

NWEC

N E W S L E T T E R

THE WOMEN'S INFORMATION NETWORK: TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000—ISSUES AND FORECASTS



NWEC has been developing bibliographic databases on women's issues.

As part of its 10th anniversary activities, NWEC held an international seminar on the theme: "Women's Information Network Systems: Towards the Year 2000." The seminar began with a symposium on 14 November, followed by the seminar on 16 and 17 November. Guest experts included Ms. Anju Vyas, of the Centre for Women's Development Studies (India); Ms. Luwarsih Pringoadisurjo, of the National Scientific Documentation Centre, Indonesian Institute of Sciences; Ms. Estrella Miranda-Maniquis, of Depthnews Women's Features Service (Philippines); Ms. Makiko Arima, Japanese Representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women; Ms. Yumiko Tanaka, of UN ESCAP; Ms. Helen Arno-poulos Stamiris, of the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute (KEGME), (Greece); Ms. Martha Leslie Allen, of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (U.S.A.); and Ms. Jytte Larsen, of the Danish Centre for Interdisciplinary Information on Women's Studies (KVINFO).

The symposium was chaired by Ms. Fusako Fujiwara, of the Japan Economic

Journal, and the seminar was led by Dr. Yoriko Meguro of Sophia University in Japan.

On the first day, the seminar addressed the function and role of an information network, pointing out the need for networks to disseminate information as well as promote contacts between people. The seminar also dealt with the urgent task of building and strengthening networks on both nationwide and regional levels, and the need for stronger ties between private organizations and government agencies.

The following day, the seminar addressed the content and form of women's information, and dealt with the poverty, illiteracy, rural problems, sexual harassment, violence, and discrimination problems which concern all women, as well as the need to gather information and prepare directories in the form of a database that will help share the information with those who need it.

Another topical issue was the relationship between information and action. When women seek information, they begin to emerge from dependency and help bring about a change for the better in society.

All participants agreed that Japan should make fuller use of its information processing technology to support the development of women's information centres, especially in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The International Seminar on Women's Education Information for 1988 on the topic: "Women's Information Network Systems Towards the Year 2000" (subjects pertaining to women's information and its flow) will be held from 5-7 October, 1988. Already, Ms. Okobi from Nigeria, Dr. Kadar from Egypt, Dr. Bailey from the U.S.A., and Ms. Ashworth from the U.K. have indicated that they will participate, and NWEC is now selecting potential delegates from Uruguay.

NWEC ACTIVITIES

**MODERN WOMEN'S EDUCATION
ISSUES AND STUDY ACTIVITIES**



Each year, leaders of Japanese women's groups share their expertise at NWEC's Advanced Course.

**ADVANCED COURSE FOR LEADERS OF
WOMEN'S EDUCATION**

NWEC has been conducting training and exchange, survey and research, and information programmes to promote women's education and family education on a nationwide scale.

One of the training programmes is the Advanced Course for Leaders of Women's Education, which is designed to improve women's studies activities and promote the discussion of issues confronting women's education. The course features the latest information gleaned by NWEC's training programmes, surveys, and research over the previous year, and thoughts on future women's studies activities.

Each year, around 100 people from all over Japan, mostly leaders of women's groups and planners for women's studies activities, participate in the programme.

Specialists from all fields give lectures, talk with participants, and conduct practical training sessions over the four-day, three-night programme.

The most recent Advanced Course for Leaders of Women's Education was held in late January, 1988, and included in-depth presentations on many of the issues facing women's education today.

Topics included the following:

**(1) ADULT EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S
STUDIES PROGRAMMES:**

The presence of women's studies programmes in Japanese adult education is increasing, but it is vital that those involved cooperate and exchange study results with one another.

Programmes should look at specific issues facing modern women one at a time, and then analyze and resolve them from the perspective of a woman. It is also important that women's organizations, research groups, and others involved should not wander off in different directions, but should work with each other on these important issues.

**(2) SELF-RELIANT CHILDREN AND THE ROLE
OF PARENTS:**

This lecture pointed out the educational role of parents in today's rapidly changing social conditions. Many children today rely completely on their parents for longer periods than ever, and find it difficult to practice self-reliance.

The lecture took a close look at the educational role of parents, focusing on ways they can help their children make the transition from dependence to independence.

**(3) EXPANSION OF JOINT PARTICIPATION BY
BOTH MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY**

Building new regional areas is essential for responding to changes in society, yet if men and women are to jointly participate in this process, men's attitudes about stereotyped sex roles and divisions of labor must first be changed.

A related topic is the internal reform of women's organizations, particularly the development of young leaders and



the encouragement of greater numbers of people to join in making policy decisions.

(4) FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS

The most important thing to remember when forming networks is that, in addition to promoting the status of women, they can function as interpersonal information exchanges. Groups should transcend traditional links to form networks with other kinds of groups to achieve specific goals, thus creating multi-level networks.



NWEC: NEW PROGRAMMES

After ten years, NWEC continues to make progress in women's education. This year, two new programmes are planned to encourage women to participate in society and to promote an international women's studies network.

The first programme is a four-year effort intended to promote women's participation in society. It begins this year with the formation of a research committee to survey women's lifestyles and skills, analyse women's education, and develop guidelines for an experimental project. This will be carried out during the second and third years, and final programme plans will be ready by the fourth year.

The other new project, in cooperation with Ochanomizu University, will research women's studies opportunities in Europe and work toward strengthening international women's studies networks.

From September to November of this year, researchers will visit universities, women's research centres, adult education groups, and women's organizations located in West Germany, England, France, Italy, The Netherlands, and Belgium.

The goal is to exchange information on lifelong learning, women's studies, lifestyles of working women, and gender ideology in various cultures.

Another international effort will be to reorganize NWEC's International Exchange Meetings, held in July 1987 and February 1988. Beginning this year, NWEC will hold one meeting to promote friendships with people in foreign countries, and another to exchange information on international activities.

The International Exchange Meeting for Women, which is jointly organized with the Japan Foundation, is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24 July. Participants will include 100 Japanese who are teaching overseas and 150 persons interested in international exchange. Discussions (in Japanese) will focus on problems from around the world in areas such as education, work, life, and culture, with the aim of promoting international understanding. We hope more and more meeting like this will be held all over Japan.

In addition, the Seminar on International Exchange for Women is set for Friday and Saturday, 17 and 18 February, 1989. The seminar, following Women's International Exchange Meetings that have been held five times since 1985, will exchange information from all over the nation, with the goal of reaching common understanding on ways to solve the various difficulties encountered during internationalization.

Participants will include women who are active in international exchange as well as those in charge of international exchange programmes in their organizations.

COMMEMORATIVE DAY FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERY

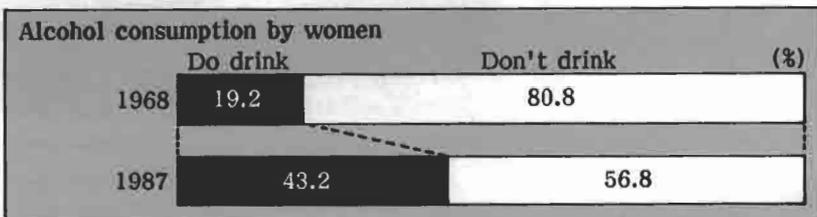
The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has declared 10 March "Nosangyoson Fujin no Hi," ("Rural Women's Day") to recognize

the achievement of those women who work in agriculture, forestry, and fishery. (Women now make up 60% of the working population

in those fields, in addition to shouldering their duties in the home.) 10 March was chosen because traditionally, March is not as busy a time as other months, and because of the auspiciousness of the numbers 3 and 10. (Three represents the three abilities: wisdom, skill, and experience, while 10 denotes fullness.)

JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

ALCOHOL SURVEY: DRINKING BY WOMEN DOUBLES IN LAST TWO DECADES



The Prime Minister's office launched a survey on alcohol consumption and its effect on society in September 1987. Results of the survey, which targeted 3,000 adults aged 20 and over, were compared with those of a similar survey conducted

in 1968. More people were drinking generally, with 59.7% of the respondents consuming alcohol, compared to just 43.8% of the total in 1968.

78.3% of the male respondents drank, a slightly higher percentage than the earlier survey result of 73.6%. By contrast, 43.2% of female respondents said they drank, more than twice the earlier total of 19.2%. The increase was especially dramatic among younger women. Although most women (74.5%) said they normally drank at home, 35.9% of women in their 20s preferred to go out to imbibe.

When queried as to their reasons for drinking alcohol, the majority of women (51.9%) cited "being with their family." This was followed by drinking with "friends and colleagues" and "soothing fatigue." While a majority of men (64.6%) enjoyed the actual taste of alcohol, only 31.6% of women did, with a majority disliking the taste. Most women (81.4%) felt alcohol was bad for the health, and 76% felt they should cut down on their drinking.

SURVEY: WOMEN DOCTORS IN JAPAN

Most of Japan's female physicians report no discrimination against them in work or pay, according to a November 1985 survey by the Japanese Medical Women's Association. Some 80.5% of the survey respondents said there was no salary discrimination against women doctors, and 53.7% felt there was no employment discrimination. However, 42.2% cited a difference in trust by patients, refusals to hire women doctors for part-time work, and the lack of women in administrative positions.

Of those responding to the survey,

18.7% were in pediatrics, 18.3% were in ophthalmology, and 15.9% were in general internal medicine. Considerably fewer of the respondents specialized in surgery.

On family and lifestyle issues, 70% of the doctors were married, compared to 74.9% in a 1975 survey. While 42.2% said they raised their children themselves, (compared to 56.7% in 1975), 17.4% employed nannies, and 14.8% received help from their own mothers. Some 1.9% said their husbands raised the children, an increase from 0.6% in 1975. 34.7% said their husbands' cooperation was the most important factor in balancing family life with a medical career, while cooperation from relatives and economic well-being were cited by 16.4% and 11.6%, respectively.

PARENTS' EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (NEW PROJECT ON CHILD CARE)

Urbanization and changes in local society make it harder for parents to gain practical information on child care from their neighbours. In addition, the trend towards nuclear families has left many parents without any relatives from whose experience they can benefit, and whom they can consult about their own child-care problems. As a result, young parents in particular are apt to suffer from child-care

anxieties.

This point was made by the Extraordinary Education Commission, which suggested the formation of a Shin Idobata Kaigi (housewives' forum on family education) to provide information exchange and mutual support for parents within the context of their neighbourhoods and communities. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture approved the recommendation, and in 1987 began promoting the Parents' Experience and Information Exchange Programme as a model project for local communities.

In 1988, the project is to be implemented in 67 communities, with each project geared to the needs of the individual community. The city of Kuji, Iwate Prefecture, for example, planned a parent-child friendship festival at which parents

and children could deepen their relationships with each other. In Fukuno-machi, Toyama Prefecture, the Kosodate Kusanone Kondankai (grassroots child-care discussion group) was organized as a place where local people could discuss their child-care experiences and concerns. And in the city of Miyazaki, Miyazaki Prefecture, a panel discussion was held on the theme: "Gather, Speak, Raise up, Broaden." A cooking course was also organized in the local pub-

lic hall, where people could enjoy one another's company while exchanging favorite recipes.

Encouraged by the success of these projects, an additional ¥47 million in funds was allocated to promote further work in this area during 1988.

Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture, Social Education Bureau, Women's Education Division

NEW PROJECT: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FESTIVAL

The rapid internationalization of Japan has made international exchanges essential, on both the national and local levels. In many local areas, women are taking the lead in community activities, thus deepening international understanding among women, increasing international exchanges which focus on women's issues, and helping to promote international exchanges on a local level.

In keeping with these trends, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture initiated funding from the fiscal 1988 budget to cover a part of the costs of the Women's International Exchange

Festival on the local level. This year, four local governments will receive a grant. The festival, which promotes international exchange activities on the local level, centres around such themes as the deepening of international understanding among women and the utilization of language skills.

Each prefectural or city government will be free to create its own unique programme to reflect the area's individual character, and involve as many local people as possible. They will also form links with other local governments, private corporations, regional news media, and international exchange groups. The project was initiated following the Recommendation by the Extraordinary Education Committee to the Japanese government.

Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture, Social Education Bureau, Women's Education Division

NEWSMAKERS



From left to right:
Ms. Shizue Kato,
Ms. Hisami Kurokouchi,
Ms. Yuiko Matsumoto, and
Ms. Junko Sato.

The following information, gleaned from recent newspaper articles, focuses on the individuals who were the first women to achieve a particular post.

In the public service sector, Hisami Kurokouchi was appointed director-general of the Consular and Emigration Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is the first female chief in that particular ministry, just as Ritsuko Nagao (see NWEC December, 1987) was the first woman director general of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Ms. Kurokouchi, a former Minister of the Japanese

Mission to the United Nations, assumed her new post in October, 1987.

Shizue Kato, who has enjoyed a distinguished career in the House of Councillors as well as the House of Representatives, was the first Japanese to receive the United Nations Population Award. Ms. Kato, who is 92, has dedicated her life to the twin causes of family planning and the emancipation of women.

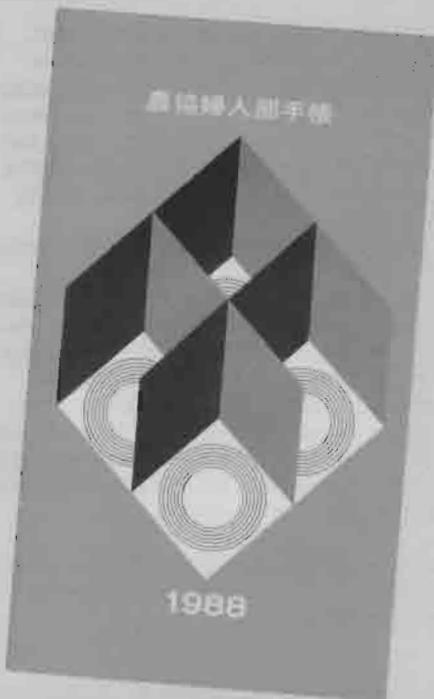
Meanwhile the Maritime Safety Agency, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, appointed Ms. Junko Sato as its first female patrol boat captain. Ms. Sato, who is 26, is one of 101 women among a total of 12,000 sheriffs of the sea.

In union news, the Japanese Private Sector Trade Union Federation (J.P.T.U.C.-RENGO) appointed Yuiko Matsumoto secretary-general of the Electrical Labour Federation, as one of six vice secretary-generals. The Federation, founded on 20 November, comprises a total of 55 unions and 5,503 individual members. Although one out of three workers is now female, the majority of labour federation executives are male. Ms. Matsumoto is the first woman to assume that particular post.

WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN

This continuing series introduces some of Japan's most influential women's organizations

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION



Inspired by the Agricultural Cooperative Association, rural women organized the National Women's Association for Agricultural Cooperation in April 1951. The Association was established to protect women's rights in agriculture, as well as improve their social and economic status. Its activities include an annual convention, training of regional leaders, and work in health-related issues, environmental issues, consumer affairs, concerns of the elderly, and overseas training. Membership in the Association is open to any woman working in agriculture.

Publishing its first newsletter in February 1952, it held regional conferences in the six areas of Japan (Kanto-Koshinetsu/Hokkaido-Tohoku/Tokai-Hokuriku/Kinki/Kyushu/Chugoku-Shikoku). Membership in the organization had risen steadily to

3,440,000 members as of 1985.

In 1955, the organization outlined its aims in the "Five Principles," which were subsequently renamed "The General Principles." For 1987, these included 1) to develop activities to be led by regional members; 2) to acquire more younger members; 3) to research the feasibility of a cooperative buying system; 4) to promote cooperation with organizations of regional residents and consumers; 5) to define the goals of the organization, and set up a long-term policy.

In 1956, members used funds they had raised to make a film depicting the hardships of one rural woman, entitled "Niguruma no Uta" (Lullaby of a Cart). Since then, the organization has worked to deepen its ties with other similar groups, in order to improve the status of women in agricultural areas.

In the late 1970s, the organization tackled such issues as water pollution by detergents, as well as addressing itself to fund raising. In connection with the latter, a "Three-Year Plan" was drawn up in September 1986 to give additional impetus to regional fund-raising activities.

For further information, please write to: The Agricultural Cooperative Association Building 1-3-3, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100. Or call (03) 245-7544.

SOCIETY OF JAPANESE WOMEN SCIENTISTS

The year 1988 marks the 30th anniversary of the Society of Japanese Women Scientists, established in April 1958. The Society was formed to encourage mutual support and friendship among Japanese women scientists, a group which was small and weak at that time. In addition, the Society was formed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge in various fields of academic research. From its beginning, the Society has sought to contribute to world peace.

A factor which prompted the foundation of the Society was

the encouragement given by the Committee of Seven to Appeal for World Peace, which consisted of seven distinguished Japanese scientists, including Professor H. Yukawa, a Nobel Laureate of 1949, to send delegates of Japanese women scientists to the 4th World Women's Conference held in Vienna in 1958. Among the members of the Committee, Mrs. R. Hiratsuka, the President of the Federation of Japanese Women's Organizations and the Vice President of the Women's International Democratic Federation, earnestly believed that Japanese women scientists have a special duty to contribute to world peace, particularly in the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In 1964, the International Conference of Women Scientists and Engineers was organized in New York City, and since its first conference, the Society has represented Japan.

The Society holds regular meetings, public lectures, and symposia every year. To become a member, a candidate should be a regular member of any scientific society, or else be recommended by two or more members of the Society. The annual fee is ¥2,500, and the Society regularly publishes a Japanese newsletter three times a year. At present, the Society has approximately 300 members. Dr. Masa Ikuse, Professor of Pharmacology at Toho University, Tokyo, is the chairperson.

For further information, please contact the Central Office of the Society of Japanese Women Scientists, Koenji-kita 4-29-2-203, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166, or call (03) 330-1015.



SURVEY REPORT

TRENDS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION: FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

Since 1983, the National Women's Education Centre has been conducting annual surveys on the status of women's studies programmes at Japanese junior colleges, colleges, and universities. These surveys provide nationwide information now available on research and educational trends in women's studies programmes.

Course instructors

The chart below shows course instructors by field of specialty, with totals for each year. The graph illustrates that more than half of the course instructors specialize in sociology, literature, linguistics, history, and education. Social science instructors far outnumber those from natural sciences. Also, there are very few female instructors in the natural sciences in Japan.

In 1987, 75% of instructors were women. This compares to 82.4% in 1983, 77.5% in 1984, 78.6% in 1985, and 72.7% in 1986. Clearly, an overwhelming number of instructors in women's studies programmes are women.

Course instructors by field of specialty (t)

Field of specialty	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	
Social Science	Sociology	18.2	16.2	13.9	16.0	15.6
	Education	7.0	14.5	11.0	10.0	10.4
	Law/Political Science	10.5	6.9	11.0	7.4	6.5
	Economics/Business	3.6	1.1	4.0	4.8	2.9
	Welfare				2.6	2.6
	Labour Studies				1.5	2.3
	Women's Studies				3.0	1.0
	Women's Issues		2.9	2.9		
	Other		2.3	2.4	6.3	8.0
	Subtotal	42.7	43.9	45.2	51.6	49.3
Humanities	Literature/Linguistics	19.6	16.8	14.5	13.8	16.2
	History	11.9	7.5	12.1	10.0	11.7
	Philosophy/Literature/Critology	2.8	5.2	2.9	4.5	4.5
	Psychology	4.9	4.0		5.6	3.6
	Other	2.8		2.9		
Subtotal	42.0	33.5	32.4	33.9	36.8	
Natural Science		1.4		8.7	1.9	1.9
	Home Economics	4.9	11.6		8.2	8.1
	Other	1.4	2.9	6.4	1.1	0.6
Subtotal	6.3	14.5	15.1	9.3	8.7	
Unknown	7.7	8.0	7.3	3.3	3.9	
Total	100.1	100.0	100.2	100.0	99.5	

Texts and materials used

The most commonly used texts are Inquiring about Motherhood (in Japanese), edited by Haruko Wakita (Japan); Theory of Women's Labour (in Japanese) by Emiko Takenaka; Women's Issues and Adult Education (in Japanese) edited by Shunji Muro (Japan); Introduction to Women's Studies, edited by Atsuko Fujitani (Japan); Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Japanese translation), by Mary Wolstonecraft (U.K.); The Feminine Mystique (Japanese translation), by Betty Friedan (U.S.A.); Die Frau und der Sozialismus (Japanese translation) by August Bebel (West Germany); and Introduction to the Theory of Modern Women (in Japanese), by Setsu Ito (Japan).

In 1987, texts and materials written by Japanese authors accounted for 73% of materials, with 13% translated copies of foreign materials and 13% foreign materials studied in the original language.

Changing attitudes of students

Women's studies courses gave female students a wider perspective on such issues as employment, marriage, family life, and the roles of men and women.

Women at junior colleges, who had little awareness of sexual discrimination, were sometimes greatly shocked to learn more about the position of women in the home and the workplace. The women's studies programmes greatly influenced their views on marriage, work, and life.

Male students, meanwhile, came to doubt the traditional attitudes toward sexual roles and femininity. Women's studies programmes seem to have sparked the interest of students, as many more are now choosing women's issues and family problems as topics for their graduation dissertations.

Opening up to the public

Although the process is slow, some universities are opening their women's studies programmes to the public, in response to popular demand. In 1987, six schools opened their women's studies courses to the public. In 1983, 1984, and 1985, three schools per year did so, and in 1986, four schools followed suit.

In 1987, five new courses were initiated, intended for the public from the beginning. In this category, 1983 counted one school, 1985 four schools, and 1986 three schools. New courses, too, are increasing gradually. Promotion of women's studies is increasing with heightened interest in women's issues. In the future, we expect more courses to open, as well as further expansion of existing courses.

(Additional data will be included in the next issue.)

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 of issues touching on women's and family education.



The National Women's Education Centre, located in Ranzan-machi, Saitama Prefecture

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 accomodation). 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 questions and comments.

NWEC Newsletter
c/o Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto
National Women's Education Centre
728 Sugaya, Ranzan-machi,
Hikigun, Saitama 35502
Japan

PUBLICATIONS

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE OFFERINGS ON JAPANESE WOMEN

Women in Japan: From Ancient Times to the Present by Dr. Marjorie Wall Bingham and Susan Hill Gross. (St. Louis Park, Minn., USA: Glenhurst Publications, Inc., 1987, 317 pages)

Thirteenth in a series of high school textbooks which cover the history of women in different cultures, this book (with accompanying sound film-strip and teacher's guide) contains a wealth of information on the women who have shaped Japanese history, including the first female deity, important figures from the Epoch of the Queens, female novelists from the Heian Period, and present-day women politicians. Written in clear, simple language with numerous summaries, the book makes extensive use of actual quotes and pictures to give an authentic representation of each era. An in-depth discussion



at the end of the book introduces some thought-provoking issues such as insufficient meaningful employment for women outside the home, sexism inherent in the language, men's lack of family involvement, and the overall image of Japan as a male-dominated country. Compelling and weighty, this book helps to dispel some of the stereotypes of Japanese women perpetuated throughout the ages by introducing us to many powerful and interesting female figures. Available in English only.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC



Desirée Barnard (left) confers with NWEC Director General Mizue Maeda.

9 February: Debra Jane Sturm, Reporter for the Evening Post, New Zealand.

12-13 February: Muniza Bashir, Journalist, Pakistan.

13 February: Dr. Siti Zahara Binti Sulaiman, Deputy Prime Minister, Malaysia.

Congratulatory telegrams on the occasion of the Centre's 10th anniversary arrived from the following:

Dr. Rita Süßmuth, Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs, and Health, West Germany.

Mrs. Gertrude I. Mongella, Minister for Lands, Natural Resources, and Tourism, Tanzania.

Dr. Lourdes R. Quisumbing, Minister of Education, Culture, and Sports, Philippines.

NWEC received the following foreign visitors in the first three months of 1988:

25 January: Eleven public employee trainees from the Republic of Korea Rural Life Leadership group.

6 February: Desirée P. Barnard, Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Guyana.