

Gender balance and diversity in the ocean and geosciences: IODP, research cruise, and laboratories

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Approximately 600 people from all over the world participated in the workshop in order to prepare scientific targets for the next decade of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) [1] held in Bremen in 2009 [2], of which about 30% were women. Meanwhile, among the 100 participants from Japan, there were only 6 women (6% !!). Why is there a big gap between Japan and other countries? Did this gap shrink over the past 10 years?

My research field is mainly in ocean science now. Female researchers were 17 –33 % of the science parties among my 8 times participations on drilling expeditions. However, even in the United States, people have been struggling to increase female researchers in this field [3]. Our outreach activities always include some contents targeting to female students [4]. Women for one ocean [4] has established among Japanese scientists, and start working and supporting for female workers in the ocean science.

I will talk about the international projects especially in the ocean sciences that I experienced through my career and diversity situation in overseas' research laboratory. Then I would like to have a discussion on why gender balance and diversity are difficult to progress in Japan.

References

[1] IODP: <http://www.iodp.org/>

[2] IODP INVEST workshop: <https://www.marum.de/en/Research/INVEST.html>

[3] Women in Oceanography: A Decade later. (E.S. Kappel, Ed). Oceanography, vol. 27, 2015.
<https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2014.106>

[4] <https://joidesresolution.org/women-in-geoscience-and-technics-heather/>

[5] Women in One Ocean: <https://oceanwomenjp.wixsite.com/website>

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