



Japan Education Forum for Sustainable Development Goals (17th JEF for SDGs)
“Girls’ Education and Innovation”

Background and Objectives

Gender equality and empowerment of women are essential to respect human rights of the individual and to realize sustainable and peaceful society in the world. Education plays an important role in this endeavor, as clearly mentioned in SDG 4.

However, girls and women are still in vulnerable and peripheral positions in various regions throughout the world. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the enrollment ratio of girls in primary to upper secondary levels is low, and 63% of illiterate adults in the world are women. The ongoing COVID-19 has further lowered girls’ enrolment ratio and exacerbated child marriage. Assuring educational opportunities for girls and women, closing gender gaps in education and realizing women’s empowerment are not just educational agenda but a social responsibility.

Turning our attention to the recent trends of digitalization on a global scale, the field of education is also expected to realize quality education through introducing innovative technologies. At G20 summit held in Osaka in 2019, leaders agreed to commit to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training, including providing quality primary and secondary education, improved access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and raising awareness toward eliminating gender stereotypes. In July, 2019, G7 Ministers of Education and International Development adopted the “Gender at the Center” initiative to foster renewed efforts to promote gender-responsive education sector planning. Innovations in education such as distance education also has the potential to improve the situation of gender inequality

Given these circumstances, this year’s JEF for SDGs focuses on girls’ education and innovation from various aspects including challenges surrounding girls’ education including the impacts of COVID-19, STEM education and quality education through innovation. These viewpoints will give opportunities to think about education for people in difficult situations caused by various factors. This forum covers various aspects including the present situation and challenges of policies concerned and education co-operation and assistance. In the keynote speech, impacts of innovation in girls’ education will be validated in light of SDGs’ viewpoint, and we fully expect to have a very meaningful exchange of opinions with the floor during the panel discussion.

Program

Theme : “Girls’ Education and Innovation”

Date : Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 17:00-19:45 (Japan Standard Time)

Form: Online Conference (Zoom)

Organized by: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
Hiroshima University
University of Tsukuba

Supported by: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

*We provide English-Japanese interpretation.

Schedule

16:30-	Registration
17:00-17:10	Opening Session Opening Address: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan Opening Address: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
17:10-17:40	Keynote speech 1 Ms. Khady DIOP MBODJI, General Secretary, Ministry of National Education, Senegal

- 17:40-18:10 **Keynote speech 2**
Prof. KURODA Reiko, Designated Professor, Frontier Research Institute, Chubu University/
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
- 18:10-18:20 Break
- 18:20-19:10 **Panel Session**
Moderator: Prof. FUJITA Teruyuki, Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences / Chair, Master's
Program in Education Sciences, University of Tsukuba
- Panelists:
- Ms. FUJIHIRA Tomoko, Executive Officer, Marketing Group Overseas Business Development
Department, SuRaLa Net Co.,Ltd.
 - Prof. FUJITA Teruyuki, Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences / Chair, Master's Program in
Education Sciences, University of Tsukuba
 - Ms. Shabana BASIJ-RASIKH, Co-founder & President of School of Leadership, Afghanistan
(SOLA)
 - Ms. NAKAJIMA Sachiko, Jazz pianist, Mathematician, steAm, Inc., CEO
(STEM Girls Ambassador, Cabinet Office)
 - Dr. Paula RAZQUIN, Principal Investigator, UNESCO International Institute for Educational
Planning, Office for Latin America
- 19:10-19:40 Discussions, Questions and Answers
- 19:40-19:45 Closing