Kaori Sasaki established UNICUL International, Inc. (www.unicul.com), a communications consultancy that offers executive media training and translation and interpretation in seventy languages, in 1987 and ewoman Inc. (www.ewoman.jp), an influential think tank and consultancy that provides marketing, branding, product development, and training to major corporations in 2000. She also created the largest working women’s conference, called the International Conference for Women in Business (www.women.co.jp/conf/) in 1996, now in its 17th year. Known as an internet pioneer, she opened the first portal for women in Japan in 1996.

She also serves on the boards of Nissen Holdings and NEC Corporation, on advisory boards for several major organizations including the National Museum of Nature and Science (Tokyo), Sony Foundation for Education, and The Internet Association of Japan, and as a corporate auditor of Tokyo Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance. Conscious of her civic duty, she also serves on several councils for the Ministries of Education, of Justice, and of Information and Technology.

Ms. Sasaki is sought-after speaker who appears regularly in the media and is an author of several best-selling books on communication, time management, and other business topics. She traveled extensively as an international news reporter for the top-rated news show and anchored the “CBS 60 Minutes” show in Japan. Ms. Sasaki received a BA from Sophia University in Tokyo in 1983 and an honorary doctorate degree from Elmira College in New York in 2008.

“Achieving gender balance requires increasing both the number of women who can work and the number of women leaders/decision makers. To get the gatekeepers to unlock the gate and appoint women to lead, we need to show them how diversity strengthens management.”

Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now