JSAP’s continued engagement in promotion on “Women in Physics”

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Historically, Japan has been a male-dominated society, and only recently the imbalance of gender in workforce has become acknowledged as a serious social problem. Since the law targeted for equal working opportunity was implemented in 1985, there have been movements for gender equality in the workforce. However, the gender imbalance in the Japanese physics community has stayed prominent. In this talk, we present JSAP’s activities to address the issues faced by women in physics.

JSAP is one of the pioneer societies that introduced the movement to the research domain. In 2002, JSAP together with JSP and other twelve societies established the EPMEWSE [1], and now it has grown to accommodate more than 60 societies as members and observers.

The main activities of JSAP for women in physics have been focused on providing a supportive environment for minorities. Not only providing facilities such as nursery and networking opportunities during the JSAP meetings, but we also promote awareness of the various problems arising from the gender imbalance in the field by providing opportunities for constructive discussions [2]. Although the JSAP acknowledges such an extreme gender imbalance will significantly impact on the quality of research and innovations in a long term, the change in community has been rather slow. Through our success and failure in the JSAP, we highlight challenges that Japan is facing today.