



Public Services International Japan Council (PSI-JC)

国際公務労連加盟組合日本協議会

〒102-8464 東京都千代田区六番町1, 自治労会館 3F

TEL:03-3263-0264 FAX:03-5210-7422 Email:kokusai@jichiro.gr.jp

議長：川本 淳 事務局長：船山 整

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## Report on Actions for March 8 “International Women’s Day

On March 1, as an action for March 8 International Women’s Day, we carried out lobbying activities with the government, political parties and the Diet Members’ ILO Alliance. A total of 11 people (seven members of the Women’s Committee and four men from the Youth Network) from JICHIRO, Japan Public Sector Union (Kokko Rengo) and the PSI-JC Secretariat participated in the action.

Lobbying was carried out at the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Diet Members’ ILO Alliance, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the Democratic Party, the Party of Hope, and the Social Democratic Party. Firstly, a letter of demands was handed over by Ms. Aoki, Chairperson of the PSI-JC Women’s Committee and the demands briefly explained. The main contents of the demands were as follows.

- 1) Ratification at an early date of as-yet unratified ILO conventions related to gender equality (Conventions No.111, No.175, and No.183),
- 2) Legal amendments to permit married couples to elect to use separate surnames,
- 3) Improvements in the legal system to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBT), etc.,
- 4) A transformation of male-centric labor practices and promotion of male participation in the daily life of the home,
- 5) Equal treatment for men and women, elimination of wage disparities, and resolution of issues concerning non-regular workers,
- 6) Eradication of all forms of violence against women and respect for human rights.

The persons who participated in the action reported on the current state and issues at workplaces as follows.

“There are cases where people of different employment statuses, such as part-time workers or commissioned workers, who are doing the same work in the same workplace, but who experience large disparities in working conditions. This situation is a far cry from decent work.”

“Due to staff reductions, the offices which used to exist in each prefecture have been centralized into regional blocks, and some of the staff have been forced to relocate because of this. Especially for women bringing up children, there are many cases where this relocation places a huge burden on the family. It is firstly necessary to discuss whether relocation is really necessary.”

“The current situation, where personnel have been severely cut back, when a man wants to take childcare leave, it is hard for him to gain understanding in the workplace and it is difficult to take the leave.”

“Associated with the increase in tourists arriving on cruise ships, there is a shortage of female staff to carry out immigration inspections at ports. Along with improvements in the workplace environment, such as toilets and changing rooms, it is necessary to secure staff in a way that permits conditions such as the ability to take of childcare leave.”

“Regarding LGBT, not only improvements in the legal system, but increasing the numbers of people who understand the issue is also important from the viewpoint of the movement.”

Chairperson Aoki concluded the various actions by making the request that since the reform in work styles is currently being discussed, this is precisely the time when we would like to see renewed efforts made in legal system improvements and the upgrading of policies and measures to enable even a small advance in improvements in the current situation from the viewpoint of gender equality



Chairperson Aoki (front row, third from left) and Joint Chairperson of the JC Youth Network (front row, fifth from left) handing the letter of demands to the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Justice. Second from left in the front row is Diet Member Kumiko Aihara.