Recent Activities of the Physical Society of Japan (JPS)  
Gender Equality Promotion Committees

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About GEPC of JPS
Apr. 2002 IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics held in Paris
Jul. 2002 Gender Equality Promotion Committee (GEPC) established

Gender Equality Promotion Committee of Physical Society of Japan has been established right after the IUPAP international Conference on Women in Physics held in Paris, 2002.

The committee aims at
(1) Discussing the significance of gender equality promotion and taking actions for the achievement,
(2) Developing the next generation human resources in science including female scientists,
(3) Surveys and improvement of the environment for men and women in science.

i. The number of female physicists in Japan

The number of female physicists is gradually increasing. The ratio of women of JPS members becomes almost double in last 20 years, but it is still at very low level (~5%). The ratio of female graduate students is approximately 10% in these years, which is almost twice of the value in regular members. One of the important issues is to increase not only the number of female students, but also the number of female physicists.

P: professor
AP: associate professor
L: lecturer

ii. Collaborating with the other associations in science and engineering

JPS is a member society of EPMEWSE (the Japan Inter-Society Liaison Association Committee for Promoting Equal Participation of Men and Women in Science and Engineering) which was established on July 19 in 2002. Now it consists of more than 60 academic societies covering mathematics, electronics and information, chemistry and materials engineering, physics, life science and biology, civil engineering, mechanical engineering and so on. JPS attended every annual meeting of EPMEWSE, and advanced to wrap-up the recommendations to the government based on the large-scale survey. The 3rd survey since 2003 was held in November 2012, to which more than 1,600 JPS members contributed. The poster presentation by Prof. A. Ejiri gives some results of the survey. The recent important issue of EPMEWSE is the empowerment of female scientists.

iii. Science camps for school girls

Every year, the spring and summer camps for junior-high and high-school girls are held in Kansai area and Saitama prefecture, respectively. More than 100 school girls, who applied voluntarily, enjoyed the frontier of science. Our committee members participated in all of these camps, as organizers, presenters of experiments and posters for possible career paths and a special subject of physic. We believe that these activities are highly effective to promote scientific interests of young school girls.

The experiment presented in 2013 summer camp: “Measure atmospheric pressure”

Communication in English with Korean students through network

iv. Symposia in the JPS annual meetings

At the annual meeting of the JPS, we organize a half-day symposium on the promotion gender equality in physics. In the recent three years, we held symposia as follows:

(1) “Positive Action-Governmental Supporting Policy to Accelerate Career Development of Woman Researchers and Future Prospect”, Okayama, Mar. 2010
(2) canceled due to the earthquake on 11 Mar. 2011
(4) “Diversity and Physics”, Hiroshima, Mar. 2013

 Cf. the poster presentation by Prof. H. Mori

Oral presentation and panel discussion of the symposium in the JPS annual meeting held in Hiroshima, March 2013.

iv. Publications

Publishing two articles: “News from the JPS Gender Equality Promotion Committee” and four Editorials since 2010 in the JPS membership journal BUTSURI.

Website of Gender Equality Promotion Committee of JPS:
https://k2.scLu-toyama.ac.jp/triangle/

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