

The first International Symposium of the Female Scientists Supporting Unit (FSSU) at Nihon University funded as a Supporting Activity for Female Researchers by the MEXT's Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology

***Beyond the Bias and Barriers:
Maximizing the Potential of Women in Science and Engineering***

1. Objectives:

In this Symposium, we will review and learn “how to maximize the potential of women in Science and Engineering”, especially focusing on the systems to accelerate recruitment and training of excellent female researchers. We will learn from lessons in the United States and Germany, as well as from the Japanese companies who have global-networks all over the world. We will also review the status of the female scientists in the scientific communities and universities in Japan including Nihon University and will identify issues to be solved. Advanced lessons of positive actions ongoing in several universities under the MEXT's Special Coordination Funds will be encouraging for all of us.

2. Keynote Speakers: Maximizing the Potential of Women in Science and Engineering

Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi, Former Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs,
Member of the Science Council of Japan

Dr. Hideko Kunii, Executive-Chairman of RICOH IT Solutions Co., Ltd.

Dr. Iris Wieczorek, Director, German Research Foundation (DFG), Japan Office

Prof. Patricia Rankin, Associate Vice Chancellor, Faculty Diversity and Development, Office of Diversity,
Equity and Community Engagement, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

3. Issues presenters

Dr. Chikako Yoshida-Noro, Assoc. Professor of the Graduate School of Industrial Technology, Nihon University

Dr. Eriko Johtaki, Assoc. Professor, Office for Strategic Research Planning / Research Institute for Applied
Mechanics, Kyushu University

Dr. Sanae M. M. Iguchi-Ariga, Professor/Vice-Executive, Head of the Support Office for Female Researchers,
Graduate School of Agriculture / Graduate School of Life Science, Hokkaido University

Dr. Botaro Hirosaki, EPMEWSE Chairperson, Senior Executive Vice President and Member of the Board,
NEC Corporation

4. Discussions

chaired by Prof. Ohtsubo: Keynote speakers and issue presenters

5 . Time table

Chaired by Assoc. Prof. Hitomi Kumagai

14:00 - 14:05 Welcome Speech: Prof. Takeo Sakai, President of Nihon University

14:05 - 14:10 Opening Remarks: Prof. Hisako Ohtsubo, Head of the Female Scientist Supporting Unit

14:10 - 15:30 Keynote speeches (20 minutes each)

15:40 - 16:20 Issues identified by Assoc. Professors Noro, Johtaki, Professor Ariga and Dr. Hirosaki
(10 minutes each)

16:35 - 17:35 Discussions chaired by Prof. Ohtsubo: Keynote speakers and issues presenters

17:35 - 17:40 Closing Remarks: Prof. Noriko Kohno-Hirata