The Power of Women Scientists and Engineers in New Normal

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Nurturing women scientists and engineers and supporting them in achieving fruitful results are important not only for the nation concerned but also for the development of humankind. In the process of responding to COVID-19, the significance of science and technology has become more pronounced and more spotlight has been put on the role of women in healthcare and life science. Moreover, changes in the work environment driven by digital transformation, including work from home, can prevent working mothers from leaving careers for childcare responsibilities and may signify a break from a male-dominated workplace culture. In post COVID-19, women scientists and engineers will be able to join the mainstream alongside their male counterparts. However, there are survey results that reveal the negative impact of work from home: an increase in household duties can undermine women's competitiveness. This presentation describes the activities of women scientists and engineers in Korea and propose support policies that can help improve competitiveness.