

Recent Activities of Gender Equality Promotion in the Physical Society of Japan



A. Itakura^{1,2}, H. Mori^{1,3}, Y. Shikano^{1,4}, M. Sasao^{1,5} and Y. Fujii¹

¹ The Physical Society of Japan, Japan, ² National Institute for Materials Science, Japan,

³ The Univ. of Tokyo, Japan, ³ Institute for Molecular Science, ⁵ Doshisya Univ., Japan,

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1. Relevance:

The recent activities of gender equality promotion in the Physical Society of Japan (JPS) are introduced. The gender equality promotion committee in JPS was established in 2002 after joining IUPAP2002-WIP in Paris.

2. Aims & Objectives:

The percentage of women members in JPS increases gradually from 2.1 % (in 1985) to 5.8 % (2014), although total number of JPS members is almost(?) constant during these 7-8 years. It is, however, far from 30 %, the goal in 2020 in science and engineering fields in Japan. The distribution of women members in physics field shows a small dip in ages around 35. The ages correspond to those for childcare, implying we need some political action to release child- and/or day-care loads from women researchers.

3. Methods:

In order to increase the Japanese women researcher's ratio, there is a large two ways. One is to improve the work environment of the women researcher. Another is to educate the women researcher of the next generation.

4. Results and Conclusions:

Recent activities of JPS as follows: JPS and JSAP (the Japan Society of Applied Physics) organized the 3rd AAPPS (Association of Asian Pacific Physical Societies) workshop on "Women in Physics" in APPC12 (12th Asia Pacific Physics Conference, in Japan) in 2013. The main subject "affirmative action and networking" was introduced and discussed by 55 participants representing nine countries and territories. In annual JPS meeting in March 2014, the symposium "Development of Next Generation on Physics" was organized collaboratively with Gender Equality and Physical Education Committees. Of course the childcare rooms have been open in every annual meeting of JPS since 2000. The 10th summer school, two-nights-three-days school for girl students in junior and high schools was held at National Women's Education Center (Saitama, Japan) on Aug.7-9 in 2014 [1]. JPS members supported the school for the programs of the experiment "Let's illuminate the LED", and international program "Chat in English".

We put following actions into practice as regular activities: award nomination of Jr. session, which recruits reports from high school and junior high school students. Some of the reports have been presented at the Physical Society of Japan annual meeting. It started to commemorate the World Year of Physics, 2005.

The 3rd large questionnaire survey and analysis (16,314 members, in2012 on "gender equality promotion in science and engineering" was carried out by EPMEWSE (Japan Inter-Society Liaison Association Committee for Promoting Equal Participation of Men and Women in Science and Engineering). The proposal based upon the survey results was submitted.

The percentage of women members in JPS is still about 6 %, but increases gradually. However, focusing on woman student-members, increasing ratio is very high: 11% in 2012 but 13% now. It can be expected that the number of women in JPS increases in the near future from young age's data. We consider that the result came from the effect of women supporting system of Japanese government, JPS, and other dissemination works.

References:

[1] S. Tajima, "Summer and spring science schools for girls students", 27pCJ-5, the symposium "Development of next generation in physics" in the 69th Physical Society of Japan, March.27, 2014.