INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ON WOMEN'S INFORMATION NETWORK SYSTEMS
(held in 1985, 1987 and 1988)

Participants in the 1988 Seminar

National Women's Education Centre organized International Seminar on Women's Information Networking in 1985, 1987 and 1988 as part of the survey and research efforts of its information division. The objectives of the seminar were to study information needed to raise the status of women and to examine appropriate methods to disseminate and transmit information internationally. The outline of the summary of discussions is as follows:

1) What do we mean by information for women?

Information for women refers to the kind of information which helps solve the problems of women and raise their status. As such it is intended to serve as a source of power for women. The information is classified under various "indicators", "Women's Human Rights", and other documents, prepared at national or regional level.

Information urgently required today is that related to: a) women's physiology, health and reproduction; b) relationship between national economic crisis and poverty of women; c) religious oppression of women; d) trafficking in women, prostitution, illegal labour, women working in other countries and violence against women; e) ill-treatment and maltreatment of women in exile; f) women and development; g) assessment and dollar valuation of women's labour in household and informal sector; h) population census that reflects the status of women, and in condition of working women including the latest areas of job transfer and political fields.

Photography is certainly the kind of information we do not need. It is well that we keep on vigilance against those.

2) Building multi-level women's information network

It is desirable that women's information network covering various fields and domain be built on regional, national and global levels in a mutually complementary manner. The cooperation of NGOs and public institutions such as the national governments and the United Nations is essential in creating such a network. Use of computers, exchange of data processing technology, exchange of information and data, preparation of database, training and exchange of personnel and fund raising must be carried out as an integral part of building networks.

3) Preparation of database for women's information

Given the broad coverage and volume of information on women as well as variety of mode of access, preparation of a database for women's information will improve the efficiency of data storage and provision. Priority should be placed on information which point to "women's boots" of information sought, "who's doing what" and "information on women's studies"

4) Broad dissemination of women's information

Women's information network should actively reach out to the mass media to make use of its power to propagate messages and influence people.

5) Overcoming language barriers

Women's information recorded in local and vernacular languages should be translated into an international language such as English and vice versa.

6) Encouraging use of appropriate words and improving speech etc.

Appropriate use of words and expressions should be chosen considering the type of audience; e.g., generation, class, group, expert/non-expert, child's development of women's language

Some words and expressions enjoying wide use should be redefined from women's point of view. In this process, expression that discriminate against women should be eliminated. Moreover, women should try to create words that would accurately express women's issues.

7) Effectiveness of audio-visual media and its use

Audio-visual devices are effective tools to directly convey specific message. Video, drama, poster, song, etc.

Vol.6, No.1, May. 1989
and film are particularly effective in education and training as well as in raising the consciousness level of the people. They are effective modes of communication, for example, in industrialized and non-industrialized nations are expected to provide technical and financial assistance in developing and disseminating the use of audio-visual media.

1) Supporting developing nations to prepare women's information

It must be borne in mind that recent trends for computerization has the danger of concentrating information in regions, countries and individuals that have financial and human resources to use computers. In order to distribute information worldwide, women in advanced countries, their governments and the United Nations are called upon to assist developing countries in the field of new technologies by providing technical and financial assistance as well as training and education.

NGOs and public organizations worldwide are in the process of systematically building and distributing meaningful information on women. Information experts need to incorporate into the information system results of discussions on each of the relevant issues listed earlier. In this way information can truly exercise power in raising the status of women towards the coming century.

**NWEC ACTIVITIES**

**RESEARCH ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES AND EDUCATION IN THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

National Women's Education Centre jointly with the Institute for Women's Studies, Odense University conducted a research on the status of women's studies and education in the West European countries with a view to developing women's research programmes, building international network and furthering the studies in Japan. The research received grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture under the Scientific Research Programme FY 1988.

**Background:** Research on women's studies and education have been carried out in many parts of the world since the 1960s. Much of the information available in Japan on the topic is limited to that from the United States. In view of this it was decided that information from Europe should be collected. It was agreed also that results and status of women's studies in Japan, little known in other countries, should be made more widely known. The research will help promote comparative research on women, a topic which has received little attention in the past.

**Method and subject of study**

The study group visited institutions of higher education and adult education and centres for women's studies in U.K., West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and Netherlands and collected information on educational and research activities and exchanged information with researchers. This on-site research was supplemented by a questionnaire survey. Subjects of the research were:

1) trends of women's studies in other countries, 2) relationship between women's studies and public policy concerning women, 3) women's movement and family, 4) gender ideology in different cultures, 5) relationship between life-long learning and working women, 6) women's studies and education in institutions of higher learning, and 7) development of women's studies and educational programmes to adult educational institutions.

Participates of the research will compile the findings on the above topics.

**Countries and research institutions visited**

(U.K.)
- Department of Education and Science
- University of London (Centre for Extramural Studies/Centre for Research and Education of Gender)
- Hugton Adult Education Institute
- Open University
- Richmond Adult and Community College
- Hertford College
- Women's Education Resource Centre
- Fawcett Library
- Feminist Library
- London Women's Centre

(West Germany)
- IFO-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
- P.A.M. (The Women's Academy for Research on Gender and Society)
- Institut für Arbeitswissenschaft
- Die Grünen
- Deutscher Frauenrat
- Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit
- Universität Bielefeld
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Frauentreueforschungsstätten
- Deutscher Frauenrat
- Frauenberufliche Bildung
- Frauenforschung
- Potsdam FHHBZ

(France)
- Retraiteur (Provence/Ile de France)
- CadOC (Women's Affairs' Equal Opportunities for Girls and Women)
- Université de la Marseillle III
- Université de Paris X
- Université de Paris XI
- Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques
- Délegation à la Condition Féminine
- Université de Paris IV
- Université de Bocconi
- Commission of the European Communities
- Free University of Brussels

(Belgium)
- Institute of Social Studies
WORKSHOP OF INTER-NATIONAL EXCHANGE FOR WOMEN IN 1988

The Workshop was held on 17 and 18 February, 1989 on the theme of “Women and International Exchange” bringing together 110 participants across the nation including 31 foreign residents of 12 different nationalities. Active discussion took place on international exchange as participants addressed various issues from women’s point of view.

The keynote address, on the theme of “International Networking; Realism and Vision”, was given by Ms. Neeltje Heyzer who plans and promotes development programmes for women in Asia at APDC (the Asian and Pacific Development Centre) an intergovernmental organization stationed in Malaysia. She described the condition of women in Asia; how they were being kept away from the benefits of development and becoming poorer while the world at large was benefiting from economic development and technological innovation. She asserted that in a rapidly shrinking world, women must share their concerns through international exchange and networking.

At the six discussion groups that followed, participants exchanged their opinions on the following topics: “Rights of women”; “Experience of living abroad and international exchange”; “Women’s involvement in the social development of the developing countries”; “Exchange with foreign residents in Japan”; “International exchange at the local level”; and English.

abstract of the keynote speech

“Women’s International Exchange and Networking: Realism and Vision” (Ms. Neeltje Heyzer)

During the last decade there has been an upsurge of women organizing, networking and strategising in Asia to change the position of women and their value in society. Organizations have grown around issues of health, work, housing, food, environment, the debt crisis, education. Through their collective sharing and search, they are attempting to take charge of their lives and deepen their understanding of the social structures within which they live and participate. Increasingly, women’s lives and the social structures within which their lives unfold are being affected by international processes of development and change. These processes have included the international division of labour, the international migration of women, the international relocation of capital, the creation of international systems of trade, finance, pricing policies, exchange rates. Because of the current international revolution, cultures and attitudes are also becoming internationalized. These processes have created both opportunities as well as inequalities depending on the power structures and relationships of countries in the international system, of the location of households within the national class and ethnic context, and depending on the nature of gender relationships in society and within the household. It is within this context that women’s international networking and sharing become important and need examination and reflection. Women’s international exchange can become another avenue for the search for new approaches to education and organizing that adequately express the experiences and perspectives of broad sectors of people whose voices were often unrepresented in the shaping of our world into a place of peace and true human security of freedom from poverty and violence.

SURVEY ON INFORMATION CENTRES AND LIBRARIES ON WOMEN’S ISSUES IN JAPAN

While NWEC’s Information Centre for Women’s Education serves as a comprehensive national and international centre for women and family issues, materials on women’s issues are also available at local women’s centres and university affiliated women’s research centres.

NWEC conducted a survey on libraries and information centres on women’s issues in Japan in 1988.

Followings are some findings from the survey.

Women’s centres in Japan fall into two categories from a historical perspective; those established by private initiatives, usually by women’s organizations, to serve as the basis for women’s movement and those created by the government as a major tool for promoting the status of women. The former has been created in the wake of

May 1989

3
Lecture on Scandinavian Families

A lecture meeting of the Department of Social Services, National Swedish Council for Social Welfare was held on 6 December. Forty-one participants attended the meeting. The theme of the lecture was "Scandinavian families in the present state and prospects for the future". The following is a summary of the lecture.

In Sweden, labour shortage since the 1960s helped expand employment of women. As of 1988, 37 percent of men and 39 percent of women were at work. The figure appears to indicate that equality between men and women has been achieved. In reality, however, half the women in the labour force work part-time while raising their children.

The scale of marriage has changed with increasing number of women working. The marriage rate declined to 40 percent in the decade after 1965. Cohabitation and number of extramarital children increased. Extramarital children now account for 50 percent (one in every two children) compared to 22 to 23 percent in 1965. There is no discrimination against extramarital children.

The divorce rate, which was almost none a century ago, rapidly increased since around 1960. Seventy percent of married couples and cohabitating couples live separately. It appears that the recently enacted divorce law stating that a couple may get a divorce when either party desires it has resulted in this high divorce rate.
CREATING A NEW COMMUNITY: REVIEW OF NATIONAL SEMINAR FOR LEADERS OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS (1986-1988)

1. Introduction

The primary goal of the National Seminar for Leaders of Women's Organizations held from fiscal 1986 to 1988 was to discover how women's power can be best employed in the community through "acting and living together". The topics of discussions included the aging of the society, increase in the number of working women and encouraging them to take part in activities of women's organizations and promoting young people to take part in social activities. The following sub-topics were discussed in the past seminars:

1986 "Increase in the number of working women and community activities"
1987 "Cooperation between men and women towards the year 2000"
1988 "Policies for the aging society and community activities"

2. Participants

A total of 379 participants attended the seminars for three years. They included leaders of prefectural and municipal level organizations in the seminar theme. Women's organizations represented for each group of participants and people in their 40's to 60's, most of them representative.

3. Programme development

Discussion by secretaries, study and training on information, symposium and plenary sessions were held to identify the present situation of women's organizations and to suggest directions for the future activities as we look to the 21st century.

4. Findings from three-year activities

Through three years of activities on the theme of "Creating a new community", it was recognized that a clear need existed to (1) define the actual condition of local communities, (2) raise consciousness of women in local communities, (3) define problems facing organizations and groups operating in local communities, and (4) create linkages between organizations and groups in local communities.

1) Problem definition and future tasks of community development

a) Condition of local communities
   - Long standing customs and rules on sexual division of labour remain.
   - Decline of education.
   - Increase of aged population.
   - Weak human relations.
   - Increase in working women.
   - Consciousness of women living in local communities.

2) Women are anxious to learn and to be involved but due to lack of support, human relations, many find social involvement and family duties incompatible.

3) Local customs hampers women to lead an independent way of life (making it difficult for self-improvement).

4) Condition of organizations and groups operating in local community
   - Aging of members, lack of personal and concentration of roles prevent organizations from effective activities.
   - Often lack clear directions.
   - Inter-generational communication suffers from small number of participation of young people in social activities.

5) Linkage of groups and organizations situated in local community
   - Limited opportunities for mutual information exchange leave each other isolated without effective linkage.
   - Networking within the organization suffers often from difficulties in inter-personal relations.

6. Future tasks

"Creating a new community" meant resolving problems that hinder creation of a society in which both women enjoy equal participation as provided for in the New National Plan of Action. To achieve this goal we need to change the consciousness of women to encourage them to live independently and to promote closer ties in the community.

1) Changing the consciousness of women
   a) Establish custom and traditions that prevent women from living an independent way of life should be challenged and changed.

2) With increasing number of elderly people in the community, the care of the elderly requires a balanced combination of self-help, public aid and mutual support by individual and collective community members.

3) Need to foster interpersonal relations to promote mutual help to supplement declining levels of education as a result of increased number of working women and decreased association with each other.

4) Promoting and linking
   a) Encouraging networking
      Local social changes have brought about many problems to the community. In creating a new community women must expand their sphere of activities and share their interests and concerns with members of other groups and organizations. Emphasis should be given to encouraging the participation of local residents, particularly the young in community activities.

5) Reviewing group activities.

   Democratic organization and management of women's groups will promote better linkages. Review of group activities should include the following agenda:

   a) Nature of educational activities
      With a view towards the coming century, group activities should have the feasibility and broad vision to respond to changing needs of the society. Each member of the group must ask her or himself what learning means for the person. Emphasis should be placed on long-term benefits of learning rather than on short term gains.

b) Review of organization and management

   a) Revitalizing group activities
      Groups should identify their goals, initiate activities with clear vision in

May 1989
order to revitalize their organizations. Clear action policy is required to involve local communities particularly to encourage broad participation.

(2) Participating in decision-making process. Taking part in decision-making processes means electing women members to local and national parliament and appointing them to the members of governmental advisory councils. Due to shortage of leadership women and general reluctance among women to assume leadership roles; few women have been successfully elected or appointed. There is clear need for greater number of women to participate in the policy making process to revitalize women's group activities and to raise the social status of women. Groups must support this endeavor by studying politics and fortifying linkages with other organizations.

JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN

Starting from this issue, the Women's Group section will be written by representatives of the group introduced.

JAPANESE WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Japanese Women's Democratic Club was organized in 1968, the year after the war was lost on Japan and its axis powers, Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy. The Sino-Japanese War and the war with the United States had been the result of Japanese militaristic invasion of Manchuria, the northeast part of present China.

Some 20 million people in Asia felt victims to the 15-year war which ravaged the region. Three million Japanese also lost their lives in the war, including those killed in air raids and by atomic bomb.

Most Japanese women were forced to collaborate with the military in the home front.

Standing amidst the ruins of the war and in search of daily food, some women got together to organize a club determined to do their best "to put an end to war and to promote peace in the world".

Founders of the Japanese Women's Democratic Club vowed to "bring about an era in which women worldwide thrive, choose and act for themselves and to build a future which promises decent life and progress for posterity".

For 65 years since the founding, the members of the Club were consistent in their commitment to opposition to war and to improvement of their status. Their activities encompassed wide range of concerns as reflected in the slogan: "Women, human, socialist democracy".

In March 1959 on the eve of the outbreak of the Korean War, the members of the Club collected signatures to support the Stockholm Appeal calling for an unconditional ban of nuclear arms at the World Conference for Promotion of Peace. The members also went to the Fifth Street, New York with large square poetry cards for peace signed by Japanese celebrities to make public appeal.

The Japanese Women's Democratic Club was at the forefront of anti-atom and hydrogen bomb movements triggered by the hydrogen bomb test conducted by the United States in 1954 on the Bikini Islands in the Pacific. The radical action一开始就 struck the crew of Daigo Fukuryumaru, a Japanese fishing vessel operating in the vicinity killing the captain of the ship. The incident stirred a nationwide movement to collect signatures calling for the ban on nuclear bombs. The JWDC not only actively collected the signatures but sent a delegation to Vienna in 1955 to the world Mother's Conference held on the subject.

The Club, while welcoming the super power agreement on the reduction of NFN, is opposed to Japan's militarization (gradually becoming the second in the world) which goes against the spirit of the detente. The Club is engaged in a wide range of peace activities including the annual speech meeting organized on August 15, the day marking the end of the WWII jointly with the women's group "Never Again on the Path to War". Members of the Club support housewives in Iwago, Kasagawa, fighting to stop the construction of a housing complex for the U.S. forces in Japan and join mothers in Miyake Island opposing the establishment of exercise landing strip for the U.S. fighter planes. The Club has made a protest to the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture demanding all children to sing national anthem and raise national flag at school.

Other activities include those related to women's status such as calling for review and revision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law which works to categorize women into elite and non-elite groups. The Club members are taking a stand on the problems of Japanese farming which go beyond the issue of arranging Philippine
The YWCA of Japan was founded in 1886 by a group of Japanese Christian women under the leadership of Miss Caroline MacDonald, a Canadian, sent to Japan by the World YWCA. Up until World War II, the primary focus of its work was on the liberation of women and social welfare, but with the ending of that war, the focus changed to peace and human rights.

At the first national board meeting after the war, board members confessed that they had not done all they could to resist the war, and decided that they must be more intentional in their work. A resolution was adopted at the next national convention to struggle for peace by whatever means possible. They strongly supported the new Japanese Constitution; its stance on human rights, the sovereignty of the people, and the reconciliation of war, and have continued to stand up for these issues since that time.

In 1970, the YWCA of Japan opened its membership to both Christians and non-Christians alike, with the stipulation that anyone who agreed with the Christian Basis of the YWCA could take part in the movement. As of 1989, its membership accounted for 5,000 and total programme participants for the same year numbered 39,000. At the National Convention held in November 1988, the following programme emphasist was agreed for the next three years.

1. Towards a Nuclear-Free World
2. Towards an Inclusive Society (on which the rights of all are respected)
3. Towards More Active Participation by, for, and with Youth

Major programmes conducted by YWCA are:

- Constitution Day Seminar: May held in a national holiday honouring the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl.
- This summer the Club will be attending an international conference to discuss ways in which the Japanese can live in peace with the peoples of Asia. The attitudes of some Japanese companies operating in Asia has been the target of criticism for their exploitation of local resources and labor.
- Since its establishment, the Japanese Women's Democratic Club has published the weekly journal "Fujin Minshuto Shibun" in Japan, reporting the activities and battles not only of the Club but also of women in the world. The Club hopes that it will reach not only 5,000 members in 50 chapters throughout Japan but by all women everywhere and that it will contribute to realising a peaceful, free and equal society.

Address inquiries to the following:
Fujin Minshuto Kusaba (Japanese Women's Democratic Club)
31-18 Jingumae 3-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150 JAPAN
TEL: 03.462-3244, or 03.462-3238

Young men and women from Japan visited Thailand under the 1989 international programme for Constitution of Japan. Every year at this time, in connection with its stance on peace and human rights, the YWCA of Japan sponsors a study tour focusing on relevant issues. The 25th annual seminar (1986) considered nuclear issues, discrimination, and Japan's role as a part of Asia.

Youth Activities: The new national Youth Committee that was formed in 1986 works to increase the involvement of youth at all levels.

The first major project planned on the national level was "Youth Meeting '86", which was held in Yokohama, October 8-10, 1988. A total of 85 persons from 9 local YWCAs and from abroad participated in the programme, the purpose of which was to enable participants to experience their relationship to the world and to the world movement of the YWCA.

The first international programme for youth: Young men and women from Japan Experienced Thaihood in late 1988.

For High School YWCAs: Located in Christian schools, their programmes centre around Bible study and service. Regional Conferences and a national-level Seminar for Faculty Advisors are also held. Number of Junior and Senior High School YMCAs as of 1988 was 32.

Other local/regional programmes include:

- Language classes in English, Japanese, and other languages
- Nursery schools, including programmes for learning and/or physically impaired children
- Support groups for non-Japanese students especially from Asian countries
- Study tours in/outside of Japan
- Regional seminars, especially dealing with issues related to a specific region (e.g., nuclear power plants, Minamata disease, long-term foreign residents)
- Networking between local YWCAs within a region, on the national level on various issues
- Banzai-culture, medical arts, etc.
- Health: Physical Education
- Outdoor Education/Camping

Address inquiries to the following:
YWCA of Japan, National Headquarters 8.8 Kudan Minami 4-chome Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102 JAPAN TEL: 03.264-0683 TELEFAX: 03.264-0663

CABLE: "Emissarina", Tokyo
MOVEMENT SUPPORTING MARRIED COUPLES TO RETAIN SEPARATE SURNAMES

Increasing number of women wish to work and continue to do so after marriage. Many of them wish to keep their maiden names at work after marriage. There is increasing momentum calling for revision of the law and social institutions to authorize wife and husband to use different surnames.

While it is customary in Japan for the couples to share a common surname, Article 759 of the Civil Code stipulates that “married couples should take the surname of either husband or wife.” In other words, couples have the choice between using either the surname of the husband or that of the wife.

According to the vital statistics of the Ministry of Health and Welfare conducted in fiscal 1987, however, 97.8 percent of the married couples chose to use the husband’s surname with only 10,000 or so couples who assumed the wife’s surname.

Institutions of marriage and family name differ widely in the various countries as shown on the attached table. Some countries oblige married couples to take different surnames while others let the couple decide whether to assume the same surname or different ones. A simple comparison among countries would be difficult due to different cultural backgrounds. In general, however, many advanced nations revised the family law around the 1970s and 1980s so that married couples may choose to use one name or different surnames. The revision took place primarily out of concerns for equality of sexes.

The comparative survey shows that the Japanese marriage law is unique in that it obliges either the wife to drop his or her surname upon marriage.

The Japanese marriage law is closely associated with the concept of family registers to which obliges the couple and children born the same surname to be entered in it. The date of birth, marriage and death of each family member is also kept. This form of family registration system is rare in the world with only Korea and Taiwan (Republic of China) having a similar system. Most countries register birth, marriage and death on individual basis and not on the basis of family units; i.e., married couple or parent and children.

Under the present Japanese law, therefore, women who do not want to change their surnames have two alternatives: either they do not register their marriage or use their maiden names or non-registered common names.

However, women who do not register marriage encounter various difficulties. They cannot receive descriptions of their children. There may be problems related to inheritance of property and family relations on official documents. The use of common names, on the other hand, is met by social resistance. Many employers and institutions simply do not accept their use.

Changes in the surname after marriage, divorce and remarriage are a great drawback for married working women who account for more than 60 percent of working women. Women in sales and marketing may lose customers or be preferred. For female scholars, it means presenting papers and lecturing under a new name often associated with gaining up past achievements made under the previous name.

In November 1988, a professor at the national University of Library and Information Science filed a suit at the Tokyo District Court, dealing with the issue head on. Professor Riko Sekiguchi registered herself under her husband’s surname in 1966 but continued to use her maiden name “Riko Sekiguchi.” In everyday life and in publishing papers, research and educational activities. In 1982, she was transferred to the present university where the use of one name on official family register was compulsory. Because the university does not accept the use of common names, she lost her academic credit under the name “Sekiguchi.” The change caused confusion among students in the selection of courses. Professor Sekiguchi said the university and the university on the ground that depriving a person of the use of her maiden name at the workplace constituted a case of violation of personal rights.

Sekiguchi says, “The name is a proof of one’s existence, inseparable from that individual. Long years of effort and work is associated with the name. It is not reasonable that anyone should be asked to abandon one’s own identity upon marriage.”

Another lawsuit was filed at the Tokyo District Court in May 1988 by a couple who did not register their marriage because they wished to continue to use their own separate names. Their appeal was to remove from the registry the description of their child as “illegitimate.”

According to the opinion survey conducted in 1987 by the Tokyo metropolitan government on the issue, 64 percent of the metropolitan government employees polled were satisfied with the present system, while 11 percent supported the present system and 12 percent respel their comfortable with either way. On the whole two thirds of surveyed favored the current system. Finance in line with the present system, 53 percent supported the present system while 33 percent opposed the present system.

The proposal that the present marriage law compelling couples to use one surname should be revised allowing married couples a choice. This is the first time a public institution has officially announced its view opposing the current law providing for the use of a same surname.

The reasons for proposed revision of the law cited in the statement are as follows: (1) the name is recognized as part of the individual, a change of established and commonly used name easy lead to a sense of loss of self involving a high degree of psychological and social dislocation; (2) part of either wife or husband and relations of either party.

The proposal says that under the new system, wife and husband be registered separately and the child of the couple is registered under one parent’s registration and apply to Family Court between the age of 15 and 20.
The majority of people still retain the notion of using separate surnames as posing a threat to the stability of the family and a sense of oneness between the married couple. Increasing number of women, however, consider unnatural to have to change surname at the time of marriage. Social environment in Japan is gradually changing towards acceptance of this view.

| System of surname selection upon marriage in different countries |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| **System**      | **Classification** | **Country**                            |
| System of same surname |                   | Japan                                   |
| Selective System | Married couples take the surname of husband or wife | West Germany                           |
|                  |                   | Married couples can take the surname of husband or wife. Previous name can be added in front of the new surname. | East Germany                           |
|                  |                   | Either husband or wife can add name previously used to the common surname. | Soviet Union                           |
|                  |                   | Husband and wife can use their original surnames (combined surnames can be used in some republics). | Australia                               |
|                  |                   | Married couples can take the surname of wife. The wife's maiden name can be added after the common surname with a hyphen. | Switzerland                             |
|                  | Completely free   | Sweden                                  |
|                  |                   | Married couples can use the surname of husband or wife, or keep their previous names. They can change their names back to old names any time. | South Korea                             |
|                  | Completely different surnames | Quebec, Canada                          |
|                  | System of same surname with additions | China                                   |
|                  | Others            | Italy                                   |
|                  | Others            | France                                  |
|                  | Others            | England                                 |
|                  | Others            | U.S.A.                                  |
|                  | Others            | North Korea                             |
|                  |                   | It is customary for husband and wife to keep their own surnames after marriage but there is no regulation on the matter. North Korea has no restrictions on marriage between the people with same surnames as in South Korea. |
SURVEY REPORT

As a result of dramatic changes in the social environment, women's lifestyle has become more diverse. An accurate understanding of the situation surrounding women is an important key for women to make decisions about our lives.

It was with this view that National Women's Education Centre Initiated Women's Education Study Group in fiscal 1986. The Study Group collects and analyzes basic data on women selected from various statistical sources. The purpose is to identify the changing profiles of the consciousness of women and the role they play in society. The results are published annually in the "Status of Women to be seen in Statistics".

The following gives an overview of the study resulting from the data focusing on family and home in Japan.

(1) The number of births (number of children born) by women is expected to decrease during their reproductive age (17-49) which was 4.11 in 1940 halved to 2.00 in 1960. The figure dropped further to 1.69 in 1987.

Changes in the number of children born

(2) The ratio of nuclear family households against total number of households was 45.4% in 1955 rising thereafter and peaked at 61.1% in 1985. It showed a slight decline in 1987 (60.5%). The ratio of three-generation households continued to fall since 1955 (43.9%) to 15.6% in 1987. The average number of persons per household is decreasing gradually from 5.0 in 1953 (all figures are average number of persons per household).

Changes in the average number of persons per household by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All households</th>
<th>Households of employers and self-employed</th>
<th>Farming households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>6.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>4.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) The number of marriages is falling, though slowly, after peaking during 1970 to 1974 when the so-called post-war baby boomers reached their marriageable age. The divorce rate, which continued to rise since 1960, reached its peak in 1983 at 1.51 dropping to 1.30 in 1987 (all figures represent number per a population of 1,000).

Changes in the number and rate of marriage and divorce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of marriage</th>
<th>Divorce</th>
<th>Marriage rate*</th>
<th>Divorce rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>556,720</td>
<td>48,378</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>534,170</td>
<td>52,247</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>515,661</td>
<td>58,689</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>556,115</td>
<td>69,418</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>529,686</td>
<td>82,837</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>717,762</td>
<td>141,859</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>735,850</td>
<td>166,843</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>696,173</td>
<td>158,337</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>715,000</td>
<td>162,009</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4) The number of mother-and-child households increased from 405,746 in 1979 to 608,652 in 1985. With regard to causes associated with mother-and-child households, "death of husband from sickness" and "death of husband from other causes" have fallen while "divorce" has increased. In 1985, divorce accounted for about half of the mother-and-child households.

The number of father-and-child households rose from 166,451 in 1979 to 137,299 in 1985. As in the case of mother-and-child households, the most numerous cause was "divorce", at 34.2%.

Causes for mother-child and father-child households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother-child households</th>
<th>Father-child households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death from accident</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death by other causes</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Death from accident</th>
<th>Death by other causes</th>
<th>Divorce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10
(5) Durable consumer goods enjoyed by more than 90% of the people are: black and white TV (1955-1960), washing machine and refrigerator (1965-1970) and color TV (1970-1980).

Ratio of households with major electric appliances

(6) In 1965, 50.4% of people owned their homes. After declining slightly, the figure rose again to 61.2% in 1985. The ratio of rented houses dropped after peaking in 1975.

Changes in the number of households by tenure of dwelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Owned houses</th>
<th>Rented houses</th>
<th>Leased houses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(7) The labour force participation of women has increased in recent years pushing up the number of double-income households. In 1984, double-income households accounted for 33.3% of all households.

Ratio of double-income households by age of head of household (working households)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>1984</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 30</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–39</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40–49</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–59</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 60</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(note: )

Ratio of double-income households

\[
\frac{\text{double-income working households}}{\text{working households}} \times 100
\]
INTRODUCING NWEC

The National Women's Education Centre was founded in 1977 by Japan's Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The Centre's activities include:

Training: for women in the form of seminars, lectures, group discussions, individual study projects, and other educational programmes. The Centre's comprehensive training facilities are available to any group whose subject matter relates to women's education.

Exchange: of informatics among women's education leaders from Japan and overseas, as well as others who are interested in women's issues.

Information: gathered and disseminated by NWEC's extensive libraries of printed and audiovisual materials.

Research: of issues touching on women's and family education.

Apart from NWEC-sponsored programmes, our facilities are available to women's groups and individuals for study programmes and cultural exchange free of charge (excluding meals and accommodation). To use our facilities, please complete and submit a NWEC application form no more than six months and no less than 10 days in advance.

NWEC welcomes your inquiries and comments.

NWEC Newsletter
National Women's Education Centre
728 Sugaya, Ranzan-machi, Hikigun, Satama 356-02 Japan
Tel: 0493-62-6711 Fax: 0493-62-6721 Cable: NWEC HIDAGHI-MATSUYAMA

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC

As of 31 March 1988, the NWEC has received 335 visitors from 112 countries. Followings are some of the guests who visited the Centre since the latter half of 1988:

29 September 1988: Ms. Margaret Alva, USSR Minister of State, Human Resource Development, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Women and Child Development, India.
22 March 1989: Dr. Linna K Kerber, President of American Studies Association, Professor of the University of Iowa, U.S.A.

Ms. M. Alva visiting NWEC

Dr. Kerber giving the lecture on women's history in USA

FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERING ON JAPANESE WOMEN

WOMEN AND WORK—Annotated bibliography 1978-1989 (International Group for the Study of Women, C.P.O.Box 60, Tokyo 100-81, 155 pages, Spring 1988, Tokyo. This is not for sale. Any inquiries on the publication are requested to be made to the above address.

Two volumes of annotated bibliographies on Japanese Women and Work, covering important materials on this subject published in Japan between 1965 and 1984, were first published in Japanese by Kaisa Shobo in 1985 and 1990 respectively. Their publication undoubtedly provided much needed information to those interested in studying issues related to women and work. This book is an English translation of selected materials from these two volumes.

A total of 153 publications are selected and for each publication, the author's or editor's name, publishing company, year of publication, number of pages or volumes, and the bibliographic summary are given. The rapid increase of the number of employed women as well as their changing status has greatly increased the interest of not only Japanese but also non-Japanese scholars in Japanese women and work. During the last decade, the number of non-Japanese researchers who study various aspects of the Japanese women is increasing steadily.

Certainly, women with diverse experience and perspectives can approach problems facing women from different angles and can contribute to finding solutions to their problems. The publication is therefore of special significance, especially to those who have limited access to information in these fields.