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The 20th KFAW Correspondents

1st Theme "Child Rearing and Gender role"



Russia
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Women Today

Work Life Balance —A Message for Working Women



Susan H. Roos
Lawyer and Wife of U.S.
Ambassador to Japan

One question I am frequently asked is how American women like me balance work and family demands. The short answer is that, like women all over the world, American women struggle with this challenge every day. In the United States, there is currently an active debate about this issue, particularly given the large number of women now participating in the American workforce. At present nearly half of all American workers are women, and many of them are mothers to small children. Many American women have also worked hard to gain access to the executive ranks of U.S. business and other leadership positions. Various studies show that gender diversity at the highest levels of companies provides for better financial performance.

Even in the law profession, which has been dominated by men for a long time, women are an increasingly important force. In many American law schools today, nearly half of the students in entering classes are women. Even in our own State Department, I have been very impressed with the numerous female diplomats I have come into contact with since my husband John was named U.S. Ambassador to Japan. In addition, President Obama has named the first Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. And, of course, Secretary of State Clinton, is one of our most active and well known Cabinet members. She has also made sure that women's issues are taken into account in the formulation of American foreign policy.

I have no doubt that many girls and young women have been inspired by Secretary Clinton's leadership. The same can be said of First Lady Michele Obama, herself a working mother with two young daughters. To grow up seeing women like these in positions of influence helps impart the notion that all avenues are open to women. In my own life, I was inspired by my mother, who dropped out of college when I was born, but later went back to college, worked full time and is still working today at age 74. She taught me that anything is possible and that it is important to enjoy what you are doing and devote yourself to that.

However, this does not mean that women in the United States no longer face obstacles. It is still hard for women to raise a family and earn a living at the same time. This is an area where, as a female attorney specializing in employment law, I feel I have been able to make a contribution. The U.S. has very strong laws to prevent employees from being harassed or subject to discrimination based on their gender or family situation. Women who have not been treated fairly in the workplace have the right to raise a complaint and even go to court.

Many laws in the United States protect jobs so that workers—not just women—can take time off when a child is born, care for their newborn or sick children, attend school functions, and use their own sick time to care for a sick child, spouse or parent.

Since coming into office, President Obama has emphasized the need to further protect American workers. Helping American workers—both women *and* men—ensure better work-life balance is also an area the President has addressed.

The President has also set a wonderful example of a caring father, who is involved in his children's lives. Moreover, he has urged American fathers to play a more active role in their children's upbringing. It is not uncommon in the United States today for fathers to play a large role in childcare and housework. In a growing number of cases fathers even play the primary role.

To those women who worry that their working means that they cannot be the types of mothers they would like to be, I would say that you need to give yourself more credit. I would encourage you to think about the good example you are setting for your children by working and contributing to society. It took a while for me to realize how proud my children were of me for being a successful professional. However, the fact that I work means that my children had to learn to do more things for themselves, which I think is a very important lesson. It is also clear that they know women and mothers should have equal opportunities in the workplace.

I have been incredibly lucky to have a very supportive family, which has helped me achieve my professional and personal goals. Throughout my career, I have also been fortunate to work with people who have the same values as I do when it comes to family. Consequently, I urge Japanese women to support each other on the path to professional success and look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you on women's issues during my remaining time in your wonderful country.

Susan H. Roos

Susan H. Roos splits her time between San Francisco, California - where she is a partner at Cook Roos Wilbur LLP, a full-service employment and labor law firm - and Tokyo, Japan.

As a labor lawyer, Ms. Roos has substantial experience in defending employers in wrongful termination, sexual harassment, employment discrimination and trade secret litigation before federal and state courts. She and her husband have two children, Lauren, age 23, and David, age 18.

Japan's New Lay Judge System and Gender

Part 3

From the Viewpoint of Protecting the Human Rights of Defendants



Mikiko OTANI

Deputy Director of the Secretariat for the Gender Equality Promotion Division, Japan Federation of Bar Associations

Principle of the Presumption of Innocence and Japan's New *Saiban-in* System

The presumption of innocence is the fundamental principle that one is considered innocent until proven guilty. The Constitution of Japan (Article 31) is based on this principle. Subsequently, strict rules regarding criminal court procedures and evidence have been established to ensure that judges will not bear prejudice against their defendants.

From the viewpoint of protecting the human rights of defendants, some people are concerned about participation of lay judges selected from the public in criminal courts. Qualified legal professionals who have gone through the professional legal training are required to study the Constitution and Code of Criminal Procedure and supposed to understand and implement the principle of the presumption of innocence. On the other hand, lay judges likely have not received any special educational training, possibly arousing prejudice among them that the suspect/defendant was arrested because he/she had committed a crime. Actually, as indicated by how some crimes are reported by the media, there is a risk that many people may harbor such bias, unless they are fully aware of the principle of the presumption of innocence and pay due attention to the principle. What is worse, rate of conviction in Japanese criminal courts exceeds 99%. U.N. human rights treaty bodies have expressed grave concerns repeatedly about this trend. This extremely high rate possibly contributes to prejudice in the public's mind that those prosecuted must be guilty.

Before introduction of the lay judge system in Japan, some criminal court rules were revised in a bid to avoid the prejudice that the defendant must be guilty. Previously, defendants were not allowed to wear a tie or belt in court on the grounds that such items would lead to the possibility of accidents. Consequently defendants were freed to wear sweat suits or other casual clothing. Also, they were not permitted to wear shoes other than slip-on sandals to prevent them from running away from court. Moreover, although handcuffs and waist ropes were removed in court, defendants were supposed to be seated next to the prison officers in court. Since these rules could also cause lay judges to think prejudicially that the defendants must be guilty, the rules were revised. The revised laws enabled defendants in court with lay judges to wear a tie and leather shoes and to be seated next to their legal counsels.

Criminal Case Backgrounds and Gender Perspective

In Japan's lay judge system, together with professional judges, lay judges selected from the public are engaged in

fact-finding and determination of punishment. In this regard, to preserve the human rights of defendants, it is necessary to recognize the possibility that gender bias in the general public could affect fact-finding and determination of punishment. What would you do if you were selected as a lay judge for the following criminal cases? One defendant, a wife prosecuted for having killed her husband, pleads self-defense, claiming that he had continuously abused her. Another defendant was prosecuted for having killed her baby in a fit of despair. This occurred although she could not get any cooperation or support from her husband even after she had complained to him of her anxiety about rearing their child amid her postpartum depression. Another defendant, a woman from a foreign country, was prosecuted for killing the female manager of a snack bar that she was working for. This happened although the defendant committed the murder out of despair to escape from the manager, who had deprived the defendant of her passport to make her work continuously; forced a large amount of debt on her and exploited her. Behind these criminal cases are human rights violations, such as, violence against women and human trafficking; a stereotypical idea that mothers are supposed to always take care of their children with lots of love; and inequality of gender responsibility for family life. It is important to improve one's perspective and sensibility against social discrimination and bias behind criminal cases, including those mentioned above, for appropriate fact-finding; recognition of temporary insanity and self-defense; circumstantial extenuation and punishment determination.

Correction of Gender Bias in the Judicial System

It is important to recognize that there is a possibility that gender bias enters into the way laws are established, interpreted, applied and enforced. Moreover, it is possible that such a bias has entered the judicial system itself, which one would tend to believe is neutral and fair without a doubt. This recognition leads the legal community to improve their sensibility toward victims of all forms of discrimination, including gender bias, and to the socially vulnerable. In 2007, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) established a Committee on Gender Equality Promotion and adopted the JFBA Basic Plan for Gender Equality Promotion. Their plan deals with judicial gender issues as one of its 12 focuses. In March 2010, the JFBA held the first seminar for lawyers across the country on the theme of gender and attorney practices. Finally, JFBA's launching of a wide variety of initiatives is important to address gender bias in Japan's new lay judge system.

For Promoting participation of Women in Local Politics

The Third Japan-Korea Joint Seminar Held in Korea

With the theme “Measures to Expand the Participation of Women in Japan and Korea in Local Politics,” the Third Japan-Korea Joint Seminar was held on June, 2010 to present a wide variety of measures to encourage more women to participate in politics. The date of the seminar was timely as the Korean local election was held on June 2, 2010, the day after the seminar.

And in Japan, a House of Councilors (upper house) election was planned for July. The first session in the morning dealt mainly with presentations of examples and experiences related to the participation of women in local politics in Japan and Korea. The second session in the afternoon focused on measures to promote such participation.

Overview

Morning	<p>First Session Participation of Women in Korea and Japan in Local Politics: Examples and Experiences Coordinator: Kuniko YOSHIZAKI (President, Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women)</p> <p>Presentation 1: Policy Development Processes seen through my Activities as a Council Member (KIM Suk-Hyang, Council Member of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province)</p> <p>Presentation 2: Promotion of Women’s Participation in Politics on a Citizen Level (Mayumi MATSUO, Former Member of the Kitakyushu Ms. 21 Committee Association)</p> <p>Panelist 1: KIM Eui-Kon (President of the Korean Association of International Studies) Panelist 2: Cho Hwa-Sung (Chief of the Multicultural Team of the Chungcheongnam-do Women’s Policy Development Institute)</p> <p>General Discussion</p>
Afternoon	<p>Second Session Participation of Women in Japan and Korea in Local Politics: Promotion Measures Coordinator: CHO Chung-Nam (President of the Society of Modern Anthropology)</p> <p>Presentation 1: Measures to Expand the Participation of Women in Politics in Japanese Local Areas (Harumichi YUASA, Vice President of Kyushu International University)</p> <p>Presentation 2: Measures to Promote the Participation of Women in Local Politics: Focus on the Concept of Networks, as well as on Home and Overseas Examples (SUH Heon Joo, Chief of the Social Welfare Team of the Chungcheongnam-do Women’s Policy Development Institute)</p> <p>Panelist 1: Eom Tae-Seok (Professor at Seowon University) Panelist 2: Hwang Chang-Yeon (Chief of Female Human Resources Development Team of the Chungcheongnam-do Women’s Policy Development Institute)</p> <p>General Discussion</p>



Participants in the first session



Participants in the second session

Each seminar was comprised of two presentations, followed by comments and questions from panelists regarding the presentations; a general discussion; questions from the audience and then a summary by the coordinator.

One of the examples explained in the morning session was Kitakyushu City’s system in which the public, through such organizations as the Kitakyushu Ms. 21 Committee Association, make policy recommendations to administrative organizations. This explanation was received with great interest and surprise by the audience, with later had many questions for the panelists. The afternoon session featured discussions focusing on election systems and networks as influential factors to expand the participation of women in politics.

At both sessions, the audience listened to the discussion very attentively.



Buso Mountain Fortress Gate, a well-known sightseeing spot in Chungcheongnam-do Province

2010 Research Themes—KFAW Visiting Researchers

Female Criminals and Victims Portrayed by the Japanese Media

Associate Professor, Miyazaki Municipal University

Yumi SHIKATA

In this research, I will examine how women are depicted in recent Japanese crime reports, and will raise questions from gender-sensitive perspectives.

In reporting crimes in which a woman is either victim or suspect, Japanese media tend to describe her appearance, sexuality and sex experiences, even when these matters have nothing to do with the incident in question. Such reports can infringe women's privacy right and defame the women concerned. At the same time, such crime reports indicate reporters' gender-based bias. Even though contemporary reporters are well aware that they must respect the human rights of subjects in their reports, as I have repeatedly commented, many reporters still hold bias toward women involved in crimes.

In this research, I will analyze the content of women-related crime reports, primarily newspaper articles, issued during the past five years. In addition to this analysis, I will examine the impact of these biased descriptions of women, particularly in relation to the widespread use of the Internet and the recent establishment of the so-called citizen judge system. In this research, I intend to identify problems regarding the ways in which women are described in crime reports.



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

Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University

Yuriko SAITO

In this research, by taking the following three approaches, I will examine ways to facilitate multicultural coexistence in Fukuoka Prefecture. This prefecture is a gateway to Japan from other Asian countries. And Fukuoka, one of the main cities in this prefecture has considerable social services (administrative support, NPO/NGO services, and other services provided by private enterprises and international organizations). Firstly, from the viewpoints of Thai and Filipino women and their children living in Fukuoka Prefecture, I will explore whether or not multicultural coexistence can be realized by promoting capability-building programs for women immigrants. Secondly, I will examine existing problems in promoting multiculturalism and harmonious coexistence. Thirdly, I will also study immigration policies carried out in German municipalities. On the basis of comparative studies of German and Japanese cases, I will identify problems in realizing multicultural coexistence and search for ideal ways to resolve those problems.

Finally, to realize my research, I will use a qualitative research method including a questionnaire survey and interviews. To promote research outcomes, I will also hold workshops.

Co-researchers

Pataya Ruankaew, Researcher

Momoe WAGURI, Fukuoka Women's University



Commencement of Interaction with the Dalian Women's Federation (China)

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) actively works on the establishment of networks with overseas organizations engaged in gender-related issues in a bid to improve the status of Asian women as well as promote their cooperation and development.

On June 30, 2010, KFAW visited the Dalian Women's Federation (Chair person WANG Ling Jie), KFAW studied the Federation's activities related to women's issues and discussed future expansion of exchanges between the Federation and KFAW.

KFAW visited the Dalian Women's Federation. Approximately 50 members from the Dalian Women's Federation visited the Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center *Move* last September to promote exchanges. The Federation's visit was to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of a sister city relationship between Kitakyushu City and Dalian City.

Established in 1946, the Dalian Women's Federation strives to ensure that women's rights are protected and that

gender equality is promoted. The Federation is involved in a wide range of initiatives, such as presenting opinions on women's education; encouraging women's participation in national politics and policies for women and children; implementing projects for women and children and promoting interaction with overseas women and overseas organizations engaged in women's issues.

KFAW visited the Federation's Service Center for Women, which offers housekeeper training and provides temporary housekeeper staffing services. Following the visit,

KFAW requested the Federation to share information through the mutual exchange of each other's publications and through written contributions. KFAW also asked that a member of the Federation be assigned as one of KFAW's foreign correspondents. In response to these requests, Chair person Wang Ling Jie said that the Federation would like to promote interaction on issues regarding the entire Asia region through information exchange.



Dalian Women's Federation Chair person, Wang Ling Jie



At the Federation's Service Center for Women

KFAW FY 2010 Foreign Correspondents Start up Activities

First Theme: Personal Perspectives on Child Rearing and Gender Role

In 1991, the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) established the foreign correspondents system to develop broad networks with people overseas, particularly in the Asia and Pacific region. Past and present foreign correspondents today total 252 people in 38 countries.

This year, as previously referred to on the front page, persons from seven countries work as KFAW foreign correspondents. Through this network, KFAW will continue providing up-to-date information from various parts of the world.

The first reports published in this issue are contributed by Ms. Ryoko Onodera in Finland and Ms. Karin Zaugg Black in the U.S.A.. Future issues will provide profiles and reports from correspondents in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Korea and Russia. Please be sure to read these upcoming issues.

- Ms. Ryoko Onodera (Finland)

Since my school days, I have been interested in the development of elderly people. Based on lifelong development and cognitive psychology, my research focuses on care support and learning processes for elderly persons with dementia.

Currently, I am studying at a graduate school in Finland, well known as a country that emphasizes social welfare and the social advancement of women. While teaching local students Japanese language and culture, I am conducting research on welfare for the elderly in Finland.



My Views on Childrearing and Gender roles

Ryoko Onodera (Finland)

After I started studying in Finland, I noticed that there were many young mothers and couples pushing baby prams on the campus and around town. An American man whom I met in the capital Helsinki asked "Do they have a baby boom now in this country?" These daily scenes must be impressive to people from overseas.

Indeed, the birthrate of Finland is higher than that of Japan (1.94 in 2009, while the rate in Japan was 1.37 in 2008). Moreover, Finland's rate this year is expected to reach a record 40-year high. The reason for the increasing birthrate is thought to be the solid social security system. It seems that history and gender roles in this country have influenced the establishment of this system.

First, I would like to provide an overview of the support systems for child rearing. In Finland, medical care is provided free-of-charge or for a very low cost during pregnancy and delivery, just like other medical services for children.



These liquid infant milks are very helpful for the parents raising children

Pregnant women are provided with 140 Euros in cash or a Delivery Pack (ätiyspakkaus). Both the mother and father can take childbirth leaves of 105 days and child-rearing leaves of 158 days. The social insurance agency (KELA) guarantees that their salary will be paid during that period at a designated rate. Fathers are provided with a paternity allowance for the period from the 18th day to the 30th day after childbirth.

Day care services provide childcare from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with breakfast, and are convenient for mothers who continue to work after childbirth. If they choose to become full-time housewives (or househusbands), either the mother or the father can take a 3-year maternity leave from work. In

such cases, the employer must guarantee that after the leave they can return to the same position as the one they held before the child's birth. Also, a childrearing allowance is provided for both facility and home childcare. In addition, a childrearing benefit of about 100 Euros is provided every month until the child becomes 17 years old. Moreover, education is essentially free from elementary school to university.

In addition, there is a range of support and benefits available for couples including part-time workers, students, and couples of foreign nationals. One of the reasons for this well-developed support system is a traditional culture that values the female workforce. Finland, a country with 5.2 million people, has a land mass a little smaller than Japan. In order to sustain the power of this country, women have worked as hard as men and sometimes engaged in physical labour as well. It may have been necessary for men and women to complement one another rather than to have separate gender roles. At present, the ratio of women playing major roles Finland's society is the third highest in the world. (Japan is 91st.) Fully 87% of women continue to work full-time after marriage, which reflects the importance of the female workforce in its culture and history.

On the other hand, there seem to be some difficulties. According to my local female friends, women tend to take longer maternity leave compared to paternity leave for their spouses. Finnish women also do more childcare and housework than Finnish men do. This is partly because employment opportunities have decreased due to the gaining popularity of the economic slump. Partly, this is also due to the idea that "women should stay at home for the children." Although the social security system is well-established, the influences of social norms and modern trends are unavoidable. I feel that the issues of childrearing and gender roles face many difficulties in recent years.

- Ms. Karin Zaugg Black (U.S.A.)

From 1993 to 1996, as a coordinator for international relations (CIR), I worked for Kobe City's department dealing with international interactions. At the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, I participated in rescue efforts as a translator for a Japanese rescue team and a Swiss rescue dog team. Currently, while working for the Office of Economic Development for the city of Seattle, in the U.S.A., I am working hard to rear my two children.

I will visit Japan as a panelist for the 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women to be held by KFAW this November in Kitakyushu. The main conference theme is "Child Rearing Environment in the World: Children, Parents and Society"



Balancing a Career and Family

Karin Zaugg Black (U.S.A.)

My husband Dan and I married in 2005 when I was 35 and he was 36. We wanted to have a family, so we started trying to conceive a child right away. Our daughter Delia was born on October 1, 2006, and our son Samuel was just born on January 8, 2010. Now we are adjusting to being a family of four with two working parents.

When we started a family, my career was already established, and I enjoy my work as the Communications Director for the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development. I knew I wanted to keep working after having children. We also made a decision to buy a house near my parents' house in a more expensive neighborhood. Thus, both of us needed to earn money to support the mortgage.

We are lucky that both of us were able to take time off from work for maternity and paternity leave. Dan was able to take one month of paid paternity leave and several weeks of paid vacation from his job at Microsoft when each child was born. The City of Seattle's policy is a standard twelve weeks of leave, which is unfortunately not paid. However, employees can use sick leave and vacation days, and also receive some donated sick leave from colleagues. In the end, I was able to have most of my maternity leave paid. And I negotiated with my boss to take four months off for each child.



With her daughter Delia

More and more companies and organizations in the U.S. have both maternity and paternity leave, often paid. Another way that employers can support working mothers is to provide a lactation room where mothers who are breastfeeding can pump breast milk for their babies during the day at work. The City of Seattle has several lactation rooms, which gives me a private space to pump breast milk to take home to my baby. This helps me as a working mother.

Sharing the responsibility for childcare is a balancing act that all couples must navigate. As Dan and I are both committed parents, we talk about how to support each other in our work and other activities. For example, we went to a breastfeeding class before our daughter Delia was born to learn about not only what I needed to do to feed the baby, but also how Dan could help by doing such things as giving me food and drinks, and burping the baby after feeding. In addition, since I am the parent breastfeeding, Dan can support by doing other tasks, such as cooking and laundry. Now Dan also takes a more active role in playing and caring for Delia, while I am caring for Sam.

Since Dan is still working full time and I am on maternity leave, I am doing 70% of the childcare and Dan 30%. Delia goes to pre-school full-time five days a week. When I go back to work full-time in May, we will have someone watching our son Samuel, perhaps a nanny at home or a daycare facility. Infant care is very difficult to find and expensive. We are lucky that our employers are flexible. Thus, we can both work from home one day a week and care for Samuel until he is a little older and can start in an older class at a daycare facility. Once we are both working, we will share the child rearing time more evenly during the mornings, evenings and weekends.

We feel it is important for both of us to have breaks from the children so we can be better parents when we are with them. For example, I will have both children for an evening while Dan works late, plays basketball or sees friends. Or he will have both kids while I do volunteer work, get a massage, or attend a work event. We also make sure to have "date nights". Those times, my parents or a babysitter watch the children. And we enjoy some time as a couple, just the two of us.

Balancing our two careers and our family takes hard work, flexibility and good communication between the two of us. At the same time, it is very rewarding for all of us.

Access other foreign correspondents' report on a website :
<http://www.kfaw.or.jp/about/20-report.html>

"Child Rearing Environment in the World"

The 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women will be held at Kitakyushu municipal gender equality center "MOVE" in Japan, from November 13-14, 2010. This year's theme is "Child Rearing Environments in the World: Children, Parents and Society."

We will look at "raising children around the world" and compare child-rearing circumstances in Japan and various countries, such as the United States, Korea and Denmark, in an effort to search for what can do to help to raise our children in future generations.



The 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women

Dose Love Mean Restrictions? - Prevention of Dating / Domestic Violence

Masami SHINOZAKI, Chief Researcher, KFAW

Have you ever heard of “dating / domestic violence”? Domestic violence (DV) is abusive behavior between married, divorced or cohabiting couples. Currently attracting wide attention together with DV is the problem of dating DV, violence between partners in an intimate relationship, excluding those above.

It has been almost 10 years since establishment of what is called the “DV Prevention Law.” Also, a wide variety of cases have been so far reported by the media, letting the public realize that DV is a serious violation of human rights and often regarded as a crime.

Compared with DV, the term “dating / DV” is not so common. However, dating / DV is basically the same as DV in that both are forms of violence between partners in an intimate relationship. Such violence includes hitting, kicking, mental intimidation, forcing the victim to have sexual intercourse with the offender, restricting the victim’s actions, checking the victim’s mobile phone e-mails, and deleting address information the victim has of other persons without the victim’s permission. Far from an equal relationship with mutual respect, both DV and dating / DV are committed for reasons of power and control that the offender wields over the victim.

It is important to inform and educate young people about the fact that the above actions are not expressions of love but simply DV. Such information and education can help to prevent young people from becoming a DV offender or victim. It can also help alternatively to establish a sound, happy and appropriate couple relationship. Moreover, such information and education would also help to avoid unwanted pregnancies and marriages. It could thus possibly lead as well to the prevention of child abuse.

Based on this, since 2009 the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) has been conducting research on the development of a program to foster human resources who can implement dating / DV prevention education at schools and in local communities. Also, under the commission from Kitakyushu City, the KFAW conducted a survey on school needs for this dating / DV prevention education.

The school needs survey, comprising two stages, yielded interesting and important results. In the first stage, to understand the actual situation, KFAW conducted a written

survey for teachers responsible for education on human rights, nursing, health, student guidance and gender equality at all of the City’s schools from junior high school to university. In the second stage, to determine the needs of dating / DV prevention education, KFAW conducted group interviews regarding students’ actual conditions with a total of 10 teachers who had accepted KFAW’s interview request made through a written survey.

The group interviews revealed cases where “the student is actually a victim of dating / DV. However, the student isn’t aware of it and is suffering” or that “dating / DV badly and significantly affected the victim’s future” (such as running away from home or dropping out of school). The interviews also found in today’s age of information and communication technologies, many troubles related to interactions between partners occur through the use of mobile phones and the Internet. Moreover, the interviews also revealed that some offenders were negatively influenced by DV between their parents. Nevertheless, very few schools provide institutional, educational efforts to solve these problems, even though there are certainly some teachers working hard on these issues. Early introduction of prevention education must be sought based on a firm theoretical foundation.

The Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan has prepared educational materials for young people regarding dating / DV prevention. Using these materials, KFAW is now establishing a program to foster local facilitators to implement prevention education.

< These photographs depict a simulation class on dating / DV for the program’s creation >



Simulation class at Kokura-Nishi High School (Kitakyushu City, Japan)



Simulation class at Wakamatsu Commercial High School (Kitakyushu City, Japan)



From the June 2008 issue, we have capitalized the last names of persons at the beginning of articles. We adopted this policy so that our readers can easily distinguish last names in spite of different customs regarding the writing of family names.



Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women

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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.