

## Summary of A group Meeting

Group A seminar was organized around three topics; First was the discussion of our common theoretical framework and presentation of each proposal. The seminar started with a framework review led by our leader, Prof. F. Chege from Kenyatta University, Kenya. While our common focus is on gender and equity, we explored the aspects of gender and equity that each team deals with; whether it is identity, household, wealth, community, or pedagogy.

This discussion was followed by proposal presentations. We had lectures on gender and feminist studies in Japan and developing countries, including gender differences in learning outcomes in SACMEQ countries. Since the group involves equity issue and the seminar was held in Hiroshima City, a city known as a symbol for peace, we invited a lecture on Peace Studies in Asian countries. All of these four lectures gave insightful perspectives for the participants.

Another highlight of the seminar was the participation in *the International Seminar on Quality of Education under Universal Primary Education Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa*, organized by Kobe University. The focus of the international seminar was quality of education, especially differing impacts of the University Primary Education (UPE) policies on teachers, curriculum, and community in the selected Sub-Saharan countries. At Kobe University, we also visited the Dean of the Department of International Development Study and also the Vice President of Kobe University as part of our dissemination activity of Africa-Asia University Network.

Throughout the seminar, each participant understood that in some cases (such as Kenya, for instance), educational outcomes are better for girls than boys. Not only in terms of Socio Economic Status (SES), but also household wealth, rural/urban, religion, and disabilities have affected gender & equity issues in educational access, participation, retention, and achievement.

Each team is ready to implement the proposed study, and the studies from University of Zambia, Waseda University and Kenyatta University shall be presented at the mid-term meeting in March 2011 in Tokyo.