

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Gender Equality Promotion Center

Supporting for Network, Outreach, Public Relation, Child Care, Nursing Care, and Work-Life Balance

Under the initiative of the president of Kyoto University, the Center for Women Researchers was established in September 2006 to provide an environment in which female researchers can fully exercise their abilities, and to promote the development of excellent young researchers. The center has promoted various activities through four programs, to develop and improve the research/education environment for female researchers so that they can continue their research work and cultivate their successors. To enhance gender equality, some programs have been open to all members of Kyoto University.

Together with the Gender Equality Promotion Office and in cooperation with the local community, the center has worked toward the realization of a gender-equal society. In 2014, the Center for Women Researchers and the Gender Equality Promotion Office were integrated into the Gender Equality Promotion Center to develop the activities.

The center's facilities are available for small meetings or temporary child care during study meetings, etc. Books on gender equality and work donated by female faculty members are also available for lending.



Members of Center's Working Group



Four Programs of the Center

Welcomed Asian Female Leaders

The National Women's Education Center conducts a participatory seminar on pressing issues pertaining to women's capacity building for administrative officers responsible for women's policy and education and NGO leaders in the Asia Pacific region. The 2013 Seminar was held in Tokyo and Kyoto and nine female leaders from Cambodia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the course. On 1 October

2013, the participants visited the Center for Women Researchers. They took a lively interest in the center's infant care room and "Green Curtain Project" (see a column on p. 20).



■ Networking, Outreach Project, and Public Relation

The center provides information to support students and staff of Kyoto University, highlighting gender mainstreaming, diversity, work-life balance, career development, and networking. It also offers lectures, seminars, and other events focusing on international academic and scientific careers.

◆ Lectures Relating to Gender Equality

In cooperation with faculty members in related fields, the center offers a course titled “Gender Studies” and a pocket seminar titled “Gender and Science” to undergraduate students in their first semester.

◆ Symposium for Diversity and Equity in Research Institutions

The center hosts various symposia, study meetings, and training programs related to gender equality and career development of researchers.



Symposium Series: “My Work and Career Design”

◆ Roundtable Forum for High School Students : “Talking with Researchers at Kyoto University”

Through exchanges with faculty members and students at Kyoto University, this forum gives high school girls an opportunity to learn about what researchers do. To enable young participants to discover more about college-level studies and researches, postgraduate orientation and careers as researchers and scientists, faculty members serve together with undergraduate students as lecturers and instructors on the theme of “Getting to Know Kyoto University, Talking with Researchers.”

■ Support for Child Care and Nursing Care

◆ Infant Care Room for Infants Awaiting Public Day Care

The center offers a Day Care Room for Infants on Waiting Lists for Public Nursery School to help female researchers and students to pursue their research and educational goals while raising their children. The management is commissioned by a private corporation, and the university covers a portion of the cost for the care.



◆ Child Pick-up & Care Service

The center coordinates a service program to pick up children at regular day care or after-school care, when their parents are unable to do so, and temporarily provides care at the center’s facility.

◆ Lectures and Networking Events

The center hosts various lectures and networking events related to nursing care, such as lectures on senile dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. It also provides a course “Assertiveness Training and Stress Management Seminar” aimed at building better relationships in research institutions.



Nursery Room for Sick Children “KOMOMO”

The Nursery Room for Sick Children, commonly called “KOMOMO,” is a day care facility that provides care for sick or convalescent children when they cannot attend their regular day-care facility, kindergarten or elementary school. This facility is staffed by nurses and childcare workers, and provides appropriate care for sick children in collaboration with Kyoto University Hospital. All the students and faculty/staff members at Kyoto University are eligible for the service.



Support for Work-life Balance

The center provides financial support for researchers to hire research/experiment assistants while they are away from work on maternity leave, for child-raising or family care, and so have difficulty securing time for their research. Applications for this system are accepted twice a year (in June and December).

The data of Figure 1 indicates a large percentage of beneficiaries in the medical field. Among the reasons for application, child-care accounts for 90%. These 90% are women, though the proportion of male users has been increasing (Figure 2).

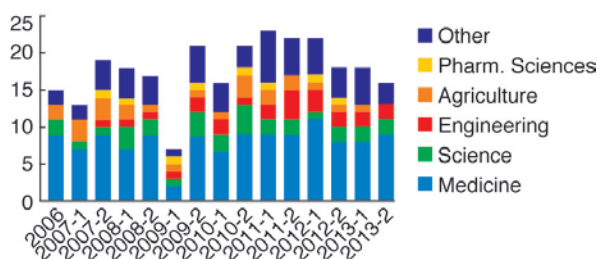


Figure 1 Research Area of Users

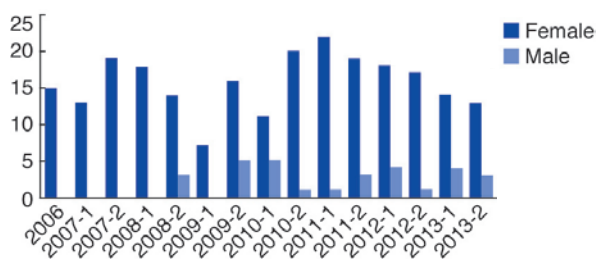


Figure 2 Users' Gender

Green Curtain is also Promoted!

The center responded to a call for green wall sponsors issued by the Kyoto University Environment Preservation Research Center, in the framework of its “Green Curtain Project – for a cool and environmentally friendly summer.” As a green wall sponsor, the center grows *goya* (bitter melon) in window boxes. Their endeavor has been featured on the Green Project website as part of a blog promoting the growth of *goya* plants.

WEB eprc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/

(Kyoto University Environment Preservation Research Center)

