

# Asian Breeze

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# Women Today

## *Dalian Women's Development after 1995's Conference on Women in Beijing*



王玲洁

President of Dalian Women's Federation in China

Ms. Wang Ling Jie

In 1995, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, when the Chinese government made a solemn commitment to "emphasizing the development and advancement of women, and to treating equally the sexes as a basic national policy of promoting social development," to the international community. For the past fifteen years, under the impetus of the World Conference on Women, Dalian Party committees, governments, mass organizations, and the community conscientiously implemented the "Basic State Policy of Gender Equality." This has effectively promoted the gradual realization of the equity of men and women under the law. Numerous women achieved a comprehensive development of their own while promoting the harmonious progress of economy and society.

Policy making and legislative systems are gradually being optimized. For the past fifteen years, Dalian Party committees and governments have attached great importance to women's careers, and incorporated women's development into the overall planning of economic and social development as well as the government system of public policy. In line with these directions, these entities have fully implemented the women's development plan in Dalian, and are creating a series of policies and regulations to protect the legitimate rights and interests of women. The National People's Congress (NPC) and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) have formulated the "Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women", and carried out works related to enforcement inspections and monitoring of the women's development plan, safeguarding women's legitimate rights and interests as well as development rights. Governments at all levels have established a deliberative coordination body—National Working Committee on Women and Children, and its offices—to promote the career development of women and children. A monitoring and evaluation index system was established, enhancing the target responsibilities of all relevant departments and increasing investment in the development of women's careers.

There is a significant increase in women's participation at the national management level. Human resources of women have been effectively developed. The Dalian Municipal Committee has formulated plans and suggestions regarding training and selecting female cadres as well as female talent projects etc. Women at all levels have actively participated in the administration and discussion of state affairs while offering positive advice and suggestions towards city development.

Women have become an important force for economic and social development. The female labor force has been further liberated through high-tech development; the increase of knowledge based industries and the expansion of tertiary industries including homemaker service. This

has widened the field of women's employment while rationalizing the structure of employment, which gradually enhances the level of employment. A larger proportion of women's work is in the fields of education, healthcare, culture, and art etc. While the ratio of female workers working in the media, legal, IT, and other industries continues to rise. Many women inherit traditional virtues and develop era spirit today. They actively participate in creating campaign, such as building a national civilization city, an environment friendly city, a healthy city, an energy-saving city and so on. These are great contributions to the development of city civilization and harmonious society.

The overall quality of women has also improved significantly. There is rapid development in various types of academic education at all levels as well as vocational skills training targeted toward women. Under economic globalization, cultural diversification and information networking, women study hard and practice actively. Self-development is obviously improved and overall quality is enhanced. In 2008, the average of Women's life expectancy is 83.69 years, and the proportion of women students in higher education reached 52.3%.

Finally, there has been a steady development of women's organizations. Women's federations at all levels have adapted to the situations and tasks as well as new requirements for work development. Women have kept pace with the times and promoted an innovative development of women's work with a genuine attitude. Women's scope of work continues to expand. Various forms of women's organizations have been established within different spheres and populations, such as the community, new economic organizations female workers in high posts, and groups of women in special need etc; constantly improving the women's working network. The quality of cadres in the Women's Federation has been fully enhanced. Through strengthening exchanges and cooperation with international women's organizations, the social influence of the cadres also continues to expand.

We believe that, with the concerted efforts of all sectors of society, the future development of the Dalian Women's Federation will be increasingly faster and better.

### Profile of Wang Ling Jie

Graduated with an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Served as the deputy secretary as well as a party member of the Communist Youth League in Dalian, and the vice chairman of Municipal Youth Federation; the deputy secretary and party member of Dalian Bureau of Information Industry; the deputy director and party member of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Dalian Municipal People's Government; and the chairman as well as party secretary of Dalian Municipal Women's Federation.

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) held its 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women, in the Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center MOVE on November 13 (Sat.) and 14 (Sun.), 2010. The theme was "Child Rearing Environments in the World: Children, Parents and Society."

### ■ Panel Discussion

#### Child Rearing Environments in the World: Children, Parents and Society

The panel discussion featured the following panelists: Singer Ms. Yu Hayami ; Professor Kyungsook Kim, Kongju National University, Korea; and Communications Director Karin Zaugg Black, Office of Economic Development, Seattle, Washington (USA). Invited as the moderator for the panel discussion was Associate Professor Norihisa Tsuneyoshi, University of Kitakyushu, Japan. Each of them gave a presentation from her/his own perspective. The discussion focused on child rearing environments around the world with an emphasis on the differences in the U.S., Korea, Denmark and Japan.



▲Venue (about 400 people participated in)

#### My American Child Rearing

The first presentation was given by the singer Ms. Yu Hayami. She spoke about the realities of child rearing in the U.S. and her own child rearing experiences.

In the U.S., it is increasingly common that a woman called a "doula" supports mothers during their baby's birth. A doula is not a doctor, a nurse or a midwife but a woman who provides support during pregnancy and childbirth. I gave birth to two daughters in the U.S. For both the birth of my first daughter and second, I hired a doula. The doula gave me advice and consultation on how to spend my time during pregnancy. She supported me emotionally and intellectually during my pregnancy and babies' births.

During the early days of having my first daughter, my husband did not help me take care of her so well. But after asking him one day to change her diapers, he gradually learned how to cuddle and bathe the baby, and started doing things on his own. It seems that he wanted to join in child rearing. But he is out working during the day, which means that he has much less time to spend with our children than I do. It is necessary to realize that, while both women and men are prepared to become a mother and father, they have to do so at their own pace.

When our first daughter was still a baby, I asked my

husband to take care of her for a whole day since I had a job far from home, as I do today. At first my husband seemed at a loss what to do. When I returned home, though, he looked quite different from how he did in the morning. His face was that of a father. Moreover, he thanked me for giving him an opportunity to spend time with her alone. I think that women need to give men a chance to become fathers. Bringing up a child also helps in bringing up a mother and father.

A good relationship between parents makes children comfortable. A strained relationship stresses them. Communication between partners for even 15 minutes or 20 minutes daily, can help a couple understand each other, turn a new leaf and keep going.



▲Ms. Yu Hayami

## Balancing Life as an American Working Mother

Subsequently, Communications Director Karin Zaugg Black, Office of Economic Development, Seattle, Washington (USA), gave a presentation on the policies and realities of work-life balance in the U.S.

There are three types of changes that will continue to help make it easier for men and women to balance raising a family with their careers: 1) laws and policy changes; 2) personal changes that individuals and families can make; and 3) changes in the cultural and social changes.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (Federal law) stipulates employees' rights and employers' responsibilities regarding maternity leave for the birth and care of newborn children as well as other types of leaves. Critical "family friendly" policies and services especially for working mothers include not only maternity leave but also high quality healthcare; a supportive environment for breast-feeding; understanding among co-workers; high quality childcare and a childcare support network for fathers.

However, no matter how many policies are developed, in order to ensure a good work-life balance, the important thing is to take care of yourself. In the U.S., it is often said that a happy family comes from a happy mother. Mothers need time to relax, sometimes by going out with their friends. Also, communication between partners is indispensable. Moreover, it is important to share household chores between partners; to communicate closely about schedules; and to make time to be alone as a couple without the children.



▲Ms. Karin Zaugg Black

## Korean Childcare Policies and Experiences

Subsequently, Professor Kyungsook Kim, Kongju National University, Korea, explained about Korean childcare policies and its experiences.

The birthrate in Korea in 2009 was 1.15. It is estimated that if this rate continues, the population of

the country will begin to decrease in 2018. There are now urgent calls for the country to deal with its low birthrate problem.

The emphasis of the country's childcare policies is on the reduction of the financial burden of childcare on parents. The educational expense per a family is several times higher than that of other advanced countries like U.S., France and German. To subsidize child-rearing expenses, the Korean government expanded the number of people who can receive child support to 760,000. This number is about 50% of enrolled children in all childcare facilities in Korea as of March 2010. However, it will be raised to 60% in 2011 and 70% in 2012.

The second most important policy is the provision of necessary child-rearing support services. The government aims to provide as needed services for double-income families, single-parent families and families with challenged children.

A wide variety of support is available: financial support for parents; improvement and increase of nurseries and other facilities; and assistance for parents who cannot use nurseries as well as for single mothers, disabled children and multicultural families.

Professor Kim also spoke about the prevention of child abuse, counseling and educational programs are provided.

The only measure Korea had for preventing child abuse was to offer refuge to abused children. After the amendment of the Child Welfare Law, however, a report system has now been established to allow ordinary citizens to call a child protection facility as soon as they suspect abuse. Within 72 hours after the report, the facility researches the alleged abuse and offers protection, if needed, for the child.

Like Japan, Korea now faces social problems such as a declining birthrate and an aging population. Although the Korean government has increased its budgets related to child rearing, the amounts are still insignificant. However, the means do exist for stopping the birthrate decline. One of the quickest ways to solve this problem is to realize a gender-equal society.



▲Professor Kyungsook Kim

## Child Rearing in Denmark

Subsequently, Associate Professor Norihisa Tsuneyoshi, University of Kitakyushu, Kitakyushu, Japan and moderator of the panel discussion, spoke about child rearing in Denmark.

In Denmark, the birthrate began to decline in the 1960s. Subsequently, it began to increase again in the 1980s. Due to this shift, Denmark was highly evaluated as a country that was able to stop its birthrate decline. As Japan does today, Denmark used to face a problem of too many pre-school children waiting for vacancies at nursery schools. To solve this problem, Denmark established kindergartens without buildings (called “forest kindergartens”). One survey shows that these “forest kindergartens” provide opportunities for children to play in nature. This in turn benefits the children’s emotional stability. Today, even nursery schools and kindergartens with buildings encourage their students to play outside.

In Denmark, men and women are equally guaranteed to have time and opportunities for child rearing by being allowed to take maternity leave and childcare leave. This has encouraged men to change their mindsets about sharing household chores and child rearing work. In terms of career, the rights of workers are protected. Regular working hours are usually from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. By law, the total weekly working hours per person is restricted to 37 hours. A social system has been established to ensure the good health and life of individuals and families, by striking a balance between the quantity and quality of work.

Education up to the university level is available free of charge. When children reach 18 years old, they are regarded as adults. The government provides a scholarship, which a recipient does not need to repay, to enable students to live independently away from their parents.

One characteristic of the country’s measures to stop its declining birthrate is not encouraging women to have children, but promoting education that focuses on children’s individual characteristics. This ensures a balance between child rearing and career as well as encourages both men and women to share household chores and child rearing. People in Japan need to realize that these measures have led to an increase in Denmark’s birthrate.



▲Associate Professor Norihisa Tsuneyoshi

## Differences in Child Rearing Environments in the World

The above four presentations were followed by an open discussion between the panelists and the moderator.

In the discussion, based on her experience, Singer Ms. Yu Hayami pointed out cultural differences in child rearing environments between the U.S. and Japan.

Both the U.S. and Japan are seeing an increase in nuclear families in urban areas. But when I was a child, I lived with my mother and grandmother. As in my case, some people in Japan still live with their grandfathers and grandmothers, or have their uncles, aunts and other relatives in their neighborhood. Japan still has the custom of providing regional support for child rearing, which I think should be highly regarded.

On the other hand, the U.S. has a good physical environment to help parents with their child rearing. Almost all women’s public restrooms have a place to change diapers. Also, compared to Japan, the U.S. has many more outdoor parks where parents can relax with their children. I think that the U.S. has an environment that is conducive to child rearing.

Making a comparison to western countries, Professor Kim referred to the characteristics and challenges of child rearing in Korea, while emphasizing Korean culture.

It is difficult to generalize Asian culture. For instance, the region has many religions, such as Buddhism and Confucianism. In Korea, it has long been believed that the life of a child has already begun when the child is in the mother’s womb. In this regard, prenatal training is respected. Pregnant women listen to relaxing music, watch beautiful pictures and read stories to their unborn babies. The differences on the child rearing policies between Korea and the western countries, often are brought by the historical backgrounds. On the other hand, I think that western countries have many more advanced skills in terms of raising children after they are born.

Today, Korea’s declining birthrate is a serious problem, leading to a substantial increase in money budgeted to solve this matter. However, most of these budgets relate to childbirth. Future challenges include providing support for child rearing. It is necessary also to further the promotion of democracy and gender mainstreaming.



▲During the panel discussion

## Keywords for Creating a Better System, Society and Environment for Child Rearing

Finally, the three panelists respectively chose a keyword that they thought important for creating a better system, society and environment for child rearing.

Yu Hayami indicated that it was impossible to handle child rearing alone. Mothers need their husbands to share household chores; friends to consult with; and someone with experience in child rearing who can listen to their worries. Hayami said that it was important to establish a child rearing network where people can help and thank each other. In this regard, she selected “**network of gratitude**” as her keywords.

Karin Zaugg Black who believes she has exercised the best option of “family and career,” listed “**option**” as her keyword.

Emphasizing that the U.S. birthrate has increased after the creation of environments where women can return to work soon after giving birth, Kyungsook Kim selected



▲Ms. Yu Hayami, answering a question from the moderator

“**women’s value**” as her keywords.

The discussion concluded with remarks by moderator Norihisa Tsuneyoshi. Tsuneyoshi emphasized that Kitakyushu City should create a better environment for child rearing based on the discussion about various child rearing environments in the world.

## American Tips for Successful High School Life!

Given the opportunity to participate as a panelist in the Kitakyushu Conference of Asian Women, Karin Zaugg Black, a KFAW foreign correspondent in Seattle, Washington (USA), also visited high schools in Kitakyushu City and took part in exchange programs with high school students. These programs were attended also by her father and her son, Sam.

Karin Zaugg Black works for the city of Seattle as communications director in the Office of Economic Development.

Having participated in exchange programs herself, she described her American high school life and club activities as well as her study abroad experience in Japan, and the joy of learning a foreign language. She sometimes used English and at other times Japanese. Looking back at her days of studying in Japan, she emphasized that, in order to master a foreign language, it is important to communicate with many people without fear of failure. Also, based on her rescue operation experience as an interpreter of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake which occurred when she was working as a Coordinator for International Relation at Kobe city hall, she noted that it is necessary to study a foreign language on a regular basis. Such training may turn out to be very useful at an unexpected moment.

Students asked many questions, such as “What is the difference in high school life between Japan and the U.S.,” “What motivated you to study in Japan?” and “What is Seattle like?”

It is hoped that these programs provide opportunities for the students to think independently about planning their lives, in terms of how to get involved in their local communities, how to choose their occupations, how to work, and how to strike a balance between family and career.



▲At Kokura Commercial High School, Kokura, Kitakyushu, Japan



▲At Kyushu International University High School, Yahata, Kitakyushu, Japan

# The 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women Day 2, Reports on KFAW Research Activities

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) conducts surveys and research on a wide variety of gender- and women-related problems around the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Four KFAW research groups presented their research results and exchanged opinions with participants, moderated by KFAW Chief Researcher Masami Shinozaki. The detailed results of the research will be published in *Asia Josei Kenkyu*, Vol. 20 (scheduled for publication in March, 2011).



## Approaches to Women's Empowerment: Cases in South Asia

Masako Ota, KFAW Senior Researcher

Empowerment of women has been a key concept since the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women in Beijing and various projects have been conducted for achieving it. The research examines the approaches that are adopted by the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, and SEWA and the Mahila Samakya Programme in India in terms of the physical, psychological, economic, social and political aspects, and considers an effective approach to empower women.



## Female Criminals and Suspects Portrayed by the Japanese Media

Yumi Shikata, KFAW Visiting Researcher (2010)/  
Associate Professor, Miyazaki Municipal University

To clarify how women have been described in recent crime reports in Japan, this study examined crime reports involving women mainly from the newspaper coverage of the past five years. In the case of female victims, the number of reports on personal information has decreased. However, there are more than a few expressions suggesting that victims of sexual crimes may have been the cause. With respect to female suspects, personal information is heavily reported. Also, there are many negative references to gender norms including matters unrelated to the crime.



## Women's Employment Behavior and Social Networks in Kitakyushu and Fukuoka

Katsuhiko Ishikawa, KFAW Research Staff

Questionnaire surveys were conducted in Kitakyushu and Fukuoka cities, Japan, among women with pre-school children regarding their work and networks for child rearing. The surveys' preliminary data analysis indicates that to ensure a balance between career and child rearing, it is important to establish a support network within one's household and relatives. At the same time, the necessity of extending such a network beyond the household and relatives was indicated.



## Social Inclusion of Migrant Women and their Children from Thailand and the Philippines

Yuriko Saito, KFAW Visiting Researcher (2010)/  
Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies,  
Meiji Gakuin University  
Pataya Ruenkaew, KFAW Visiting Co-researcher/  
Researcher



Interviews were conducted among mothers from Thailand and the Philippines who live in Fukuoka Prefecture. It was revealed that there are child rearing problems, such as insufficient child care support, bullying at school, and difficulty in entering high school due to insufficient academic skills. In terms of career development for mothers, the necessity of Japanese language learning, nurseries and career development support was indicated. This study also reported on multicultural coexistence in the city of Essen, Germany.

# World Report Seminar on Domiciled Foreign Women and the Local Community



October 2, 2010

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, KFAW held the World Report “Domiciled Foreign Women and Local Community” at Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center MOVE. Over 130 citizens including NGO/NPO workers, members of women’s group and volunteers joined this seminar. Participants listened intently to panelists’ reports. Three domiciled foreign women who are from China, Indonesia and the Philippines reported on their experiences in Kitakyushu in Japanese.



▲First session  
“World Report”



▲From left, Wu Xiaobei (China), Indriyani Rachman (Indonesia) and Arlene Higashi (the Philippines)

We invited Dr. Cho Hwa Sung from Chungcheongnam-do Women’s Policy Development (CWPD) which concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with



▲Dr. Cho Hwa Sung (CWPD), South Korea

KFAW. He reported on multicultural families and supporting policy for marriage-based immigrants in South Korea. Ms. Tomoko DOI, a panelist as well as Chair of the Council of Women’s Groups of Kitakyushu, emphasized the importance of mutual understanding between citizens and domiciled foreign people.



▲Second session  
“Get-to-know-you Event”

The second session was a get-to-know-you event. We communicated with each other and discussed what we could do. It was a good opportunity to get to know each other better and think about how we socialize with domiciled foreigners.

## ◆Program◆

### ◇World Report◇

- 14 : 05 Reports from panelists  
“My Lifestyle and the Local Community”
- 14 : 10 ○ Ms. Wu Xiaobei (China) Worker at Orio-nishi citizen center
- 14 : 20 ○ Ms. Indriyani Rachman (Indonesia) Auditor student, University of Kitakyushu
- 14 : 30 ○ Ms. Arlene Higashi (Philippine) House wife
- 14 : 45 “Multicultural Family and Supporting Policy for Marriage Immigrants in Korea”  
○ Dr. Cho Hwa Sung Chungcheongnam-do Women’s Policy Development Institute (CWPD)
- 15 : 20 Panel Discussion  
“Domiciled Foreign Women’s Social Participation and the Community Response”
- Coordinator Dr. Keiko Tamura, Professor, University of Kitakyushu
- Panelist Ms. Tomoko Doi, Chair, the Council of Women’s Groups of Kitakyushu
- Above 4 Reporters

### ◇Get-to-know-you Event◇

16 : 10~17 : 00

※You can see all presentation materials from our Web site (<http://www.kfaw.or.jp/report/cat20/2010102.html.en>)

## Voice from a Panelist

Dr. Cho Hwa Sung Research Fellow, CWPDI



It was a memorable journey for me to participate in the KFAW's programs related to its World Report Seminar Event. In addition to the seminar itself, I was involved in other impressive programs, such as visiting Kitakyushu city government and the Kitakyushu International Association as well as joining in an exchange program with the audience of the seminar. Receiving a hearty welcome, I could meet and discuss with not only public officials and experts at KFAW and other organizations, but also ordinary citizens and volunteers of many diverse NGOs.

Thanks to those experiences, I can share my impressions about the Japanese approach to multiculturalism with the readers of this magazine. First, if the Korean policy gives its first priority to female married immigrants among its diverse immigrants, there seems to be no such a policy priority with the same group among immigrants in Japan. In Korea, it is expected that married immigrants can adapt early to Korean society. Alternatively, in Japan, it is expected that there would be no special treatment

among immigrants, regardless of their resident status and origin country.

The most interesting trend concerning this area in Japan was the many senior and activist volunteers who help domiciled foreign women. Even though Korea compared to Japan may develop many useful programs to support foreign residents, it is almost impossible for the Korean approach to be carried out without financial support for participants. Consequently, I felt that the Japanese style of voluntarily participation would continue. And at the same time, it could be applied to the Korean approach for supporting immigrants.

In conclusion, these two countries' experiences seem to be mutually helpful for the development of more creative policies for domiciled foreign women. I would like to express my appreciation to KFAW President Ms. Kuniko Yoshizaki and Mr. Masahiro Nakamura for giving me this very invaluable opportunity. I hope the friendly relationship between KFAW and CWPDI will continue forever.

## KFAW Asian Researchers Network

In FY 2009, the KFAW Asian Researchers Network was established by the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) Research Division in order to further relationships with those engaged in gender research and Asia-focused activities.

The Network helps the general public learn about research results presented by a wide variety of experts in Asia, especially in the northern Kyushu cities of Kitakyushu and Fukuoka.

In FY 2010, three seminars were held from June to August that focused on economic trends in East Asia and women's participation in politics.

### 1st Seminar: Changes in Northeastern Asia and Development of "the East Asia-Mediterranean Economy"

**Date & Time: June 22 (Tue.), 2010, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Lecturer: Yuhei Ogawa, Professor, Department of Commerce, Seinan Gakuin University**

Japan is now experiencing a declining birthrate, an aging population and a decreasing population. Meanwhile, newly industrializing economies (NIEs), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Chinese companies are forming closer relationships with each other, promoting further integration of East Asian markets. Is it possible for Japanese companies, which tend to rely on domestic demand in East Asia, to ensure sustainable development? With this question in mind, Professor Ogawa focused on Kyushu and spoke about its current economic situation and future perspectives. His lecture began with an interesting comparison of economic indicators between the Netherlands and Kyushu, both about the same area size. The lecture provided food for thought, such as why Kyushu's economy is sluggish while Netherlands' has been improving recently. He also described characteristics of China's dramatically

expanding economy while discussing the possibilities of China and Japan working together, presenting data showing the similarities between



Kyushu and northeastern China (in terms of foodstuffs, energy use, heavy and chemical industries, etc.). Moreover, he explained about the Northeast China Revitalization Plan and the Greater Tumen Initiative. As well as China's Western Development campaign, the Northeast China Revitalization Plan was one of China's most important projects for reducing economic disparities in the country resulting from coastal development. The Tumen Initiative was upgraded to a Chinese national project. Professor Ogawa noted the

significance of railroad systems established for the development of infrastructures for northeastern China's growth. He also pointed out the possibilities for the use of

such systems towards revitalizing the distribution systems around the Japan Sea. His lecture was full of interesting perspectives usually unavailable through mass media.

## 2nd Seminar : Women and Politics

**Date & Time: July 27 (Tue.), 2010, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

### When Will Women Participate in Politics? - Female Politicians in Asia

**Lecturer: Keiko Tamura, Professor, Graduate School, University of Kitakyushu**

Professor Tamura noted that establishment of the modern nation-state system in Southeast Asia virtually meant the possibility of a more violent world run by men with a focus on winning wars. She emphasized that it was important to be aware of this trend and the fact that women are often treated as second-class citizens. She then talked about some Southeast Asian women who had appeared on the political arena despite such trend; namely, former President of the Philippines Corazón Aquino; former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma (Myanmar). Professor Tamura emphasized that these women politicians shared certain similarities 1) their husbands or fathers were renowned politicians; 2) they lived in periods when their countries were undergoing big changes such as the replacement of traditional systems and norms; 3) women with fresh images were needed in their countries; and 4) they seldom got involved in the reforms or turmoil in their countries. Professor Tamura described, as the security of the environment, human rights and human beings themselves is increasingly required, the appearance of more women politicians is expected.

### Korean Women's Participation in Politics

**Lecturer: Harumichi Yuasa, Vice President, Kyushu International University**

Professor Yuasa spoke on some interesting topics: what the Korean gender quota system is like and how women's participation in politics has been promoted. In 1995, a proportional representation system was introduced for 10% of the municipality seats under the country's election law. In 2004, this evolved into the mandatory nomination of at least 50% women candidates on the proportional representation list for national council members. The obligation to strive hard to nominate at least 30% women candidates for elections under the constituency system also evolved. Grants are provided to political parties that meet this standard. Professor Yuasa noted, however, that problems still exist. For constituency system elections, parties are not required to meet the standard but merely make an effort towards meeting it. There are also problems regarding the process of running candidates, preliminary elections and power balance as well as women candidates' organizing power and financial strength. He said that results of the country's 18th general elections showed the limits of the system towards increasing the number of women politicians.



## 3rd Seminar: Current Situation and Challenges of the Korean Economy in the Age of Globalization

**Date & Time: August 31 (Tue.), 2010, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Lecturer: Bae Hae-Sun, Professor, Chikushi Jogakuen University**

To explain about economic trends in East Asia, Professor Bae focused on Korea, which overcame the Asian financial crisis in the latter half of the 1990s. She detailed the country's economic measures taken over the past 60 years after liberation. She then explained the development and advancement of economic measures launched in 2008 under current president Lee Myung-bak. Regarding globalization of the Korean economy, she pointed out the positive effects of the country's expansion of foreign businesses and increased dependence on trade. She also noted that, aside from sound economic fundamentals, the trade dependence also includes negative factors as well.

The financial crisis in Asia in the 1990s was followed by the growth of companies such as Samsung, Hyundai, KIA, LG and Lotte. She introduced many global Korean companies, especially Hyundai Motor. Moreover, she also talked about the country's domestic economic problems such as the decline in economic growth, high unemployment rate especially among young people; aging population; the declining birthrate; the decreasing domestic investment rate and the digital divide.





Dijana Tepsic visited Kitakyushu as a participant of JICA training program "Gender Mainstreaming Policies for Government Officers" which KFAW was commissioned by JICA. As a public relations officer for the Gender Center of Republika Srpska, her duties include publicity activities, liaison and coordination, education and public awareness activities, policymaking and production of public relations brochures. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, she participates as a musician in the government's anti-DV campaign.

## Men say NO to violence against Women!

Dijana Tepsic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Gender mainstreaming has improved over the last couple of years because of the efforts of gender institutional mechanisms (Gender Center of Republic of Srpska Government, Gender center of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Agency for Gender equality) in collaboration with other institutions and NGO's. As a result of their work, laws and regulations are harmonized with international binding norms and standards for gender equality. And it is important to emphasize that this practice of gender mainstreaming in a legal framework has greatly improved. Also, the level of awareness about gender equality is higher than before. If we look at the period of last 10 years, we can see that there is improvement in many areas of life and work as a result of gender mainstreaming policies. The most important results were achieved in the following areas:

### Raising the Awareness on Gender Equality:



▲ Campaign "100 years for Gender Equality - Celebration of 8, March"

Different campaigns to promote gender equality are conducted every year: (1) "Family without Violence"-a campaign on prevention and combating domestic violence; (2) "EQUAL for Rural Women"-a campaign for improvement of life quality for rural women; (3) "White Ribbon - Man say NO to Violence against Women and Girls"-a campaign that emphasizes the role of men in combat violence against women and girls; (4) "Choose EQUAL"-a campaign on raising public awareness of the need and importance of greater participation of women in public and

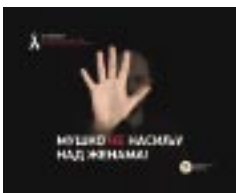
political life; and (5) "100 years for Equality, Celebration of 8, March" campaign. Campaigns were very successful eliciting a great response in the media and general public.

### Labor, Employment and Access to Resources:

Legislation related to labor and employment in the Republic of Srpska are largely consistent with the standards for gender equality. This legislation can also serve as an example of good practice in the region. These laws guaranteed the equality of women and men in the recruitment process and labor relations. They also help realize benefits from employment as well as the principles of equal pay for work of equal value and non-discrimination based on gender and or other grounds. Moreover, these laws help prevent harassment and sexual harassment and mobbing; protection of employees who are pregnant women and or mothers and allowed parental leave for both parents.

### Domestic Violence:

This area has also improved, especially the legal framework to combat domestic violence by adopting the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in 2005 as well as the instituting and implementing of the Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence in the Republic of Srpska. In addition, this improvement includes the campaign "Family without Violence" which is conducted every year. Also, the Strategy to Combat Domestic Violence 2009-2013, which guarantees a better strategic approach to combat domestic



▲ Campaign "White Ribbon - Men say NO to violence against women and girls"

violence, multi-sectored cooperation and alliance of men and women in creating a society free of violence and violations of human rights, has been established.

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### Women in Rural Areas:

To promote women's very important role in society and to improve their quality of life, Gender Center of Republic of Srpska Government conducted a campaign of "EQUAL for Rural Women". This campaign marked the 15th October - World Rural Women's Day. Also, in collaboration with the Republic of Srpska's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the "Action Plan for Improving the Situation of Rural Women 2009-2015" is being carried out.



▲ Campaign - "EQUAL for Rural Women!"

### Public and Political Life:

Analysis has been conducted on the participation of women in political and public life from the viewpoint of binding national and international standards for gender equality. This analysis contains the conclusions and recommendations to improve women's participation in political and public decision making in accordance with normative-legal standards for gender equality. Campaign "Choose EQUAL" was conducted to raise public awareness of the need and importance of greater participation of women in public and political life.

### Gender Action Plan:

The Gender Action Plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2006. It contains 15 areas: European integration in light of gender equality; cooperation and capacity building; macroeconomic and development strategies; gender sensitive budgets; political life and decision-making; employment and labour market; social inclusion; gender sensitive media; lifelong education; health; prevention and protection; domestic violence; gender-based violence; harassment; sexual harassment and human trafficking; the role of men; reconciliation of professional and family life; gender and sustainable environment and information and communication technologies. Due to the lack of finances, this plan was not implemented until 2010. However, with the help of donors, there is now a financial plan which will be implemented by 2014.

Although real progress has occurred in many areas, there is still much work to be done. As gender stereotyping and discrimination still exist, we have to work together for the future of equal rights and equal opportunities for all.



After studying in China and obtaining an Ed.D. in comparative studies of women's education in China and Japan, she chose to pursue a professional career in China, and now works as a foreign expert for a Chinese government agency. Her activities to date include developing friendly ties with Chinese universities, the all-promoting and introducing developments in women's studies in both China and Japan.

## The PRC Marriage Law “Interpretation No. 3” creates new Gender Issue

Keiko Ohama (China)

In November 2010, China's Supreme Court promulgated “Interpretation No. 3 on Several Issues of the ‘Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China,’” which has caused a sensation. The aspect of this “Interpretation No. 3” which has attracted public attention is the question of whether the husband or the wife has legal ownership of their residence. This question is closely related to several topics symbolizing contemporary China such as the sharply increasing divorce rate; rising real estate prices; enhanced citizens' awareness of private property rights and restored traditional family customs.

The divorce rate in China has shown a rapid increase for the seventh year in a row. The total number of married couples who undertook divorce procedures at Civil Affairs Offices in 2009 was 1.713 million - a 10.3% increase over the previous year. The city with the highest divorce rate in China was Beijing at 39%; followed by Shanghai (38%); Shenzhen (36%) and Guangzhou (35%). If the divorce cases settled through courts in the same year are added, the number of divorced couples is said to have reached approximately 2.47 million.

These cities that show high divorce rates are currently right in the middle of the real estate bubble. Since personal possession of land of China is not allowed, people focus on investment in buildings. The prices for condominiums in the urban area of Beijing City, where I live, have increased more than six-fold, from 9,000 yuan / square meter in 2005 to 55,000 yuan/square meter in 2010. In former times, a system was in place where newly married couples were provided by their workplaces with residences corresponding to the length of their services and job rankings. After the Housing Reform, however, former settlement houses were taken over for installment sales. In addition, under the current circumstances in which these houses are making excessive profits, houses have become the center of civilian life and the most reliable source of security.

Furthermore, China's traditional view of marriage, where “the husband builds a house and marries a woman” has been revived as residences have been commercialized. So, preparing for a house is becoming one of the marriage conditions for bridegrooms. Since young men tend to lack economic capacity, it is not unusual for their parents to assist grooms in the purchase of their residences. Even so, with two-income families becoming standard in China, the general model is that the husband makes a down payment and after marriage, the husband and wife pay off the mortgage. Under

the conventional Marriage Law, even in such a case, the residence was regarded as communal property. However, this has caused endless disputes in divorce cases. Therefore, the government policy underwent a complete change according to the “Interpretation No. 3” of the newly established Marriage Law. This law stipulates that if the residence is registered in the name of the person who made the purchase contract for the residence as well as the down payment before the marriage, the residence is regarded as the property of that person even after a divorce. In the case, where both the husband and wife were paying back the mortgage during the marriage, compensation must be made for the amount paid by the other party. A residence that was purchased with finances from the parents of either the husband or the wife is regarded as a settlement to their own child, rather than as communal property between the couple. In short, the party who pays to purchase the residence first gets the property.

Although the Chinese government is still seeking opinions on the “Interpretation No. 3” to assess public opinion, we can guess which direction the China's Marriage Law is going. One change indicated so far is that the meaning of marriage is shifting from the bond between husband and wife to a relationship focusing on individual rights and properties. With dry and realistic views of marriage vs. those based on affections taking root in people from a very early age, the younger generation can hardly realize that marriage must be fostered by both husband and wife. Specialists expect that after the “Interpretation No. 3” is enforced, divorce will become easier and that the marriage balance will become unstable.

Another change is that “Interpretation No. 3” can help promote the strengthening of property rights of families with men especially a son. In the beginning, “Interpretation No. 3” was expected to help reduce both cases of gold-digging marriages and reliance on men but actually it has led to the opposite effect. Also in “Interpretation No. 3”, neither tangible nor intangible expenses for daily life and child-rearing, which would be paid by women, are taken into consideration in divorce cases. Even if women can receive some amount of economic compensation from their former husbands, these women cannot buy a house due to the rising real estate prices every year. And an increasing number of women and children are ending up in the streets, facing gender issues produced from the real estate bubble.



### Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women

KITAKYUSHU OTEMACHI BUILDING 3F  
OTEMACHI 11-4, KOKURAKITA, KITAKYUSHU, 803-0814 JAPAN  
PHONE +81-93-583-3434 FAX +81-93-583-5195  
E-mail: kfaw@kfaw.or.jp URL: <http://www.kfaw.or.jp/index.html>

#### KFAW

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) was established in October of 1990 with a special government fund for revitalization projects. Subsequently, in 1993, the KFAW was recognized as a foundation by the Ministry of Labour (the present Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare). The purpose of the KFAW is to promote the improvement of women's status through various projects as well as their mutual understanding and cooperation in Asia.