

The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! 2015

October, 2015

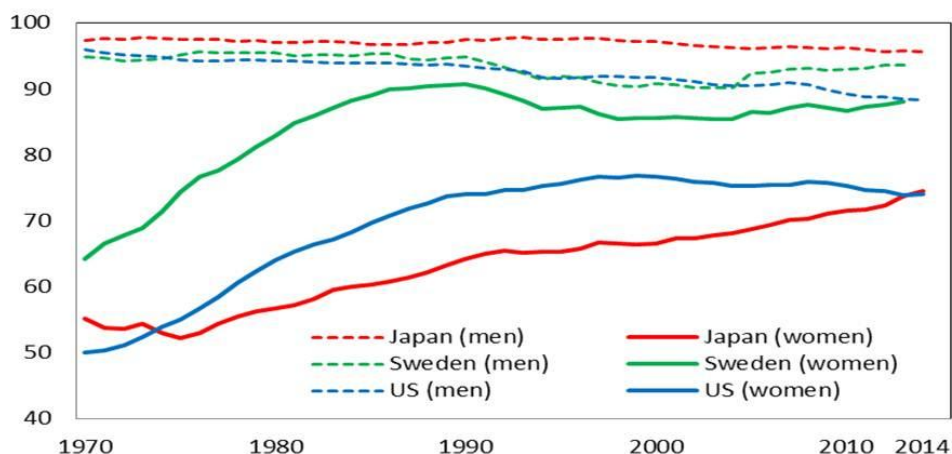


Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office

In August, 2015, the Government of Japan once again hosted "The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! 2015." This symposium is one of the efforts by the Government of Japan to achieve 'A Society where Women Shine', which continues to be one of the Abe Administration's top priorities.

"Abenomics is womenomics," PM Abe said in his opening remarks. "Over the last two and a half years, I have consistently promoted the dynamic engagement of women. Over this time, some one million women have newly entered the labor market, while the number of female corporate board members has also increased by roughly 30 percent." In fact, Japanese women currently participate in the labor force at a higher rate than American women: Sixty-four percent of working-age women in Japan are employed, compared to 63 percent of their American counterparts.

Labor Force Participation Rate



At the open forum on August 28, two keynote speakers, President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and CEO of Lockheed Martin, Marillyn A. Hewson made remarks following PM Abe's speech. Video messages from First Lady Michelle Obama and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde were also delivered.

At the High Level Round Table on August 29, issues which are widely covered both in Japan and around the world, including "Work-Life Balance Management" and "Women and Peace-Building," were discussed in six sessions under the two main themes of "Women and Economy" and "Global Challenges."

[WAW! To DO 2015](#), a document by the Chair summarizes proposals for each session premised on the following six areas:

1. Work-life management
2. Women facing challenges
3. Girls and education
4. Peace building and women
5. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for international cooperation
6. What youth can do to realize the society they visualize

The proposals are based on the ideas from the participants of WAW! 2015 and outline reforms that provide solutions to potential obstacles for women within the work and social environments. WAW! 2015 works toward encouraging implementation of social reforms to empower women in the workforce by:

1. Facilitating dialogue between governments and public sectors
2. Encouraging female and male leaders to enhance women's career development
3. Strengthening civil society services to support women's work-life balance
4. Promoting education to the younger generation that focuses on individual assets and breaking limits imposed by stereotypes

PM Abe revealed his idea to push the agenda on women forward in the Ise-Shima Summit next year. He said "I plan to link the outcome of this year's WAW! into the Ise-Shima Summit. The Connections between women and entrepreneurship, the natural sciences and technology, education and other kinds of empowerment, and health are all examples of themes that I would like to place emphasis on in the context of the G7 in particular."



Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office