

January 7, 2022

Keio University

Creating an Inclusive Environment at Keio University —The Breeze Project: Supporting Women's Bodies—

As a part of Keio University's efforts to create an inclusive environment for students, the university has set up *The Breeze Project: Supporting Women's Bodies* and has already distributed free sanitary products twice for female students who are facing uncertain circumstances at this time. In addition to this program's scheduled continuation, beginning in January, 2022, each of Keio University's campuses will be installing dispensers for free sanitary products (provided through OiTr, Inc.)¹ in their women's restrooms.

Furthermore, in a partnership between the Keio University Hospital and Health Center called, "*Consultation Corners for Concerns about the Female/Male Body*," the university will be establishing a space for students, faculty, and staff to talk with experts, attend mini-lectures on various health topics, and actively provide other multifaceted programs for the promotion of maintaining health and wellness.

Also, as of today, a dedicated website has been created to further publicize information related to the Breeze Project.

The Breeze Project: Supporting Women's Bodies

<https://www.diversity.keio.ac.jp/breeze/breeze.html> (Japanese Language Only)

1. Initiatives to date:

(1) Installation of dispensers for free sanitary products in restrooms on each campus (Beginning December, 2021)

A total of 72 units are scheduled to be installed in turn at Keio's campuses, with 18 on Mita campus, 18 on Hiyoshi campus, 6 on Yagami campus, 12 on Shonan Fujisawa Campus (SFC), 6 on Shiba Kyoritsu Campus, and 12 on Shinanomachi Campus.



(2) Consultations about the Female/Male Body (Beginning January 11, 2022)

For Keio University students, faculty, and staff, doctors at Keio University Hospital and Keio University Health Center will provide free consultations (reservation required) regarding health issues related to the female and male body.

The program will provide face-to-face consults on Hiyoshi Campus for obstetrics and gynecology once a month, as well as consults for mammary and urology related issues on a quarterly basis.

Online consults from other campus facilities will also be made possible with referral letters to other institutions provided based on the results of the consultation.

2. Background:

In April of 2018, Keio University established the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and, in September of 2019, it established the *Charter of the Keio University Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*.² Since then, the office has worked on promoting a variety of initiatives.

Promptly addressing the issue of “Period Poverty,” one of myriad women’s health issues, was what inspired the launch of the Breeze Project in 2021. The project led to a variety of initiatives including free distribution of sanitary products to women (in both July and September) as well as a mini lecture and roundtable discussion with students³ in collaboration with doctors at Keio University Hospital. Above all, the initiatives and their corresponding questionnaires allowed Keio to hear from students and staff who, for a variety of reasons, expressed the desire for such products to be made available in individual restroom stalls, leading to immediate action to implement OiTr Inc.’s dispensers on each of Keio’s campuses.

¹ OiTr, Inc. (A service that makes free sanitary products available in individual restroom stalls) <https://www.oitr.jp/>

² Charter of the Keio University Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion <https://www.diversity.keio.ac.jp/about/charter.html>

³ Roundtable on the Female Body: "Let's ask a specialist" <https://www.diversity.keio.ac.jp/event/2021/11/post-4.html>

3. Upcoming Initiatives:

In addition to continuing our current programs, Keio University remains committed to further fostering an inclusive environment across its campuses and administration.

- Free distribution of sanitary products (3rd Cycle): Scheduled for mid-January 2022
- Supporting Women’s Bodies (mini lecture, etc. (2nd)): Scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2022. (Limited to members of Keio University)



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Keio University supports the Sustainable Development Goals

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