

GEC2022, Women in Science (October 4th, 2022, 18:30-20:00)

Sponsorship: GEC2022

Co-sponsorship: Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion (TUMUG), Japan

Date: October 4th, 2022

Time: 18:30-20:00

Place: Tachibana, Sendai International Center, Sendai, Japan

Participation fee: Free of charge

"Women in Science" is planned as a public event of GEC2022, and the purpose of the event is to discuss the experiences and efforts of female researchers for their career development and improvement of research environment, and to raise issues to be solved in the future and to seek for solutions.

Program

Chair : Dr. Noriko Hosaka

(Associate professor, National Institute of Technology, Sendai College, Japan)

Opening: Dr. Toshiro Kaneko (Professor, Tohoku University, Japan (LOC Chair))

1. Dr. Sunhee Lee

(Senior Lecturer, Center for Gender Equality Promotion, Tohoku University, Japan)

Title: DEI Promotion in Tohoku University

Tohoku University issued the Tohoku University Declaration on Gender Equality in 2002, and since then has established an on-campus nursery school and has developed programs to support students in balancing work and family life, foster and support young female researchers, and nurture the next generation of female students. This year, the DEI Declaration was issued with the aim of creating a university that respects and embraces the diversity of each individual more broadly from the gender category. At the same time, the Graduate School of Engineering has begun to promote more diversity within the university, including special openings for women-only positions in order to close the gender gap in the faculty. In this report, we will describe the gender equality promotion projects at Tohoku University and the issue to be addressed in the future.

2. Dr. Aranka Derzsi

(Senior research fellow, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungary)

Title: Challenges and rewards of being a woman in science

Despite improvements in the last couple of years, women are still under-represented in science and technology, both in the academic and industrial sectors. This is attributed to various reasons, such as the role allocated to women in the society, the lack of information about good role models and the available possibilities, etc. As a speaker of the women in science session at GEC, I will briefly introduce my research, provide insights into the personal and professional paths that led to my academic career, and share my experiences about the challenges and rewards of being a woman in science.

3. Dr. Douyan Wang

(Associate professor, Institute of Industrial Nanomaterials, Kumamoto University, Japan)

Title: The future depends upon your choices.

“Career or family” seems to be a classical phrase which based on women’s unpaid caregiving attitude, but it still addresses the issue of gender equality in Japan today. To develop career and stay as a regular employee in Japan, I strongly feel the importance of heartfelt support from families and the attitude of the surrounding society. As a speaker of the women in science session, I will give my brief research introduction and share my childcare and elder-care experiences.

4. Ms. Airi Nakayama

(Master's student, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University, Japan)

Title: Breaking Down Barriers for Women in STEM

The first day I stepped into Tohoku University as an engineering student, the first thing I realized was that the vast majority of my colleagues are male students. Growing up in the United States and coming to Japan from college, I noticed the strongly rooted stereotypical culture regarding the fields of studies: it is more feminine to pursue in liberal arts, and more masculine in STEM. By overcoming this barrier, I believe women in Japan will have more opportunities in life. As a speaker of the women in science session, I will also give my brief research introduction.

5. Discussion

Closing: Dr. Toshiro Kaneko (Professor, Tohoku University, Japan (LOC, Chair))