Tomoya Miyazaki

Saitama University

## **GENDER INEQUALITY IN JAPAN**

Today I'll talk about gender inequality. I heard that there is big chasm between men and women in Ukraine where there are occupations that can only be done by men or women. This is also true for Japan, and I'll tell you about the situation in my country.

First, in ancient Japan, societies divided their roles of labor between men and women. For example, weaving was regarded as a women's job although it was men who used it to pay a yearly tribute to their ruler. It means that men took credit for women's work. Like this, weaving silk was mainly done by women. This is the clay image of a woman being engaged in weaving and it is called "haniwa." In addition, this feature is also found in recent Japan. For instance, the ratio of men to women is 4:1 in a fashion school. Certainly, there are differences between men's and women's skills and it may be better to divide their roles accordingly, but I think that people should not be judged by their ability by gender because some men like weaving and some women like fishing.

Second, there are overwhelmingly fewer women who govern our country. The percentage of female members of parliament is only 9.9% and the Prime Minister is always a man in Japan. This is mainly because it took for long time for women to be granted their suffrage and it is difficult to change the situation that there are a lot of male leaders. In the old days, people considered that women were born to do something other than politics such as childcare, doing housework, and so on.

What is the problem when this situation continues? I think people should be treated by their abilities only because there are great people regardless of gender. Moreover, I think female power is very necessary in the field of politics because now the members of parliament are mostly men, so politics have tended to be biased towards the male perspective. If the number of women members of parliament increases, various policies may be improved and help women to lead a more flexible lifestyle. We should be struggle more to correct the disparity between men and women in order to live more comfortably.