

NEWS Letter

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The 9th JAFE Seminar

On July 3, 2017, the 9th JAFE seminar was held at the Tokyo American Club. On this occasion, we welcomed as our special guest, Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi, Member of the House of Representatives and Chief Deputy Secretary-General of the LDP, a highly popular requested speaker from our members, who spoke on the topic of “An Era of a Life Expectancy of 100 Years and the Social Security System”. At the beginning of his speech, he also talked about the results of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election, which had been held the day before.



Summary of the speech by Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi, Member of the House of Representatives

Children's Participation in Politics – Voting Starts from 18 Years of Age, Participation in Politics Starts from 0 Years of Age

Mr. Koizumi talked about a meeting that had been held in March to report on his political activities that took place in Yokosuka, his local constituency. Baby stroller parking and colouring areas were set up leading to attendance by approximately 800 people, of whom 80 were children. The fact that 10 percent of the attendees at this political meeting were children was an unprecedented success. Rather than having people suddenly think about politics at the age of 18, Mr. Koizumi explained that what is necessary is to create an environment where politics feels familiar and close-at-hand from the age of 0.

Media coverage of the consumption tax increase

The fact is that newspaper companies, which are reporting, “Young parliamentarians should not run away from the debate on consumption tax increases!” are the companies which will benefit from a reduced tax rate if consumption tax is raised to 10% or more. It is not really persuasive for them to report



parliamentarians should “not run away from the debate!” when they themselves are benefiting from reduced taxes. What is important in order to gain understanding from the general public with regard to consumption tax is equity in the consumption tax itself, and willing acceptance. From this perspective, it is odd that aside from food, it is only newspapers which are not subject to consumption tax. This should be reviewed.

Funding for child insurance

The problem of the declining birthrate cannot wait. We need to implement solutions in the next few years.

“Child insurance” was recommended in March, but the issue is how we go about making funds available for children.”

“Child insurance” is a concept intended to cover the costs of free early childhood education using the social insurance premiums based on the premise of society-wide support for children and childrearing. By way of adding it to the pension insurance premiums, the idea is to collect insurance premiums from employers and workers and to allocate them to childrearing support. An insurance premium rate of 0.1% comes to about 160 yen a month per person, through which we would be able to make funds of 340 billion yen. That means we would be able to add 5,000 yen a month to the current child benefits. If 0.5% were to be realized, 25,000 yen a month could be added, and in essence, childcare education could be made free of charge.

“Child insurance” is a new social insurance scheme that maintains equity among generations

Referring to changes in the social insurance premium rate, the pension stands at 9.15%.



Only the employment insurance rate has declined over the past few years from 0.5% to the current 0.3%. Medical insurance is 5%, long-term care insurance is 0.825%. It is highly likely that these rates will increase as the baby-boomer generation reaches the age of 75 in 2025. However, even if “child insurance” increases by 0.1%, this can be absorbed by the fact that the employment insurance rate is declining. Currently, the majority of recipients of social security benefits are elderly people, but in order to ensure generational equity, we should make way for child insurance in the framework of social insurance. From now on, we are facing an era of society-wide support for children and childrearing coming from those with and without children.

As for when recipients will be able to claim their pension, it will be possible to implement an extension to 70 years of age, but in the future where life expectancy is expected to reach 100 years, we should make it possible to extend the age to even after 70. It is also necessary to design a system that will encourage wealthier people to decline their pensions.

I would like for everyone to express constructive opinions, and for this to become a national debate.

Report 1

4th Summer Camp in Tateshina

On July 22 and 23, 2017, the highly-popular limited-number Summer Camp in Tateshina held annually was held for the fourth time at the Poppins Training Center over a two-day period.

This time, in response to the results of the survey, "Survey on the Awareness of Female Executives" set as the topic at last year's Summer Camp, and implemented in February, the topic for this year's camp was furtherance using a qualitative survey.

In addition, Ms. Mariko Bando, the Chancellor of Showa Women's University and Ms. Sachiko Habu, Editor-in chief of *Nikkei Dual*, who jointly implemented and analyzed this survey, joined us in Tateshina, and participated in animated discussions over the two-day period.

At the beginning, Ms. Masako Bando spoke about "Women leaders 4.0: Career skills in a new era", and this talk was followed by a roundtable, a presentation which included Ms. Bando's childhood and personal life, and further discussions. The after-dinner discussions continued on the current situation of female empowerment until late at night.

Ultimately, the survey respondent attributes were divided into three generations (the generation prior to the Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment Act, the

generation of the Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment Act, and the generation of the Childcare and Family Care Leave Act), and the results of the responses on career-building, leadership and women's empowerment were compiled with the addition of the results of the 2-day qualitative survey.

The points of this two-day Summer Camp were serialized in *Nikkei DUAL* at a later date.

In addition, Noriko Nakamura, the JAFE representative continued to interview top executives such as JAFE honorary members through a qualitative survey, and the results of the survey were reported to the participants of the Year-End-Party held on December 5 by the members of the steering committee.



Details

Tateshina Summer Camp, the Naked Truth Report
<http://dual.nikkei.co.jp/article/110/84/>
 "What 135 Female Executives Are Really Thinking" Revealed:
<http://dual.nikkei.co.jp/article/111/29/>



Introduction of members



Honorary Member

Ms. Keiko Takegawa

Director-General of the Gender Equality Bureau,
Cabinet Office

After graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Ms. Takegawa joined the Prime Minister's Office (current Cabinet Office). After studying abroad, including the master's program of the business school of Duke University in the United States, Ms. Takegawa served as Examination Officer for the Decorations and Medals Bureau, Cabinet Office; Director for Policy Evaluation, Minister's Secretariat; Director of the Division for Scientific Affairs, Science Council of Japan; Director of the Policy Division for Universal Design, Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; Deputy Director General for Policies on Cohesive Society and the Minister's Secretariat; Deputy Director General for the Gender Equality Bureau; Director of the Public Relations Office; and was appointed to her current post in July 2014.

Report 2

JAFE Year-End-Party 2017

On December 5, 2017, the Year-End-Party was held. This year, we wanted our members to be able to enjoy delicious cuisine as much as possible, and so it was held at La Table de Joel Robuchon in Ebisu. Members invited their partners and friends, and we also had a large number of men participating. In addition, a report was given on the results of the "Survey on the Awareness of Female Executives", which was compiled in the summer, and discussions were held on New Year's resolutions for further progress in women's managerial posts.



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