

Overview of the  
2019 Forum on the Promotion of Gender Equality

1. Objective

The forum will bring together in one place government representatives responsible for promoting gender equality, leaders of women's organizations and nonprofit organizations, and persons responsible for promoting diversity and the participation of women in university and corporate organizations and will hold seminars for sharing issues and exploring solutions for these. At the same time, the forum will promote the formation of networks for promoting gender equality through integrated collaboration and cooperation across organizations and fields.

2. Theme

*Towards a New Tomorrow: Creating a Supportive Society for Both Men and Women*

3. Schedule

August 29, 2019 (Thursday) – August 31 (Saturday)

4. Sponsor and Venue

National Women's Education Center (NVEC)

5. Participants

People with an interest in gender equality (including persons involved in the promotion of gender equality in government, corporate and university organizations, nonprofit organizations and staff of women's organizations and gender equality centers)

1,000 participants

6. Details

Day 1: August 29 (Thursday)

(1) Opening: Welcome address by NVEC 13:00 – 13:15

(2) Special Lecture and Discussion Session 13:15 - 15:00

*My Mother Beate Gordon's Wish " Gender Equality into the Japanese Constitution"*

Beate Sirota Gordon worked tirelessly to have the principles of social security and gender equality included in the text of Japan's Constitution at the time of its drafting. Her tenacious efforts are said to have resulted in establishing the foundation for Japanese women to

participate in society in postwar Japan. Professor Nicole A. Gordon, the daughter of Beate and also a legal scholar, will give an address on her mother's views and ideals which are embodied in Japan's Constitution and her mother's subsequent activities in Japan following her work on the Constitution. In the discussion to follow, participants, together with Professor Miyoko Tsujimura, a constitution specialist who is also familiar with Beate's activities, will consider issues in the promotion of gender equality today while reflecting on the role Beate played in Japan and its historical significance.

Lecturers:

Nicole A. Gordon

Faculty Director of the CUNY Baruch College Executive MPA Program/Attorney/Eldest daughter of Beate Sirota Gordon

Miyoko Tsujimura

Professor of Meiji University Graduate School of Law/Honorary Professor at Tohoku University /Attorney

Interviewer/interpreter: Eiko Otake, performing artist

(3) Workshop 1 & Panel Display 1 15:30 – 17:30  
Workshops and panel displays on themes submitted from all over Japan

(4) Buffet Dinner Party 18:30 – 20:00  
Participants from all over Japan will have the opportunity to engage in further discussion and social interaction at a stand-up buffet dinner party  
Cost: 3,500 yen (including consumption tax)

Day 2: August 30 (Friday)

(5) Workshop 2 & Panel Display 2 10:00 – 12:00  
Workshops sponsored by NWEAC, workshops and panel displays on themes submitted from all over Japan

(6) Symposium 13:15 – 15:00  
*Twenty years on from the establishment of the Basic Law for a Gender Equal Society – Participation of women in the political field! Now is the time to meet the challenge!*

Twenty years have passed since the establishment of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society. In Japanese society, where there has been little effective progress in equality despite

improvement in legislation, last year the government promulgated and implemented the Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field, and signs of some progress are becoming evident. The question now is: *What kinds of initiatives will be effective in promoting progress in all areas of Japan?* In light of outcomes and issues over the past 20 years, Professor Mari Osawa, who was involved in the drafting of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society, will provide an opportunity for participants to consider the significance of increasing the participation of women in government as a specific method for promoting gender equality and the process of its realization from both a theoretical and practical perspective.

Symposiasts:

Mari Miura, Professor, Sophia University Faculty of Law

Ms. Hiroko Kawai, Manager, Gifu Foundation for Promoting Education and Culture, Gifu Women's Center

Ms. Azusa Mishima, Reporter, The Asahi Shinbun

Coordinator: Mari Osawa, Former Director, Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo, Executive Director and Vice President, The University of Tokyo

(7) Workshop 3 & Panel Display 3

15:30 – 17:30

Workshops sponsored by NVEC as well as workshops and panel displays on themes submitted from all over Japan

(8) Screening of *I Wrote Gender Equality into the Constitution*

19:00 – 20:20

Documentary presenting the views and ideals of Beate Sirota Gordon

*I Wrote Gender Equality into the Constitution\**

(Introduction of the film by production company Documentary Kubo)

Although “gender equality” is taken for granted today, nothing at all was written into the Meiji Constitution about women’s rights. Therefore, Japanese women should be grateful to Ms. Beate Sirota, who drafted the text regarding “gender equality” in Japan’s Constitution. How was it that a young woman of 22 years of age was entrusted with such an important task? It was because Beate, who came to Japan with her family in 1929 as a young child, grew up witnessing first hand the pitiful status of Japanese women in society. This work, which traces the process of drawing up Japan’s Constitution, is an extremely valuable basic resource on human rights. (Editorial supervision and research: Makoto Iokibe)

\* Japanese title: *Watashiwa Danjobyoudo wo Kenpou ni Kaita*

Day 3: August 31 (Saturday)

(9) Workshop 4 & Panel Display 4

10:00 – 12:00

Workshops sponsored by NWECC as well as workshops and panel displays on themes submitted from all over Japan

(10) Multi-generational World Café 100 people meeting

13:15 – 16:15

Drawing on the knowledge, information, and skills gained during the three-day forum, participants will share information and exchange opinions in a “World Café” format to explore how they can link their knowledge, information and skills to local activities for promoting gender equality from tomorrow onwards. Mr. Masaya Furuse, a leading practitioner of the World Café concept, will serve as the facilitator.

Facilitator: Masaya Furuse, Representative, Furuse Workshop Design Office

7. Workshops and Panel Displays

(1) Objective

During the forum period, NWECC along with organizations and individuals selected through public recruiting will hold workshops and panel displays as venues for presenting ongoing efforts, research, education, learning and practical activities with a view to promoting diversity and women’s participation.

(2) NWECC workshops

NWECC will conduct workshops on learning support, which the center provides, and present practical reports.

1) *Thinking about community building from the viewpoint of gender equality – starting with learning organizer training*

August 30 (Friday) 10:00 – 12:00

“Learning organizers” are essential human resources in efforts for realizing a gender equal society. Learning organizers develop, plan, and deliver effective learning programs organized from the viewpoint of gender equality to solve local problems. At this workshop, NWECC will explain the role of the learning organizer, program design (which serves as the blueprint for learning programs), and the creation of programs for promoting community building. Participants will also be invited to join in a discussion based on practical examples as they consider approaches to planning learning programs from the viewpoint of gender equality.

Lecturers:

Mitsue Matsushita, Representative Director, NPO Gender Equality Forum Shizuoka  
Hiroe Nakano, Visiting Researcher, National Women's Education Center  
Atsuko Kameda, Honorary Professor, Jumonjigakuenjoshi University

Report Presenters:

Takami Aoki, General Planning Bureau, JA Nagano Chuokai

Facilitator:

Emiko Nishiyama, visiting researcher, National Women's Education Center

2) *The world as youth see it, and society from the viewpoint of youth – youth x social welfare*  
August 30 (Friday) 15:30 – 17:30

The young people who participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York will lead in the presentation of reports. After the presentation of reports, participants will be invited to join in a discussion on the possibilities for strengthening transgenerational solidarity.

Report Presenters:

Rina Misawa, Japan Women's Watch (JAWW) CSW63 Youth Support Award Recipient/Circle Yamato Kotoba (Gender Equality Promotion Plaza, Taito-ku, Tokyo registered organization)

Mai Hasegawa, CSW63 Participant/Japanese Association of University Women Supporting Member

Yu Harufuji, Japan Women's Watch (JAWW) CSW62 Youth Support Award Recipient/Representative of Shovel: Severing the Roots of Sexual Violence at Waseda

Coordinator:

Yuki Kusano, JAWW Director, CSW63 Mentor/Secretariat of Project: Japan Women's & Human Rights Network