October 2026 | Issue No. 01

NEWS LETTER

Niigata University Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our Newsletter Is Back!

Hello everyone! We are the Niigata University Center for Diversity and Inclusion.
Our predecessor, the Office for Gender Equality, previously published a regular newsletter. Publication was suspended for some time due to changes in society and organizational restructuring. Beginning in October 2026, however, we are pleased to resume the newsletter on a quarterly basis.
Through this newsletter, we will share a wide range of information, updates, and reports on our activities. At the same time, we will continue to develop more effective initiatives and work toward creating a more inclusive and diverse university environment.
We greatly appreciate your continued understanding, participation, and support.



DEI 通信

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Newsletter

Diversity as Our Strength



Toshiyuki Someya,
President of Niigata University

A university brings together people from diverse academic disciplines, experiences, cultures, and values. Recognizing and respecting these differences, while enabling each individual to realize their full potential, not only creates a university in which everyone can feel a sense of belonging and thrive, but also fosters the emergence of new questions, perspectives, and ideas.
Diversity is not an initiative intended for any particular group. It begins with each of us: listening attentively to those around us, acknowledging our differences, and embracing them with respect. I believe that the steady accumulation of these seemingly small actions has the power, over time, to transform the university as a whole.
It is my sincere hope that this newsletter will serve as a catalyst for broadening this spirit of inclusion and extending its reach throughout our university community.

Diversity: Shaping the Future of Niigata University

Since February 2026, I have had the privilege of serving as Director of the Niigata University Center for Diversity and Inclusion.
Universities have a responsibility to foster an environment where diversity is respected, equity is valued, and every member can realize their full potential. Equally important is creating a community where everyone can take pride in the University and feel a genuine sense of belonging. Learning from people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives also inspires new knowledge and helps address the challenges facing society.
Through initiatives such as the “Kaika Plan,” the Center will continue to support new endeavors and empower early-career researchers and researchers from diverse backgrounds. We also hope to visit schools and departments across the University, listen directly to their voices, and translate their needs into meaningful support.
Together, we look forward to shaping the future of Niigata University.



Tomoko Sumiyoshi

Director of the Niigata University Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Exhibiting at the Network of Exhibitions for Xploration of University Scholarship (NEXUS)!

The DEI Center will debut at NEXUS. Through a display of archival materials, this exhibition introduces the Center’s history, initiatives, and ongoing activities to both university members and the wider community. It also offers an opportunity to engage with book that explore gender/sexuality, bodies, culture, and other dimensions of diversity, fostering curiosity, understanding and reflection. In addition, visitors are invited to share their thoughts and experiences, creating a space for connection, mutual learning, and collective action as we imagine a future where everyone can learn, work, and live with ease.

The exhibition features three main sections:

- **<(Re)discovering the DEI Center>** Posters and archival materials tracing the Center’s journey and development
- **<Encountering Diversity>** A curated collection of books about diversity from a range of perspectives
- **<Connecting Through Voices>** An interactive space for visitors to share ideas and reflections on diversity

Exhibitions & Venues

SCAN ME



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Our Center's Initiatives and Announcements

Results Announced: Gender Diversity Division Empowerment and Community Co-creation Project

Niigata University supports tailored gender diversity initiatives designed to address the unique characteristics and challenges of each faculty and department. The initiatives selected for this academic year have now been announced. We hope that these efforts, beginning within individual departments, will lead to positive change across the University and throughout the wider community.
The selected initiatives are featured on our website.

CLICK

We Applied for External Funding !

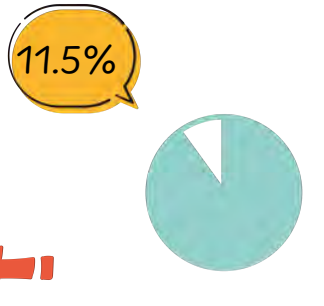
We recently applied for an external funding under the “Researcher Diversity Support Project,” an initiative that promotes diversity in academia by supporting the advancement of female research leaders and creating opportunities for researchers from diverse backgrounds to develop and sustain their careers. Through this project, we hope to further enhance our commitment to cultivating a research environment where everyone, regardless of background, can contribute, succeed, and thrive.

Information on My Current University

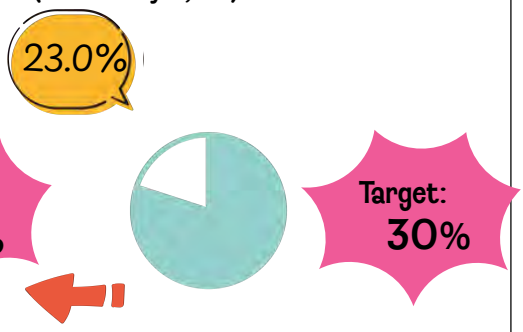
Percentage of Women Among the President, Board Members, Vice Presidents, and Members of the Council for Education and Research (as of February 1, R8.2)



Percentage of Female Professors Out of the Total Number of Professors (as of May 1, R7)



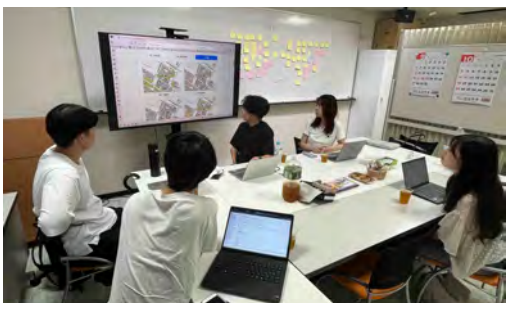
Percentage of Female Faculty Members Out of the Total Faculty (as of May 1, R7)



Building a stronger foundation by increasing the representation of women

CAST's Accessibility Map: A step toward a more accessible campus

The Campus Accessibility Student Team (CAST), a student-led initiative supported by the Center, is actively working to make campus more accessible. Over the past few months, CAST members (CASTers) have collaborated with the Facilities Administration Division to reimagine the campus universal design map using original CAST designs. The new map for Ikarashi Campus will be unveiled soon.



CASTers testing their pictograms' color scheme with a color blindness simulator.

Research Evaluation Is Changing! — A Global Turning Point, Japan’s Response, and Our University’s Challenge —

The world is now at a major turning point—a “meta-moment”—in research assessment, shifting away from an overreliance on publication counts toward Responsible Research Assessment (RRA), which recognizes a broader range of research contributions and achievements.
Japan has been engaged from an early stage in a DORA-led international survey involving 21 countries, aligning with this global movement while promoting collaboration among academia, industry, and government to foster an environment in which research can thrive and researcher well-being can be enhanced. The findings of the survey are expected to be released in early 2027.
At our university, we also envision a future in which research is assessed not solely through quantitative metrics, but through recognition of diverse contributions, including team science and invisible labor. Our goal is to create a research environment where researchers can pursue ambitious challenges while maintaining their well-being.

DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) is a global initiative that promotes fair research assessment by valuing research quality and diverse contributions, rather than relying solely on publication counts or journal-based metrics.

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