

# NEWS Letter

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## The 8<sup>th</sup> JAFE Seminar

The 8th JAFE Seminar was held at the Tokyo American Club on March 13, 2017.

On this occasion, we were pleased to welcome the Honourable Ms. Tamayo Marukawa, the Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games who spoke about her background before becoming minister, the national measures being taken in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and her thoughts on a variety of topics. There were many official sponsors among the participants, who took part in a lively Q&A session, as well as offers of cooperation for the Games.



### Outline of the speech given by the Honourable Tamayo Marukawa, Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

#### Changes in the working environment for women

I grew up in an environment where both of my parents were doctors, and so I grew up thinking that women should work for themselves. Even when I joined TV Asahi, maternity leave and childcare leave were available and so it was commonplace for women to return to work after giving birth. This was a time when the working environment for women had just started to see vast improvements. This was thanks to the women who had come before me opening the way.

Meanwhile, there were very few female Diet members in politics, and so it was very difficult for me to engage in my political activities while raising a child. However, in the last few years this environment has been undergoing a drastic change, and it has become possible to engage in political

activities while raising children. I experienced for myself that if the leader waves the flag and if there is but one pioneer, then there will be people who follow.

#### Women's empowerment in the sports world

The athletes' world has also become a supportive environment not only for the athletes themselves, but also for the coaches, managers and people in the position of giving guidance so that they can continue with their activities through the process of giving birth and raising children. I would like to support those female role models who continue to play as athletes while raising children, and hope that they will continue to play a role participating in sports events perhaps in the form of elite coaches after their retirement.

#### Promoting a barrier-free environment at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The expected number of visitors to the Tokyo Olympic Games is 10.1 million, the number of volunteers for the Games is 80,000, and the number of volunteers being recruited to act as guides around the city is 10,000 in Japan and abroad. This is a wonderful opportunity to have 4.8 billion people around the world focusing on Tokyo. The inbound customer base has also



changed, the frenzied shopping sprees have stopped, and the number of foreign visitors enjoying the "Japan experience" has increased. We also plan to utilize this inbound demand for regional revitalization. Following on from the 1964 Tokyo Paralympic Games, Japan is the only country to ever host two summer Paralympics.

In order to deepen our understanding of the Paralympic Games, we have also created video teaching materials for children to convey a barrier-free mind. In the future, a barrier-free environment will be a design standard for buildings and we will be working to further promote this.

For the Tokyo Olympic Games, medical centers, wellness conditioning centers, and facilities that allow children to be looked after are currently being built. At the next Olympics, we will be setting up a similar support system for the Paralympics and will create an environment so that more medals can be won.



## Introducing a JAFE Member

**Yumiko Murakami**

Head of OECD's Tokyo Center

Graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Studies of Sophia University, Stanford Graduate School (MA), Harvard Business School (MBA), and assumed current position in 2013. In charge of management of the OECD activities in Japan and the Asia region. The Tokyo Center conducts OECD surveys, research and makes economic policy recommendations for governments, private enterprises, research institutes, the media and other organizations. Before entering business school, also had experience working in the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation. Member of the Japan Advisory Board of Harvard Business School.

## Report

## Convening of the Spring Special Seminar

On January 30, 2017, JAFE held its Spring Special Seminar. In order to deepen understanding of the impact of the Trump administration on the Japanese economy, we invited Mr. Ryuichi Teshima, a former journalist and U.S. Washington bureau chief of Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) to give a talk.



## Summary of the speech of Mr. Ryuichi Teshima

## Japan and the United States are currently facing a crisis of divorce.

President Trump said that "Japan should be obliged to support the United States" in relation to the Japan-U.S. security framework, and furthermore, if Japan is exposed to the nuclear threat of North Korea and China, Japan "should develop nuclear weapons if necessary". This is a remark that looks at reviewing the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and its collapse ahead. Speaking in family terms, it is as though we are being threatened with divorce. If talk of divorce comes up, the relationship that previously existed between the couple has to change. In other words, the relationship between Japan and the US has already undergone a significant change.

## Asinine remarks of President Trump threatening Japan's political strategy

President Trump asked, "Why should America be bound to the 'one China principle'?" in terms of Taiwan, and also expressed in nuanced terms a redirection, depending on the situation, of the traditional Chinese policy towards Taiwan. At the US-China talks in 1971, the position of the US side was that, "The United States hopes for a peaceful solution to the Taiwan Strait". In other words, if China invaded Taiwan, the United States would exercise military power. Japan, which is a member of the alliance, would have no choice but to take joint action. In this case, China would shut down the Toyota plants located throughout China, and the Japanese economy would be devastatingly affected.

On the other hand, if Japan were to refuse to cooperate with the United States, the Japan-US Security Treaty would die a sudden death. Avoiding a confrontation between China and Taiwan is Japan's top-priority strategy. And so these remarks of President Trump which threaten this strategy cannot be ignored.

## NEWS Global Summit Women 2017 held in Tokyo

Every year, the Global Summit of Women is held in various countries around the world, and this time it was held in Tokyo from May 11, 2017 for three days. With the participation of many JAFE members, 1,600 participants from 62 countries, the largest number ever, gathered from all over the world.

The theme of this Summit was "Beyond Womenomics: Accelerating Access / Increasing Impact". Vigorous discussions took place in all of the sessions not only about accelerating access for women in politics, economics, business and other fields, but also about what needs to be done in order for women to actively engage in and have an impact on a fusion of technology and software, and social problems.

In the open session on the first day of the Summit, Mr. Hiroshige Seko, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, the Chairman of the Japan Business Federation gave talks. Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo and Irene Natividad, the President of the GSW engaged in dialogue. In addition, Mr. Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister was awarded the Global



Leadership Award for his achievements in leading Womenomics. On the night of the same day, a welcome dinner sponsored by the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was glitteringly held at Akasaka Palace, the State Guest, which was lit up for the first time in its history.

On the second and third day, a number of joint sessions and subcommittees were held, starting with the Breakfast Networking where women could talk freely going beyond country and position. The female students who had been invited also enthusiastically gave comments. The 2017 GSW in Tokyo where discussions were lively from start to finish ended in a resounding success. Not only was a new record established for the biggest number of participants, but over the three-day period, the potential of female leaders going beyond the themes and fields to explore an unknown future was passionately discussed beyond countries and generations.

