INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE 1992

Since 1991, the National Women's Education Centre has held International Forum on Intercultural Exchange on the subject of "Women in Development." The Forum is to disseminate the perspective of "Women in Development" in Japan and to build an international network at the grass roots level.

The 1992 International Forum on Intercultural Exchange, on the theme of "Women in Development - towards the Development Making Women Visible," was held from 30 September to 2 October 1992. The Forum was planned for 100 participants, but over 200 applications were received and 159 people attended. Various groups of occupation were represented, including researchers, students, politicians, administrators, activists in women's issues, volunteers, and housewives. Questionnaire responses indicated that participants felt that the Forum had helped them deepen their understanding of the subject.

The issues that stimulated the greatest debate included the need for a better understanding of the workplace in order to evaluate women's work fairly, the need for women's views to be incorporated in development, the necessity of introducing women's point of view in ODA (official development assistance) and encouragement of women's participation in policy making.

On the first day of the three-day forum a case study session on "From the Field - Women in Development" was held. To promote greater understanding of the theme of the Forum, results of research studies and information reported were presented relating to women's contribution to socio-economic development. On the second day, five concurrent group meetings were held. The program was concluded on the third day with a symposium entitled "Let's Join Hands - Towards a Human-oriented Global Community."

The following experts from Japan were invited to attend:
Dr. Hiroko Hara (speaker), Professor, Ochanomizu University, Ms. Hiroko Yabe, Deputy Director in Charge of Women and the Aged, Women and Life Division, Agricultural Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

In addition, a number of experts were invited from overseas:
Ms. Eiko Sagi, Programme Officer, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOCIFP),
Ms. Yumiko Tanaka, Development Specialist, Institute for International Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and
Mr. Terumasa Aoki, Executive Director, Japan Mission Center.

The following experts from Japan were invited to attend:
Mr. Sagikuış Andoh, General Coordinator, Development Alternatives, Women for the New Era (DANW), currently based in Barbados.
Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), based in Thailand.
Dr. Gisela Keller, Coordinator, Gender and Development Studies, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), based in Thailand, and
Dr. Toshio Imai, Professor, Women and Development Programme, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), based in Holland.

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Vol. 10, No. 1 May 1993
The speakers and case-study subjects for the first day were as follows:

- Ms. Shirths spoke on “Making Women Count.”
- Ms. Ambrose spoke on “Making Women Visible in Development: the Role of DAWN.”
- Ms. Tabe spoke on “Japanese Women in Rural Areas and Activities for Human Livelihood Improvement.”
- Mr. Banara spoke on “Adolescent Health and Women in Lalthuam, Meghalaya.”
- Ms. Hashimoto spoke on “UN ESCAP and Women in Development.”

At the symposium on the third day, presentations were given as follows:

- Ms. Shirths spoke on “Making Women Count.”
- Dr. Govind Kellen spoke on “Empowering Women: The Question of Gender and Class in Women’s Effective Access to Land /Property.”
- Dr. Thang Dam Uning spoke on “Human-oriented Development: Theoretical and Practical Issues.”
- Ms. Tamaka spoke on “Tackling ODA from Women’s Viewpoint.”
- Mr. Aliu gave a “Session on Women in Development.”

These presentations will be published in separate reports. Those interested are kindly requested to contact the NWEC newsletter editorial office.

On the second day, all participants took part in one of the five group discussions which are summarised as follows:

The subject for Group One was “Examination of the Environment, Development and Women.” The meeting was coordinated by Ms. Hashimoto and Dr. Kellen, who acted as advisor. The session started off with an assessment of the extent of destruction of regional and global environment followed by discussion of possible causes. The discussion focused on specific issues and participants discussed how women can best be involved in environmental issues and development. A follow-up question was asked to pursue sustainable development based on an equal partnership between men and women.

1. Collecting information through media (newspapers, TV, books etc.) and local activities.
2. Educating children at home, school, and in the community to prepare them for future responsibilities.
3. Changing one's attitude about modern lifestyles biased towards material wealth.
4. Approaching business enterprises to encourage greater social contribution.

5. Building and extending networks at the national and international levels.
6. Promoting greater participation of women in policy and decision making at the local and central-governamental levels.

Group Two discussed various issues on “Development education to promote a sense of solidarity with women in developing countries,” coordinated by Ms. Banara and acted by Dr. Kellen as advisor. Various issues were raised including a survey of 50 transplant women in junior and senior high schools in Japan on aid to developing countries. This survey revealed that many textbooks had only stereotyped information required for examinations, while very few portrayed a realistic picture of developing countries. A questionnaire survey of female junior college students indicated that their image of Asia was considerably distorted from the reality. In Japan there is little chance to learn about the developing world either through education system or mass media. This lack of understanding of developing countries is a major obstacle for Japanese people to keep pace with other peoples in the international community. Sensual proposals were made to improve this situation.

1. Development education cannot be undertaken by a single individual since it requires a comprehensive approach with various people taking part.
2. A mutual aid for development education must be written, for the purpose of self-education.
3. Local regulations we hold must be removed.

Ms. Tabe coordinated the meeting of Group Three, with Ms. Shirths acting as advisor. The subject for discussion was “Revising the evaluation of women’s contributions to society and economy.” Issues addressed included the problem of paid and unpaid labour, evaluation of work at home, and voluntary work. Evaluation of the same work in different positions on whether or not it is paid for. The making of shirts at home is not evaluated, whereas that in a factory is. The malpractice of compensation contributing to countries’ GNP. In the discussion it was pointed out that there was a need for a better understanding of the effect of unpaid work on society and economy. A standard method of evaluation applicable worldwide should be identified. Ms. Shirths, as advisor, asked whether economic development was a success for Japan. In response to her question, one participant mentioned “I learned right from elementary school that the major purpose for studying was to go on top in the competitive society. I completed my education, graduated, then took a job. I felt happy, buying clothes and going to parties. But what was left at the end of the day? I wonder whether this is a fulfilling lifestyle.” Ms. Shirths commented that while this was her fourth visit to Japan, it was the first time she had heard Japanese women express their true feelings. She said this helped her see Japanese women as individuals.

The topic of Group Four was “Women in Development for NGO Activists,” coordinated by Mr. Aiko and acted by Ms. Hashimoto as advisor. During the preceding session various issues were raised, and the afternoon session focused on the. The first issue discussed was what the “South” meant. The second was development education as seen from the North and South, and the third, NGOs and volunteer
activities. Discussion revealed the time allotted. Ms. Astorius argued that we needed to change the rural system that emphasized economic efficiency above humanity. He also pointed out that the structure of NGOs is not to do charitable work, but to say "no" to structures of exploitation. The session concluded with an overview of the importance of Women and Development should be introduced widely at other women's centres.

With Ms. Tanaka as coordinator and Dr. Choudhury as advisor. Group Five looked at "GDA from Women's Perspectives." Ms. Tanaka gave an outline of GDA's GDA which in 1992 had a budget of about $10 million. This figure represents more than $1600 per capita every year. However, little is known about how this budget is used. The group was divided into three smaller groups for discussion. Group A talked about how to collect information on developing countries. Group B discussed international cultural exchange at the local governmental level. Finally, Group C focused on activities conducted around local centres. In conclusion, Group Five presented the opinion that we should stimulate interest and concern about GDA.

The symposium on the third day featured presentations by the experts, a role play on "WIB" and discussion on international cooperation in light of "WIB" from diverse perspectives. Mr. Tanaka ended with a short story prior to the discussion. "A father anxious over the birth of his first baby called the doctor. The doctor came to the house and delivered the baby. The father was taken to the hospital, and a doctor of that hospital exclaimed, "I can't conduct an operation on him. He is in my tray. How was the doctor related to the child?"

The session was an eye-opener to the audience and the doctors. This story has a clear message that we need to reconsider our deeply rooted stereotypical sex roles and pre-conceptions.

After that, the invited experts spontaneously acted in a role play "WIB the Doctor." The story started on a Sunny day with a father who was a doctor. A police constable, an engineer, an economist and an anthropologist gathered around and came up with various hypotheses and worries on how to open the case. An expert in "Women in Development" suggested that they should look for native women on the ward for help. They found two women, yet they could not manage to open the case. She finally pulled the ring on top of the case and opened it. It was the sort of a case that did not need an expert. Participants listened with amusement as they realized our experts but NGOs that actually act out.

In the subsequent discussion, participants exchanged views with experts on the need to increase women's participation and involvement, and to advance the notion of the indispensable nature of women's perspective in building a world oriented more towards humanity dedicated to enhancing quality of life.

In order to meet the rising expectations of participants, an international forum on the theme of "Women in Development" will be held from 17 to 19 November 1993.

We hope that as many people as possible will attend these international forums to discuss how women can be more visible in development, to enhance our sense of solidarity, and to expand our network of contacts through grass roots discussions. (Yoko Yahara, Specialist, Information and International Exchange Division, NWEIC)

AN EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN'S SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

"Are you hoping to play a more active role in society once your children are a little older? Do you feel concerned or dismayed at the prospect of your present lifestyle going on and on unchanged in the future? If so, here's the course for you." This was how Nagoya Women's Centre advertised the experimental programme "Rediscover How To Live Your Life" which they carried out at the request of the NWEIC.

In order to develop training and education programmes for women organized by women's education centres throughout Japan, NWEIC set up a committee of experienced scholars for three years (from 1986 to 1988) to study "Programmes development to promote greater women's participation in society." The objective was to develop practical programmes to enable women wishing to participate more actively in society to re-examine their own lifestyles and develop their skills.

During the first year (1986) the committee analyzed past programmes of this type both in Japan and overseas and visited 13 women's education centres to study how they were operating their own programmes. For the second and third years (1987, 1988), results of the previous year were analyzed and guidelines were drawn up for an effective training programme. These guidelines were tested by four different women's education centres - two in urban areas (Shiga, Nagano), and two in rural areas (Shiga, Yamagata). They implemented their own programmes on an experimental basis.

The programmes by these four organisations were all quite long for programmes of this type, involving between 17 and 21 meetings (usually two-hour meetings twice a week). Each programme was made to be suited to local circumstances. However in all four cases, most of the participants remained enthusiastic throughout the course, and in some cases they went on to set up their own groups after the course had finished. According to questionnaires and evaluation essays submitted by the participants, they did not accomplish to "rediscover how to live their lives," but some could overcome doubt about their ways of life, some became aware of the materials of women or housewives which had been imposed on them, and some discovered new fronts of disillusion which had not been known to them. Others actually took a step forward into the world of work or other forms of social participation.
As one part of the research and development for this programme, NWEC organised a training session for staff of women's education centres. Three trainers then conducted a seminar on utilizing their research for the past four years and presented Guidelines (draft version) which is shown below.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES:

1. Objective
Programmes are intended to help women to learn about themselves and develop their understanding of themselves and their position in society, and to upgrade the basic skills necessary for women to participate in society by looking at the diversified activities of women in society and building up the personal qualities women need to work in society.

Employment was taken as a standard form of social participation, but women should be encouraged to think about all aspects of their lives, including family life, professional life, and community activities, and to consider whatever and other non-professional activities from a life-long perspective.

2. Participants
24 women between the ages 25 and 39.

3. Schedule/time-allocation
Two two-hour sessions per week, for a total of at least 40 hours within a three-month period.

4. Detailed content
Courses should be built around the following three basic cornerstones:
1) Learning about oneself
2) Developing one's self-image by means of counselling, and deepening one's understanding of oneself through conversations and cross-references with others in the group. Enhancing one's skills in personal relationships by means of practical exercises.
3) Learning about one's relationship with society
Increasing one's understanding by learning how one's attitudes towards others and the division of household labour and interpersonal relations are formed and regulated by society. Learning about inter-relations among the family, community, society and oneself. Building up personal qualities needed to participate actively in society.

JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

CURRENT SITUATIONS OF WOMEN IN JAPAN
(from "Present Conditions of Women, and Policies concerning Women - New National Plan of Action, 2nd Report")

This report was published in December 1992 by the Planning and Promotion Centre for Women's Issues, a governmental organisation established under the overall promotion of policies benefiting Japanese women. It contains various statistics about women's lives in modern Japan. Some are worth mentioning.

Today's women are able to choose their own lifestyles more freely and accordingly, women's life-course patterns have become more diverse. Women feel more free to hold their own opinions about marriage and having children, and it is apparent in the trend towards later marriages.

Women now spend, on average, 2 hours and 50 minutes on housework and child care, 8 minutes less than 5 years ago. On the other hand, men spend 24 minutes an average, a decline in time spent.
from 5 years ago. The increase is more marked in the case of men under 35 as well as 5 years ago. Living with a spouse (Fig. 1). Single working women spend 3 hours 1 minute on household work on average, as against 39 minutes for men. In households where both partners work, the wife spends 4 hours 17 minutes on household work, as against only 19 minutes for their husband, showing that women continue to bear most of the burden of housework and child care.

More and more female students enter schools of higher educational institutions such as universities and junior colleges. Since FY 1989, the rate of these female students has been higher than that of male students. The number of women with academic backgrounds rapidly increased. In 1991, 39.7% of female high school students entered higher educational institutions while 36.2% of male students did (Fig. 3).

Regarding the people's self-feeling, a survey showed that 68.8% of women want to take part in lifelong learning activities while 61.1% of men want to (Fig. 3). 61.6% of women are participating in learning activities, and the expectation of self-realization and a life worth living has been rising.

Fig. 2 Changes of rates of enrollments in universities and junior colleges and rates of female students in universities and junior colleges

Source: School Basic Survey, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

May 1993
Fig. 3 Intention of lifelong learning in the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Numbers)</th>
<th>Have intention</th>
<th>No intention</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (2,191)</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men (998)</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women (1,193)</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
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Source: Survey on Lifelong Learning (1990), Prime Minister’s Office

A survey on people's perceptions of gender equality indicates that equality between men and women is steadily gaining ground. An increasing number of people believe that there is equality between men and women in the home, in the workplace, and in terms of social contacts and ideologies. At the same time, however, the number of people who feel that there is inequality in law or in the social system has risen, although slightly. There is also a disparity between views of men and women, as women have a stronger sense of inequality. In terms of age, younger people have a stronger sense of inequality than their seniors.

In Japan there continues to be a deeply rooted belief in the traditional gender roles. This is exemplified in parental attitudes towards bringing up children or their future lives, depending on whether the child is a boy or girl.

Women have continued to make steady progress in their advancement in the workforce. In 1990, over 50% of the total female population aged 15 and above were registered as either working or unemployed.

In private enterprises the number of married working women has increased, as has the average length of women's working careers in enterprises. Women today have higher academic qualifications and...
work in a wider range of employment, including professional or technical fields and construction-related jobs.

However, the number of part-time workers continues to increase, accounting for 30% of all employed women (Fig. 4).

In terms of attitudes towards work, many women express the intention to stop working temporarily when they marry or have children, but then resume working. Childcare and care for the elderly are shown to be obstacles for the women who wish to continue their work careers (Fig. 5).

The Japanese population is aging rapidly. The 1990 census found that 14.2% of the female population were 65 and above, a figure that is expected to rise to 19.7% by the year 2000. In 2000, the percentage of the total population of 65 and above is expected to be 16.9%.

A look at the household composition indicates that while the proportion of three-generation households is falling slightly, that of households consisting only of couples (65 years and above is growing (Fig. 6). The number of the elderly living alone is also growing each year, and in these, elderly women account for more than 80% (Fig. 7).
### Inauguration of the Japanese Committee for UNIFEM

The inaugural ceremony of the Japanese Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was held on 31 November 1982 at the United Nations University in the presence of 300 people.

UNIFEM grew out of the United Nations Decade for Women Fund, which was set up in 1975 to support programmes assisting women in developing countries to become more self-reliant. The organisation's time changed to UNIFEM in 1985. Women in developing countries often have no alternative to intertwining hard work throughout their lives, combining household chores and child care with agricultural or other productive activities. Their contribution, however, receives insufficient recognition, and development aid is often in the form of financial and technical assistance solely directed to women. UNIFEM therefore supports initiatives leading to women's greater self-reliance. Over the 14 years from 1975 to 1989, UNIFEM supported the work of more than 700 teams operating in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean region, and Western Asia.

### A Portfolio of "Minister for Women's Affairs" is Created

In his cabinet reshuffle of December 1982, Prime Minister Yoshide Mutoya created a new portfolio of "Minister for Women's Affairs" and appointed Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoko Kono to hold the post concurrently. An admirer of a national newspaper commented that "Minister continues to inherit laudable and unique functions in society, and are becoming increasingly active in the international arena. Policy affecting women is also a major component of the government's five-year plan to bring quality of life in line with Japan's leading nation status. In such circumstances the creation of this post is entirely appropriate: indeed, it is long overdue." The post is said to have been created as a result of protest lobbying on the part of the 32 women's groups belonging to the Liability Group for the Implementation of Universal Human Rights from the International Women's Year Conference of Japan. On taking office, the Minister indicated that she would encourage the appointment of more women to the government and other public offices. He praised the very small number of women in such positions and stated his intention to give women much more opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.
The new Minister's first appearance in this role was at the National Conference for Women Leaders related to Women's Issues, which was held in January 1993, a month or so after his appointment. The Minister heralded the initiative, with the purpose of listen- to women's views on a wide range of topics in order to ground issues on an interest basis, the much-later provision of a larger 100+ seats, mostly working as leaders, representatives of women's organizations, etc., were nominated to attend from every province and educational institution in the country. Peru's women's conference was sponsored by the government, such as the Secretariat for the Planning and Promoting of Policies Relating to Women chaired by Prime Minister Linares Masaoka and the Advisory Council on the President of the Secretariat for the Planning and Promoting of Policies Relating to Women chaired by Ms. Tobe, Yeke, of the Ichibana House Memorial Council have never before brought together representatives from every administrative region of the coun- try. In his address at the Conference, the Minister made clear his intention to pursue the appointment of more women to government consultative bodies, and to even women for the top layer of national civil servants from which women make up 30% of the number of civil servants, although they represent 60% of the agricultural labor force. In response to this situation, the Minister expressed his intention to study the issue with a view to revising the qualifications for the scheme. Prime Minister Miyazawa stressed the promotion of women in his cabinet reshuffle, operating Ms. Mayumi Morishita in the post of Minister of Education, Science and Culture, and Ms. Koyou Minami as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Labour. The new Minister for Women's Affairs expressed the intention to arrange further confer- ences to make that women's lives continue to be honed in the future. Winning from a sentiment of public support, the Cabinet appears to be trying to stay off appeal by women.

ECONOMIC RECESSION MEANS FEWER JOBS FOR WOMEN GRADUATES

The ongoing recession following the bursting of the world-market economic bubble is taking a toll in various areas of our social and economic life. As a case in point, newspapers have recently high- lighted how difficult it is now becoming for women graduates to find jobs. Resulting from a private-sector survey indicate that in the spring of 1993, when the economy was still expanding, there were 100,000 new graduate positions available for every woman graduate seeking one. By the spring of 1993, however, this figure has fallen to 80, meaning that there were more women job-seekers than jobs available. While it is undoubtedly true that the recession has forced large enterprises to cut back on their new-graduate positions, the number of jobs available for each male graduate is now a healthy 2.32, indicating that the cutoff has hit women particularly hard. Yet, the figures do not reveal the full extent of the problem. In the job-seeking process, women are feeling the cold draught of discriminatory recruiting policies. In some cases the graduates awarded job offers are male even though the job advertisements indicate a gender preference. Furthermore, the recruitment process seeks first to employ male graduates, and only then makes up any shortfall with women.

Overspent for the security with which women have been hit by the fields where women make the most significant advances during the boom years detailed distribution, computer software, finance, securities, real estate and the like they are now hardest hit by the effects of the recession.

But the biggest problem for large enterprises is their lack of commitment to equitably between the sexes which is exemplified in their capricious treatment of female labor in accordance with ups and downs in the business cycle. The low guaranteeing equal opportunity in employment came into force in 1988, and in December of the same year, the hiring and large-scale economic boom began, bringing with it increased job opportunities for women graduates. It commonly appeared that the law had the desired effect of opening the door for the employment of women graduates. But not all is as rosy as the recession, begins to hit, we must conclude that women were employed only to make up for a labor shortage during the boom years, or were simply used to enhance corporate images. It proves that the equality opportunity law has never, in fact, played an active role in private enterprises.

Some graduates have offered the explanation that in times of indi- cees of staff are easier to make in administrative areas, whereas a disproportionate number of women are employed, rather than, say, among office staff. Women in career-track jobs were the plight of talks only two or three years ago. But cutbacks have also hit these women for their employers fear that women should be able to get married or to have a baby. All this points clearly to inelastic attitudes towards women in work, and the unresolved problems of a system which is not prepared to accommodate women wishing to pursue their careers after marriage and childbirth. The recession is thus a current- time measure for reducing existing women. Women, for this part, may not always be fully committed, or even interested in their work, and they should be treated as members of their corporate teams. The companies, however, have cut women out before giving them the chance to prove themselves. As the Japanese population continues to age, a labor shortage is expected to occur as early as the second half of this decade. Corporate management committees consider employment for men and women will clearly no longer be maximized, and working women will again become an important issue for private enterprises. Treatment of women graduates during economic downturn is true corporate attitudes towards women. These private enterprises are also being tested by the public.

On the other hand, the difficulty in finding work may give women graduates an unique opportunity to rethink seriously about employment. During the boom years, it was easy to find a job and students could more easily choose a job that balanced the contents of work and significance of the job. As a result, women tended to choose corporate enterprises that had an attractive image. In a situation where it is difficult to get a job, however, women should think carefully about the sort of work they want to take. Employers, too, should be more thorough about assessing the best applicants for the lower openings they have. This would help women students develop a carefully thought out approach to employment.

Over the next few years, however, suggests that the employment situation for women graduates will remain rather worse. Employment opportunities and prospects have been held in various parts of the country, but still is most important for the women graduates to have good understanding of the current situation and their own prospects, without being overly discouraged by possibilities or dashed by exaggerated job descriptions.
WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN

The Women's Group Section is written by representatives of the groups introduced.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS NGO

After Japan's joining the United Nations in 1945, the National Women's Committee was formed in August 1950 by six women's groups affiliated to international organizations. Their aim was to encourage the involvement of women in achieving the United Nations' objectives of peace and human rights. The Committee's first activity was to prove the government to accept Mrs. Tada Fujita as a member of the Japanese delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. Since then the Japanese delegation has always had at least one woman representative in the UN activities. One recent example, Mrs. Sadako Qasim, was the first woman Minister of the Japanese delegation, and is currently UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In 1975, International Women's Year, Ms. Funaki Kabu has proposed in various women's groups to build a non-governmental International Women's Year Conference of Japan. A Provisional Committee for the preparation of the Conference, with 22 affiliated national women's organizations, was formed. It worked together with other citizens' groups to organize a Citizen's Conference for the Promotion of International Charter on Human Rights (17 women unit civic organization) and succeeded in gaining Japan's early ratification.

Objectives and Main Activities:
- To cooperate with the UN and its agencies, and to express views and make requests to the government when necessary, in order to implement the objectives of respect for peace and human rights as set out in the United Nations Charter.
- To work for greater women's participation in the activities of the UN on other international forums.
- To hold meetings to inform the general public about UN activities.

Qualifications for Membership:
- Women's groups in Japan affiliated to international women's organizations with advisory status in the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Individuals involved in UN-related activities who are nominated by Members.

Present Organizations:
Chairperson: Chiyonari Mochizuki
Executive Director: Michiko Nakamura
20 individual members
10 affiliated women's groups.

JAPAN WOMEN'S FORUM

The Japan Women's Forum (JWF) was formally established in April 1982. Following several months of preparation, the constitution was drawn up by Ms. Kikue Yasukawa. The Forum has continued to undertake research on women's issues over the last thirty-one years.

The aim of its women's issues courses through seeking widespread cooperation among women with different backgrounds regardless of ideology. For this reason, the Forum was established as an opportunity for people interested in women's liberation to exchange views freely, and as a platform from which all types of surveys and studies could be published and sent to anyone. The original membership of around forty has steadily increased to the present membership of close to 300 full members and about 250 more subscribers to JWF's newsletter.

The membership includes all the women's groups according to their interests, and it has a special section for once a month for discussions and research activities. In addition, public meetings and symposiums are held three or four times a year in order to reach wider audience in the general public for an exchange of views. Members' views, and records of research, seminars, symposiums etc., are published in a bi-monthly newsletter, whose current edition marks No. 53. Four books of Forum proceedings have also been published.

Each year the most critical subject for the year in women's research, and meetings and symposiums are held. The Forum has acted as a meeting place for all on the women's issues of today. Since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women, there were virtually no other groups conducting research on women's issues. Thus the Forum's activities could be described as the basis of inspiration for Japan's Women's Studies, a subject which became so popular from the 1970s onwards. Many of those currently researching women's issues are, as well all contributors and activists in the field, started off as members of the Women's Forum.

A forum was held last year, 1992, to celebrate our 30th anniversary, and to commemorate the occasion we published a chronology and a listing of all of the articles printed in our newsletters.
Chairperson: Satoshi Tanaka
Secretary General: Yoko Kawanabe
The Forum is now a secretariat of a dozen or so members.
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ENGLISH BOOK ON JAPANESE WOMEN

THE JAPANESE WOMEN: TRADITIONAL IMAGE AND CHANGING REALITY

by Dr. Sumiko Iwao. Published in 1980 by the Free Press, a Division of Macmillan, Inc., 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A. 334 pages. ISBN 0-02-225144-

The author, Dr. Sumiko Iwao, is a distin-
guished social psychologist and a professor of
Fuku University, one of the most presti-
gious women's universities in Japan. After graduat-
ing from Fuku University, she went to the
United States to study at Yale University where
she obtained Ph.D., and later she began teach-
ing psychology and sociology at Harvard
University. Moreover, she committed to
Washington, D.C. from Tokyo for years, and
giving a teaching load, research, child care,
and community obligations, she has not only
studied but also experienced in full motion
the challenges, joys, difficulties, and triumphs of
a modern career woman.

International fiction Japanese Hero
selflessly struggles with images of Japan and
the Japanese that are often outdated or mis-
understood. This book is her attempt to help fill
in the gaps in information available on Japa-
nese women and to depict in depth the true
nature of their lives and roles.

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Chapter 9 Fulfillment through Activism
Chapter 10 Directions of Change

This book is based on up-to-date research
data. Much of its book work comes from
her own surveys, interviews, and research
conducted for this book.

Comparing Japanese women with Ameri-
can women, Dr. Iwao mentions, it is founded
that both have numerous similarities and a
number of distinct differences. By introduc-
ing the patterns of behavior, thinking, and
problem-solving peculiar to Japanese women,
Dr. Iwao reveals in this book some of the
mysteries and provides a more vivid portrait
of Japanese women.

It is hoped that this book will contribute to
a better understanding of Japanese society
and Japanese as a whole.

INFORMATIVE MATERIALS PUBLISHED BY NWEC

JAPANESE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

The National Women's Educational Centre
publishes a bimonthly "Japanese Journal of
Educational Women" in Japanese (approximately
2,000 words of text in each issue). The journal
is distributed to institutions and libraries in
Japan and overseas, and is also available for
purchase. The journal includes articles on
women's education, research, and development,
as well as news and announcements.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE
A GUIDE TO ACTIVITY GROUPS

Women in International Cultural Exchange
produce a list of volunteer opportunities
involving international cooperation,
information, and assistance.

May 1993
INTRODUCING NWEC

The National Women’s Education Centre was founded in 1977 by Japan’s Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Its activities include training, exchange, information and research.

1. Open Lectures
Contents: Open lectures with the object of offering keys to consideration of women’s issues from divergent points of view.

2. Workshop for Personnel in charge of Women’s Information Activities
Theme: Contents and methods of information activity on women’s issues.
Contents: Practical training on information related to women through lectures and exercises using NWEC (Women’s Information Network System) on Free Information/General service provided by NWEC, tours to latest information facilities.

3. Extension Programme by the NWEC
Dates and Places: One-day programme is allotted for two regions.
Contents: Lectures and discussions on women’s issues and family education, focusing on the major points which have emerged through the NWEC activities. The programme will be held in collaboration with the boards of education of Aichi prefecture and Nagoya prefecture etc., in FY 1993.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC

As of 30 April 1993, the NWEC has received 9,690 visitors from 33 countries.

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture held “ICDS-Japan Seminar” on 26th, 28 February 1993 at NWEC. 25 foreign experts from 11 countries participated in this seminar.

Sixteen members of the Steering Committee on Women, Youth and Foreign Affairs of the Senate of Thailand visited NWEC on 25 April 1993 for the purpose of comparing facilities in Japan and in Thailand.