

Women of Mathematics: A Gallery of Portraits

Exhibition period:

Thursday, 10 October – Friday, 1 November 2019

Time: 10:00 – 17:00 (Last admission on final day will be at 12:00)

Delegation of the European Union to Japan

Europa House, 4-6-28 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047

Organisers: Suri-Joshi, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
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Department of Mathematics, Keio University
Tohoku Forum for Creativity, Tohoku University

In the field of mathematics, female researchers worldwide are outnumbered by their male counterparts. This is particularly the case in Japan, where the proportion of female mathematicians is extremely low and does not seem to be changing quickly. Japanese government data show that only 6% of research students in mathematics are women, for example. In an effort to highlight the human aspect of producing mathematics and to provide role models for young female scientists, the touring exhibition “Women of Mathematics throughout Europe: A Gallery of Portraits” (<http://womeninmath.net>) presents portraits of female mathematicians based in Europe. With photographs taken by Noel Matoff and excerpts of interviews carried out by University of Potsdam Sylvie Paycha, the panels were first exhibited in 2016 at the European Mathematical Congress in Berlin. Since then, the exhibition has been presented around the globe (to 97 venues in more than 20 countries) and has received a universally positive reception.

Following its success, the gallery was brought to Japan in 2019 and was displayed at the Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Society of Japan, alongside a photo exhibition of “Mathematicians in Japan”. The latter presents photographs of Japan-based academics taken by Hiroaki Kohno, together with handwritten messages from the featured mathematicians. The event was organised by the Mathematical Society of Japan’s Committee for Promoting a Gender-Equal Society in conjunction with Suri-Joshi, a network of volunteers whose aim is to encourage female students and researchers to pursue a career in mathematics.

At present, the Delegation of the European Union to Japan hosts a combined exhibition of “Women of Mathematics throughout Europe” and “Female mathematicians in Japan”. The exhibition aims at reaching out new audiences who can learn from the stories of both European and Japanese mathematicians. By providing a platform for sharing experiences between the EU and Japan, we hope that the exhibition will help promoting discussions about how the specific obstacles often faced by women in entering and working in the field of mathematics can be overcome. We further hope that such discussions will ultimately lead to the enhancement of gender equality within the mathematics community of Japan.



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