

NEWS Letter

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First JAFE Executive Seminar Held

The first JAFE Executive Seminar was held on March 5, 2014 at the Tokyo American Club, featuring Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hakubun Shimomura as a guest speaker. Approximately 100 female executives attended the seminar, where they were privileged to listen to a valuable lecture by Minister Shimomura on the government's efforts to rebuild Japan's education. After the lecture, they were also given an opportunity to exchange business cards and discuss directly with the minister.



Summary of Minister Shimomura's Address at the Executive Seminar



- After assuming the post of the minister of education, cultural, sports, science and technology, I have set a reform process comprising 44 items toward the rebuilding of education.
- Development of global human resources: The number of Japanese studying abroad has been on a continuous decline. We would like to put more efforts to promote the globalization of human resources, that is to say, to overcome the so-called "psychological deflation." We aim to double the number of Japanese studying abroad by 2020 and will establish, through government-private sector collaboration, a financial support program to help finance the cost of studying abroad.
- Promotion of educational activities through Saturday classes: We will seek to enrich the educational environment on Saturdays through joint efforts by schools, families, and local communities. By asking not only teachers but also graduates and local residents to serve as lecturers, we will ensure that all children in rural areas have equitable learning opportunities and eliminate urban-rural gaps in education.
- We should consider social security not only as benefits we are entitled to receive in the latter half of our life, but also as benefits that can be received in the form of education in the first half of our life.
- We would like to support those young people with aspirations that would lead to the globalization of their field of activity through scholarship and other overseas education support programs.

- Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics: Japanese people have always taken pride in their strength in unity. I believe that the forthcoming Olympics and Paralympics, toward which we are joining forces as one team, will be an opportunity to revive the Japanese society. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has drawn up Japan Vision 2020, setting out a vision of what Japan should be like by 2020 and proposing a series of steps toward achieving that end, such as developing human resources capable of winning a victory on the global stage.
- Promotion of women's participation: This is one of the topmost priority policy goals of the Abe Cabinet. We will encourage companies to take affirmative action to appoint more women to decision-making positions and allow for more flexible work styles, while at the same time striving to provide social infrastructure to support the active participation of women.
- We will host the sports and culture version of the Davos forum in 2017 in Japan. We hope it will provide a successful model and lead to the success of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020.





Minister H. Shimomura introduced the JAFE Executive Seminar on his Facebook page.

Minister Hakubun Shimomura Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/hakubun.shimomura>

Members Introduced at the Executive Seminar



Honorary member Ms. Tomoko Samura
 Director-General, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe internationally introduced Japan's empowerment goal of "20-30" - i.e., 30% of leading positions to be occupied by women by 2030 - in his address at the meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The promotion of women's participation was also included in the government's Japan Revitalization Strategy, and the possibility of promoting this initiative at the local government level is now being studied. As it takes time to have more women appointed to important positions in large companies, she believes it will be necessary to take further steps toward achieving the "20-30" goal.



Ms. Asako Hoshino
 Corporate Vice President, Nissan Motor Corporation

In 2004, she became the head - or "pilot" as referred to in the company - of the cross functional team in charge of promoting diversity. She was the driving force for raising the percentage of female managers from 1.6% at the time to 6.8% (170 women) today. Nissan Motor Corporation has been awarded and recognized by a number of diversity-related organizations and its percentage of female managers remains significantly higher than the industry average.



Ms. Hiroko Yamashina
 Executive Officer, ORIX Corporation

As a result of continuous support for women to help manage work-life balance and pursue career, the percentage of working mothers against all female employees and the percentage of female section managers (in the nine group companies) have increased significantly over the past 10 years to reach 28.8% and 16.9% respectively. As a next step, she intends to seek to increase the number of female executives and promote greater participation of women.

Second JAFE Executive Seminar

Friday, 20 June 2014 (6:00 pm)
 Venue: Tokyo American Club

Guest: Ms. Atsuko Muraki
 Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Theme: My Life

Applications can be made online at: www.jafe.jp

* Please note that the lecture may be postponed by reason of urgent official duties.

Seminar in Tatেশina

Saturday, 26 July to
 Sunday, 27 July 2014
 Venue: Poppins Tatেশina Training Center

This is going to be a workshop with a guest speaker. We hope many members will attend the seminar.

Details will be posted shortly on our website at: www.jafe.jp



JAFE Secretariat Japan Association for Female Executives

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