

On August 27, 2020, CIL held the webinar themed “Women's Career Development - With/After COVID-19”, which was the 4th and also final session of the special webinar series “COVID-19 and beyond: Towards an inclusive workplace and society.”

Moderated by Professor Otake, CIL’s Managing Director and Dean of APU College of International Management, the webinar welcomed Ms. Atsuko Murakami, Executive Officer of H.U. Group Holdings, Inc. and former Executive Officer of Sony Corporation.

Sharing her own career experience accumulated to date, Ms. Murakami discussed the social and working environment surrounding women and how women’s career development is changing during and after the coronavirus pandemic.

She talked about her first job at a domestic trust bank, where she felt strong doubts about how common it was for men and women to be treated in remarkably different ways. Keeping that in mind, she continued doing finance-related jobs, made concrete medium and long-term career plans, and put effort into communicating her career desire to people around her.

Regarding gender gap, it is not only in Japan but also in Europe and the United States that women have a strong tendency to have low self-esteem and lack of confidence, she commented. Having women to actively contribute to the workplace and society, she mentioned, is not only important in terms of social progress because it’s part of gender equality and human rights but it can also improve corporate performance and company value as this issue is gaining attention from capital markets. After corona, job-based employment will be on the rise, making career development even more important.

We are living in a time where women empowerment is advanced than ever before. With the rise of remote work, the hurdles for women are being lowered even further. Ms. Murakami concluded the webinar by urging everyone to polish our special skills, broaden our fields of expertise and be not afraid to take on new challenges.