EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN'S SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

With longer life expectancy and fewer number of children, and general changes in lifestyle, an increasing number of married women with high educational qualification wish to take part in some form of social activity after devoting exclusively to householding and child-rearing.

Many women, however, have no more than a vague notion of what they want to do, what is best for them or where to start. These are too few facilities that offer career advice or necessary training.

With the objective of developing training programme for these women, NWEI set up a four-year research committee in FY1986 to launch this study. Its 12 members include researchers in sociology, economics, women's studies, psychology and social education, company executives and NWEI staff members.

A guideline for organizing an effective training programme has been prepared by the committee. Two women's factories, one in Nagoya and the other in Shiga, have started an experimental programme based on this guideline. The results will be used to review the guideline. Some women's centres plan to launch pilot programme based on revised guideline from next fiscal year.


It should be noted that the committee has developed a guideline, and not a model programme. This is because needs of women are different according to situations and regions, and guideline would allow each women's centre to develop its own programme according to local need. The guideline is outlined below.

When women want greater participation in Japan, they are not necessarily seeking employment. Some have volunteer activities in mind, while others consider joining women's organizations or group. A significant number of women want to study—a phenomenon that may be unique to Japan.

For many of them, study is not an end in itself but a means to find a job. By taking a course, for instance, on a classical Japanese novel "The Tale of Genji", at one of the "culture-centres" or public halls, women get to know people they would have rarely met had they stayed home. This gives them a sense of 'participation' in social activities.

Under the circumstances, it was concluded that the programme should be developed with employment opportunities in mind.

Consequently, the programme includes the following three points:

1) The project should encourage woman to learn more about herself.

Accordingly, counselling technique would be employed. This includes reviewing value system, way of judgement and likes and dislikes; to learn the differences between men's and women's; to identify one's pattern of behavior and problems associated with it.

2) The programme should encourage her to examine her relationship with society and family—to know how one's society identifies her.

It is often said that Japanese women have a strong sense of guilt which leads in turn a lack of confidence in herself. She needs to realize that the real cause of her lack of identity lies in the social norm—particularly sex role—imposed on her.

Unless she is made aware of this, it is difficult for her to stop blaming herself and to begin to have confidence in herself.

The programme approaches this comprehensive issue from various points. This includes, for example, developing relationship with people around her through discussion and writing an autobiography, learning how the society has affected her and studying her relation with the family.

3) The programme should help women form career consciousness, offer information on the current female employment status and assist her in finding a job.

Information from abroad is very much wanted to develop a good programme. Information on a programme similar to ours would be highly appreciated.

Experimental programme of Women's center in Shiga

Vol.6, No.2 November 1989
**NATIONAL SEMINAR FOR LEADERS OF PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES 1989**

The three-day Seminar was held from July 3 to 7 on the theme of "Parent Education for the 21st Century: Childearing and Equal Involvement by Men and Women." Ninety people (69 women and 21 men) engaged in parent education in the board of education, public halls and PTAs throughout Japan participated.

The programme started with lectures, followed by speech, visit to the Information Center for Women's Education, small group discussion and symposium. The seminar discussion focused not only on how to raise children but also on the differences and similarities of parental roles and participant's expectations in the issues that arise for parents. In a lecture titled "Childearing and Equal Involvement by Men and Women," suggestions made on the topic included "equal participation of men and women in parenting activities." The focus of the small group discussion on the second day was not clear due to the divergence of the participants in terms of their status, social or geographical representations. Active and substantial discussion took place in the symposium, the final part of the programme, with active and passionate participation.

The seminar concluded that the following points are particularly important in parent education:

1. Children of today lack exposure to nature and to household chores. Parent need to devote much more time and effort to nurture self-help.  
2. Sex differences lead to discrimination and in double standards different standards applied to men and women in Japanese society. Parents should bear this in mind so that education does not foster discrimination based on sex.  
3. Parents also grow up through child-rearing. They gain from partnerships and learning of experiences.  
4. Mothers should communicate directly with their children without expecting fathers to be intermediaries.

In Education at home, which deals with the child's whole life, it may not always be compatible with school education.
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FOR WOMEN HELD

Women play major role in grassroots cross-cultural activities.

Recently, Japan has been promoting internationalization at a speed unprecedented elsewhere with increasing numbers of cross-cultural exchange programs going on at national and local government levels.

With a view to reviewing the present situation of women in internationalization from the perspective and in such key to building networks of activities at the grassroots, "Meeting of International Exchange for Women" was held at the National Women's Education Centre.

During the 3-day meeting which began on September 29, heated discussion on various issues concerning international exchange was held among 80 participants who came from throughout the country. In fact, National Women's Education Centre has been holding annual meetings on international exchange for women since 1985. This year, remarkable participation from grassroots groups in which women play major role was seen. They accounted for over 80 percent of the total participation.

Approximately 30 expatriates from 10 countries joined the meeting representing broad areas including professorial cross-cultural exchange officials, diplomats, journalists, students, those involved in foster-parent movements and Amnesty International human rights movements, etc.

The meeting began with presentations given by 5 groups having characteristic organizational or managerial features. Speakers reported on how activities had started, purpose and current issues and problems.

Representative of "We Love Asia Toho no Kairi" to Yokohama reported an annual charity concert held in collaboration with Chinese from 11 countries living in Japan. The objective of such activities was to enhance cross-cultural understanding as well as help Asian people achieve self-help. "Let us seriously consider how we as people living in Asian region can share difficulties and foster true friendship with people living in Japan who are suffering from economic, social and linguistic hardships," appealed Ms. Yoko Saito, President of the society.

Mr. Ken Joseph, representative of NHK Asahi House introduced its activities and said that it organizes relief network for Japanese living abroad in 38 countries. Recently it had expanded range of activities to include telephone counselling for foreign residents in Japan as well as Japanese children returning from abroad experiencing difficulty in readjusting to Japanese society. Institutional and social factors were reasons for vulnerable basis of voluntary activities in Japan. The best strength in overcoming obstacles lay in voluntary activity itself as practicing love without demanding reward, he said.

Ms. Sonoko Matsuda, Secretary General of The Society to Introduce Kazan to the World, spoke from her experience saying "Women become lively through grassroots civic activities. The greater the citizen-initiated activity, the greater the vitality of communities." Kazan Society started its activities with the publication of guidebook in English and had been successful in promoting campaign to study Japanese language in Kazan.

Mr. Akimoto Hirano, President of the Society for Local Culture and International Exchange in Oita Prefecture, has been involved in promoting mobilizing local families to sponsor homestay guest. "We want to be parents to young people everywhere. Lack of funds is not an insurmountable obstacle. With innovative ideas, networks can expand without limits," he said positively sharing his secret in promoting successful grassroots activities.

Also, although it may not come under the category of cross-cultural activity, a presentation was made by Ms. Noriko Mori on the activities of the Society to Consider Problems of Asian Women Living in Japan. Society located in Kumamoto Prefecture was organized to provide relief to Asian women working in Japan whose human rights had been violated to the extent that nothing had to be done. Ms. Mori stated that a quiet and gentle way how sometimes courage is needed in standing up to organized gangsters.

General session, following these presentations, discussed organizational and managerial requirements for international exchange. Topics of interest were: motivation of members, activities of friendship, fund raising and cooperation with other organizations. Participants were then divided into groups to exchange views on a wide range of issues such as teaching Japanese, publishing English magazine, organizing homestay programs, and providing counselling for foreign students and residents. Issues on intercultural marriage and education to enhance cross-cultural understanding were also discussed.

Finally, symposium on Women and International Exchange was held with a view to assess the meaning of internationalization and to review the meaning of international exchange for women. It concluded by expressing unanimous expectation on women's internationalization of Japan depended greatly on successful internationalization of women's attitude and development of grassroots cross-cultural activities depended on women power.
**NEWSLETTER**

**NWEC TRAINING COURSE FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**

Improvement in women's status is being called for in many parts of the world. One big step in achieving this goal would be to establish an information system on areas related to women so that data can be drawn whenever necessary.

NWEC has devoted itself to building an international information network on women. Accordingly, it held the International Seminar on Women's Information Network System in 1982, 1987 and 1988, and supported ESCAP in inviting the "Regional Seminar on Development of Women's Information Network System for Asia and the Pacific" in 1988.

The training course has been planned in response to the request of the participants of previous international seminars on computers and high technology for women's information managers in Asia and the Pacific.

The seminar, drawing from our experience in building database on women's education, will be run as an ODA official development aid project.

1989 is the first year of the five-year training course which is outlined below:

1. **Target**
   - Women working on women's issues or persons in charge of women's information in Asia and the Pacific. Four persons from four countries.

2. **Period of course**
   - Nine weeks from January 17 th (Mon.) to March 30 (Tues.) 1989.

3. **Course topics**: Lecture and practice on information processing technology using personal computer.

   Visits to women's education centers and information-related facilities.

   An noted above, the course will provide training in information processing technology using personal computer. Five out of nine weeks are set aside for practical training on the basic knowledge and operation of PC software used widely throughout the world.

   This includes BASIC programming, presentation of flow chart, spreadsheet and word processing operation. Much time will be devoted to data processing technology (DBASE IV), a reinforced network management function.

   We believe this training will provide women with the skills necessary to design and build their own information system and network.

   Lectures and visits will be centered on PC technology but emphasize acquisition of general knowledge on status and characteristics of women and information on women. We believe that a common perception on women's information is essential in building an international information network.

   In spite of the small number of course participants, we expect it to offer much more than just skills in making great contribution to improving the status of women, as four leading women from four different countries will live together for nine weeks, share training and exchange opinions and get to know each other.

   Participants for this year's seminar, one each from Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand have already been decided. Application for next year's course will start after April. NWEC is requesting the government to increase the budget so that the course can accommodate five persons.

   As a foundation in the formation of various networks.

   This year, NWEC and seven members of the steering committee are planning to hold an international seminar to commemorate the tenth anniversary, under the title "Global Perspectives on Changing Sex-role. Seven overseas participants will be invited.

   The women's studies course for 1989 was run by private groups. The reasons are as follows: (1) it would be disappointing if women's studies course was cancelled because of the international seminar; (2) some people have already prepared presentations at the courses concerning their research or activities; (3) also, some ministry government staff have allocated funds to participate in these courses.

   After discussing the matter, representative of the four woman's organizations decided to set up a voluntary executive committee which would conduct courses on behalf of NWEC this year. NWEC supported the project as a co-sponsor.

   **Women's Studies Course 1989** was held at NWEC on August 25 (Sat) and 27 (Mon) with the participation of 108 people (including 10 men).

   Animated discussions characterized small groups formed to discuss free topics, rather than a common theme. Discussions were held in a free and more relaxed atmosphere compared to those held by NWEC.

   It is hoped that this will provide a momentum for women's studies groups and leaders to form a nationwide network and easy signification.
FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC RIM CONSORTIUM ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

The First conference of the Pacific Rim Consortium on Women's Studies was held in Japan-U.S. Conference on Women and the Family at NWRC from March 28 to 30, 1989.

The Pacific Rim Consortium on Women's Studies was co-sponsored by Centre for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education, Joso University and Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University to promote exchanges and development of women's studies in the Pacific rim countries.

The Conference was attended by some 180 people including seven speakers from universities on the West coast and ten researchers working on the topic of Asian women in Japanese universities and the private sector in areas such as sociology, cultural anthropology and comparative literature.

In the three-day first session, speakers from Japan (Kaziko Ochiai, Michiko Ohyashiki, Noriko Hashina, Michiko Takeda, Motoko Serizawa, Miki Fujieda and Kyosai Kawasumi) and the U.S. (Martin J. Allen, Sylvia Yamasaki, Irene Diamond, Deborah Rhode, Myra Stricker, Emily Abel and Miriam Johnson) spoke on seven sub-topics including law, paid work, issues of the aged and violence in the family to clarify similarities and differences.

Exact comparison could not be made in all cases as speakers sometimes discussed the same sub-topic from different visions. However, they gave clue to issues in both countries and ways of dealing with them. Some issues, such as “Women and the Aged”, appeared similar on the surface but had differences in the basic concept of family and roles and standards expected of wife, husband, parent and child.

3. Review of Socialization

a) "Woman in Nursing Class (Case of Juna Tanahashi, Saitama Women’s Health Centre, Chiruko Ueno, Noriko Minata, Miriam Johnson and Myra Stricker)

b) "Practice of Sharing Memorial Tablets in Sake Region, Nagoya Prefecture—Festival of Memorial Tablets of the Dead Mediator by Woman"

c) "Teaching the Family to First Grade"

4. Restructuring Sex Differences

a) "Cases of Hunting and Gatherin" Community, The Hair Indiums—Analyzing Requirements to Mitigate Sex Discrimination"

b) "Evoking Sex Roles among Dual Income Families—A Comparison between U.S. and Japan"

The lectures titled “Changing Relations between Capitalism and Patriarchy” (Chiruko Ueno) and "The Family—Past to Present" (Hiroko Hara) were presented to identify issues important in dealing with the topic, “women and the family.

The second part consisted of a symposium titled "Women and the Family: Past-Family Alternatives" (presenters: Taro Tsuchida, Chiruko Ueno, Noriko Minata, Miriam Johnson and Myra Stricker).

The symposium discussed visions of the future family starting from common perspective: "modern family" as a historical product adapted to industrialization in the modern era, oppresses women and creates irrevocable gap in the rapidly changing present society.

Various alternatives were suggested. Takao Tsuchida spoke of the possibility of creating quasi-families, formed not by traditional kinship but by man-woman relationship but one in which members can come together and disperse as need arises.

Chiruko Ueno advocated feminism that offers alternatives between breast shelters and the conventional form of family, which will continue to exist in future, even as "money-familial ifness.

Miriam Johnson offered possibility of maternal values changing marriage, family and society. Myra Stricker suggested human survival depended on moving away from the current economic model based on competition to creating society based on mutual help and cooperation.

Noriko Minata considered human relationship in...
"post-family" era, pointing out that women and children need to be recontextualized from the very start.

It has been long believed that nuclear family would create stable community notwithstanding the contradictory notions on which it was based: individualism, partnership and childcare.

Long after the thorny nuclear family had disintegrated, women was trapped between having sexual partner or being left alone to herself. This had created the so-called women's culture—washed to literature, psycho-analysis and writing self-history—enriched by unapprehensions of women.

This was followed by discussion on issues such as "disintegration of nuclear family and women's inner crisis," "women's self-representation and culture" and "women, wealth and power." The question and answer session dealt among others, with "gender community," "possibility of alternative community," "future of family and femininity.

The proceedings and papers will be included and published before the end of the year in Vo 3 of the REVIEW OF JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY, an English journal issued by the Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education, Josai University.

The second conference of the Pacific Rim Consortium on Women's Studies on the topic of "women's self-representation and culture" is scheduled to be held at NWRC from March 29 to 30, 1986.

The theme of the symposium will be "women's culture as consumption.

We hope speakers, including those from Asian nations, will report on development of "women's self-representation" in postmodern societies and demonstrate how it will progress in the post-feminism era.

For inquiries on the conference and English Journal, please contact the following:
Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education
Josai University
1-1, Hoyakudai, Sukiya-cho, Saitama 333-07
phone: 0492-85-2333
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WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN
The Women's Group section is written by representatives of the group introduced.

PAN PACIFIC SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN (PSEIWA)

History
"The women first gathered in Honolulu in 1938 when Miss Jane Addams, wife of one of America's foremost citizens, presented... The countries represented at the time of the founding and designated as charter or founding members were Australia, Canada, China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands East Indies, New Zealand, Philippine Islands, Singapore, United States of America and Indonesia. This is because of its unique contribution to the affairs of the Association has been an independent status within the Association.

"In 1950 the Pan Pacific women met again in Hawaii to discuss mutual problems and achievements. The Association was then formally organized. Its objects as outlined in the Constitution being:

"to strengthen the bonds of peace among Pacific Peoples by promoting a better understanding and friendship among the women of all Pacific countries.

"to initiate and promote cooperation among women of the Pacific region for the study and betterment of existing conditions.

"The Association was to organize conferences as an essential means of attaining these objectives.

When a number of women from the Pacific Area met at Honolulu in 1950, the Japanese delegation then consisted of 20 members. Among them were: Fumie Ichikawa, Mrs. Hsu, Ume, Takashi, Taki Fujita, and Yayoi Yoneda. In 1957 at the 8th Conference held at Vancover, Mrs. Tsune Gauthier of Japan was elected President. In 1954, the 8th Conference was held in Tokyo at the International Christian University and May Sato Hoshino was the President of the Japanese members.

PSEIWA-Japan started as the Japan Committee of Pan Pacific Women's Association and had been participating in the International Conferences held in various countries ever since.

Under the leadership of Miss Takashi Fujita, a small body was reorganized and was enlarged with a new Constitution in effect July 9, 1987. Miss Fumie Ichikawa, who had taken responsibility in keeping all the papers and records and the funds of the Committee till this time, became the Advisor. Since then, the new Board of Officers met regularly on the 3rd Sunday each month and started to establish whatever duties the Board Members should be doing. The membership grew rapidly.

Miss Yumio Kusama, who was, from 1972-1978 Vice President at large and from 1979-1981 Second Vice President, was elected International President (1981-1984) and presided the 16th Conference held in Japan. This International Conference was held for the second time in Japan at National Women's Education Center. The experience gave her the reconstituting and understanding and to share the importance of being members of PSEIWA of Japan as well as of the International. Meeting friends and exchanging ideas and thoughts of members from different cultures and backgrounds are always precious.

Activities
PSEIWA, as a NGO, cooperates with NGO activities. As for international co-operation, from 1988, it has been assisting 7 children members of PSEIWA Japan
in Nepal and from 1987, the Association joined the Foster Plan and adopted 2 children in the Philippines.

From 1986, 4 students from Sino-Thai studies in Tokyo are being awarded scholarship grants. This year the students from Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Taiwan received the grants.

To help make the activities possible, bazaar is held for fund-raising. To keep better relations among the members, Newsletters, "FYSEA" was issued twice a year. Special programmes and gatherings such as lectures, discussions with tea are being planned. From April, study group meetings on Conference Themes; "The Changing World: Our Heritage and Our Future" for 290, are being held once a month at present.

Membership 500

JAPANESE CONSUMERS' (CO-OPERATIVE UNION) (JCCU)

The Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union was established in 1951 under its first President, Toyohiko Kagawa. Since its establishment, immediately following World War II, JCCU has been actively pursuing "peace and better standards of living."

The status of JCCU as of the end of March 1989:

- Number of member co-op societies: 674
- Number of co-op members: 12,642 million
- Total business: 231.5 billion yen
- Share capital paid by co-op members: 197 billion yen

A. Types of co-op in Japan

Co-ops in Japan may be divided by type of business into:

1. Retail co-ops

Co-ops are supplying everyday items from food to electric appliances through joint buying and co-op stores.

2. Mutual co-ops

Mutual co-ops were formed to meet the needs of people in the community to receive reliable medical treatment. Co-ops operate hospitals and clinics, with emphasis on preventive medicine and promoting of good health.

3. Insurance co-ops

Insurance co-ops provide safeguard against accidents. They include life insurance and mutual benefits for fire and traffic accidents.

4. Housing co-ops

Housing co-ops seek to provide better housing environment for workers.

B. Role of co-ops in today's Japanese Society

Houswives are a key element in retail co-ops, which make up over 80 percent of all co-op members. As women, houswives and local residents, they play a positive role in fulfilling activities.

1. Consumer movement

Many co-ops promote original co-op brand products to lower prices through help purchase. Co-op members maintain household books to record and analyze data on living, which are used to voice their opinion in public. Household log is an important tool in heightening consumers' consciousness and promoting their autonomy. Approximately 300 thousand copies of co-op household logs are in use.

As part of consumer movement, co-ops sell oil from rare plants for car oil price cartel during the first Oil Crisis in 1973. The trial is still in progress.

b) Blasting health-hazard products

There is increasing consumer awareness today on safety of foods. JCCU established "Round Table on Food Safety" by scholars and experts, to carry out comprehensive studies on food safety. A list of "unnecessary food additives" and "dangerous food additives" (called LezZ) has been prepared to call on the government to gradually reduce their use.

2. Activities to protect health, livelihood and peace

Activities to protect good health in addition to improving dietary habits, co-ops promote self-examination of urine, blood pressure, and color of tongue to massage

b) Welfare and mutual help

Co-op does not merely work on the government to improve welfare administration but exerts efforts to upgrade neighbourhood welfare to its commitment to "mutual sharing and caring". Co-op keeps registry of people who need help with housework, (such as the elderly and post-natal women) as well as members who can offer support as volunteers.

c) Search for peaceful society

Houswives in charge of the well-being of the family, are a key wish for peaceful world without war. As organization of people of the only nation which has experienced atomic bombs, co-ops are calling for abolition of nuclear arms. Co-op supporters annual "Pluto Exhibition in A-bomb for Mothers and Children" throughout the country.

3. Activities to promote local culture and develop local economy

Fostering a safe and sound cultural environment for young and old and does not conflict with development of local economy which provides job worth working for. In fact, they are opposite sides of the same coin. Co-ops promote human-oriented economy through human exchanges - expectation, joint work and love - among agricultural and fishery cooperatives and small and medium enterprises.

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Michi Nakamura
Kyoto Chapter: Shingo Nozaki
Aichi Chapter: Fumio Sakakki

November 1989
CHANGES IN WOMEN'S AWARENESS OF AND PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

1. Background

Japanese women gained political rights in 1945. The new constitution promulgated the following year declared equal rights for both sexes. The condition of Japanese women has changed dramatically in four decades since then.

Women's standard of education has improved rapidly; today, the proportion of women receiving higher education, including junior college, exceeds that of men. Japanese women's average life expectancy has extended by 30 years during this period. They now enjoy the longest longevity in the world. The average number of children has dropped from 4 to 1.7. As a result, women have much more time on their hands after child-rearing as never before.

Housewives of today need not work as much as before, thanks to the pervasive use of home electronic appliances brought about by economic growth and technological development. More women now keep their jobs after marriage or join the labor market after their children have grown up. Many women take part in community activities and study and learning activities. Various surveys have shown that women are more involved than men in a broader range of community and study activities. The government has enforced the Equal Opportunity Law to pave the way for legal requirements on equal treatment. In reality, however, inequalities still remain at work and in other places. The social status of women has been believed to be low in Japan than in other countries, as shown by the result of an international statistical survey (Country rankings of the status of women, Population Crisis Committee, 1980). Women’s political awareness and participation did not seem to advance. Even in the L.N. decade for Women, many women turned to the opinion of their husbands and other family members when it came to voting.

It was found that some 30 percent of the women voted for the same candidate as their husbands in Tokyo ("The status of the 11th and 12th Election of the Members of the House of Councilors" 1977, 1983 by the National Committee for Promotion of Open Election; "Opinion Survey on Male and Female Voters in Tokyo by Citizen's Center for Reconstruction of Politics based on Democracy"). There were many other signs of dependency on the part of female voters. The proportion of female MPs has hovered around 2.4 percent for the past forty years until 1988. Notwithstanding higher female voter turnout than men.

Japan is yet to see a female prime minister. Only three women have been appointed minister in Japan between 1946 and 1986. Women have not assumed the post of governor or mayor since they gained suffrage. Only three women have become town officers in Japan.

Women, however, are gradually stepping up their representation in local assemblies, particularly in urban areas, as shown in Table 1. In the 1985 election, women organized networks to elect female candidates. Women have started to take an active part in politics and their number has helped many female candidates win local assembly and Upper House elections in 1988.

Table 1 Changes in the Number of Female Members in Local Assembly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prefectural assembly</th>
<th>Municipal &amp; special district assembly</th>
<th>Town assembly</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>2,438</td>
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<td>1955</td>
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<td>2,664</td>
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<table>
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<th>Total number of female members</th>
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<td>43,234</td>
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</table>

Sources: Survey by Election Department, Ministry of Home Affairs
2. 1989 Election

1988 marked a landmark year for women's participation in politics in Japan. It started in June with an election in Niihata, where women elected a candidate for the first time. The victory was attributed to the LDP-dominated politics that had lasted 34 years since the end of war, while others attributed the result to the emergence of women's power.

The successful candidate, Kinako Ohuchi, is 47 years old. After graduating from junior high school, she found a job at a cosmetics company in Tokyo. Ohuchi worked her way through part-time high school. She took part in union activities in her spare time, dealing with women's issues, discrimination, and employment. While working, she looked after her bedridden parents for five years.

Through her experience in raising children and managing her household, Ohuchi regards herself as a professional in education, living, and caring for the aged that are serious issues in this country. She appealed to voters that politics need to pay more attention to what consumers want. Ohuchi's appeal based on the consumer's viewpoint won voters' support in the election. She successfully challenged traditional values in the Japanese society that says women's place is in the home, and women are not fit for politics. (Tokyo Shinbun, July 10; Shinbun Kosei Shinbun, July 11)

A significant highlight took place in the election for the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, held one week after the National election. Thirty-three women ran for the 17 seats in the assembly, of which 17 were successfully filled by women with high vote counts. A record number of women ran and were elected to the Metropolitan Assembly, and the proportion of female members nearly doubled from the last election, from 7 to 13 percent. The LDP lost more than 30 percent of its seats in the election, while the opposition Socialists party, which had not had any female candidates, increased its seats 2.6-fold.

The LDP also suffered a great setback in the election of the House of Councillors held three weeks later. Female candidates, backed primarily by the opposition party, earned additional support; they now account for 13 percent of all Upper House members, up from 8.7 percent.

In this election, female candidates used a new campaign tactic. Most of the candidates were housewives, and some volunteered to help in their time off as a housewife. No doubt this refreshing campaign helped capture women's votes.

The election to nominate prime minister was held during the first session of the Diet after the Upper House election. The House of Representatives nominated Toshibi Kaida, member of the LDP, and the House of Councillors designated Takako Doi, Chairperson of the Socialist Party. Japan's first female prime minister did not materialize, as the decision of the Lower House prevails over that of the Upper House under the Japanese parliamentary system. But Doi has become the first woman candidate in Japan for prime minister. Doi became the chairperson of the Socialist party three years ago as the first woman to lead a major political party in Japan. She has actively promoted women to take part in politics, backing many female candidates in local and national elections.

The new Kaido cabinet appointed two female ministers. Mayumi Moriyama, an LDP member who became the first female Chief Cabinet Secretary, says, "I've always thought this day would come. I became aware of this explosive power of women five or six years ago, and thought something's going to happen one day that would shock all those men. It's like magma starting to flow and erupt. Men's last fort, politics, is giving way." (Asahi Shinbun, July 18)

According to a survey by the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), women make up 12.7 percent of all members of parliament in the world as of June 1989. Japan has joined the ranks of the world at least in the Upper House, following its election. But as shown in the attached table, the rate in the Lower House lags far behind other countries. Changes in women's political activities have captured attention in the three elections this year. Are these changes here to stay? Will the changes encourage truly equal participation under the present political framework? These questions will be answered in the election of the Lower House whose decision prevails over that of the Upper House scheduled to be held soon. In this context, the outcome of the Lower House election draws much attention in Japan and elsewhere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Women</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Number of Seats Won</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Martin Schramm, June 18, 1989

November 1989
SURVEY REPORT

The "Women's Education Study Group" was established by National Women's Education Centre in fiscal 1966. The Group selects basic data on women from various statistics and through its analysis, studies the change in the awareness and social conditions of women in Japan. Each year it also publishes "Statistics of Women as seen in Statistics".

This report introduces statistical survey on social activities of women in Japan.

(1) Political Participation

Let us look at the changes in voter turnout for Upper and Lower House elections. Women's turnout in the 1946 Lower House election, when women exercised voting rights for the first time, was 67.9 percent. It was lower than that of men, 78.5 percent.

Since the end of the 1950s (1969 Lower House election and 1968 Upper House election), however, women's turnout has been on the rise, the watershed year being 1966.

Women's voter turnout has also surpassed that of men's in local elections since the 60s. The rate is particularly high in mayoral and municipal assembly elections, at over 91 percent.

In the first general election held after the war, 39 female representatives were elected to the Diet. This proved to be an exception with women's representation hovering around 3 percent since. In the 1989 Upper House election, however, women accounted for 5.3 percent of the total.

The proportion of female members in the Diet and local assembly is gradually increasing in local assemblies. From 8.5 percent in 1966 to 17.1 percent in 1986. The lowest female representation can be found in municipal assemblies where women's voter turnout is the highest.

Changes in the Number of Female Members in the Diet and Local Assembly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. of female members</th>
<th>Prop. of female members</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. of female members</th>
<th>Prop. of female members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>29,568</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>33,939</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>34,207</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>68,285</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Participation in Public Office

Proportion of women in national public service has improved about the same for the past decade. However, women are in higher managerial positions, The number of female local public employees are increasing.

Women's participation in national and local councils has increased slightly in the past decade. They represented 6.6 percent of national council members as of March 31, 1988.

Changes in the Number of Women in National Public Service Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Prop. of women</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Prop. of women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1,271</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>5,667</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>1,628</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>6,659</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>6,512</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>2,426</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>6,694</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Changes in the Number of Female Members in Advisory Councils of Governmental Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total number of advisory councils</th>
<th>Number of advisory council which include female members</th>
<th>Percentage of advisory councils which include female members</th>
<th>Total number of members of advisory councils</th>
<th>Number of female members</th>
<th>Percentage of female members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5,446</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>5,886</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>6,984</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participation in Corporate Policy Making

In a survey on personnel management of female workers conducted by the Ministry of Labor, almost half the people surveyed said women have no opportunity for promotion. However, the survey also showed a slight increase in the number of people who think women can assume executive positions above department managers.

### Opportunities for Promotion of Women in Executive Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Women can assume position of department manager</th>
<th>Women can assume position of section manager</th>
<th>Women can assume position of chief clerk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>(21.2)</td>
<td>(4.1)</td>
<td>(24.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>(16.0)</td>
<td>(5.4)</td>
<td>(24.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>(13.9)</td>
<td>(4.7)</td>
<td>(28.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Changes in the Number of Trade Union Members and Estimated Organization Rate for Men and Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Estimated organization rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participation in group and social activities

Some social activities are conducted exclusively or largely by women. They include activities to improve lives as consumers, health, medical and welfare activities. As of 1987, women's groups totaled 38,000, organizing some 8.84 million people. In the past few decades, the number of groups and members peaked in 1973 and 1981, respectively. Each number has been declining since then.

On the other hand, consumer and PTA groups are increasing every year. In spite of the high percentage of women in PTA groups, only 2.98 percent of all presidents and 38.0 percent of vice presidents are women (in 1980), showing persistence of traditional concept of role playing by sex.
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 information 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 audio-visual materials.

Research in 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.

PUBLICATION

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE OFFERING ON JAPANESE WOMEN


This book lists the name of author, English title, publisher and year of publication of 911 fiction and non-fiction works written by Japanese women and translated into English.

The book is made up of six parts as shown below. Brief outlines are given for 568 works in sections from i) to vi):

A. 13 novels, diaries and essays in the Heian period (794-1185).
B. 963 non-fiction works published from 18th century to 1897.
C. 361 fiction works published from 19th century to 1960.
D. 111 technical papers published between 1860 and 1967.
E. 579 articles written by women from those published in the periodical ANPO, issued from 1869 by Japan Peace for Vietnam Committee and its affiliated organization for foreign residents in Japan (ANPO) in various fields to carry essays by Japanese women in English translation.

Dr. Manabe, the author, begins compiling the list after starting to lecture History of Modern Japan at the Appalachian State University in the United States.

The author's original research was on novels and short stories but ended up listing various non-fiction works from biography and autobiography to contemporary Japan published in general magazines written on and by Japanese women.

According to the author, the list of works reveals that female writers in Japan tend to focus on certain topics. They include topics about women and marriage, sex, issues of married couples, adopted children, psychology of wife living in foreign countries, extra-marital affair, mother-child relationship, caring for the elderly, religion and Joyce women, discrimination in Japanese society, and war and women.

Many books on other topics are also published: abortion, arts, written and education, friendship among women, pollution, future of mankind, United Nations Decade for Women, labor issues, treatment of sex in Japanese society, suicide and women's groups.

The book is only a first step and the author plans to update the list in future.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC

As of 30 September 1986, the NWEC received 7,847 visitors from 250 countries. Following are some of the recent visitors to the Centre:

26 May 1989: Ms. Seimizu Churul, Secretary General, National Youth Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister, Thailand

10-11 August 1989: 68 English Teachers from 7 countries who came to Japan under AET/AEAC English Teachers programme supported by Japanese Government

5-7 September 1989: 17 Specialists from 13 Asian-Pacific countries to attend the ASPRAF (Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education) Conference on Adult Education for Women, 1989

7 September 1989: Dr. Zhang Yun-Chao, Vice Minister of Political Affairs (I) Korea