

**International Day of the Girl Child 2013**  
**- On Supporting International Day of the Girl Child and**  
**Additional Commitments to the United Nations Academic Impact -**

October 11 is the International Day of the Girl Child, established by the United Nations in December 2011. The United Nations Information Center mentions the Second International Day of the Girl Child held this year, in the following paragraph.



**Tadahiko Fukuhara**

“Girls (under 18 years old) in many countries, especially in developing countries, are still unable to attend school and complete their education due to financial and cultural barriers, often leading to marriage in their early teens and living in poverty. Even in advanced countries there are other social responsibilities that keep them from attending school and from achieving adequate learning outcomes. The transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls’ education has yet to be realized.”

Chuo University has long been actively promoting education for women. As of May 1, 2013, there were 24,978 students studying at Chuo University, of which 8,671 students (34.7%) are women. This ratio is still too low considering the percentage of women in society, and there is also significant bias among the faculties. 54.5% of the students are women in the Faculty of Letters, and 47.3% in the Faculty of Policy Studies. However in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the percentage falls to 17.8% and is even lower in the graduate schools (24.5% in the graduate school of Science and Engineering and 25.7% in the professional graduate schools).

Chuo University hereby agrees to the purpose of the Second International Day of the Girl Child and pronounces its commitment to providing sustainable education and support, as well as to supporting the United Nations Academic Impact.

- (1) Enhancement of learning opportunities for women in social sectors where there is potential for women

Chuo University will successively promote focused initiatives, such as “WISE” (Women in Science and Engineering, Chuo University) projects for enhancing learning opportunities for women in the fields of science and engineering, in areas where women have the potential to advance, being aware that there exists a bias against women’s social advancement within these areas.

- (2) Enhancement of the academic environment to eliminate discrimination and prejudice toward women's education

Chuo University will commit to improving its academic environment, including greater awareness of harassment prevention, to eliminate academic discrimination against women. Also, to secure a learning environment that matches the life cycle of women, Chuo University will provide various services and continuously support the needs of women.

- (3) Support for women's social advancement

As an institution of higher education, Chuo University will continue to drive initiatives supporting the social advancement of women alumni. We will strive to support the career development of women, coordinating with Chuo's women alumni group (Women's Hakumon Kai) and overseas alumni groups.

- (4) Support for women in the world, especially those in developing countries

To support the world's women, especially those in developing countries, Chuo University will admit students from these countries, and continuously offer support, not only in academics but also in living conditions, by providing access to the Chuo International Dormitory where they can live together with Japanese students.

- (5) Additional commitments to the United Nations Academic Impact

Chuo University is a member of the United Nations Academic Impact, a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations. The participating institutions commit to at least one of ten universally accepted principles and actively demonstrate support for the principles. Currently Chuo University is committed to "Principle 9: A commitment to promoting sustainability through education," with the Program for Capacity Building in Global Water-Environment Engineering being an example of this commitment.

Taking this opportunity, Chuo University declares the addition of "Principle 3: A commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity," and "Principle 10: A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the 'unlearning' of intolerance, through education" and commits to developing further the initiatives mentioned above based on these commitments.

Tadahiko Fukuhara

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