

Women Leaders Program to Promote “Well-being in Asia”

Special Open Seminar (co-hosted by Center for the Studies of Higher Education)

Date & time: May 8, 2014 (Thu) 10:30-12:00

Venue: Science & Agricultural Building 3F, Seminar Room SA329

Title: "How to Handle Your Career and Get More Women to the Top"

Speakers: Kajsa Widén, Head of Gender Equality and Diverse Issues, Lund University,
Inger Lövkrona, Emeritus Professor, Division of Ethnology, Lund University

On May 8, 2014, a special open seminar dedicated to the promotion of women leaders in higher education was held at the Science & Agricultural Building in Higashiyama Campus. Visiting lecturers from the Lund University, Sweden, presented the lecture entitled "How to Handle Your Career and Get More Women to the Top" addressing gender issues and, concepts and methods on discrimination of women in higher education. Participants learned about general extent of the gender gap in Japan, with an emphasis on Nagoya University, popular explanations on its existence and The Suitcase method, developed by the lecturers to analyze and change the circumstances caused by existing gender issues. Phenomena described by the terms “the leaky pipeline”, glass ceiling” and “sticky floor” were explained along with the process of “gate-keeping”. Participants learned how discriminatory practices could be hidden and subtle, but also the counter moves to remediate their effects and advance in career. The contents were presented in an easy-to-understand way and through numerous examples. The seminar was attended by the “Well-being in Asia” RAs, students and faculties from Nagoya University and general public. The audience living in Japan was under a great impression of lecturers’ profound understanding of gender equality. After the seminar, many participants stated that the impact would be greater if there was more time for group discussion.



Impressions and opinions

- I realized that compared to other countries, Japan is still at a low level regarding the role of women as active leaders. To change this, I had a strong impression that there is a necessity for the people with higher education, like us, to build their careers. (RA, female)

- After the seminar, I felt a spontaneous need to proactively exchange opinions on gender issues with the people around me. (RA, female)
- I had a good chance to deeply consider careers of women, and realize how late we are with the social advancement of Japanese women. For these reasons, I like taking part in the “Well-being in Asia” Program. (RA, male)
- I want a lot more women leaders in Japan. (RA, female)
- It was very interesting to listen about the gender gap. Thus, having in mind the issues related to it, in the future I want to be aware of what is happening around me. (RA, male)