

Dear Mr. Parliamentary Vice-Minister,
Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mrs. Goy Veenhuys, founder of the Equal Salary Foundation,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to attend this important Equal Salary Certification Ceremony.

The Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, in its chapter related to fundamental rights, stipulates that, I quote

Men and women have equal rights. The law shall ensure their equality, both in law and in practice, most particularly in the family, in education, and in the workplace. Men and women have the right to equal pay for work of equal value.

To ensure that equal salary is a reality, the law is important, but it is not sufficient. Common efforts from the public authorities, the private sector and from civil society are needed.

The label of the Equal-Salary Foundation, whose development was financially supported by the Swiss Confederation, is a precious tool to promote this goal.

I warmly congratulate Philipp Morris Japan for its success in the certification process. Since gender equality is also an important objective in Japan, I consider today's Equal Salary Certification Event as a precious illustration of the strong relations between Switzerland and Japan, two countries which share similar values.

I wish the Equal Salary Foundation every success for the continuation of its most honorable mission.

Thank you very much.