

Towards Gender Equality in Physical Education, Sport and Dance

Executive Board of the Japan Association of Physical Education for Women

In the temporary meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese Olympic Committee held on 3 February 2021, Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (hereinafter referred to as "Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee"), made comments such as "meetings with many women in them take a lot of time" and "women have a strong sense of competition". Moreover, it is reported that some media quoted his saying without denying his opinion that "if we increase the number of women on the board, it will be difficult to finish the meetings unless we regulate the speaking time to some extent" (Yomiuri, Asahi, Nihon Keizai, Mainichi newspapers, NHK, 3-4 February 2021).

At a press conference held on the afternoon of 4 February, Mr. Mori apologized and retracted his statement, admitting that the comment was "deeply inappropriate expression that goes against the spirit of the Olympic and Paralympic Games". Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee also announced its stance to "reaffirm its vision" and "leave the legacy for society after the Games".

It is our common global issues to work towards a society that accepts diversity and makes the most of differences to live together. At the same time, as a community of physical education, sports and dance, which declared in the Basic Act on Sport (the Fundamental Law on Sports in Japan) that "it is the right of all people to lead a happy and prosperous life through sports", it is an issue that must be realized.

In order to create a world of Physical Education, Sports and Dance that is free from violence and harassment, Japan Association of Physical Education for Women (JAPEW) has been developing and accumulating results of its research on the theories and teaching methods. In addition, by promoting dialogue through physical education, sports and dance, we have been conducting research and teaching activities to nurture both individuality and sociality, and to contribute to the construction of an open world, a world where diverse people can live their lives in their own way without being prevented from participating because of their individuality (a world where life is worth living). As part of these efforts, we have also been working towards gender equality in our operations, for example, the number of men on our board and committee has been gradually increasing.

While we are proud that our activities have had a certain impact on society, it is also true that

we have not yet been able to truly eliminate violence, harassment, gender inequality, discrimination and exclusion. These related issues still remain in the world of physical education, sports and dance. Mr. Mori's statement is a criticism of the nature of women without any objective evidence. It shows the seriousness of the problem that it comes from a person who has social influence and is responsible for the development of physical education and sports.

We, Japan Association of Physical Education for Women (JAPEW), would like to reaffirm our responsibility to contribute to the creation of a society that is rich and worth living for each and every person, regardless of gender or age, by creating a variety of partnerships through education and research in physical education, sports and dance. We hereby declare that we will promote education and research activities that contribute to the efforts of people involved in physical education, sports and dance.