Gender Equality
and Multicultural Conviviality
in the Age of Globalization

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Two years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami occurred on March 11, 2011. The city of Sendai, the home of Tohoku University, appears to have returned to the bustle of life prior to the disaster. However, the catastrophe has left deep marks, and the painful loss can often be felt. Living in Sendai, we live close to many people who daily mourn the dead. Many people who continue to live their daily lives despite having lost their homes, and any clear sight of reconstruction, not knowing what the future will be, suffer from the rupture the disaster has caused. Our Tohoku University Global COE Program entitled “Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization” is committed to academic work on issues caused by and brought to light by the natural disaster.

Our Program established in 2008 at Tohoku University attempted to present solutions for the broad set of problems emerging in a world of advancing globalization. Furthermore, as its primary purpose, this GCOE program aimed to cultivate young researchers able to generate deep understanding and effective answers addressing the problems of globalization (for further details please visit the GCOE program’s website available at http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/gcoe). Since the second year of this project we have been also able to welcome the participating students of our Cross-National Doctoral Course (CNDC) allowing the GCOE program to unfold its full research capacity.

To aid in achieving its stated purposes and objectives this GCOE program launched a journal which published its academic research results in academic year 2008. Adopting the first letters from the GCOE’s program title “Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality”, this periodical was named “GEMC journal”. Since academic year 2009, we have published two GEMC journals, English and Japanese volumes every year. Numbers 6 and 7, published in March 2012, both featured articles on the disaster. In the final academic year 2012, we published a final edition Number 10 featured GCOE Concluding Seminar as well as the regular English and Japanese volumes.

As a general rule, the journal is divided into two sections. The first section includes invited articles requested by members of the journal’s editorial board and features papers based on presentations held at one of the GCOE’s seminars and workshops, as well as research articles from program members. In order to provide young researchers the opportunity for publishing their research work, the second section of this journal features submitted and reviewed articles. The journal accepted articles related to the GCOE’s program regardless of the author’s academic status and qualifications, and invited the authors of articles considered for publication to present their work at a workshop and to share the results of this research work. All submitted papers were subject to a review process conducted by the Referee Board established within the Editorial Board of this journal. Given the broad nature of themes the submitted papers cover, this Referee Board evaluated the articles by inviting additional opinions from anonymous experts from each article’s academic field. Based on these evaluations the Referee Board aimed to provide a firm and fair review process. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all external experts who have been kind enough to provide their help in offering their opinions on the various articles.

Accompanying the advancement of globalization, the differences created by gender, nationalism, community and generation have caused severe and structurally entangled negative effects for society. This GCOE program was initiated to support the seeking of ways to overcome these negative effects and to construct a society sharing a plurality of cultural values. In 2008, the year of the GCOE program’s founding, the world was been dominated by the globalization issue of the financial crisis spreading from its epicenter in the United States of America. The Great East Japan Earthquake, which hit at a time of global economic crisis, made the difficult issues facing Japanese society far graver. Yet, while this crisis has created challenges of a complex and immediate nature, this GCOE program wished to create through academic ventures reliable and sound research, building the foundations for addressing these challenges. Publishing a total of 10 volumes of the GEMC journal by the final year 2012 was, therefore, one of our efforts in this endeavor. We are deeply grateful to all of the authors and those who cooperated in the production of our GEMC journal.

March, 2013
GEMC journal Editorial Board
Tohoku University Global COE
“Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization”
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