

# Kumiko Bando

Deputy Minister,  
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Kumiko Bando graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo and entered the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture (MONBUSHO) in 1977. After holding various posts such as Director of the Women's Education Division of the Lifelong Learning Bureau, MONBUSHO, and Director of the Copyright Division of the Cultural Affairs Department in the Agency for Cultural Affairs, she served as Deputy Governor of Akita Prefecture from 1998 to 2000. Returning to the ministry, she served as Director of the Financial Affairs Division of the Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Director of the Higher Education Policy Planning Division of the Higher Education Bureau, MEXT, Director of the Personnel Division in the Minister's Secretariat, MEXT, Deputy Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat, and was appointed Director-General of the Gender Equality Bureau in the Cabinet Office in 2006. After serving as Director-General of the Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, MEXT, from 2009 and Director-General of the Higher Education Bureau, MEXT, in 2012, she was appointed to her current position.

## *Enhancement of University Reform and Quality Change of Education*

Under the drastic societal and economic changes such as globalization and advancement of knowledge-based society, higher education institutions are expected to play greater role in strengthening human resources, fostering innovations and solving social problems. In Japan, enhancement of university reform including quality change of university education and human resource development responding to globalization is one of the key policies not only for educational development but also for economic development. To enhance university reform, quality assurance system should be strengthened and international collaborations such as CDIO are expected to be developed.