



MASAKO HIRAMATSU

**President of BPW Japan, CEO of Cable Persons Inc.
Vice Chair of National Women's Committee for UN NGOs**

I started my career from the radio program director and/or news reporter at RF Radio Nippon Co. and in 1965 I was dispatched to the Vietnam War as the first woman correspondent. This experience in Vietnam made me think about women as victims of war and/or disaster and made up my mind to work for the empowerment of women and girls. At the same time, I had to find gender gaps of women and men in everywhere and in various issues especially in Japan. Thus, I became a member of BPW Japan.

When I was 60, I changed my main role from business to NGOs including BPW and started to work with other women's NGOs to have more effective power. Thus, we organized the side event at CSW (in CSW59 = the Gender Equality in the Aged Society because of critical issue for Japan and in CSW60 & 61 = the Empowerment of Women in the Economy because of Japanese serious gender gaps index by GGGI). More than this, BPW is now working with 62 NGOs for the quota-system in the parliament because the women's ratio is under 10%.

As the social issue, how to support aged person is very serious and I, as the leader of BPW and/or other women NGOs, am making appeal to governments and society from the point of gender gaps because of the increasing poverty of aged women especially having worked women.