

# Asian Breeze

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JICA trainees who completed the program on "Gender Mainstreaming Policies for Government Officers 2013" in Kitakyushu

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# Women Today

## *“Asia and Me—Decent Work, A Key Agenda Item in Human Development”*

It was the mid-90s when I started working directly for Asia. Economic globalization developed rapidly after the collapse of the cold war; Asia was its central region. A year later when I started working for Asia, the financial crisis hit the area hard, and some countries saw very adverse effects on many aspects of their societies.

This incident gave me, a newcomer to Asia, an excellent learning opportunity to understand Asian social issues much quicker and on a deeper level than if the crisis had not happened. Here I will only mention two distinctive phenomena.

The first is that it seems to be very difficult to prepare or generate in the middle of good times the policies and institutions needed for difficult times, even though one can afford to do so. For example, Thailand enjoyed full employment before the crisis thanks to high economic growth for several years. However, soon after the crisis occurred, employment in Thailand rapidly worsened. Two million Thai became unemployed (a 7 % unemployment rate). There was no unemployment insurance system in Thailand. Another phenomenon is that the female employment pattern followed regarding hiring and firing was not necessarily the pattern which one usually thinks of. It was widely believed that “women were first fired and last hired.” Actually, I observed in the crisis that women were often the *last* fired. This means that economic globalization is based more on competition for cheaper labor/cutting costs rather than on improving productivity. I acutely felt the spread of non-standard employment from where I stood. One of many rewarding aspects of my work in Asia has been the opportunity to meet many women leaders in Asia; some of them have become my good friends. Looking at Japan, it is widely known that we have very few women leaders. Japan in 2012 ranked 101<sup>st</sup> in the world 135 countries in Gender Gaps Index published by the World Economic Forum. To me it appears that Japan should be considered as a ‘developing country’ in the field of gender equality. The top ranking country for female leadership in Asia is the Philippines which was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and had always been among top ten. There are yet a number of other Asian countries whose ranks of gender gaps are higher than that of Japan.

Women’s status within Japan has its own pattern. It is generally lower in the field of economic activities, namely employment and the political arena. Japan must seriously implement the recommendations such as positive actions made in 2009 by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Since last year Japan has been encouraged by the



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President, KFAW

Ms. Mitsuko HORIUCHI

international community to promote women’s greater participation in companies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) even pointed out the extent to which women essentially “save” Japan (economy). The present administration of the Japanese government made initiatives to encourage companies to promote women’s participation in executive positions; they also hope to see more work-life balance policies take root and thrive in Japan.

In Asian developing countries it is, of course, true that there is still a need to provide assistance /support for the improvement of fundamental living conditions of people, inter alia women. And it is also true that there exists great wisdom in many of the good practices exercised by Asian people. A number of good practices in economic empowerment of women were recognized in a recent meeting to assess development assistance given to Asian people’s organizations by a private fund. Microcredit is a particularly good example. Recipients of microcredit are mostly women living under the poverty line. Yet almost all women recipients of microcredit pay back their loans and contribute substantially to their families and the society. The Grameen Bank, whose founder is Nobel Prize laureate Professor Yunus, is very popular in the world for his efforts to help empower poor women. There are also a number of similar undertakings involving microcredit in Asia that could be mentioned. In addition such so-called south-south cooperation is recognized as one of the most effective ways to help people/women in need.

So in conclusion of this essay, let me stress the importance both in Japan and throughout the whole of Asia on producing “decent work” as a key agenda item for human development. It has led, I believe, to an overall Asian society that is stronger.

### Profile of Mitsuko HORIUCHI

Professor, Bunkyo Gakuin University Graduate School of Foreign Studies (2006 to present). Currently holds the posts of the President of Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women, and Chairperson of Stop Child Labour Network.

Formerly, Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office in Japan as well as the ILO Special Regional Advisor on Gender Issues (2001-2005), ILO Assistant Director-General for Asia and the Pacific (1996-2000), Minister of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (1993-1996) and Cabinet Counselor and Director, Office for Women’s Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office (1990-1993).



### Women's Social Advancement and Birthrate Decline in Singapore



Professor, the University of Kitakyushu  
**Dr. Keiko T. TAMURA**

Born in Fukui Prefecture. Doctor of Laws, graduated from Kyushu University Graduate Schools for Law. Specializes in international relations, research on Southeast Asia. Has published "Establishment of a Nation of Singapore – Nationalism, Ethnicity and Gender," "Politics and Languages in Singapore, a Multiethnic Nation – 25 Years of "Vanished" Nanyang University," "Introduction to Modern Politics in Southeast Asia," (written and edited) and others.

Singapore, a small city state in Southeast Asia, is well-known for having achieved a level of economic prosperity even higher than that of Japan. Also, just like Japan, Singapore is facing a problem of rapidly declining birthrate.

In 2010 the birthrate in Singapore declined to as low as 1.15. Meanwhile, the number of single women is increasing; 12.7% of women aged from 35 to 39 are unmarried. What has prevented women from getting married and having babies?

Singapore was originally an immigrant society. In the colonial times immigrants retained their native customs and traditions. Women were subordinate to men. The only role expected for women was to get married, have babies and raise them. To change this situation right after Singapore gained its independence in 1965, the national government began working actively to improve the domestic male and female labor force in both quantity and quality. The Prime Minister said that there would be no future to society if half of the population was not educated or utilized just because they were women; and that women in Singapore should receive a good education and their abilities be fully utilized. The government promoted primary and secondary education especially for women and encouraged women to participate in the labor market. In addition, the government implemented the "stop-at-two" children policy to control the country's continuously increasing population in those days, which further promoted women's economic advancement. Moreover, in the latter half of the 1980s, the government commenced a policy to transform Singapore into Asia's financial and service center, leading to the development of the service industry in the country's economic structure. This also created more opportunities for women to work outside the home. As a result, the country's female labor force participation rate grew from 25.3% in 1966 to 60.0% in 2011.

In 2008 the percentage of female managers within the government and in other public organizations was 35.1%. Considering that women account for approximately 40% of the total labor force, the percentage of women promoted to managers is almost commensurate with the female labor force participation rate. Besides, while women's average income is 72.6% of men's, there is almost no difference between the income earned by men and women aged from 25 to 30.

As indicated above, in Singapore women as well as men are called upon to contribute to the country as good workers to support the small city state's development. Meanwhile, the government's attitude employed in the latter half of the

1980s has posed another problem for women. Due to the country's labor force shortage, the government switched its population policy to the "three-or-more" children policy, encouraging women to have many more babies to increase the country's population. Moreover, family ties began to be emphasized, also encouraging women to play the pivotal role in the family as a good wife and a good mother. Behind this emphasis placed on family ties lay the government's fear that the spread of Western values and the country's economic development might make people forget their own Asian values, such as respect for patience, discipline, order and patriotism. The government believed that families should play a major role in maintaining such values.

If an environment was established where women could strike a good balance between their careers and families, it might be possible for women to contribute to the development of their country as good workers, while also playing the pivotal role in their families. However, the government believes that social welfare is a matter to be dealt with by each family and that women should play the pivotal role in that regard. This belief increases the burden on women.

The reason for Singaporean declining birthrate also lies in the country's elitist education system. Children's futures are almost entirely determined by their results in the Primary School Leaving Examinations (taken in the sixth grade of elementary schools). Accordingly, many mothers with children in higher elementary grades quit their jobs and spend almost all their time to help their children with studies. It is not rare to spend a vast amount of money on children's tutoring schools or private instructors. In addition, in Singapore there is no school district system or entrance examination for public elementary schools. If parents want their children to be enrolled in prestigious elementary schools, they participate in schools' clean-up or other volunteer activities. This is because at many schools one of the admission requirements is parents' involvement in volunteer activities. Thus, the financial and mental burden concerning child-rearing is so considerable that many women hesitate to have babies. The female labor force participation rate is not very high at 60%, probably because many women quit their jobs after starting to raise their children.

The rapid decline in birthrate can be referred to as a quiet revolt of the women in the country. I think that the situation is very similar to that of Japan, where fewer and fewer women are having babies.

Under a commission by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kyushu International Center, the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) holds an annual seminar for central and local government officers in developing countries who are in charge of gender mainstreaming policies.

The purpose of the seminar is to foster government officers who can promote gender mainstreaming policies comprehensively and effectively in developing countries toward a gender-equal society.

This year, the seminar was held for approximately five weeks from June 6 to July 4, receiving ten participants from nine countries.

This seminar provides a well-balanced mix of lectures, workshops, site visits and presentations. Participants can learn about administrative measures promoted by local governments and various efforts made by civic organizations and private companies. The seminar curricula are designed to help participants comprehensively understand the concepts and methods of gender mainstreaming policies from the perspectives of both theory and practice.

This year's seminar began with a presentation session on gender problems in their own countries to share, discuss and analyze them with other participants. This helped participants mutually learn about the situations in different countries, other participants' experiences and various ideas.

Subsequently, at the basic lectures to help participants develop effective policies in their countries, Japanese government officers and experts presented the outlines of national and local gender mainstreaming policies. Giving some examples of gender mainstreaming policies in Japan, they spoke from historical and international viewpoints. A wide variety of themes, including gender-sensitive budget



Interaction with citizens

analysis, women and health, and women and violence, were handled. Most of them were held in Tokyo.

In Kitakyushu, participants attended lectures in which the city's characteristics were fully reflected. At one lecture, participants specifically learned about the promotion of the city's gender mainstreaming policies, while at another lecture they listened to a female leader actively working in the city. At the lectures on work-life balance and dating DV, they learned not only about Kitakyushu City's efforts, but also about more specific and practical efforts promoted by the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW), private companies, and civic organizations.

In addition, this seminar included an interaction with Kitakyushu citizens, a good opportunity to directly communicate and discuss gender issues. The participants also interacted with children at a nursery school and an elementary school.

The seminar concluded with participants' presenting their action plans.



At a workshop



### Participants' Messages and Impressions

The seminar has helped me understand what has been implemented in Japan. The visit to the Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center, MOVE was especially impressive. I strongly hope that a similar service will become available in my country, and this seminar has given me hope and strength to realize that idea.

Many women in the world are now suffering from violence. Raising people's awareness of the problem is effective for the relief of violence victims. The lecture has helped me gain a useful tool to prevent the occurrence of DV.

The visits to various locations, such as a nursery school, an elementary school, an agricultural area, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, were very impressive. The interaction with citizens at each site was also an invaluable experience for me.

As participants, we learned a lot from each other and stimulated each other. I have learned effective methods for policy planning, and absorbed various experiences and ideas, giving me the confidence to implement them in my own country.

### Globalization among Women in Japan and Korea : The Perspectives of Identity, English Ability, and Social Networks

#### Visiting Researcher

Associate Professor, Faculty of  
Contemporary Law, Tokyo Keizai University

**Junko Matsuzaki CARREIRA**



Using quantitative data (EASS: East Asian Social Survey 2008) and qualitative data (interviews and/or free-writing questionnaire surveys), this research will explore how globalization is spreading among women in Japan and Korea. Specifically, a wide variety of quantitative analyses will be performed in terms of values, identity in East Asia, cultural contacts, global knowledge, frequency of media usage, social distances with other countries, international mobility, attitudes toward globalization and nationalism, overall evaluation regarding globalization, social networks, English proficiency, etc., in order to clarify differences between men and women in Japan and Korea. Based on these results, interviews and/or free-writing questionnaire surveys will be conducted with women in Japan and Korea. By doing so, the research will strive to reveal how globalization is spreading among women in Japan and Korea.

### Gender Inequality in Japanese Society : Women's Mixed Feelings toward Marriage

#### Visiting Researcher

Part-time Lecturer, Musashino University

**Ayumi SASAGAWA**

#### Joint Researchers

Doctoral Degree Course student,  
Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences,  
Tokyo Woman's Christian University

**Reiko IKEMATSU**

DBA Candidate, DBA Course,

Graduate School of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo University

**Takako OZEKI**

Part-time Lecturer, Otsuma Women's University

**Lemmin QUITAHALA**



In spite of established legal systems to achieve gender equality, conventional wisdom and customs against a gender equal society steadfastly remain in Japan without undergoing significant change, and are observed in different social scenes. The conventional gender norm persists, partially because some people support it and receive (or believe to receive) some benefits from it.

In this regard, this research will focus on marriage. While marriage is referred by some to as a system that restrains women, it still exists as the most significant lifetime event for many women. In the research, interviews will be conducted for women in a provincial city where traditional values are probably deep-rooted, and for women in the Tokyo metropolitan area where those values are likely being swept away. By clarifying women's perspectives concerning marriage, the research will strive to reveal at least part of the mechanism that helps maintain awareness and the norm of gender inequality.

## THE FORUM WINDOW

### Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)

President, KFAW Ms. Mitsuko HORIUCHI

TICAD V was held early June in Yokohama. It was 20 years ago, in 1993, that TICAD was launched by the Government of Japan with three United Nations organizations. An important aim of TICAD is to help promote sustainable African development. This initiative was also intended to reverse the decline in interests in development assistance by the international community after the collapse of the cold war (It should be noted that African Union became a co-organizer of TICAD V).

TICAD is a high level meeting where policy dialogues between African leaders and their development partners are promoted. The theme of TICAD V was "Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa." Economic development, in other words,

boosting economic growth in its priority area, was the primary focus. During TICAD V 78 events were organized by international organizations and civil society organizations. Stop Child Labour Network, which I chair, jointly organized, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), a symposium focused on elimination of child labour, the realization of universal primary education, and job creation for youth – all are essential for the quality of development. In the symposium good practices in NGOs, private enterprises, as well as in the ILO were presented. The forum offered an excellent opportunity to discuss African development from the perspectives of children and young people.





## The 23<sup>rd</sup> KFAW Foreign Correspondents Start-up Activities!

In 1991, the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) established a foreign correspondents system to broadly network with people overseas, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Past and present foreign correspondents are in total 271 people in 40 countries. This year, persons from 5 countries work as KFAW foreign correspondents. Through this network, KFAW will continue providing up-to-date information from various parts of the world. The profiles of the correspondents and other reports are available at the KFAW website.

### Bangladesh

**Ms. Munima SULTANA**  
The Financial Express,  
Special Correspondent



### Indonesia

**Ms. Gloria ARLINI**  
Nusantara Development  
Initiatives (NPO), Assistant Director



### Nepal

**Ms. Bharati POKHAREL**  
Independent Journalist



### Pakistan

**Mr. Saboor AHMED**  
Social Activist & Student of the  
Quaid E Azam University, Islamabad



### U.S.A

**Ms. Kay MAKISHI**  
Coordinator of International  
Relations, the Japan Exchange  
and Teaching (JET) Program



## Foreign Correspondents' Report

### Gender Equality is still a Far Cry in Bangladeshi Politics

Ms. Munima SULTANA (Bangladesh)

Lucky Akter's entry in the mainstream politics in Bangladesh was a little bit dramatic. She was not well known by people until the first week of February this year despite her success in leading her educational institution. It was some slogans she delivered with her bold voice and encouraging words that jumped her popularity, raising the number of supporters from hundreds to thousands, and even to hundreds of thousands in a day or two. Sparked up by her strong message, hundreds and thousands of people from all over the country gathered at Shahbagh Square in central Dhaka for two to three months.



Ms. Lucky Akter

Lucky eventually emerged as a symbolic figure of the movement, which later came to be known as the Shahbagh Movement in Bangladesh that was developed from protests against the sentences given to the war criminals of the 1971 war of independence (Liberation War).

A meritorious student of a university college in Dhaka City, Lucky now dreams of becoming a leader in national politics despite the fact that it is not at all an arena for

women in Bangladesh.

Female leadership in Bangladesh, even though both ruling and main opposition party chiefs are women, remains almost void since long ago. Student politics has been a popular mode of climbing up the leadership ladder to the national level in this country, but this nevertheless has applied only to men so far. Female student leaders either have not been able to survive in the male-dominated political field or have become more devoted to their profession and family, giving up their ambition to become leaders of the nation. This practice has been continued for decades, and for this reason there are only a very limited number of women leaders in the country.

A few more new faces of young female leaders joined Lucky as central figures in the Shahbagh Movement. But after the movement, female leadership has turned weak compared to the level when it was started, and they have become lost from view.

Lucky said, even in such a situation, she wanted to remain in the world of politics and vowed to fight against male supremacy there. She stressed the improvements in student facilities that have been realized under her able leadership, such as improved food at canteens, bus services and hotels in educational institutions. Her leftist party recognized her role in the student politics. Lucky said she would gain stronger leadership with better quality on her party level, and eventually boost it to the national level.

As Bangladesh has yet to create the culture of developing leadership through education, the emergence of young

#### Profile

During my long journalism career, I have mostly been focusing on gender issues in my reporting. After finishing my masters from mass communication and journalism at the University of Dhaka in 1993, I joined in a news agency and worked for 10 years. I changed my office by joining in the national financial daily titled The Financial Express in 2005. I did professional trainings like gender reporting, leadership training for female journalists, financial and economic reporting.



women in politics has been rare. The present government has tried to encourage women to raise their voices, by increasing the number of reserved seats allocated for women in the national parliament to 50 along with five cabinet posts.

But still, true leadership in Bangladesh is a far cry as people continue to raise questions about leaders' quality and attack on their activism. Lucky is not exceptional. Many people, mainly men, cast doubt on her leadership asking what she has done in Shahbagh. They do not want to accept the fact that thousands of people felt strength at Shahbagh

when they listened to her slogans with powerful voice.

Amidst the situation, the trend that brings hope is that non-governmental organizations have been trying to promote women's leadership in all sectors across the country. Since 2008, Bangladesh Association of Women Leader (BDAWL) has been working with great speed to raise awareness about the need for greater engagement by women in political decision-making. So women are hopeful that their leaders will ascend from the grass-root level to the top level in the near future. Lucky and other young leaders are also a beacon of hope for them.

## Gender Issues in Nepal

Ms. Bharati POKHAREL (Nepal)

Gender-based discrimination is so much ingrained in Nepali patriarchal society that Nepali girls start facing discriminatory treatment from their very early stages of life. This is particularly true in the rural parts of the country, which account for more than 70 percent of Nepal, inhabited by inadequately educated people. First of all, a girl child is not at all wanted by parents who attach importance to patriarchal values. Hence, if it is known that the baby in the womb is a girl, the pregnant mother starts facing hatred held by her in-laws. She might as well have to face undue coercion and even assault to go for an abortion. The ordeal of hatred and discrimination continues throughout the life of the newborn. She will be denied access to education as much as possible, as the parents prefer her contribution to household chores and/or other farm-based income-generating activities. As a result, 14.2% of girls between the ages of 5 and 14 work full-time and do not attend school at all in Nepal. The deep-rooted cause behind parents' unwillingness to send daughters to school is that they consider girls as someone else's property as they are to be wed and sent to in-laws' houses ultimately. Hence, they consider investing in girls as a waste and prefer to utilize that resource for better food, clothing and education of male children. It is worthy to note that the adult literacy rate in Nepal for women is 34.9 percent and that for men is 62.7 percent. This signifies how difficult it is to raise the female literacy rate and level it with men.

There is also a widespread practice of making girls marry at an early age as much as possible, starting from the age of 10. It is very common that young girls become pregnant by the age of 16. This is why maternal and child mortality are among the leading causes of death in Nepal.

Women also bear a very disproportionate burden in the household. Many empirical studies have revealed that they spend on average 18 hours (from 4 am to 10 pm) daily for household and farm activities with very little breaks in between, while men spend only 8 hours productively every day. From early in the morning, women are pressed with household chores such as milking cows, tending animals,

### Profile

I graduated from Tribhuvan University in 1998, and am currently working as a freelance journalist. I feel privileged to have served as a KFAW Foreign Correspondent in 2007, as this experience provided me with an opportunity to share interesting issues related to gender in Nepal with a larger audience all over the world. I am very excited to write on these interesting issues, because I feel they are underrepresented in similar media as of now.



bathing and washing clothes, collecting food and cooking meals, etc. This is followed by physical work in the fields, farms and forests under harsh conditions until late afternoon. They are occupied with duties such as preparing meals, feeding the family, and taking care of the elderly and kids once they come back home in the evening. Depending on the location of a particular house, the household chores could be very demanding. For instance, as cited in many studies, women have to travel for hours to fetch potable water for household consumption. This kind of daily practice would have severe health impacts on women, as they often suffer from a stooped back, prolapsed uterus, and so on. This is why female life expectancy in Nepal is one of the lowest in South Asia.

Nepali women are denied property rights as much as possible as most of the land titles are held by men. Likewise, women have almost no say in decision making as men are the key decision makers. This applies to decisions related to issues concerning households, families and the welfare of children, etc. While women are considered the main providers of food and care to families, it is a great pity that they are still denied an equal say in decisions affecting these affairs.

Recently, as a result of untiring efforts of many international and national non-government organizations, some progress has been made mainly on the policy and legal fronts. The promulgation of Gender Equality Act (2006), Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (2007) and Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act (2009) are the positive moves by the government. But this should never be considered enough as Nepal has been notorious for the lack of proper implementation of policies and enforcement of laws. Besides, since this issue is more concerned with changing people's attitudes and behavior, sustained efforts at the community level to foster awareness about respecting women's rights are required. In order to achieve a gender-equal society, men need to realize the immense contribution of women to their and their families' well-being and accord due respect to women in all walks of life.

## The 24<sup>th</sup> Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women International symposium

### "Women's Greater Participation in Japan and the World Brings Positive Change"

"Promotion of women's active participation" is one of the major pillars of Japanese Government's Growth Strategy. It is crucial for the socio-economic revitalization of our country to realize a society where women can fully and actively display their individuality and ability.

In this international symposium we invite Ms. Yukako UCHINAGA, one of the female business leaders, to share her views how to utilize women's ability from a strategic standpoint of a corporation. There follows the report of good practices in Norway, where women's active participations have been successful, by a panelist from Royal Norwegian Embassy. Moreover, initiatives taken in Korea and Kitakyushu are to be presented and panel discussion will be carried out.

1. **Date** : November 9 (Sat.), 2013 13:00-16:00
2. **Venue** : 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hall, Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center *MOVE*
3. **Capacity** : 500 seats (first-come-and-first-served basis)
4. **Participation fee** : Free of charge
5. **Nursery service** : available (500 yen per person, reservation needed)



Ms. Yukako UCHINAGA

Graduated from the University of Tokyo. Has held various positions such as a member of the Board of Directors at IBM Japan, Chief Executive Officer at Berlitz International (currently named Berlitz Corp.) (2008), and the company's Chairperson Emeritus. Since 2007, has served as Board Chair of the incorporated NPO J-Win

#### ▶ Part I Awarding Ceremony of Work-Life Balance

#### ▶ Par II Keynote Speech

#### "Utilize Women's Abilities as a Corporation's Strategy — a Message to Corporations and Women —"

Ms. Yukako UCHINAGA  
(Board Chair, Incorporated Non-profit Organization J-Win)

#### ▶ Part III Panel Discussion

##### Panelists

Ms. Yukako UCHINAGA  
(Board Chair, Incorporated Non-profit Organization J-Win)

Mr. Bjørn MIDTHUN

(Minister-Counsellor, Royal Norwegian Embassy)

Ms. Mihee HONG

(Head of Division Policy Research, Incheon Foundation for Women and Family)

Ms. Junko KOMORITA

(Representative Director, Zm'ken Service Co., Ltd.)

##### Coordinator

Ms. Mitsuko HORIUCHI

(President, Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women)

\*For Part II and III, Japanese/English/Korean simultaneous interpretation services are provided.

## KFAW Consulate Series

### "History, Culture and Families of Viet Nam : 40 years of friendship between Viet Nam and Japan"

In FY 2012, the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) launched a new international understanding promotion project, "KFAW Consulate Series," comprising lectures given by consuls general of consulates located in Fukuoka Prefecture. At the third round of the series, the consul general of the Consulate-General of

the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Fukuoka will deliver a lecture.

**Date** : November 27, 2013 (Wednesday), 15:00 – 16:30

**Venue** : Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center, MOVE

**Lecturer** : Consul General Bui Quoc THANH, Consulate-General of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Fukuoka

## DV Prevention Seminar "Toward a Society Free from Violence against Women" was held

On Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, DV Prevention Seminar titled "Toward a Society Free from Violence against Women" was delivered by Professor Emeritus Yuki SUNOHARA at Musashino University. The lecture focused on supports to victimized children and mothers of DV/abuse.

Regarding responsibility of violence, there is an argument of responsibility sharing that victimized women should also be responsible for it. But Professor SUNOHARA convincingly criticized the argument, "wives are a hundred percent responsible for their actions and husbands are a hundred percent responsible for theirs." Moreover, impacts on children of DV victimized families were illustrated in detail based on actual cases.

In the afternoon on the same day, the session 2 was held with a title of "Course for Dating DV Prevention Education Facilitators." The session began with a lecture by Ms. Keiko NAKATA, Representative of DV Prevention Nagasaki, who has had long years of experience in the field of dating DV prevention activities. Following that, an activities report was presented by "Ripple Fukuoka," the organization formed by ex-participants of KFAW's Training Course on Dating DV Prevention Education Facilitators. In the second half of the session, the participants joined group discussion to deliberate needs in dating DV prevention education.



### Location of Kitakyushu



## 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.