

Japan ranks 94th in gender equality

GENEVA (Kyodo) Japan ranks 94th in gender equality, a minor improvement from 2009 when it ranked 101st, according to a study by the World Economic Forum.

In the WEF's 2010 "Global Gender Gap Report," the four Nordic countries of Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden topped the list just as they did in 2009. The United States ranked 19th, an improvement from 31st in 2009.

The report analyzes gender gaps by country as opposed to women's achievements, thereby compensating for a country's level of development. Nonetheless, countries from Europe, followed by North America, topped the ranking.

The survey analyzed data from 134 countries, including economic conditions, labor and health including differences in labor force participation, the ratio of female to male earned income, the ratio of women lawmakers, the ratio of women in education and life expectancy at birth.

The report noted progress in Japan, including a rise in the estimated income of women and an increase in the percentage of women in the Deet.

However, it noted that although women make up 54 percent of university students, only 9 percent of senior leadership positions are held by women, "indicating an inefficient use of the female talent available in the country."

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