



Her Excellency Seiko Hashimoto
Minister for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
Minister of State for Gender Equality

We, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Japan, is an Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation within Japan, and also a member of an international women's organization (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) who is in consultative status of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Our mission is to protect the rights of women, and making actions to realize the community where women can actively involve within the workplace, community and home without unnecessary judgement. We are also working towards the SDGs Goal 5: Realization of Gender Equality, as part of the board member of the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office's project.

Recently the words of disrespect towards women made by Mr Yoshiro Mori was reported widely, who leads the Organizing Committee of the upcoming Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is also the one-time Prime Minister. The utterly disrespectful phrase such as "the more female board members we have, the meeting time gets longer" should never be looked over. Also during his apology press conference on the said phrase, he has further commented "I will take my words back if it made you uncomfortable", giving the impression that he believes he can be forgiven as long as he takes his words back. This news was reported worldwide immediately, and Japan is in the midst of criticism as he is used as a great example of Japan's gender inequality. As the citizens of Japan, all of us are seen as responsible as Mr Mori, and we are all feeling very embarrassed to be Japanese unfortunately.

With your great effort, The 5th Gender Equality Project has passed the parliamentary decision, and the paths towards realizing the further gender equality goals was laid successfully. As we have just started our steps towards this goal, the comment made by Mr Mori during the meeting to increase the number of female board members to 40%, is nothing but a bullet shot into the heart of the Project. Furthermore, it is clearly not in tact with the spirit of gender equality within Olympics and Paralympics.

In consideration with the damaging influences both domestically and globally, organizing the Tokyo Olympics under a leader such as Mr Mori will be extremely unrealistic, and for this reason it is advisable for Mr Mori to resign effective immediately.

We urge you to humbly understand the reason for our request, and take appropriate action as the Minister for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games, in understanding of the scale of the issues caused by Mr Mori's recent comments.

Yours Sincerely,

President of Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation
National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Japan
Masako Hiramatsu