

■ WISE Open Forum: August 2, 2015 at Academy Hills “A look ahead: Venture, Social Innovation, and Women/diversity”

The Open forum was held to share and inspire our audience for the creation and successful execution of social innovation and to evolve as an entrepreneur in promoting diversity to transform society for the 21st century global economy.

Marshall Greeting was presented from Harvard University to JSIE



Key note by Dr. Sachiko Kuno

” Consider how to apply your capabilities towards 21st century”

In regards to the challenge of how to maximize Japanese women's skills to change the world for the better, I emphasize that Japanese women are especially qualified to solve problems in both developed and developing countries, and I urge you to consider how to apply your capabilities towards 21st century.

I am sharing you my journey from studies in biochemistry in Kyoto through my transition from academia to business and how I established a biotech company to reach my goals of product distribution. My time spent abroad in Munich, Germany in particular helped prepare me for this career shift; though stressful at times, it gave me a sense of "self-efficacy" as I was able to learn about myself through overcoming challenging situations. I strongly encourage Japanese students to travel and study abroad.



Today, continuing to serve society through the S&R Foundation in Washington, DC, my intention is to repurpose historical houses and to provide space and time to inspire the next generation of artists, scientists, and social innovators. On an uplifting note, I end with my motto, "The world is wide and life is long."

Amb. Carmen Lomellin *“Women as an essential driving force”*

Society continues to handicap itself - in terms of economic, community, and cultural development - when women remain discriminated against and excluded. These practices fundamentally challenge the notion of a 'free nation' and democratic processes. In national policy making, signing treaties needs to mark only the first stage of the process. Policymakers need to commit to fomenting the changes and growth embodied in these agreements, and moreover constituents need to be able to hold them accountable. In practice, in spite of the outstanding framework propagating gender equality, women disproportionately continue to be victims of violence, live in poverty, receive less education, and



enjoy fewer rights and access. The body of available data bears out women maintain under-utilized and disadvantaged status in society.

To help contribute to the solution, greater female participation in the political process and local development efforts is crucial. Women remain under-represented on both sides of the equation: in policy-making positions as well as voters. Studies have shown that raising female participation in political process to 30 percent creates a critical mass to motivate change. Additionally, data demonstrates a proclivity among the female population for local, sustainable community development. Women demonstrate the strongest interest in investing in the health, welfare, and economic development of their communities, when compared against male counterparts. At a higher level, the public discourse around gender and minority equality needs to change. There are not 'women's' issues specifically, but rather policies and practices which deeply impact the wellbeing of the entire community. Nations will only enjoy the greatest success when policies effectively invest in the full population indiscriminate of gender, race or background. This equality needs to be broad in nature - spanning social, economic, political and cultural access by removing barriers which, either explicitly through law or implicitly through cultural practices, inhibit fair and equal treatment.

Dr. Joseph Brain

Professor, Harvard University

” Alice Hamilton is a leader in women’s suffrage”



I'd like to share a powerful and influential story of Alice Hamilton - she grew up in Indiana and went to Miss Porter's School, which was a finishing school to prepare them to be cultured mothers and wives. She decided she wanted to become a physician, went to University of Anne Arbor, and did a post-doc when Harvard did not accept female students. She became famous because she became the mother of occupational hygiene and was astonished that immigrants got diseases related to their occupation. She was the first female faculty member at Harvard. When she was in her 50s, the deans of school of public health and medical school needed someone to teach occupational hygiene, but finally after one year she was admitted to start as an assistant professor. She appeared on the US postage stamp, lived to be 103 years old, and was known to be a leader in women's

suffrage, peace maker, a socialist, a practicing scientist and teacher.

Japan is facing an aging population, which challenges us to decide right policies. Solutions could lie in changing the immigration policy or increasing the number of years worked. A variety of factors affect longevity, including food, occupation, health systems, safe drinking water and clean air, and providing a safe and stable community especially for women. Utilizing social innovation and entrepreneurship, we look to you to transform society.

Dr. Atsushi Sunami

Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

” Accept the value of diversity”



Global issues become more complex in this 21st century as rapid changes occur due to globalization and advancement in technology. Homogenous society will not have enough capability in solving these issues. Studies show that “on average, working together as a group shows better result than that of high-IQ individual.” Diverse group of people are more likely to come up with more creative and innovative ideas than the homogenous group. Although the Abe administration has been trying to put more women participation into work force, many recognize as this policy is not working. It is up to the generation of today to not only accept diversity, but to accept the value of diversity to the society with a long term view.

