

Dr. Sawako Takeuchi



Dr. Takeuchi is a former president of la Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris, currently serving as senior advisor to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Science and Technology of the Japanese Government.

She is a pioneer to explore possibilities to teach at Japanese leading universities. She was the first female professor at the engineering department of Tokyo University for its 120 year history, then taught at Kyoto University for environmental sciences. She was also professor of economics at the advanced policy research at the Economics department of Oriental (To-Yo) University, while teaching management of technology in Tokyo University.

Dr. Takeuchi, a graduate of Waseda University in law, holds two PhDs including, PhD in engineering from the Tokyo University for urban engineering and PhD of economics for water management and public-private initiative. She is expert of interdisciplinary research in the areas of social application of environmental technologies, urban design and regional planning.

She started her academic career in France at Institut Mathématique et Economique Appliquées in Paris as researcher under the guidance of Prof. François Perroux, and started to teach at Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne requested by French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She then joined Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, one of the top French engineering schools, as professor and vice president for a graduate school of international management. Those experiences enhanced her managing capability to play a leading role in multicultural environment.

For public services, Dr. Takeuchi sat on Economic Strategic Council during in Prime

Minister Obuchi's cabinet for policy reform and served as a member of various expert committees in Japanese government, such as tax reform, public pension fund reform, decentralization, public-private initiative. She served also as Ambassador and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to establish a new information sharing mechanism among Asian countries.

She has a keen interest of education of young professionals in Japan. In 2006, she founded a Leadership Program for "Innovative Engineers" supported by Nissan Scientific Foundation. This program is designed to encourage new social entrepreneurship and to support their realization through funding. She keeps a special interest for leadership education since then.

She was leader for many international projects. She presided World Bank's project, Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery as the Chair from 2007-2010. From 2010-2014, she worked as a research head of JICA-JST project on environmental technology application in India.

For cross-cultural activities, she showed a lot of producer skills of cultural events such as concerts, exhibitions, conferences during her mission in Paris as head of governmental cultural institution. Thanks to her efforts, the contents of programs significantly improved, the number of visitors/ participants doubled, and the number of language students increased tenfold.

She published several books and wrote many articles. Her books include:

- “Urban Policy”, Nihon Keizai Hyoron-sha, 2006,
- “Japan's Industrial System Vol.9, Urban System and Industrial System”, 2003,
- “Institutional Design of Public Management” NTT Publications, 2002,
- “Social Infrastructure toward the 21st Century” San-kaidoh, 1999,
- “Universality and particularity of European Integration” PHP Institute, 1992.

For journalism, she worked as columnist for Yomiuri newspaper and Asahi newspaper and wrote more than 100 articles on Japanese societies.

In 2005, she was awarded the Order of National Merit by French government. In 2014 she was awarded the Order of Arts and Literature ( L'Ordre National des Arts et des Lettres) by French Government.

She speaks fluent French and English. She is also a classically trained pianist and a tea ceremony master and a flower artist.