NPO Waffle, President Sayaka Tanaka Biography

Sayaka Tanaka is the first social entrepreneur dedicated to closing Japan's gender gap in tech, which currently ranks 125th out of 146 according to the gender gap index.

At the age of 28, she founded Waffle.org, providing hands-on opportunities for female students, and advocating for the government to address the structural causes of the gender gap. Sayaka received the "Japan SDGs Award", awarded directly by the Prime Minister, and Forbes JAPAN 30 UNDER 30 recognition in 2020. She also won the "Business with Attitude" award by FIGARO.jp and the Work-Style-AWARD 2022 by PERSOL.

Sayaka has emerged as a prominent figure in the discourse surrounding gender equality, influencing corporate, governmental, and media spheres. Her expertise has been acknowledged by prestigious institutions, including appointments to advisory positions within the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. She represented youth at WAW 2020 and spoke on digital/STEM education and corporate advisory boards like Indeed's "Expert Council on the Gender Gap in the Workplace," showcasing her impact on tech and gender equality. She is also the youngest W20 JAPAN delegate in 2024, the official engagement group responsible for proposing policy recommendations regarding gender for the G20. She was selected as one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders (YGLs) 2024.

Her work at Waffle led to publishing "Me x IT = The Strongest Theory: A Direction for Girls & Gender Minorities to Work in IT" in 2023, solidifying her role as a leader in bridging gender gaps in Japan's tech landscape.