

Concept Note

Side Event of the 67 Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)

Title: Transforming Innovation and Technology to Empower Women and Girls

Subtitle: Is Establishing New Faculties of Engineering at Women's Universities the Panacea for Gender Equality?

Date/Time: March 7 (Tues) 19:00~20:30 (EST) , March 8 (Wed) 9:00 ~10:30 (JST)

Organizer: The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, International Women's Year Liaison Group (IWYLG), JAWW (Japan Women's Watch), The National Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs

Purpose and Outline:

In digital age, we expect one's contribution to society will be assessed not by physical strength, but by one's intellectual capacity. Japanese women had some access to higher education under sex-segregated education system. Even after 1946, when the system was integrated, very few women received tertiary education. The ratification of CEDAW in 1985 opened some choices for women to participate fully in labor force but gendered social norm persisted at workplace as well as at home, forcing women to do "double shifts" and refrain from becoming scientists, engineers and researchers. The Government has recently adopted policies encouraging women's universities to establish faculties of engineering, and to increase the number of female professors and students. We acknowledge that it is very important in digital age that more women actively participate as scientists, engineers and innovators. To innovate and transform old system, not only should there be critical mass of minorities, but society as a whole shall have to alter itself to transcend the present norm.

Moderator: Dr. Masako KAMIYA/Professor of Law, Gakushuin University

Panelists & Titles:

1. Ms. Sayaka TANAKA/ Waffle Co-Founder
"Closing the Gender gap by Empowering and Educating Women in the Technology Field"
2. Ms. Akemi SAITO/ Waffle Co-Founder
"On the Way to Normalize Women in the Tech"
3. Mr. Takashi MATSUMOTO/Senior Specialist Lead of Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting/
Visiting Researcher, the University of Tokyo
"Considering AI Service Management from Multi-stakeholder Values"
4. Dr. Atsuko SANO/ Project researcher of the B'AI Global Forum / Interfaculty Initiative in
Information Studies (III) at the University of Tokyo
"Digital Transformation towards Gender Equality"
5. Mr. Najibullah KOHISTANI/ Program Manager, JICA Afghanistan Office
"JICA's Cooperation for Women's Education in Afghanistan"