



CSW 59 side event :“Gender Equality and Aging Society”

# **Contribution of Women over Eighties & New Roles for the Aged Society**

Masako Hiramatsu

IWYLG & BPW

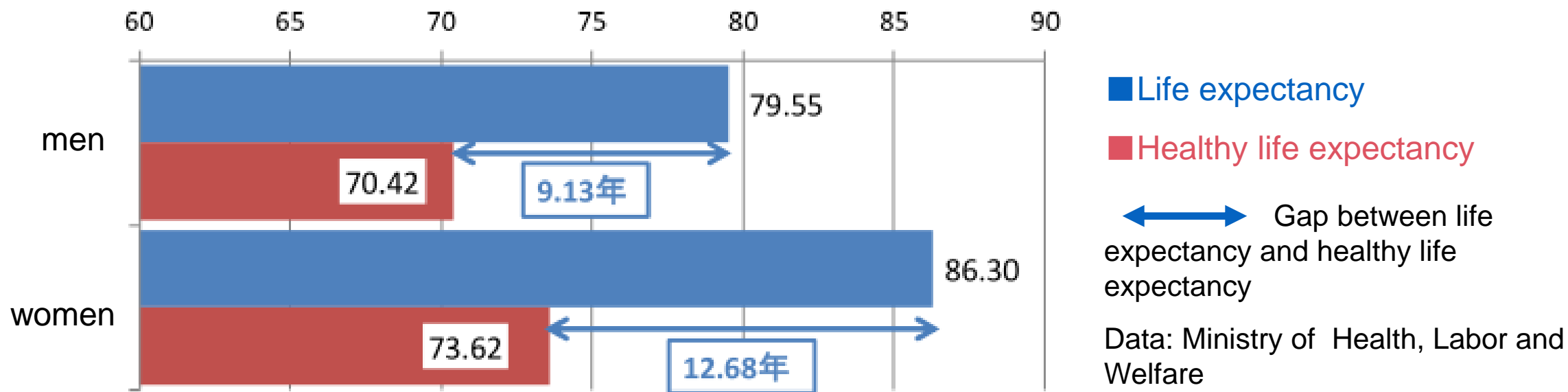
At Dag Hammarsjold Library Auditorium

March 13, 2015



# Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy

- Healthy life expectancy: length of life without difficulties in daily activities
- Japanese government pays attention to reduce the gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.





# Healthy Life Plan 21

- Aged society and reduction of health disparities -

- “Healthy Life Plan 21” was declared by Japanese government. A hidden motivation is to reduce the cost for elderly care.
- According to the data of the Ministerial Notification (#430), “retired persons want to work and to be valued in the society”.
- I will show “good examples of active aged women.”



# Case 1 Ms. Ryoko Akamatsu (86)

Chairperson, the Japan Committee for UNICEF/Leader of NGO Q no kai

- She organizes “Akamatsu School of Training for Women” aiming to increase female members of parliament.





Ms Akamatsu's comment:

**It is my mission to work for women to get more seats in the parliament, I will do my best for realizing it.**

The ratio of women in the Diet in Japan is 8%. Japan is the 127th among 189 nations by IPU. (Jan. 1, 2015)

To increase women politicians is our great mission. She devotes her life for this goal.

Already, some young women have stood up as candidates for the coming local election campaign in April 2015.





# Case 2 Ms. Akiko Domoto (82)

Organizer of the NGO Forum for UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction



WCDRR Public Forum

## Women as a Force for Change

- Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction -



Time

18th March 2015 (Wednesday)  
1.15 ~ 3.45 PM

Place

L-Park Sendai 6th Floor Gallery Hall

### Main Speakers

Akiko Domoto (JWDRR, Japan)

Cheryl Anderson (University of Hawaii, US)

Maureen Fordham (Northumbria University, UK)

Keiko Ikeda (Shizuoka University, Japan)



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Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JWDRR)  
Japan Association for Women's Education (JAWE)





Former governor of Chiba Prefecture, member of the House of Councilors and a TV reporter

- “when I visited the disaster area of the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, I thought I should work for victims, especially for women victims.”
- She organized Women’s Network for Disaster Risk Reduction and organized NGO Forum for the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, March 14-18,2015.





# Case 3 Ms . Keiko Higuchi (82)

President, Women's Association for a Better Aging Society (WABAS)

- Anticipating the rapid and extreme aging of the Japanese populations, WABAS was formed in 1983. The purpose of WABAS is to encourage women to influence the process of decision making of important social issues.
- WABAS has submitted proposals to the government to make the public long –term elderly care insurance better.
- More than eighty constituent groups also have submitted many suggestions to the local governments and other responsible organizations.







She is also an active leader of women organizations for aged women globally. This is the photo of “the World Forum for Aged Women” held in Madrid, Spain.





# Active aged women gathered together





# Aged persons are valuable resources

Government should make a “new healthy life plan” to empower aged persons, especially women, as valuable social resources for life expectancy of women is longer than men.

Thank you