

# Equal Participation of Men and Women in Earth and Planetary Sciences

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Let me begin by telling you a historical event in the Laboratory of Seismology, Kyoto University. In 1997, Dr. Yoko Tono who was a postgraduate student of the laboratory at that time took part in the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition as one of the first two women wintering party members. She is now a mother of two children and is working at JAMSTEC. Another member, Dr. Kazuyo Sakanoi was already married at the time of the expedition, and has kept an activity in auroral science. This was a chance for me to be interested in the equal participation of men and women.

Now I have an idea of founding a new child center in the University which will be open to post graduate students not only of Japan but also those from other countries. Although it is rather difficult to talk about the topic among others as a president of Kyoto University, I'd try to do and learn something more about it.