policies and measures in order to achieve gender equality both within and outside our nation.