Gender equality is an essential determinant of societal sustainability and well-being, and affects how science, technology, and innovation can improve people’s lives.

The ratio of women in all researchers in Japan is increasing year by year, but it still remains low at 16.6% (as of March, 2019).

The ratio of female researchers in Japan is increasing year on year.

- South and West Asia: 13.0%
- East Asia and the Pacific: 23.9%
- World: 15.5%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 21.9%
- North America and Western Europe: 32.7%
- Central and Eastern Europe: 33.2%
- Arab States: 41.5%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 50.1%
- Central Asia: 58.2%


**SELECTION CRITERIA AND STATE OF APPLICATION**

**Judges evaluated** applicants based on the following selection criteria:

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher
- **Research performance**
- **Creative outlook and pioneering spirit toward research, future prospects, and contributions to solving social issues**
- **Non-research contributions to society** (e.g., fostering human resource and implementing environmental improvement)
- **Global view** (e.g., overseas experience and collaborations with overseas research organizations)

The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers
- **Potential for being a model for other organizations**
- **Collaboration with other organizations to expand activities**
- **Effects and outcomes of activities**

**Application Period**: from April 1 to June 30, 2019

Number of Applications:
- The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher: 104 applications
- The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers: 12 applications

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Keiko Torii, Chair
Johnson and Johnson Centennial Professor of Plant Cell Biology
University of Texas at Austin

Chioko Asakawa
IBM Fellow,
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center
India, Pvt. Ltd.

Reiko Abe
Chairperson,
Consultant,
India

Hiroshi Kitagawa
Professor
Graduate School of Science
Kyoto University

Hitoshi Murayama
Professor
University of California, Berkeley

Kimiko Murofushi
President
Ochanomizu University

Masashi Yanagisawa
Director
International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine (WPI-ISM),
The University of Tsukuba

**WINNERS**

- The Award for a brilliant Female Researcher (the Jun Ashida Award)
  - **Miki Ebisu**
    - Synthetic Developmental Biology
    - Group Leader, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Barcelona

- The Award for an Organization Supporting brilliant Female Researchers (the Jun Ashida Award)
  - **Aiko Fukasawa**
    - Organic Main-Group Element Chemistry, Organic Functional Material Chemistry Professor,
    - Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS),
    - Institute for Advanced Study, Kyoto University

**AWARD CEREMONY AND COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE**

- The award ceremony was a great success with a large number of attendees over 100 on the day. The talk session was attended by the award winners and high school students on issues including: their lifestyles, reasons for becoming a researcher, study abroad experience and so on.

The award ceremony was held on November 17, 2019 at Miraikan – the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo.

- The** commemorative lecture meeting** was held in the form of an online seminar on June 12, 2020. It became possible to participate from all over the country and from overseas.