



# The FrontieR

STUDENT EDITION, OCTOBER 2018

## Students Raise Gender Awareness



December 17th, 2017, OCHANOMIZU UNIVERSITY---- Four companies, (4her, One Colors, FW2 and Aoisora Shiroikumo) came together at Ochanomizu University's great hall to hold an event to raise gender awareness. The companies, founded by the students of the International Cooperation and Gender Course at Ochanomizu University Senior High School, opened a workshop and movie screening, along with some shops whose sales were donated to charity organizations.

The event was realized as part of the entrepreneurial experience program of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, a program aiming to nurture "the power to live" through the experience of founding and managing a model company. The program enabled the young founders to learn about gender problems and researched on what they can do to improve women's position in labor and economic fields not only in Japan, but also in the world; founding companies to solve gender issues as their conclusions.

Becoming the center of the project, 4her Corp. showed "Girl Rising", a movie produced by Plan International Japan. Based on true stories, the highly internationally regarded film gives a detailed account of the severe state girls face,

and the possibilities they could have had in the future.

After the screening, the students and audience had a discussion on gender issues with Professor Junko Sano of the Institute of Gender Studies at Ochanomizu University. Many participants claimed the discussion to have acknowledged them of the essence of the matter.

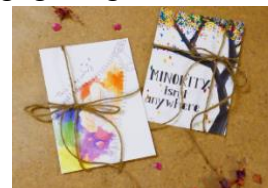
4her also collaborated with

TRAYCLE Market & Coffee, selling cookies made from fair-trade ingredients, and fair-trade drip coffee with a label specially designed for the occasion.

One Colors Corp. held a workshop about the LGBT community. Participants enjoyed discussions and roleplaying, getting a chance to learn about issues the community faces. In addition, they sold postcards and biscotti with the wish to build a society where all personalities can be respected.

FW2 (For Working Women) Corp. made leaflets and sold candies with them not only at the event, but also at three major companies in Tokyo to create a workable society for both men and women.

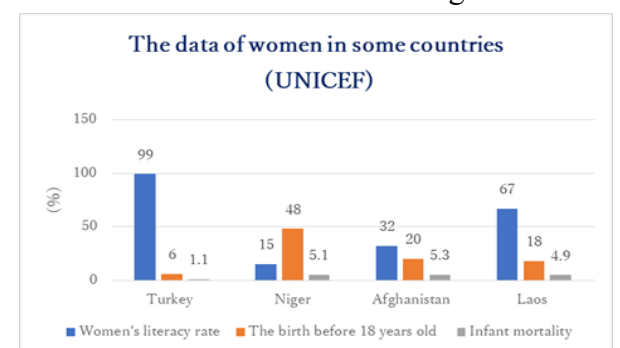
Aoisora Shiroikumo Corp. sold handmade chalking using stubbed chalking laying around in schools along with pamphlets about the importance of equal education in developing countries.



### WHAT IS GENDER?

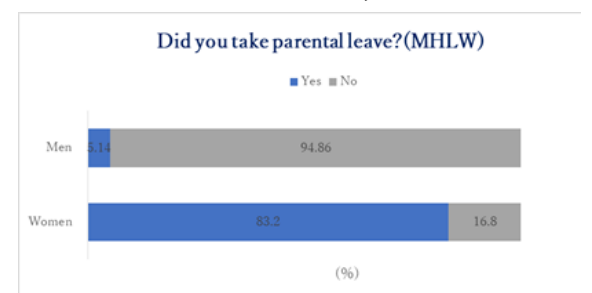
Gender is the difference of social roles between men and women based on the ideology men are to work, and women are to stay at home. The word gender itself does not have bad meanings, but many issues currently surround it.

A data by the United Nations Children's Fund in 2016 shows that more than one-thirds of girls in the world do not receive enough education.



Many people in developing countries tend to think girls do not need education. Moreover, many girls there are forced to marry and deliver under 18 years old, despite their bodies not being developed enough to do so.

Also, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, the number of men who take parental leave is incomparable to the number of women in Japan, showing how raising children makes heavy demands on women. Furthermore, as LGBT is not well-known, the understanding



towards them greatly lacks.

Awareness also lacks internationally. Therefore, the United Nations recognized gender equality as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that need to be realized worldwide, in 2015. The goals, featuring pending issues around the world today, acknowledges global citizens that gender inequality is greatly problematic and how important it is to stop it.

Students who held the event feel that it is important for more people to be aware of gender problems, and by continue to continuously holding the event, more people would get to know about it.

The company founders hope readers will deepen their understanding through this article and discuss the topic with their friends and family to raise awareness.

By Hina Harada, Rei Ogawa, Kokoro Sakaguchi, Yuri Suganuma, Natsumi Tamino, Moeka Tokita

### NOTICE TO READERS OUR BUNKYO

Located near the center of Tokyo's 23 wards, Bunkyo Ward is known as one of the leading regions of Japanese education. The ward produced many literary masters such as Natsume Soseki, Mori Oogai and Ishikawa Takubou. Furthermore, the area also holds several prestigious educational facilities like top Japanese university, Tokyo University and United Nations organization UN Women Japan.

Ochanomizu University is also one of them. Founded in 1875, the historic women's university has continued to send of highly intelligent women into society. In addition, The university, known for its highly advanced gender laboratory recently made a revolutionary announcement on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Ochanomizu "Women's" University is going to start accepting transgender students. Planned to start in 2020, the new attempt is expected to change the social status of the transgender community, leading into forming a society where "various" women can also have the chance to take the initiative in a wide range of fields. Through the new project, it is no doubt Ochanomizu will continue to be the front runner in the education of the gender equality movement in Japan.

As you can see, not only has Bunkyo greatly contributed to the educational development in the past, but also in the present. It is no exaggeration to say that Bunkyo has been and will continue to be the frontier of education in Japan. (By Mayuka Takasugi)



## Social

# Younger Generation to Strengthen Public Appeal

It is said that youngsters in Japan lack political participation. Following the Japanese legislation's revision of the Public Offices Election Law on June 29th, 2016, Japanese citizens older than eighteen years old are now enabled with the right to vote. At the time, officials estimated that by lowering the voting age from twenty years old would raise more political awareness among young generations; but the estimations are yet to be realized. After two elections with the renewed law (each for the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors), the teenage voter turnout remained around only forty percent, falling short of the lawmaker's expectations. Even more, not only theirs, but also the Twenties' turnouts were only about a half of the voter turnout among sixties.

You may often hear a concern about modern Japanese society: "Younger generations seem to lack interest in politics, even though they are the very generation building up the future

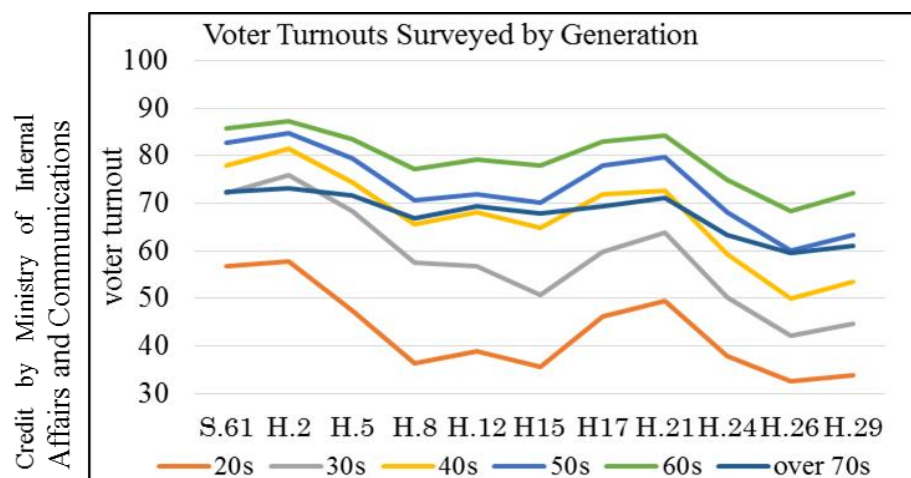
of this country!" Alarmed adults sought solutions to this problem by holding special lectures at school to teach students how to vote, how to choose your favorite candidate, and so on. However, lack of interest in politics might not be the only reason for low voter turnout.

dislike time consuming works, much less works which they are not interested. In that sense, some of the people even feel reluctant to go to polling stations. What is more, some younger citizens seem to have a distrust of politicians. They are concerned that nothing would change by

for passivity toward elections, we should reconsider about making systems related to the election easier to understand not only for younger generations but for everyone. By simplifying the system, it would be less confusing and more casual to vote. Making the voting steps clearly understandable will lead to more friendly feelings toward elections.

The prior reason of carrying out an election is to choose certain numbers of candidates as the representatives of voters. In other words, election is an important way for electorates to reflect their opinions in politics. By abstaining to vote, you lose your right to do so. We should be aware of the fact that each vote has significant value. Many a vote makes a strong public opinion.

By Hazuki Sasamoto, Yui Tanaka, Amane Shingae, Ayane Inuzuka



Usually, candidates' webpage links are usually assembled in websites powered by the election admission committee, requiring visitors to click and jump to each webpage to check out all the profiles of the candidates. This could be frustrating for young people requiring speedy access to what they demand. They often

their votes, considering that all the candidates do not have much difference.

To improve those circumstances, it would be beneficial to conduct an overall review of systems related to elections, such as websites, election campaigns, and so on. Not just pursuing the liability of younger generations

## First Appointment with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sky

Nihonbashi may soon be able to see the clear sky again. Thanks to the adoption of a project to remove the Metropolitan Highway running above it, the bridge is now expected to restore the previous landscape it used to be famous for; but in a more modern manner.

Hanging over the Nihonbashi River in the Chuo Ward, the national bridge is the center of all Japanese roads and one of the most cherished landmarks of the country. However, since the rush of infrastructure development for the Tokyo Olympics held in 1964, the Metropolitan Highway has been covering the bridge and blocking out any sunlight from reaching it.

Displeased with the situation spoiling the scenery of the monumental bridge for years, locals collected and submitted nearly 330 thousand signatures demanding for a construction to the Japanese Diet. After many years of countless discussions, the project to take the "obstructive" highway underground was adopted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

As the main operation in this project, MLIT has announced the plans of a large-scale construction; they were going to bury 1.8 kilometers of the highway between Kandabashi and Edobashi. Many people are optimistic of the project as it is

expected to revive a good landscape, renew the aging road, and be more earthquake proof compared to when being elevated.

There are, however, several problems in this plan. One flaw is the extremely high cost. MLIT, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Metropolitan Expressway Company Limited and the Chuo Ward agreed on the total project cost to be about 3.2 trillion yen. Considering it was expected to cost about 500 billion yen in the past, costs have been significantly cut; but still remains much higher than 53.6 billion yen, the average cost of building a highway.

Another flaw is that the underground installation would take years to be completed. The construction period is estimated to be more than 10 years; the deterioration of the existing road is a great concern. When the new underground way is done, the highway between Kandabashi and Edobashi will have passed 71 years since opening up, safety not to be guaranteed at all.

Furthermore, vehicle regulation, which is necessary when constructing new highways, is feared to paralyze traffic in the already busy surrounding areas.

Even more, although many people support the idea of relocating the highway, there are some who are objective. They argue that the current mixed scenery of the artistic stone bridge and the powerful concrete structure is attractive and unique to Japan; they claim Nihonbashi should be left the way it is.

Having several problems and opposing opinions like the above, the project will be a great challenge to carry out. Still, we hope this meaningful project will be successful and worthy of the time and money spared, with the current setbacks and thoughts on topic being properly considered in the process.

By Yuki Maruyama, Yuri Nishida, Minami Kobayashi, Arisa Kikuchi, Momoka Sotowada



Photo by Yoshie Kobayashi

Current figure



Photo by Nihonbashi Renaissance

Rendering image

## Global

# Lawmakers “Instructed” on Global Education

Photo by Japan NGO for Education



Appeal to Diet Members for More Educational Support.

**I**ncreasing school enrollment rates is often emphasized to improve education worldwide; however, the enhancement of the quality is often overlooked although being an equally important point. Children in low-income countries, who are more likely to be excluded from school than those in high-income nations, still have problems because of bad educational environments even if they go to school.

Those children are required to walk long distances to go to their

nearest schools, and commute on dangerous school routes. An article published by WE, an international organization working as an educational partner, tells us a story of a boy who drowned while trying to get to school in a neighboring community across the river.

Another trouble is the shortage of well-trained teachers, which can prevent the children from gaining adequate literacy and numeracy skills. According to International Support of School Construction, an organization that

supports education in Nepal and Laos, teachers teach English although they have never actually learned the language themselves.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) provides financial support to ensure a quality basic education, prioritizing the poorest in low-income countries or people living in conflicted nations. Launched in 2002, developed countries have contributed to the GPE Fund, but Japan accounts for only 0.5 percent of that.

*The World's Largest Lesson* is a worldwide event to learn the current educational situation in the world. Held in more than 100 countries in the same period, it aims to think about the importance of education. 8 Japanese junior and senior high school students, including one from Ochanomizu University Senior High School, conducted the lesson for Diet Members as “teachers”. 24 upper and lower house members attended the lesson as “students”, as well as other society members interested in the topic, and learned how necessary education is and what kind of support is currently done.

At the end of the lesson, the teachers proposed that Japan should provide “invisible” support as well as visible ones. Mentioning that Japan mainly focuses on providing visible support like building schools, they emphasized the need of invisible support as well; Japan has been making light of the unseeable support such as training teachers for the results would be unclear. They suggested that Japan should expand the contribution to the GPE Fund as a way to provide not merely visible support but invisible one, considering that one of the focus areas of GPE is teacher training.

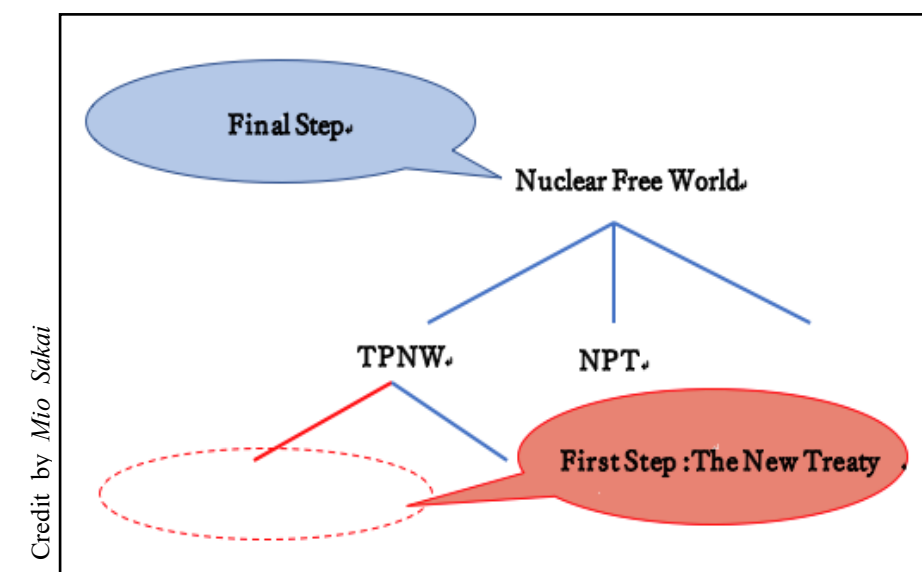
“I was glad that the members of the Diet promised to make an effort to expand the support,” the high school student from Ochanomizu said. “I hope support from Japan will make the worldwide educational situation better.”

By Kanae Akehata, Rio Isobuchi, Anna Imai, Yuki Ogawara, Yuki Huruhashi

## A Nuclear-Free World: From Fantasy to Reality

**O**n July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the first ever international agreement to prohibit all nuclear activities was adopted at a United Nations conference. *The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)* bans all state parties from testing, producing, using, possessing, deploying and transferring any nuclear weapons.

Until then, international society had been discussing the agenda of nuclear disarmament in accordance with *the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*: a treaty defining nuclear weapon states (USA, Russia, UK, France and China) and non-nuclear weapon states (the remaining 186 countries in the world except for India, Pakistan, Israel and South Sudan) to prevent the spread of the dangerous arms and weapon technology. Therefore, it can be



stated that TPNW has completely different characteristics and roles in the field of nuclear disarmament compared to the previous agreement. What seems to be lacking, however, is a compromise between countries possessing and not possessing nuclear threats, both supposed to be aiming at the same goal together. Furthermore, not only

nuclear weapon states but even Japan, representative of the non-nuclear weapon states have not signed it, extinguishing the purpose of the whole treaty.

Nuclear disarmament can only be achieved when both types of states take actual actions based on a reached consensus. Therefore, considering the current gap between the two sides, a new

approach of negotiation is needed to find a way out of the stagnant situation. Like the diagram on the left, more detailed treaties branching from existing agreements such as TPNW can be an efficient way; not only would it narrow-down the gap and strengthen the main treaty through more compromises, but it would also fundamentally prompt both sides to sit down at the negotiating table. Starting with prohibiting the production increase of nuclear weapons, both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states are required to proceed the negotiation about it in an affirmative way.

By Yoshino Otomo, Mio Sakai, Nodoka Murakami, Hana Watanabe



## Environment

# Couriers Kiss Redelivery Goodbye

## -Revolutionary Public Locker System to Spread-

Today, the increase of redelivery has become one of the social problems in Japan. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, 19.1% of all deliveries are being redelivered yearly, meaning that almost one out of five deliveries tend to end up in redelivery service. Furthermore, 42,000 tons of carbon dioxide is emitted by trucks and a total of 180 million hours are spent to redeliver those

packages every year. It is obvious that redelivery is causing serious issues in terms of protecting the environment and providing good working conditions.

Now, Open-Type Courier Lockers are gathering attention as an effective solution to solve these redelivery problems: a type of delivery mediate service lockers installed in public places such as convenience stores. The service, where couriers only need to put undelivered packages in online managed lockers for customers to take out on their own, is expected to help reduce the number of redeliveries. Even more, the system is also considered to cut extra labor and be environmentally-friendly with the minimization of air pollution caused by vehicles.

However, the solution has a huge drawback. Current social recognition and the usage of the Open-Type Courier Lockers are

surprisingly low. According to a survey taken at Ochanomizu University Senior High School, nearly 70% of the students there answered that they didn't even know the existence of such lockers. In response to this, students of the Economic Development and Environment Course at Ochanomizu visited Yamato Transport Co., LTD to learn what kind of measures is taking to reduce redelivery. There, they found out the corporation is going to continue introducing Open-Type Courier Lockers in order to solve the redelivery problems.

Based on these situations, the students made a leaflet and distributed them to their high school's students in order to promote the service; they drew a map where the lockers could be found along with some information about the system and its benefits. As a result, 70% of

redelivery users among the student body, agreed in the questionnaire taken again after the distribution that they would use the service if they knew where the lockers were; the distribution of the leaflets had been a great success, acknowledge more people of the convenient service.

In 2017, the Japanese administration decided to spend 500 million yen from the national budget to support the installation of more Open-Type Courier Lockers. Starting with the government's new policy, the students hope that the lockers will spread more in order to improve the awareness of redelivery problems and to decrease unnecessary redelivery.

By Akari Karakasa, Yurika Okabe, Rina Suzuki, Manami Nakano, Mana Hashimoto

Photo by Akari Karakasa



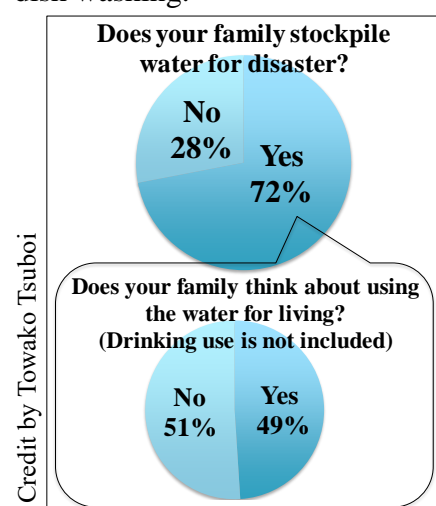
Open-Type Courier Locker

# Introducing Domestic “Rain” Water

As a country constantly having various types of natural disasters hanging over it, Japan's water supply often gets extensively cut off every time disaster strikes. The country especially experienced a serious water outage in 2011; according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Great East Japan Earthquake stopped water from reaching 25,700 households in 19 prefectures, raising the outage rate up to 19%. Furthermore, most of those households had great difficulty in getting a hold of domestic water more than drinking water, which could be provided by emergency water trucks. Still, a survey conducted at Ochanomizu University Senior High School shows that 72% of all students' households store water, but half of them do not plan to use them as domestic water. Securing domestic water and alarming citizens about the need if it is one of the many challenges we face in disaster prevention today.

To solve this situation, students of the economic development and the environment

course at Ochanomizu University Senior High School considered using rain water. The cheap and easy to secure resource is thought to be capable of being utilized as domestic water for purposes such as bathing, injury irrigation and dish washing.



The result of the survey

However, despite its benefits, some people may be anxious about its safety. The Rainwater Citizens' Association ensured its safety with an examination in 2006 regarding pH levels, bacteria and metal element of rainwater can be used safely as long as if boiled in advance and not drunk. Safely and sanitarilly, we can

utilize rainwater as domestic water by boiling it. In reality, this system has already been made use of, benefitting citizens not only in emergencies but also in daily life. For example, a rainwater tank “Rojison” in Sumida Ward has played its part by providing water for citizens during a disaster while also being the local children's playground in everyday life.

To spread the idea, the students devised an easy rainwater tank with familiar materials and exhibited a movie of how to make on "New Resource: Rainwater", a website they made on their own. Also, by putting up posters, they shared the necessity of always securing domestic water with students at their school and do-it-yourself store customers.

Rain water is new resource with excellent potential. The students hope the new resource will spread more in society to help more people.

By Towako Tsuboi, Haruka Fukumura, Fuka Takahashi, Miyu Yatagai

## The FrontieR

Published by a group of 38 students of Ochanomizu Senior High School, public high school in Bunkyo Ward, in cooperation with the not-for-profit Global Education Information Center(GEIC) and The Japan News.

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