

National Women's Education Center of JAPAN

NWEC NEWSLETTER



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This year NWECC celebrated its 45th anniversary and new president Natsuko Hagiwara took office start of fiscal year last April. In this issue of NWECC NEWSLETTER, we have reprinted the Message from the President (April 2022) along with brief report of selected programs and researches NWECC conducted this fiscal year. We hope you enjoy reading the vol.39 NEWSLETTER.

Message from the President

Towards the realization of a gender-equal society

The National Women's Education Center (NWECC) was founded in 1977 as Japan's only national institution for women's education to promote efforts toward the creation of a gender-equal society. Since then, NWECC has been playing the role of a base for the promotion of a gender-equal society in partnership with diverse organizations, including regional gender equality promotion centers, local governments, universities, schools and companies in Japan. With the aim of building strong foundations for a gender-equal society, NWECC has endeavored to provide not only instructors in women's education and stakeholders but also leaders in various fields who are promoting gender equality, as well as men and young people, with training, support for teaching and learning, and specialized research, information, and documents concerning women's education and gender equality.

The expansion of COVID-19 infections has dramatically changed our society, economy, as well as our lifestyle. The world is now seeing increases in intimate partner violence (domestic abuse) and gender-related violence. In addition, the negative impact of changes brought about by the pandemic on people's employment conditions and incomes is undeniably concentrated among women and socially vulnerable people. In order to conquer these problems towards the realization of a gender-equal society, we need to keenly devote ourselves to efforts to weave the viewpoint of gender equality into all aspects of our society.

Continuing from the previous fiscal year, NWECC will put further effort into providing remote learning opportunities by utilizing ICT. By effectively employing multiple media, such as on-demand content that is accessible anytime, anywhere, as well as live streaming, which enables bidirectional communication with participants, we will promote the development of domestic and international networks to enrich our activities aiming to raise gender equality awareness.

As the environment surrounding us and society are rapidly changing, we are required to create a society in which all members can fully actualize their personality and skills. We greatly look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

April 1, 2022
Natsuko Hagiwara
President
National Women's Education Center (NWECC)



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RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

Women's Archives Center Online Exhibitions “Beate Sirota Gordon”, “Beijing + 25”



In March 2022, the Women's Archives Center released two exhibition archives online, Beate Sirota Gordon and Gender Equality in the Japanese Constitution held in FY2019, and Beijing Plus 25 - 25 Years Since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in FY2020.

Beate Sirota Gordon and Gender Equality in the Japanese Constitution

https://www.nwec.go.jp/event/archivecenter/Beate_online.html

“Beijing + 25 - 25 Years Since the Fourth World Conference on Women”

https://www.nwec.go.jp/event/archivecenter/beijing_online.html

The online versions exhibit panels on display, photographs capturing each exhibition, exhibits on the digital archives and repository, as well as links to related websites. Please visit and take a look at these online exhibitions.

FY2022 Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders

NWEC held an online training course for leaders who promote gender equality in the regions during the period from May 17 to June 13 (partly co-hosted by The National Council of Women's Centers).

This training course was designed to inspire leaders in various organizations, such as local government divisions promoting gender equality, organizations for supporting women, and non-profit groups, to have a deeper understanding of the basic principles of gender equality and to acquire practical knowledge to take concrete action. Roughly 530 people from across Japan participated in this course.



Panel discussion

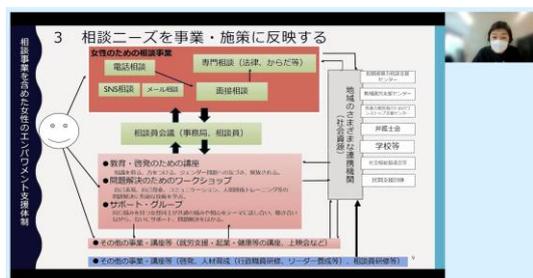
The FY 2022's theme is “Now it's time to realize gender equality! How to create a society where no one is left behind.” With the focus on the introduction of gender perspectives into every corner of society (gender mainstreaming), the training course provided them with an opportunity to learn from many different angles, especially from theoretical and practical points of view. In the keynote address, entitled

“Think about the keys to promoting gender equality - bucking the trend and convention,” Ms. Masumi Minagawa (Associate Professor at Chuo Gakuin University) explained why gender mainstreaming should be achieved and how to put it into practice, sharing the basic knowledge of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Meanwhile, the head of a gender equality center who has taken measures in response to regional needs, the chief of an office for gender equality in a city hall who has tried to introduce a gender equality perspective into each division in government offices, and a gender equality consultant who has successfully conducted programs to nurture female leaders with local governments, took part in the panel discussion. Each of them shared their experience and exchanged opinions about many ideas that could accelerate gender mainstreaming in each region. This course also shared the latest measures taken by the government, and it conducted a program to think about the role of gender equality centers during the pandemic and a lecture for correcting unconscious biases.

Participants made favorable comments, saying “this course gave me a wide range of information, such as the basic knowledge, theories, and practical measures, which helped me to review the outline of my duties.” and “Thanks to this course, I had an inspiring opportunity to share our challenges beyond the areas we live and positions, and to widen my horizon.”

FY2022 Training Course for Counselors and managers at Women's Center



During the period from June 21 to July 19, NVEC held a FY2022 Training Course for Counselors and managers at Women's Center, especially for counselors and staff members in charge of a counseling service in public or private women's center, and workers in charge of a counseling service including managers at local public bodies. In total, 688 people participated in this course.

The aim of this training course is to inspire participants to acquire the necessary knowledge and techniques of counseling and to develop personnel who can contribute to shaping a society where both genders can enjoy equal rights through the counseling work. The course helps participants to cultivate their skills to understand clients from a gender perspective in response to the diverse kinds of problems they have. This is a technical and practical training course that teaches how to manage the counseling service as a business, incorporate clients' needs into actual services and policies, and solve local challenges.

This course successfully created an opportunity for them to appreciate the significance of counseling services and to learn about the basic knowledge for counselors and how to respond to clients, from coordinating with related organizations to providing coordinated support and the appropriate understanding of the clients' needs.

The archived version available on-demand provides the lectures, reports on several cases, the latest information, and work using the real examples mentioned in this lecture. During the livestreaming, a

group session was held for participants to exchange information with each other. This opportunity surely enabled counselors and workers in charge of counseling service to share their worries and to get useful advice and suggestions from project members of this course.

Women's Archives Center Collection Exhibit, "The National Women's Education Center's 45th Anniversary Exhibition"

NWEC established in 1977 as an organization affiliated with the then Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, reached the 45th anniversary of its foundation in 2022. In celebration of this anniversary, Women's Archives Center held The National Women's Education Center's 45th Anniversary Exhibition during the period from August 1 (Mon) to December 27 (Tue). This exhibition traced the history of the center, featuring six Director Generals and Presidents who made strenuous efforts to achieve gender equality in time for the inauguration of President Natsuko Hagiwara in April 2022.



The first Director General of NWEC Yoko Nuita started her career as a journalist. After becoming the first female news commentator at the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) in 1962, Nuita was soon aware that information on women was extremely limited. She decided to become the Director General with the aim of creating an information center for women. In 1979, the information library opened its doors. After laying the foundation of the organization, Nuita resigned NWEC in 1982.

Atsuko Shikuma became Chief of Women's Education of Ministry of Education, Science and Culture devoted herself to setting up NWEC. After becoming the second Director General of NWEC in 1982, Shikuma embarked on international projects including the publication of the NWEC Newsletter in 1984.

Mizue Maeda served as the first Chief of Program Division for three years, and she then became the third Director General in 1987. As the year 1987 saw the 10th anniversary of its foundation, the information library was renamed as "Information Center for Women's Education". Maeda soon set out to organize databases.

Teruko Ohno worked as a specialist of Program Division in 1977 and became Chief of the Information and International Exchange Division, which was newly established in 1978. In 1995, Ohno became the fourth Director General. In the same year, she participated in the fourth World Conference on Women, calling for the donation of information and conducted a special exhibition. In 2001, Ohno became the first President when NWEC was incorporated as an independent administrative institution.

Michiko Kanda, a scholar and a former president of Toyo University, worked for NWEC as a training instructor and committee member from its early years. Kanda became the second President in 2004. In the same year NWEC was asked to merge with the National Institution for Youth Education due to the restructuring of independent administrative institutions. On the other hand, women's organizations called for the continuation of NWEC as a single body. At the end it was decided that, NWEC will remain as a single body while focusing on projects that NWEC was required to prioritize as an independent administrative institution. As part of that policy, Women's Archives Center was established in 2008.

Fusako Utsumi, who once served as the president of a private company, became the third President in 2011. In the same year, as the restructuring of independent administrative institutions was carried out, NWEC outsourced the management and operation of accommodations to the private sector. NWEC introduced the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) system in 2015 and also launched some projects for corporations and women university students.

FY2022 Project Planning Training in Communities to Promote Gender Equality

NWEC held a FY2022 online Project Planning Training Course to Promote Gender Equality during the period from August 25 to September 20.



Group work

In this training course, participants were expected to learn the knowledge and techniques to carry out training and learning programs that will be helpful in solving local issues through the hands-on experience of drafting a format called program design, from a gender equality perspective. This training course was designed for employees presently working at governmental offices, women's facilities, and community centers who are in charge of planning and conducting various programs. The entire course, including group work, was attended by 32 participants, while the on-demand lecture programs were

watched by 113 participants.

In the lecture program, NWEC staff members who each have an area of specialization explained the process of project planning and implementation from a gender equality perspective, the direction of gender equality-related issues and measures, and how to find statistical data on gender and related information to identify local issues.

In the lecture "The art of planning, implementing, and evaluating learning programs," Ms. Mitsue Matsushita (President of the non-profit Gender Equality Forum Shizuoka) shared techniques on how to carry out projects based on her own experiences. In the reports on actual projects, three of the past participants presented their processes by which they carried out projects based on what they had learned in this training.

After that, once-a-week group work was conducted four times. Each participant drew up a plan, filled in a format of “program design,” and refined each idea through the exchange of opinions within the group. On the final day of the training course, all the participants shared their “program designs,” which became much better than those in the early stage, and praised each other for their strenuous efforts.

Some participants appreciated this course, saying “it was so practical and helpful that we were able to learn about many real examples, interact with other participants, and gain the fruit of our efforts during the training course,” and “the staff members encouraged me and showed enthusiasm for the project even during the virtual course, which inspired me to work harder.” This course not only provided them with practical knowledge, but also helped to enhance their motivation.

FY2022 Training on Gender Responsive Approach to Disaster Management

NWEC held a FY2022 Training on Gender Responsive Approach to Disaster Management, with the theme of “Making Your City Disaster-resistant: Connecting Diverse Actors for Local Disaster Prevention,” during the period from September 21 to November 14. Focusing on the coordination with diverse actors and the promotion of women’s participation in aspects of decision making and disaster response, this training course was designed to teach participants how to enhance the capability of local disaster prevention from a gender equality perspective.



Setting up a tent during a drill in operating an evacuation center

In each program, 422 people watched the basic training program (online), 344 participants who took part in the basic program joined in a step-up training (online), and 15 members participated in the gathering course (two days with an overnight stay), which was prepared for the step-up course participants who wished to participate in it.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has swept across the world since 2020, all the training courses hosted by NWEC have been conducted virtually. NWEC held an on-site collective training event using the NWEC building as the venue for the first time in two and a half years.



Collecting information during the drill in operating an evacuation center

On the first day of the gathering course, a drill in running an evacuation site was carried out in the gymnastics hall. After being lectured by the Cabinet Office, a workshop was conducted by general incorporated association Mirai Net. Participants were divided into multiple groups and experienced setting up tents for evacuation and guiding evacuees. They also learned how to set up an appropriate evacuation site in terms of gender and inclusion. In the session of reporting actual examples after dinner, they learned the necessity of identifying and improving measures for the socially vulnerable through the coordinated activities of schools and local governments in disaster evacuation, taking a look at the case of the local government and non-profit organizations making full use

of the system of the local community and schools in Otsuchi Town, Iwate Prefecture.

On the second day, Prof. Keiko Ikeda (Professor at Shizuoka University, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards) delivered the keynote address. Ikeda, referring to some local governments that have successfully appointed women to appropriate positions and let them take effective measures, emphasized three key words to put a plan of each local government into practice; participation, consideration, and safety.

The actual examples included Nerima Ward, Tokyo, which gave support to participants in a female disaster prevention leaders training course, and introduced them to local disaster evacuation organizations, and Yokkaichi City, Mie Prefecture, which worked together with residents' associations and took measures to enhance its disaster prevention preparedness. These examples were reported by local workers in charge of disaster prevention.

Participants gave feedback, saying “this hands-on experience, including the drill while listening to diverse opinions, gave me a new perspective, “ and “it was a great opportunity to link knowledge to practice.”

FY2022 NWEC Global Seminar

From 14th to 31st October 2022, NWEC Global Seminar on the theme of ‘Does Digital Technology Advance Gender Equality?’ was held online. This year's seminar featured on-demand videos of the keynote speech and selected cases from Japan and overseas , and live zoom panel discussion.

Ms. Dorothy Gordon, Chair of Information for All Programme, UNESCO made the keynote speech which covered topics ranging from challenges in promoting gender equality to opportunities and challenges in digital technologies. She also highlighted that the technology was neither inherently good nor bad and it was a mirror that reflects ambitions and intentions of the people. Then, she ended her speech with a call for the audience to take action for themselves in order to create the society they want.



For the selected cases, NWECC made Japanese subtitles in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for educational video “AI and Gender” produced by UNESCO. Dr. Kalpana Viswanath, Co-Founder / CEO of Safetipin from India introduced digital application “Safetipin” which is developed for women’s safe mobility. She described how the governments, researchers, and NGOs use the data collected using “Safetipin” to help empower women. Then, Ms. Salam Al-Nukta shared her experience of establishing ChangeMakers in Syria in 2016 and organized the courses for both men and women in the same environment in order to close the gender gap in digital technology realm. A Japanese case was introduced by Dr. Yoshimi Ui, CEO of “aba Inc.” who developed and commercialized sensor device with built in AI for nursing care robots to create a society in which technology makes everyone willing to engage in care work. She showcased initiatives aimed at using technology to tackle the challenges in aging society.

In the Panel Discussion “Towards a Gender-Equal Use of Digital Technology”, three Japanese panelists, one from academia, one from the ICT sector focused on education for girls and women, and one from civil society focused on applying ICT for solving social issues, discussed our role in advancing gender equality as digital technology pervade into our daily lives. The president of NWECC, Natsuko Hagiwara coordinated the discussion.



A lively discussion unfolded on the need of a mechanism that allows a variety of people, regardless of gender or age, to participate in the development and improvement of technology as something that concerns us personally, as well as on the factors that limit the participation of women in the technology field.

This was a meaningful seminar in which a wide variety of opinions were exchanged as to what each one of us can do in order to promote gender equality.

This event was held supported by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Also, the event was a WAW! Weeks official side event of WAW!2022.



FY2022 Knowledge Co-creation Program “Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)”



Commemorative photograph (seminar participants, JICA and NWEC staff)

NWEC held Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) course entitled “Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)” from November 1 to December 1, 2022, commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). There were 16 participants representing governments and NGOs who are involved in SGBV measures. They work primarily in ministries related to women’s affairs and youth education, local governments, and civil society organizations in Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Palestine, Rwanda, Samoa, and South Sudan.

The program, held online, provided participants with an opportunity to learn from each other about how support should ideally be provided based on the survivor-centered approach. The curriculum consisted of On-demand Program, Preparation Session, Program Orientation and Keynote Speech, Inception Report Presentations, Lectures and Group Exercises, Action Plan Consultation, and the Final Presentation Session. Participants shared information on SGBV response systems in their respective countries, the current situation regarding victimization, and good practices by government and private organizations, and engaged in lively discussions.

On November 14, 16 participants from 12 countries were connected via Zoom. The keynote speaker, Ms. Mikiko Otani, Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, gave an interactive lecture on the definition of SGBV and how to change harmful practices. The participants affirmed that although patterns of violence may vary in each cultural context, there are patriarchal and unequal economic structures underlying this issue. The keynote speech also emphasized the importance of holistic and multidisciplinary collaboration and a survivor-centered approach.

On November 15 and 16, participants divided into two groups shared the situation of SGBV in their respective countries. Although there has been progress in domestic legislation to eliminate SGBV in the countries participants represented, there are still deep-rooted harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child and forced marriage, and some situations where the family member settle the case financially out of court without the consent of the survivors.



“Orange the World” (16 days of Activism against GBV) event held in Malawi

From November 21 to 24, consecutive lectures and group work were held. Lectures included the SGBV situation and protection measures in Japan as well as governmental and private sector initiatives. There was much interest in Saya-Saya’s programs to

help women heal physically and mentally, to support their employment, and to raise awareness toward preventing DV. Another lecture was given on efforts aimed at offenders and men in general. AWARE provides educational programs to assist victims by helping DV perpetrators to change their behavior and face up to their responsibility for the abuse. Although much of the SGBV support is rightfully directed at victims, participants were reminded of the importance of working with perpetrators over the long term in order to promote sustainable behavioral change.

On November 23, participants conducted an exercise to develop an action plan. Utilizing the “Project Cycle Management (PCM)” method, they focused on the core problem of “women who are victims of violence do not seek help” and analyzed background of the challenges and objectives in a group exercise.

Based on lectures and discussions, the participants developed action plans to strengthen initiatives in their home countries, which they shared during the Final Presentation Session. JICA’s Senior Advisor on Gender and Development made comments on action plans and possible future bilateral cooperation. By the end of the program, participants recognized that SGBV occurs not only in their own countries, but in countries all over the world, and voiced their wish to continue to collaborate and exchange information in tackling this global issue.

Participation in illumination campaigns



Purple Lightup

NWEC supports the aim of two campaigns and illuminated its building.

In response to the Cabinet Office promoting a movement to end violence against women, from November 12 to 25, 2022, NWEC illuminated its own building in purple, which represents the movement’s symbol of the purple ribbon to call for the elimination of violence against women.

During a global campaign called “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls” initiated by the United Nations aiming to stop gender-based violence, from November 25 to December 10, 2022, NWEC illuminated its building in orange. The colour orange is used to represent a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls, as a unifying theme running through all global actions of this campaign.



Orange Lightup

During both campaigns, NWEC President Hagiwara actively engaged in raising awareness of this issue and showed solidarity and support to these campaigns on social media.



NWEC President Hagiwara promoting the campaign to end gender-based violence

Support Project for Women’s Learning and Participation in Social Planning that Encourages them to Take on Diverse Challenges (Women’s Participation in the Decision-making Process in the Field of Schooling as Part of a Project for Promoting Awareness) Led by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



Keynote address

NWEC contracted the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to undertake the support project for women’s learning and participation in social planning that encourages them to take on diverse challenges (women’s participation in the decision-making process in the field of schooling as part of a project for promoting awareness). During the period from November 14, 2022, to January 20, 2023, NWEC held an online training course and a national forum for gender equality at school.

This training course was designed to inspire directors and committee members of school boards, members of boards of education or education centers, and school managers to identify the current situations and issues related to gender equality at school, to understand the significance of women's promotion to managerial positions and to give career support to female teachers and school staff, and to consider effective measures that fit the actual circumstances in each region. 142 participants watched the online training program and 289 took part in the national forum.



Theme-specific breakout sessions

The online training programs include multiple lectures: "The role of school education aiming for gender equality" by Ginko Kawano (Professor at Yamagata University), and "Social changes on gender equality and the necessity of a new role model for school managers" by Prof Kyota Inuzuka (Professor at the University of Shizuoka). Participants learned about the gender-conscious perspective that school staff members, especially principals and assistant principals, need to acquire. They had a great opportunity to think about why women's promotion to managerial positions was necessary now and how to tackle the challenges facing them in the structural reforms and personnel training at school.

In a panel discussion, entitled "Creating working environments where diverse people can show their abilities," panelists fostered a better understanding about how to build a working environment where diverse people can show their abilities by looking at actual examples of organizational management and career-building support for women at companies and boards of education. In another panel discussion on sharing career-related examples entitled "Thinking about women's career building and the support they need based on role models," panelists discussed possible forms of support and perspective required to develop female workers in the future, based on each role model's story.

In the livestreamed national forum, Prof. Kaori Yamaguchi (Professor at the University of Tsukuba) delivered the keynote address, explaining some ideas and examples that could be shared in the field of education based on her own experience in her area of specialization of sports, to think about how to foster female leaders and promote them in organizations. In the reports of actual examples, boards of education and women's networks reported measures taken in each region to encourage the promotion of women into managerial positions, giving the participants a good opportunity to explore possible concrete measures to promote work style reforms and women's career development. In each section meeting according to theme, participants exchanged opinions about future projects that could be undertaken in each region to further promote women to managerial positions.

Part of this training course, mainly actual examples, was extracted, edited and compiled into a reference book.

<https://www.nwec.go.jp/research/teacher.html>



FY2022 Gender Equality Promotion Forum



Keynote address

NWEC held a FY2022 Gender Equality Promotion Forum during the period from December 1 to 22. This forum was designed to inspire people engaging in gender equality promotion to interact beyond regions, organizations and disciplines and to build up more networks. The general theme was to achieve gender equality, as is stated in Goal 5 of the SDGs. It was the third time that NWEC has held an online forum on the special website because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and roughly 1,500 participants joined in the forum.

In the first half of the keynote address, Ms. Kikuko Okajima (the first chairperson of WE LEAGUE) explained the backgrounds of establishing the WE LEAGUE, Japan's first women's professional soccer league, as well as several approaches to solve gender-related issues through building up organizations and social contributions. Presenting a glass trophy sent for women who have broken through the glass ceiling, Ms.Okajima emphasized the importance of fostering female leaders and empowering women. In the latter half of her lecture, Ms.Okajima vigorously expressed her opinion based on her career path and experience overseas, sending a message to mainly men and participants from companies and expecting them to act to resolve gender issues.

Next, two young participants aged 29 years or under who had applied from the public joined in the second half of the keynote address, and the panelists discussed how ideal leadership, sports, and diversity should be in the future, presided over by President Natsuko Hagiwara. On the lecture day, Ms.Okajima who lived in the US and the two young participants who lived far away from Saitama Prefecture came all the way to NWEC and broadcasted their talk. Flooded with so many questions from online viewers across Japan, the program was enlivened by both panelists and viewers, fostering a sense of unity. The lecture is available on the NWEC Channel.

Besides the above programs, 52 organizations applied from the public, including the Gender Equality Center, non-profit groups, companies, universities, and high schools, and their daily activities and results of their studies were published online for roughly three weeks. All of them were diverse and quality programs. Participants gave feedback, saying “I had a great opportunity to think about diversity and gender equality as issues that are close to my life,” and “I had a chance to think about gender equality in the future by taking a close look at diverse themes.”



Home page of the special website

FY2022 Knowledge Co-creation Program "Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons"

NWEC contracted the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to hold an online themed training course, entitled “Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons” during the period from December 2, 2022, to January 31, 2023. Five participants in charge of the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of victims, and support for their social inclusion, at central government ministries and agencies, local offices, and NPOs in three countries, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia, took part on this course.



This training course was composed of three sections: a program orientation, video lectures available on-demand, and live sessions. The purpose of this course was to help participants (1) to understand the government’s measures and situations in each country against Trafficking in Persons, (2) to understand the support measures for trafficked person taken by NGOs in participating countries, (3) to deepen their understanding on each country’s good

practices and issues by identifying procedures for prevention, prosecution, protection and support for victims, and roles of relevant organizations in each process, (4) to compile information of each country's measures against Trafficking in Persons to strengthen regional and domestic network, based on the above mentioned (1), (2) and (3). NWEC used the Learning Management System (LMS) to make the lecture videos available on-demand and make it possible for participants to exchange opinions with each other.

In the first half the training course, participants presented the current circumstances on human trafficking and related issues. Participants then shared each country's situations using statistical data, their support systems and successful cases. They also pointed out several challenges they had faced as following. They need to enhance the level of coordination with relevant organizations to collect reliable data. Each country has had difficulties in dealing with these cases in law enforcement agencies because their human-trafficking definitions didn't meet international standards. Sometimes the support for victims from foreign countries could not be sufficient due to the language barrier. They also reported a new form of human trafficking case via online tools. Together with the participants, a guest speaker from a peer support group in Thailand, called Live Our Lives (LOL), which worked together with JICA, shared their support for victims who fell into a state of isolation within their communities.



Group picture

The lectures described many measures such as taken by Japanese governmental agencies, support from civic groups, present situations related to cyber trafficking, a victim-centered approach, a multi-stakeholder platform to promote decent work for migrant workers, and the importance of building a relationship of trust with the victim. Participants also exchanged opinions with each other on these topics and deepened their understanding of each country's situations regarding human trafficking and their measures.

On the final day, participants presented their action plans. These included conducting a training program to learn about a victim-centered approach and applying this approach in their daily work, and enhancing coordination with other government offices and NGOs. The results of this training course plan to be shared in a workshop designed to prevent human trafficking activities in the Mekong region or a future JICA project to combat human trafficking in ASEAN countries.

FY2022 The Women's Empowerment Promotion Seminar

NWEC conducted FY2022 The Women's Empowerment Promotion Seminar with the theme of "Aiming for a society where we can make choices: what does a workplace where everyone can demonstrate their individualities and abilities look like?" The seminar was livestreamed on December 6 and its archived video was available on-demand from December 15 to 22. 439 people from across Japan participated in the seminar, including executives, managers, persons in charge of human resources, team leaders from companies, governmental offices, and universities, as well as people in charge of promoting diversity, gender equality, and women's empowerment.

In the keynote address, Dr. Mariko Ogawa (Deputy Chief of the Office for Gender Equality at the University of Tokyo) spoke about the current level of diversity and described the various measures taken at the University of Tokyo. She also clarified the necessary approaches to promote diversity, such as making data open to the public, calling for required political measures, and sharing outcomes of various attempts carried out according to each purpose.

In the discussion meeting, participants talked about how to make society a better place where everyone can exert their abilities regardless of gender, with the focus being placed on the concept of equity, which means that everyone should be fairly offered an opportunity according to their respective circumstances.



Discussion meeting

To maximize the potential of diverse people, including women, it's been discussed how important it is to make all work environments safer and more comfortable for every worker. Providing employees with multiple choices of positions they desire as well as the ways they work and live can lead to maximizing their diverse abilities and making society a better place where everyone can work energetically and happily. These attempts, which are wanted by most people, will eventually create working environments where women can feel empowered. The

meeting was enlivened by these topics.

Training Course for Women's Archives

NWEC conducted a Training Course for Women's Archives to give those who collect women's archives an opportunity to learn useful knowledge and information, and to help them contribute to the formation of network on women's archives.

In this fiscal year, NWEC held an online training program and the practical training (two days with an overnight stay) at our center for the first time in three years.

The livestreamed online training programs attracted 38 viewers on January 10 and 18 viewers on January 18, respectively. During the period from January 17 to February 17, 128 viewers watched the on-demand lectures.

The first program of the online training course was "Measures taken by a museum in Taiwan to tackle gender issues - Put women in history." NWEC asked Jan-Yen Huang at TNUA (Taipei National University of the Arts) Graduate Institute of Museum Studies, who was the first lecturer from overseas, to share their plan to open up new possibilities on how to collect and exhibit archives to "Put women in history" as part of an ongoing public history project in the National Museum of Taiwan History.



The reports on practical archival activities featured Jiyu Gakuen, which marked the 100th anniversary of its foundation in 2021, and Fumi no Kai, which aims to study modern and contemporary women's history in Kanagawa Prefecture. A lecturer from Jiyu Gakuen gave a presentation on the publication in

celebration of the 100 anniversary of its establishment and building its digital archive called Jiyu Gakuen's 100-year history+. A lecturer from Fumi no Kai reported on their past archival activities, from the publication of a record book in three volumes entitled Women Opening up a New Era, each of which featured more than 100 women, to the donation of all sources to NWEAC.



The lecture on “Archives and Copyrights” shared ample knowledge on digital archives and their copyrights, the copyright laws amended in response to the covid19, as well as image rights.

On February 14 and 15, 14 participants learned the basic ideas and knowledge on how to preserve and maintain archival sources and took part in hands-on training on maintaining archival documents. The practical training was well received, as participants remarked that both the lectures and the hands-on training gave them a meaningful opportunity to learn practical knowledge and techniques.

Planned Exhibition at Women’s Archives Center, “Women and Sports - From women who challenged to women Challenge”

Women Archives Center has continued to hold a series of planned exhibitions tracing the progress of women who have taken on challenges in various fields.

In 2023, a new exhibition in this series with the theme of sports related to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021 was held from January 14 (Sat) to May 7 (Sun).

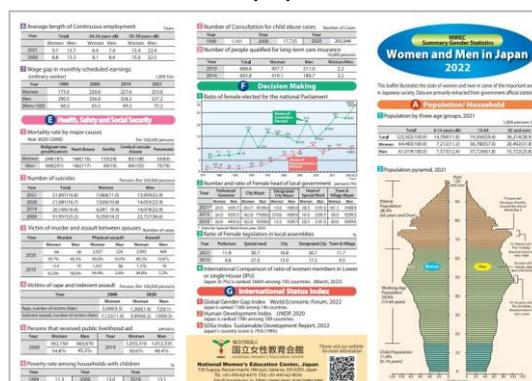


The exhibition features three pioneering female athletes: Toyo Fujimura, the effective founder of Tokyo Women’s College of Physical Education; Tokuyo Nikaido, the founder of Japan Women’s College of Physical Education; and Kinue Hitomi, the first Japanese woman to win an Olympic medal. Tokyo Women’s College of Physical Education opened its doors as a private college called Tokyo Women’s Gymnastics School in 1902 and marked the 120th anniversary of its foundation in 2022. Japan Women’s College of Physical Education was established in 1922 as Nikaido Gymnastic Private School and celebrated its 100th anniversary. Kinue Hitomi, one of the third group of students entering Nikaido Gymnastic Private School, won a silver medal in the 800-meter race at the 9th Olympic Games (Amsterdam), where women’s athletics events were first added to the Games.

There is also a corner displays introductory panels about 4 organizations tackling gender issues in sports, “Women’s Sports Foundation Japan (WSF Japan)”, “Japanese Association for Women in Sport (JWS)”, “Japan Society for Sport and Gender Studies”, and “Japanese Center for Research on Women in Sport”.

NWEC Summary Gender Statistics - Women and Men in Japan 2022

Every year NWEC publishes “NWEC Summary Gender Statistics - Women and Men in Japan” in leaflet form. Information in this leaflet, which provides a summary of basic data that indicates the status of women and men in important areas in Japanese society, is based mainly on data obtained from publications of government organizations. The leaflet is printed on B4 size paper in trifold and is available in both Japanese and English. Areas covered by the survey include population/household, education, time use, labor and income, health, safety and social security, decision-making, international status index, and the survey provides at total of 35 indicators. The leaflet for 2022 can be downloaded from the NWEC website.



Japanese

English

Webinar with Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI)



Photos: Courtesy of KWDI

On September 30, NWEC joined a webinar hosted by Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI). NWEC and KWDI signed an exchange and cooperation agreement in 2006. Under the theme of “Gender Training as a Tool for Achieving Global Gender Equality: Sharing Knowledge and Suggestions for the Future,” the webinar featured speakers from KWDI, Korean Institute for Gender

Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE), Sookmyung Women’s University, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who were invited to share information and exchange opinions.

The webinar began with a presentation from Dr. Jiso Yoon, Director of Center for International Development and Cooperation from KWDI on the overview of the organization and the international training programs they conduct in conjunction with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). KWDI has been conducting gender training for local government officials in Nepal since 2020. The challenges faced during the online training were shared, such as how participants could best be motivated and the importance of being attentive to each individual’s situation.

The second presentation by Miho Watanabe, Director of the NWECE Office of Research and International Affairs was an overview of NWECE and a report on “Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons,” a Knowledge Co-Creation Program commissioned by JICA. A comparison was made between the 2019 seminar in Japan and the 2020 and 2021 sessions that were conducted online.



Photos: Courtesy of KWDI

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Haelim Cho, Director of KIGEPE International Cooperation Center, and Dr. Min Joung Park, Adjunct Professor at Sookmyung Women’s University, took the floor to share the challenges of online training in their respective organizations.

Visiting Researcher from NWECE, Masami Ochi, compared the online domestic training conducted by NWECE during the COVID-19 restrictions with the in-person training conducted in years prior and reported that more men and managers participated in the 2021 online training as a result of the increased convenience of the training format. Lastly, Mr. Yuki Saito of the Office for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction in the JICA Governance and Peacebuilding Department reported on JICA’s anti-human trafficking project in the Mekong region and the Mekong Regional Workshop “Preparation for and Response to the ‘New Normal’ after COVID-19 Pandemic” that was held in Thailand in August. While online games and chat rooms are widely exploited as entry points for trafficking in persons, he emphasized that IT can also be used in combatting such trafficking.

During the discussion in the latter half of the program, there was a lively exchange of views on the advantages and disadvantages of different methods of selecting training participants, as well as the duration and method of implementation of training. With respect to training in the post-COVID-19 era, the importance of leveraging the strengths of online training, based on the findings gained during the COVID-19 period of restrictions, was recognized. The webinar concluded with an affirmation of future cooperation among the participants.

Participation in the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place during the period from March 6 to 17, 2023.

The CSW annual session has been held online or in a hybrid format (partly virtual and face-to-face) since 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This year, it finally returned to the first fully in-person session following three years of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Japanese delegation was formed for the first time in three years.

The priority theme for this session was “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” The session

also reviewed the agreed conclusions of the 62nd session, “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.”

NWEC set up an online exhibit booth within the platform provided by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY) during the 67th session, presenting statistical data on Japan’s current gender equality and reports on international seminars. NWEC also held its virtual open house and an events titled “Gender Equality and Youth: Dialogue for Change” and encouraged participants from Japan and outside of Japan to exchange their opinions based on the various civic attempts aiming for gender equality during the same period.

NWEC plans to publish the Quick Guide to CSW in May, explaining the overview and agreed conclusions of the 67th CSW, as well as reports on many side events and parallel events.

EDITOR'S NOTE

NWEC -the Independent Administrative Institution strives towards the formation of a gender-equal society. Cooperating with organizations and institutions involved in women's education in Japan and other countries, NWEC functions as a national center for women's education to promote training opportunities for leaders in women's education and others in the field; opportunities for exchange between groups, both women's groups and family education support groups; specialized research into women's education and family education; and the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on women and the family. The NWEC Newsletter is published once a year to introduce our activities.

NWEC Newsletter has been published since 1984. It includes information on various activities undertaken by the National Women's Education Center as well as women in Japan. The paper-based newsletter was renewed as a digital-based news source to facilitate more efficient and timely dissemination of the information.

We invite you, hereafter, to access information real time from the Center's Home Page as well as read our latest newsletter from the following pages.

- NWEC Home Page(English) <https://www.nwec.go.jp/en/index.html>
- NWEC Newsletter Top Page <https://www.nwec.go.jp/en/about/pr/newsletter.html>
- NWEC facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NWECJapan>
- NWEC Twitter https://twitter.com/nwec_official
- NWEC CHANNEL https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckzeiT_hVettEP-cw8gCnqw

★ Thank you for reading NWEC Newsletter.

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