

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY
AND HEALTH



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Celebrating women's voices in the Western Pacific Region: leadership, diversity and health

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Contents

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Abbreviations	ix
Celebrate	1
Inspire	19
Be brave	55
Dream big	77
Tell your story	95
Conclusion	108
References	110



Foreword

The road towards great gender equality is long. In WHO's Western Pacific Region, progress has been made over the last decade and more, but we still have a long way to go.

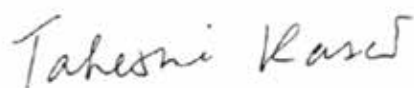
Our Region's vision document, *For the Future*, recognises that to achieve our ambition of becoming the healthiest and safest region, we need to ensure that all people – women and men, and boys and girls – have equal chances and opportunities. We cannot achieve our vision of being the healthiest and safest region while ever inequity persists.

We are fortunate that the Western Pacific Region is home to many wonderful women leaders, who, in their own contexts and unique ways, are helping to make our Region safer and healthier.

Celebrating Women's Voices in the Western Pacific Region shares the experiences and stories of some of these women. This collection of stories shows that there is no simple or one-sized-fits-all approach to leadership: rather, in this publication we celebrate women from different communities, of different ages, in different jobs and with different levels of responsibilities.

As Regional Director for the Western Pacific, I am personally committed to gender equality. I firmly believe in the value of diversity. Gender equality and women's empowerment not only benefits women and girls, but organisations and societies as a whole. I am also very proud that the proportion of female staff in the professional category within the Western Pacific Region has increased from 32% to 54% in the last ten years.

I hope that young people in our Region reading this collection of stories will be inspired by the role they too can play in shaping a healthier, safer and more equal future for all.



Takeshi Kasai, MD, Ph.D.
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