

## **Producing Gender Statistics at Local Level: the Case of Mito-City**

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### **Abstract:**

Achieving gender equality in a society has long been a policy priority for Mito-city, the capital of Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. Mito was one of the first cities in Japan which adopted the Declaration on Gender Equality at the city council.

The purpose of the presentation is to introduce the city's unique attempts to formulate effective evidence-based policies to empower women and facilitate active participation of women and men in a society. The research conducted by the city reveals that there exist significant data gaps between the central and city governments in terms of the availability of gender statistics, hence preventing the city from revealing empirically the present situation of gender equality in depths and from multiple dimensions.

The presentation will share the city's recent endeavors in gathering own gender statistics through various means, including citizen surveys, business surveys and interviews, in order to fill existing data gaps. For example, in the most recent survey carried out by the city in 2018, particular focus was placed on the collection of information regarding work patterns, annual income, and a work-life balance of citizens from gender perspectives.

With the recognition of the city being an active supporter of SDGs, the presentation will also show the availability of data, in light of SDGs' gender statistics and the minimum set of gender statistics that the UN promotes. Furthermore, the presentation will draw some lessons learned from the challenges of collecting and generating gender statistics at the city level. Lastly, it will conclude with proposals of some innovative strategies to better inform policies and improve communication between data producers and users.