

Approach 2 Capacity Development in Women Researchers' Research Activities

1. 12th Hiroshima University Women Researcher Encouragement Award

With the aim to increase the research motivation of the entire group of women researchers, a “women researcher” encouragement award has been established at Hiroshima University since 2007 to grant research funding to young and distinguished researchers who currently lack funding. Following a strict evaluation process, three grant awards were awarded for a total of 2,770,000 JPY of research funding.

2019 12th Hiroshima University Women Researcher Encouragement Award Recipients

Name	Associated Department	Title	Research Title
Rie Usui	Graduate School of Letters	Assistant Professor	Towards a New Wildlife Tourism beyond Conservation: An Insight from Tourist Experience Analysis
Nonoka Higa	Graduate School of Advanced Sciences of Matter	Assistant Professor	Study of Magnetism and Its Pressure Dependence on the Existence of Inversion Symmetry
Kazue Nakashima	Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences	Assistant Professor	Microglial Mechanism for Neuropathic Pain in the Anterior Cingulate Cortex.

2. 3rd Hiroshima University Women Researcher Joint Research Funding System

With the aim of cultivating the leadership skills of women researchers, we called for joint research studies with the Mazda Motor Corporation, Delta Kogyo Co., Ltd., and the International Development Center. Following a strict evaluation process, we selected seven research projects and awarded a total of 7,000,000 JPY of research funding. Furthermore, special joint research mentors from Hiroshima University were deployed for three researchers who wished to have a mentor.

2019 3rd Hiroshima University Women Researcher Joint Research Funding System List of Selectees

Name	Associated Department	Title	Research Title
Seonkyung Choi	Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education	Researcher	The Impact of the Formal TVET Education Path on Labor Market Outcomes in Viet Nam: Focusing on Gender Differences
Hitomi Ogata	Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences	Associate Professor	Effects of Sleep Environment on Physiological Indicators
Megumi Watanabe	Office of University Strategy	Lecturer	Toward Gender-Equal Participation in International Research: A Comparative Analysis of Gender Equity Policies and Programs at Japanese and Foreign Universities
Tomomi Yamane	Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation	Researcher	Stakeholders Preferences on Companies Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Akiko Nakayama	Graduate School of Education	Associate Professor	How to Improve Communication with Deaf or Hard of Hearings Workers in Their Work Environment: an Attempt to Make a Model.
Tomoko Kawai	Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Life	Assistant Professor	Analysis of the Effects and Molecular Mechanism of Emotions on Social Systems and Cell Function in Mouse.
Mayumi Kako	Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences	Associate Professor	Action Research to Empower Activities of Women in Disaster Risk Reduction: a Pilot Program and Evaluation in Hiroshima

3. 2nd Hiroshima University Women Researcher Overseas Joint Research Funding System

This system for women called for applications with the objective of accelerating international collaborative research projects undertaken by young women researchers using funds donated by the Micron organization.

4. English Presentation Seminar

- Date/Time: February 14-15, 2020 (Fri.-Sat.); 9:00–16:00
- Location: (Higashi-Hiroshima campus) No.1 Seminar room, Information Media Center
(Kasumi campus) No. 1 Conference room, 2F Clinical Building
- Instructor: Yusuke Yano
- Participants: 20 people (14 from HU, 3 from Mazda, 2 from Delta, 1 from member organization)
- Details: A practical seminar on the knowledge and skills required for presenting in English at a conference or negotiation table was held with the lecturer who had been employed overseas in a private organization. During the seminar, participants communicated with each other by giving presentations on their field of specialization. Furthermore, a cross field/industry research exchange lunch was organized for women researchers with various backgrounds on the 14th.

<Voices of the Participants (excerpts)>

- It was good that there were both lectures and practical exercises.
- Although it was tough to make a presentation within the short time-frame of the workshop, it was well worth doing.
- It was fun to mingle with other departments.



<Seminar in Higashi-Hiroshima campus>



<Seminar in Kasumi campus>



<Cross field/industry research exchange lunch >

5. English Essay-Writing Seminar (Nature Academies)

- Date/Time: February 27-29, 2020 (Thurs.-Sat.); 9:00-17:00
- Location: (Higashi-Hiroshima campus) E104, School of Science Building
(Kasumi Campus), No. 1 Conference room, 2F Clinical Building
- Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Robens
- Participants: 19 people (18 from HU, 1 from member organization)
- Details: Across the three fields of natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities and medicine, an interactive essay-writing workshop was held by experienced editors from Nature magazine.

<Voices of the Participants (excerpts)>

- The seminar covered not only academic writing, but also focused on logical writing. It was really informative.
- The workshop clearly explained the different helpful strategies for a successful article submission. Furthermore, it provided a platform for improving research techniques.
- Very comprehensive in term of what editors' expectations are and how to meet them in order to have a manuscript published.



<Seminar in Higashi-Hiroshima campus >

6. 6th Hiroshima University Women's Exceptional Achievement Promotion Award "Metasequoia Award"

This award was established in 2013 in order to celebrate individuals and groups who have positively contributed to society and to help expand the opportunity for women to demonstrate their ability. Metasequoia is a type of flora whose features are its overall vitality no matter where they thrive and its quick growth-rate. These features gave the tree the nickname, "living fossils". The award was named after this tree with the hope that women demonstrate their personality and ability to the fullest, to strive in the world.

- Date/Time: November 13, 2019 (Wed.); 13:50–15:00
- Location: Satake Memorial Hall, Higashi-Hiroshima Campus, Hiroshima University
- Awardee: Itsuki Natsui (Haiku poet, Essayist)
- Participants: 809 people, specifically collaborating and member organizations of the Initiative for the Implementation of the Diversity Research Environment (Collaboration Type), nationwide organizations that are involved in promoting diversity, faculty members and students of this university, members of the public
- Details: After teaching Japanese at junior high school level for 8 years, she changed her career to become a Haiku poet, where her work received many awards and many of her books were published, all of which was highly praised. She has contributed to the overall popularity growth of Haiku through teaching classes on Haiku at elementary and junior high school levels as the head of the Haiku group, "Itsuki-gumi". Also, she has taught at Tezukayama Gakuin University as a guest professor, and currently, she often has appearances on various TV and radio programs. By being the leading person for Haiku, she is a trailblazer for women's self-development, hence why she was given this prestigious award.



(Ms. Natsui receiving the award from Hiroshima University President Ochi)



(Ms. Natsui receiving a bouquet of flowers from Prof. Nishina, Chairperson of Women's Research Activities Committee)



(Address from Ms. Natsui) (The award ceremony)



(Address from Ms. Natsui)