



Ms. Takako Ito (far left), the first female Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, joined an informative and inspiring discussion on mentoring women leaders with (from left): Dr. Rachel Silvey, the Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute; Dr. Kelly Hannah-Moffat, University of Toronto's Vice-President, HR & Equity; and Dr. Rose Patten, Chancellor of the University of Toronto; with Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin of the Department of Political Science moderating.



Dr. Patten delivers her keynote speech.



The symposium took place at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Global Japan.

SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES MENTORING WOMEN LEADERS

A conversation on International Women's Day

The University of Toronto and the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto presented a special symposium marking this year's International Women's Day on Friday, March 8.

"Mentoring Women Leaders: A Conversation on International Women's Day" featured prominent women from various fields who examined both advancements made by women in recent years as well as the challenges they continue to face. Among the speakers were Dr. Rose Patten, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, who delivered a keynote speech on the capabilities needed in leaders today, and the opportunity for women leaders in particular to step forward. Other presenters included the University of Toronto's Vice-President, HR & Equity, Dr. Kelly Hannah-Moffat, who spoke on the importance of women in terms of the university's human resources, and Dr. Rachel Silvey, the Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute, who talked on women in Southeast Asia, in a conversation moderated by Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin of the Department of Political Science.

Consul-General of Japan Takako Ito focused on Japan's various initiatives to raise the status of women, such as the World Assembly of Women (WAW!) to be held on March 23-24 in collaboration with Women 20 (W20).

The assembled group of prominent women and their insights made this event both important and timely.

SPOTLIGHT: JAPAN HELPS WOMEN SHINE

As chair of the G20, Japan will host the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!) this year under the theme "WAW! for Diversity" concurrently with Women 20 (W20) whose theme this year is "closing the gender gap for new prosperity." It is an invaluable opportunity for some of the world's most prominent women leaders to gather and exchange views, and will take place in Tokyo on March 23 and 24. The 5th WAW! will promote the movement of empowering women in both Japan and the world while highlighting its collaboration with the W20.

2012, about 3 million women have joined the labour force, and now 76.5 per cent of women there are working — a record-high number for Japan. New legislation has passed to promote women in the workplace, to prohibit maternity harassment, and to foster work-life balance for both women and men. More female leadership has been encouraged. With many other measures and policies, Japan continues its effort to achieve a society where women shine. Indeed, Japan is changing.

JAPAN AND CANADA CAN COLLABORATE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Japanese and Canadian women and men can learn from each other and collaborate for the advancement of women, bilaterally and internationally. Joint events in Toronto for Women's leadership or women's entrepreneurship are just a few examples of this.

Highlights of the 5th WAW!/W20 program include keynote speeches by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

CREATING A SOCIETY IN WHICH WOMEN CAN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Women in the world today face many challenges. As innovation brings rapid change to our lives, what can we do to create an inclusive and diverse society in which women can actively participate and realize their full potential? The 5th WAW!/W20 will discuss various aspects of this question.

NEW LEGISLATION PROMOTES WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Since "womenomics" started in Japan in

Saturday, March 23	
WAW!/W20 Joint Session	
Keynote Speeches	
Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize Laureate	
Michelle Bachelet United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	
Special Address	
Gabriela Michetti Vice President of the Argentine Republic	
Human Resource Development in a Changing Society with Technology Transformation	
WAW! Session	
Leadership for Regional Development and Job Creation	
W20 Session	
Closing the Gender Gap for New Prosperity: Enhancing Governance for Women's Empowerment	
WAW! & W20 High Level Panel Discussion Sessions	
Media and Contents to Nurture Diversity	
Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Post Conflict Recovery	
Creation of New Market Value by Women Entrepreneurs	
Gender Lens Investing: Emerging Global Trends	
Sunday, March 24	
WAW! and W20 High Level Panel Discussion Sessions	
Diversity for Growth: Corporate Management and Working Environment	
Future of Family: Getting Support, Utilizing and Sharing	
Towards the Gender Equality in the Digital Era	
Women as Patients & Caregivers: Improving Gender Equity and Labour Inclusion by Addressing Healthcare Disparities	
W20 Session	
Closing the Gender Gaps at Work: Leading a Happy Work and Life	
WAW!/W20 Joint Session	
Panel Discussion among Foreign Ministers	

VIDEOS ON JAPAN'S INITIATIVES ON WOMEN

Japan's initiatives on advancing the status of women are widespread, from the field of science and technology to the international stage. To learn more, you can explore videos that highlight just some of the initiatives taking place.



Dr. Takahashi completed the world's first transplant of retinal cells made from donor iPS cells in 2017.



Naoko Yamazaki
Astronaut



To Make Women Shine: Japan's Efforts in Developing Countries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-BiykFLIWg&feature=youtu.be>

Promoting the active role of women in the fields of science
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkidYcOXv18>

To Make Women Shine: WAW! From Japan to the World
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_fe1zoiOY&feature=youtu.be

5th WAW!/W20 Japan 2019



HIGH LIGHT SPEAKERS

Ms. Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate for 2014
H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

WAW! (World Assembly for Women) is one of Japan's efforts to achieve "a society where women shine". With many leading figures from all over the world in attendance, we are expecting to have lively discussions on various women's issues including women's empowerment.

Follow the 5th WAW!/W20 @ www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000859.html

W(Women) 20 is an official engagement group that proposes policy recommendations related to women for the G20. Through such recommendations, it influences G20 leaders to create a new international economic order. Japan is responsible for W20 2019 under its presidency of the G20.



A panel from WAW! 2017