

Declaration of gender equality in the field of physical education and sports

Japan Society of Physical Education, Health and Sport Sciences (JSPEHSS)
Board of Directors

Remarks made by Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (hereinafter the Organising Committee), have attracted a great deal of interest. Following the retraction of and apology for his remarks, the Organising Committee has announced its commitment to “reaffirming the vision and leaving a positive impact on society after the Games.”

As we are all aware, building a society in which people can live together in peace based on acceptance of and mutual respect for diversity (differences in all attributes and characteristics of individuals such as gender, age, background, education, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, religion, values, and lifestyle) is a task that not only Japan but the international community as a whole must undertake.

Japan's Basic Act on Sports states that “it is the right of all people to live a happy and prosperous life through sports.” In light of this, the “creation of a new sports culture” was put forth in the early 21st century as a strategy for promoting sports. Accepting and respecting diversity is a major challenge that we must tackle to create a new sports culture.

JSPEHSS has pursued research to eliminate violence and harassment from the field of physical education and sports. Similarly, our academic contributions and research have been dedicated to achieving gender equality and keeping the field of physical education and sports free from discrimination and exclusion. Furthermore, to ensure diversity within decision-making bodies, we have made proactive efforts toward gender equality on the management front, including election system reforms and the establishment of committees. As a result of these efforts, approximately 43% of JSPEHSS board members are women.

While these endeavors have impacted society, they have not eradicated violence, harassment, sexual inequality, discrimination, or exclusion. There are also other related issues yet to be addressed in the field of physical education and sports. Mr. Mori's remarks were a poignant reminder to those in the field of physical education and sports of the deep-rootedness and seriousness of the issue of discrimination.

JSPEHSS revised its charter in 2021 including principles about building a fair, just, and inclusive society that is open to multiplicity and diversity in all forms and in which people respect each other. Based on these principles, we reaffirm our responsibility to contribute academically to achieving gender equality and eliminating discrimination and exclusion from the field of physical education and sports. We hereby express our commitment to promoting research activities that contribute to the efforts made by concerned parties, such as sports organizations.

February 11, 2021