

NEWS Letter

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Third JAFE Executive Seminar held on Oct.31, 2014

The third JAFE Executive Seminar was held with the guest speaker, Mr. Yasuchika Hasegawa, Chairman of Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) and Representative Director, Chairman of the Board & CEO of Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Following Mr. Hakubun Shimomura (Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and Ms. Atsuko Muraki (Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare), who delivered a speech at the first and second JAFE Executive Seminars respectively, Mr. Hasegawa, the first speaker from the business community, gave a lecture with the title of "The Age of Women Has Come at Last."



Excerpts from Mr. Yasuchika Hasegawa 's Address at the Executive Seminar



- Since the beginning of the human history, attributes that characterize the male gender—power, speed, and spatial/position recognition abilities—have been considered important to achieve the goal of continued survival of a family and tribe. As an inevitable result, human societies have been historically male-dominated. However, such attributes are scarcely necessary in this modern era with highly developed civilization and sophisticated technologies. Now we need to accelerate the momentum of change by raising the awareness of men who still hold advantageous positions given that a significant amount of time would be necessary to rebuild the long-established social structure.
- Of all creatures on the earth, only human beings possess the ability to set goals and make efforts to achieve them. Those who can achieve their goals are those who are not discouraged by repeated failures and continue their efforts.
- It is said that the keywords for corporate management in the 21st century are globalization, innovation, and diversity. Nations and corporations must establish a highly diversified organization to catch up with the increasingly accelerating globalization.
- The Abe administration is focused on the women empowerment as the core of its economic growth strategies. It is fully determined to achieve the goal by implementing specific measures such as upgrading child care/housekeeping support systems, developing a work environment that accelerates the promotion of female personnel, establishing a taxation system that is neutral to any working style, reviewing the social security systems, and introducing flexible ways of working.
- I strongly believe that the advancement of women will rapidly gain momentum although the start was somewhat slow. At last, the age of women has come. We male executives will also endeavor to reach a watershed moment, through which we can enter a new phase of history where more women are involved in management and promoted to managerial positions.



Members Introduced at the Executive Seminar



Ms. Kumiko Bando

Secretary General of the Consumer Affairs Agency

Ms. Bando feels that she was given an excellent management opportunity when she was appointed as the Secretary General of the Consumer Affairs Agency. The organization is rich in diversity and served by a number of individuals seconded from various government ministries and agencies, legal community, private corporations, and municipal governments. She has also provided support since her days at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to the advancement of female professionals in the field of science and technology, where only a small number of women are said to have entered into.



Ms. Teiko Kudo

Executive Officer and Unit Leader of the Growth Industry Cluster Department, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)

Ms. Kudo was promoted to the post of executive officer and unit leader of the Growth Industry Cluster Department, SMBC, in April 2014. Currently, she is engaged in a joint project with a prestigious Indonesian agricultural university to provide support to Japanese farmers who are looking to enter into the Indonesian market, as part of efforts to share various types of information, create deals, and offer financial support in the fields of agriculture, healthcare, and new energies.



Ms. Shoko Kawai

Executive Officer, Assistant Manager of the Main Office (in charge of shop operation), and Secretary General of the Structural Reform Promotion Committee, Matsuya Co., Ltd.

Ms. Kawai was appointed as the first female executive officer of the company after returning from her second maternity/child-rearing leave. She is working hard to enhance her management skills while making frequent field visits in the aim of further improving, based on her own field experience, the quality of service and hospitality of the front-line staff.

Report

First JAFE Two Way Seminar Held on Sep.10, 2014

“JAFE Two Way Seminar—Reaching for the Stars” is designed to provide participants with a clue to solve their problems by covering topics that are specific and familiar to working women and encouraging mutual stimulation between speakers and audience.

The first Two Way Seminar featured Ms. Touko Shirakawa as the guest speaker. Ms. Shirakawa, who is a leading researcher in the field of women’s life planning and known for her coining of the word “Konkatsu (marriage hunting),” delivered a speech with the title of “Work, Marriage, and Childbearing—Life Planning for Career-Oriented Women.” As the topic was very serious and familiar to the audience, the seminar was dominated by an atmosphere of great excitement.



JAFE seminar: An Evening with Our Female Cabinet Ministers

Time and date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015; from 18:00

Location: Manhattan Room, Tokyo American Club
2-1-2 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo; Tel: 03-4588-0381

Female cabinet ministers attending: Ms. Sanae Takaichi
Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications

Ms. Eriko Yamatani
*Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission,
Minister in charge of the Abduction Issue,
Minister in charge of Ocean Policy and Territorial Issues,
Minister in charge of Building National Resilience,
Minister of State for Disaster Management*

Ms. Yoko Kamikawa
Minister of Justice

Ms. Haruko Arimura
*Minister in charge of Women’s Empowerment,
Minister in charge of Administrative Reform,
Minister in charge of Civil Service Reform,
Minister of State for Regulatory Reform,
Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate,
Minister of State for Gender Equality*

Special guests: Mr. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan (attendance to be confirmed)

Representative of group proposing event: Ms. Masako Mori
Member of the House of Councillors

Ms. Tomomi Inada
Chairperson of the LDP Policy Research Council

JAFE Secretariat Japan Association for Female Executives

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