

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

International Forum on Women's Lifelong Learning

The National Women's Education Center conducted an International Comparative Research on Women's Learning Needs and Practices during the period spanning FY2001 and FY2004. Conducted in collaboration with Norwegian, Korean and American researchers, the survey was designed to examine exactly how lifelong learning can be utilized to facilitate women's empowerment, and to focus on the kinds of support needed to facilitate this and how obstacles can be removed. In particular, the study attempted to include social factors in analyses by making international comparisons. In concrete terms, both written and interview surveys of men and women were conducted to identify lifelong learning needs and

practices, and the kinds of support regarded necessary. Written surveys were conducted of individuals currently engaged in lifelong learning courses and a total of approximately 4,300 valid responses were received from the four countries concerned. Interview surveys for approximately sixty learners were conducted to identify issues unlikely to come up if written surveys were used on their own. Moreover, interview surveys for twenty managers of learning institutions were also conducted, and the variety of issues and necessary support measures were examined from institutional manager's viewpoint regarded as contributory to successful learning. This research comprises the largest international comparative research on lifelong learning to date.



The 2004 International Forum on Women's Lifelong Learning "Lifelong Learning and Individual Empowerment - From the International Comparative Survey on Japan, Korea, Norway and the United States" was held at the National Women's Education Center on Saturday July 3 and Sunday July 4, 2004 to announce the results of analysis arising from this international comparative research and to deepen discussion among individuals interested in lifelong learning.

The first day of the forum comprised a research

Contents

<i>International Forum on Women's Lifelong Learning</i>	1
<i>International Training Course on Processing Women's Information</i>	3
<i>Research report</i>	
<i>JNATIP's Research Project on Trafficking in Persons</i>	7
<i>Women's Center in Japan</i>	
<i>Azarea - Shizuoka Prefectural Gender Equality Center</i>	8
<i>Publications</i>	10
<i>Introducing NWEC</i>	11

presentation in which Japanese, Korean, Norwegian and American researchers reported on the results of their analyses. On the second day, approximately one hundred participants joined researchers in country-specific workshops where they engaged in deeper discussion. Moreover, approximately 100 participants at the Fukui Prefecture Lifelong Learning and Women's Center (UI Fukui) were able to participate interactively in the research presentation held on the first day via the Educational Information Satellite Broadcasting Network (el-NET).



In the research presentation held on the first day, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian and American researchers presented their research results in consecutive order to facilitate comparison among the four countries. Japan's research report noted that awareness of the need for learning about gender issues was high among individuals with past or current experience learning about gender issues; and the percentage of people responding that they opposed the idea "men should work and women should look after the home" was higher among people with experience learning about gender issues.

Korean members reported that female learners appeared to be more susceptible to family and institutional factors than their male counterparts, and that male learners placed greater importance on work factors. They reported that in general, "understanding from your family and partner" offered the most appealing support in terms of family factors, "understanding and support from your employer (other than economic)" presented the most appealing support in terms of work factors, and "learning content that matches your own interests and needs" and "easily commutable learning facilities and institutions" comprised the most appealing support in terms of institutional factors.

The Norwegian report noted that Norwegian adult participants were study-oriented; although factors related to "work and money" were important

among the group with the lowest educational level (participants in high school level programs, etc), study for the purpose of "self-realization" comprised the most important reason for participation irrespective of the participant's level, and as a result, Norwegian adults engaged in adult education for the purpose of learning rather than income.

The American researchers expounded on the importance of understanding and supporting the dynamics of decision making unique to adults in terms of participating continuously in education until it is completed; increasing the types of financial aid accessible to adult students; designing flexible study curriculum compatible with non-student roles and responsibilities; increasing support for first year adult students and support for transferring credits between programs and universities; and providing opportunities for adult students to identify and achieve multiple targets.

Members were responsible for comparative analysis among the four countries, and they reported that (1) differences existed between the content of courses taken by men and women in Japan and Korea; men take courses leading to employment and qualifications and women take cultural and recreational courses; (2) in all four countries, women feel the need for informational support more keenly than men suggesting they experience more difficulty continuing to study than men do; (3) in Japan, there is a tendency for learning to go no further than to better oneself; (4) in cases where gender-equal perspectives do not prevail in society, gender equality education contributes to changing perspectives on gender-based role sharing; and (5) creating a system for evaluating learning within society is important.



Country-specific workshops were held on the second day. Members from each country presented reports: "Career Building and Lifelong Learning — learning from America", "Support Systems for Lifelong Learning — Learning from Norway" and

“The Roles of Various Lifelong Learning Facilities — Learning from Korea”. And, panel discussions were held based on these reports. Besides panelists, participants contributed to deeper discussions.

On Tuesday, July 6, following the International forum in Japan, researchers from the four countries visited Korea at the invitation of Korea’s Ewha Women’s University, and participated in a symposium. Approximately seventy individuals participated and engaged in a lively discussion and opinion exchange on women’s empowerment and lifelong learning, thereby ensuring a fruitful symposium.

(Nami OTSUKI, Researcher, NWEC)



International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information

The International Training Course on Processing Information was held for 10 days from September 28 to October 7 with the participation of 25 trainees from 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan. This course, now in the fourth year of a five-year plan that started in fiscal 2001, consists of training relating to the processing of women’s information for administrative personnel and nongovernmental organization leaders in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of supporting the empowerment of women in developing countries toward the realization of a gender-equal society. This fiscal year NWEC solicited applications from administrative personnel and NGO leaders related to women’s issues in 38 countries and received applications from 94 persons in 26 countries.

The focus of this fiscal year’s training was on enhancing the ability to transmit women’s information effectively by using a variety of information processing technologies in an integrated manner. Furthermore, in order to deepen understanding of facilities related to women and women’s issues in Japan, the trainees visited to the Center for



the Advancement of Working Women where, in cooperation with the center, Presentation and Exchange Session with Women from the Asia-Pacific Region was held to give the trainees an opportunity to discuss and interact with ordinary Japanese.

The following is an outline of the training program.

(1) Lecture on “Women’s Information” by Reiko Aoki, director of the Koshigaya City Gender-Equality Support Center

First of all, the lecturer emphasized that information is power and women’s information is information that gives power to women. She then explained about the basic concept and definition of women’s information, the various issues that face women and the role of information, and the present situation and problems relating to the supply of women’s information. Furthermore, regarding the problems of women in the advanced information society, she talked about the outlook from such perspectives as the digital divide, media literacy, and the diversification of work patterns.

(2) Lecture on “Gender Statistics: Information Is Power” by Yuki Takahashi, researcher at the Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC

The lecturer explained that, in the present male-centered society, statistics also are male-centered and that, for the solution of women’s issues and the realization of gender equality, the establishment of gender statistics is necessary. She then introduced NWEC’s project on research relating to gender statistics. As results of this project, the lecturer went on to introduce statistics on population, education, labor, employment conditions, unpaid labor, women’s participation in decision-making bodies, and

reproductive health and, while comparing Japanese and world trends, analyzed the gender problems of each region.

(3) Lecture on “How to Give a Good Presentation” by Makiko Matsumoto of the Asia-Japan Women’s Resource Center



Using Power Point, the lecturer explained face-to-face presentation technology as a means of effectively transmitting women’s information. She talked about such topics as the various elements of a presentation, how to arouse interest, effective composition, and the tricks of group presentation.

(4) Lecture on “Introduction to the Internet by Kazumi Yamamoto

In order to establish a common understanding among the trainees prior to exercises in Web page production, the lecturer gave an introduction to the Internet centered on the World Wide Web. She talked about such topics as the concept of the Internet, the meaning of URL, the mechanism of perusing Web pages and searching the Internet, and the procedures necessary for actually establishing a Web page.

(5) Information processing exercises (instructors: Makiko Matsumoto of the Asia-Japan Women’s Resource Center and Kazumi Yamamoto)

NWEC planned an exercise program aimed at enhancing the ability to transmit women’s information effectively using various information processing technologies in an integrated manner. After exercises in processing statistics and compiling graphs using Excel, the trainees practiced making Power Point for presentations and then, integrating these processes, compiled a Power Point that effectively used figures and graphs. The topic of each group’s presentation was related to women’s issues in the trainees’ countries.

The second half of the training was centered on Web page creation. The trainees learned stage by stage about such topics as the basic structure of HTML, links, and style sheet methods and then split up into groups to produce Web pages relating to women’s issues in their countries. The themes of the Web pages were the same as those for the above-mentioned presentations.

The text was produced by the instructors themselves using *HTML for the World Wide Web* by Elizabeth Castro (Peachpit Press, 2003) and original teaching materials available on NWEC’s homepage.

(6) Visit to the Center for the Advancement of Working Women

In order to deepen their understanding of women’s facilities and women’s issues in Japan, the trainees also visited the Center for the Advancement of Working Women in Minato Ward, Tokyo, where they listened to an explanation of the center’s projects and asked questions. In particular, the trainees showed a great deal of interest in the center’s permanent exhibition on the history of working women, which displays everyday items that were actually used and models and has great visual effect.

(7) Presentation and Exchange Session with Women from the Asia-Pacific Region

In order to give the foreign trainees an opportunity to interact with a wide range of ordinary Japanese, NWEC and the Center for the Advancement of Working Women jointly organized an exchange meeting that was attended by the trainees and 31 other persons. In the first half of the meeting, as interim presentations of their research results, the trainees gave presentations using Power Point on the theme of women’s issues in their countries. In the second half, the groups of trainees and the other participants exchanged information and deepened their mutual understanding.

International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information 2004 schedule

DATE	Programs
9/28 Tue.	Arrival at NWEC Opening ceremony Orientation Self-Introduction Welcome Party
9/29 Wed.	Lecture:“Women’s Information” Lecture:“Gender Statistics: Information is Power” Lecture:“How to give a good presentation” Groupwork (Discussion about a topic for presentation)
9/30 Thu.	Exercises of personal computer (EXCEL) Exercises of personal computer (EXCEL)
10/1 Fri.	Exercises of personal computer (Power Point) Group work (Prepare for presentation)
10/2 Sat.	Moving to Tokyo by bus Visit:The Center for the Advancement of Working Women Presentation Exchanging Information with participants
10/3 Sun.	Free
10/3 Mon.	Lecture:“Introduction to Internet” Exercises of personal computer (Making webpages)
10/5 Tue.	Exercises of personal computer (Making webpages) Groupwork (Making webpages) Groupwork (Discussion about composing webpages)
10/6 Wed.	Groupwork (Making webpages) Group work (Prepare for presentation)
10/7 Thr.	Presentation Evaluation Meeting Closing ceremony Farewell Party Leaving NWEC

(Sumiko HAMADA, Specialist, Information Division, NWEC)



Participant's Group Works -To Create Web Pages

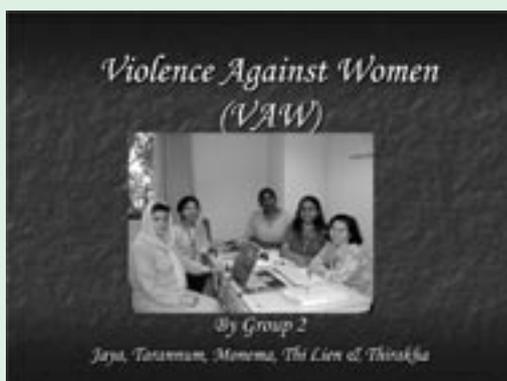
National Women's Education Center (NWEC) has held International Training Course on Processing Women's Information 2004 from September 28th to October 7th, inviting 25 trainees from 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region including Japan. This year's Course has especially emphasized on developing the ability to disseminate women's information and the trainees has concentrated on creating Web pages during the latter half of the Course. The trainees were divided into five groups for group work and each group has selected a topic for their Web pages. The intense discussions on organizing pages such as contents and layouts have been held and the trainees have made presentations of their outcomes at the end of the Course. Despite a lack of experience in creating Web pages for the most of the trainees and a short three-day training period for the task, the following impressive achievements have been made by the hard work of the trainees with appropriate and effective advice from enthusiastic staffs.

Group 1: Violence against Women

Glassie, Helina Ngatuaine (Cook Islands)
Tiroia, Teebure (Kiribati)
Shrestha, Aabha (Nepal)
Kityingsopon, Monthip (Thailand)
Kato, Tokiko (Japan)

<Contents>

- Domestic Violence in the Cook Island
- Women Status and Challenges in Kiribati
- "Comfort Women" Issues in Japan Specific Types of VAW in Nepal
- Trafficking in Thailand



Group 2: Violence against Women

Mansoor, Monema (Afghanistan)
Dana, Gaylan Peyaritania Tarannum (Bangladesh)
Chanthalanouvong, Thirakha (Lao People's Republic)
Samuel, Jayamalar (Malaysia)
Nguyen, Thi Lien (Viet Nam)

<Contents>

- Rape in Malaysia
- Dowry in Bangladesh
- Gender Bias in Afghan
- Trafficking & Prostitution in Viet Nam
- Domestic Violence in Lao PDR

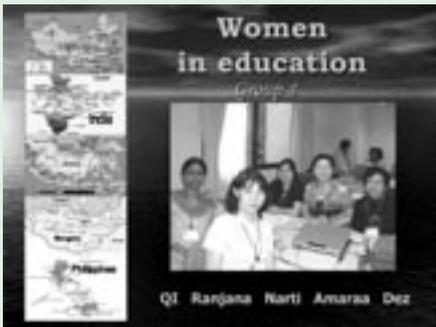
Group 3: Women in Politics

Baghirova, Narmin (Azerbaijan)
Panlaqui, Ma. Esel Laxa (Philippines)
Iakavai, Judith (Vanuatu)
Pham, Hue Thi (Viet Nam)
Kano, Sumiyo (Japan)

<Contents>

- Women and Decision-Making in Azerbaijan
- To Increase Women's Participation in Politics
- Low Participation of Filipino Women in Government Elective Posts
- Situation of Women's Participation in Politics in Vanuatu
- Women in Politics in Asia Pacific Countries





Group 4: Women in Education

Shi,Qi (China)
Sunarti (Indonesia)
Myagmarjav,Amaraa (Mongolia)
Villavicencio,Lourdita Descaya (Philippines)
Sheel,Ranjana (India)

<Contents>

- Women in Education in China
- Women in Education in Indonesia
- Women in Education in Mongolia
- Women in Education in Philippines
- Women in Education in India



Group 5: Gender Bias

Chatterjee,Rupa (India)
Saraswati,Tri Lestari Dewi (Indonesia)
Parvazian,Somayah (Iran)
Lee-Chee,Rhoda (Samoa)
Ishizaki,Setsuko (Japan)

<Contents>

- Schools in Indonesia
- VAW in India
- Decision making in Samoa
- Workplace in Japan
- Moving toward Equality in Iran

<Participant's Comments>

- I was lean to make web page. Now, I can use the program PowerPoint and excel for my work. Thank you very much, this international training course in Japan is very important for our organization's future activities.
- The ITC2004 indeed helped me a lot in terms of information processing, especially designing a homepage. Now I would help on agency to improve own website to make it mine not my informative but also attractive to the readers. I also enjoyed the company both of the staff and trainers. You're great!
- Thank you to NWEC for the invitation to my organization VNCW to participate in this course. The skills learn in the course will surely benefit my organization to improve women information in my country and also the women in my country. "Harikato!!"
- It's a very successful workshop. The most impressive event is to create my own homepage. I'm so excited when I finish it. It's so nice to meet so many friends from 19 countries and Japan. Studying in Japan is a wonderful trip for me. Every staff from NWEC is very helpful, as well as the volunteers. However, time is too short for us. I'd like to learn more about Excel, PowerPoint and Homepage. Thank you very, very much!
- NWEC-An institution with good vision and great facilities. The training program was the correct

balance between conceptual/ theoretical lectures and practical work. The schedule could include just two additional days for a more satisfying output. On the whole, a great learning experience!

- It was so nice!! 10 days flew very quickly. I've gotten many friends, especially group member. I was not good English speaker, but our member helped me very much. That is why I could continue this course. I learned many things; I found what I should study from tomorrow.
- I feel had learned a lot from this training, especially on creating web site pages. This is a new technology for us who comes from small countries in the pacific. All the best to NWEC staff and I wish this training will continue on to upgrade our other sister from other nations.



RESEARCH REPORT

JNATIP's Research Project on Trafficking in Persons

Nanako Inaba (associate professor at Ibaraki University)
Tomoko Yunomae (lecturer at Rikkyo University)
Yuriko Saito (supervisor of education at Keisen University)
Masumi Yoneda (researcher in international human rights laws)



Necessity of Conducting the Research

The Japan Network against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP) was established in October 2003 by individuals and NGOs pursuing the protection of human rights for women. The number of foreign women working in Japan has been on the rise since the 1980s, and in the sex industry in particular there has been an unending stream of escapees who are being deeply injured both physically and mentally after being confined and forced to work as prostitutes. These victims came to Japan seduced by false jobs in their home countries. JNATIP engages in activities to clarify the trafficking situation and examine legal and political measures to protect the human rights of victims. In order to formulate effective policies, it is essential to understand the actual situation, and to this end we have launched a research project on trafficking in persons.

Purposes of the Research Project

First of all, it is necessary to obtain data from trafficked persons about their own experience, which will provide basic reference materials to examine effective countermeasures against trafficking to be implemented in their home countries and in destination countries. Next, obstacles for shelters, NGOs, consultants for women, and lawyers in saving victims of trafficking in persons should be identified

in the examination of effective measures to support these victims through cooperation among related organizations and administrations. Furthermore, situations concerning administrative agencies engaged in saving victims and punishing perpetrators must be clarified.

One of JNATIP's commitments is to lobby related agencies towards the enactment of laws to prohibit trafficking in persons and protect the human rights of trafficked persons. In order to prevent trafficking and save victims, however, we should take further measures in addition to legislation. Because of prejudice against trafficked women, many of them cannot adapt themselves to local communities after returning to their home countries. Also, not a few of them come back to Japan because of long-lasting poverty, which was the original cause of them being trafficked. It is therefore necessary both in Japan and in the home countries of these women to conduct research on actual trafficking situations for the final goal of identifying the problems in a wide range and finding effective solutions. Accordingly, we sent questionnaires and hearing investigations with the assistance of foreign NGOs that support the victims of trafficking in their home countries as well as with the assistance of administrative agencies, embassies, shelters, NGOs, consultants for women, and lawyers engaged in the relief of trafficked persons within Japan. Also, in order to reflect the opinions of victims in the countermeasures as much as possible, we directly interview victims at shelters.

Definition of Trafficking in Persons

For the purposes of this research project, "trafficking in persons" is defined according to Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. For example, it is deemed as trafficking in persons to recruit people, transport them to Japan, or send them to bars, etc., for the purpose of making profit by forcing them to work in the sex industry, etc., by means of threat or force, deception of large salaries in Japan, or of the abuse of a position of vulnerability.

If any of these means are used, it is deemed as trafficking in persons even if the victim consented to work in the sex industry, etc. Also, it is deemed as trafficking in persons to recruit children younger than 18 years of age for the purpose of sending them to bars, etc., to make profit, as mentioned above, even if this does not involve any unjustifiable means.

Target of the Research Project

The research project targets women who are sexually exploited among the victims of trafficking in persons. For sexual exploitation, the meaning of “exploitation” is not well-understood in general, and it is unclear what damage is caused by exploitation and what measures should be taken for the recovery from such damage. Due to the lack of understanding, it is currently impossible to implement measures to prevent trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, save victims, and help them recover from damage. For “mail-order brides” that are typically found in rural areas, some organizations that help victims of trafficking in persons have pointed out that sending these brides may be trafficking in persons according to the aforementioned definition. Mail-order brides, however, are sent to households, which are very private areas, and their actual situations are almost unknown. We therefore include mail-order brides sent to rural areas in the target of the research project. In the case of trafficking of persons detected

in Japan, there is also a problem of foreign workers, including trainees, who are forced to work under poor working conditions. This is also trafficking in persons by definition, but it is mainly for the purpose of economic exploitation and the details of damage and recovery measures are relatively clear. Therefore, we specifically limit the target in the research project to victims of sexual exploitation and aim to clarify their situations.

Progress of the Research

We sent questionnaires to NGOs and consultants for women engaged in the support of foreign women immigrating to Japan. With the respondents answering that they have already dealt with 10 or more victims of trafficking in persons, we are also conducting interviews. In addition, from shelters that have saved a great number of trafficked persons, we have obtained the records of victims using the shelters to understand the actual damage suffered by them. Also, with women fleeing to these shelters during the survey period, we are conducting interviews with their consent. Regarding the reintegration of trafficked persons into society after returning to their home countries, we are conducting research supported by NGOs in Thailand and the Philippines. We will complete all survey procedures by March 2005 and plan to publicize the results subsequently.

(Nanako INABA, JNATIP)

WOMEN’S CENTER IN JAPAN

Azarea - Shizuoka Prefectural Gender Equality Center

Azarea was originally known as the Women’s Center. Commencing in April 2003 under its new name of the Shizuoka Prefectural Gender Equality Center, the institution serves as a base for the creation of a new society of men and women working together in equal partnership. Based on its guiding principles of collaboration, independence, and participation, the Center is dedicated to the promotion of learning, research and study, consultation and counseling, and exchange projects.

“Azarea,” the familiar name for the Center, is the Spanish word for the Prefectural flower tsutsuji and is indicative of its goal of becoming a facility which is familiar to and highly regarded by the residents of the prefecture.

— The Azarea Concept - Collaboration! —

Azarea conducts a range of seminars and events in collaboration with groups and organizations, municipalities, universities and colleges throughout Shizuoka Prefecture, as well as with other divisions/sections of the prefectural government.

- Community Seminar: In collaboration with municipalities and relevant organizations, plans and conducts lectures and seminars tailored to particular local requirements.
- Teacher’s Seminars: Together with school board of education, jointly mounts seminars for school teachers and staff in kindergarten, preschool, elementary, junior high and senior high school, and schools for handicapped children, the deaf, and the blind.



- Citizen Planning Programs: Invites seminar plans from citizen groups/organizations which accord with the theme of gender equality. The Center sponsors such seminars. The theme for fiscal 2004 (Heisei 16) is: “Programs aimed at junior-high and high school students”.
- DV Prevention Seminar Delivery Programs: This program, which involves collaboration by universities, colleges and vocational schools, provides students with educational seminars aimed at the prevention of domestic violence.
- Sponsored Research & Study Projects (based on plans selected from among the public): Conducts research and study projects in collaboration with universities and citizens’ groups/organizations.

Besides the above list, Azarea operates the following projects and services:

- Azarea Seminars
 - [Human Resource Development Seminars]
 - Basic Seminars: What is gender equality? Why is this concept so important now? This course answers such basic questions.
 - Facilitator Training Seminars: These seminars allow participants through experience to acquire practical skills for guiding and supporting learners.
 - Seminars for Women Council Members: These seminars develop the competence of participants to play active roles in policy making at council/committee level.
 - [Other Seminars]
 - Men’s Seminars: These seminars are for men and provide useful tips for realizing their own identity and living in their own ways.
 - Summer Seminars: This seminar is available for 5th and 6th graders during their summer vacation

- Azarea Counseling Room

- To assist women experiencing difficulties, this facility offers telephone and specialist counseling services, including consultations with a lawyer or a psychiatrist, consultations relating to domestic violence, and individual consultations of violence against women.
- Counseling Room Seminars: The Counseling Room offers a series of seminars on “women’s minds, bodies and lives” based on approaches received.

- Publication

Azarea publishes its “Network” information magazine twice a year and its “Epoca” public relations magazine six times a year.

- Library Service

Owning over 40,000 materials related to gender equality.

- Childcare Room

The Childcare Room is operated in order to provide support to seminar and event participants who have small children.

- Provision of Information on the Internet Home Page

Under a 2003 ordinance, Shizuoka Prefecture drew up “A Basic Plan for Gender Equality: Harmonic Shizuoka 2010,” with a range of measures relating to that being undertaken in liaison and collaboration with prefectural residents, citizens’ organizations and municipalities.

Being the operational base for the Basic Plan, Azarea wants to work positively with all the residents of the prefecture to achieve gender-equal participation by men and women in society. Your support and cooperation will always be welcome.

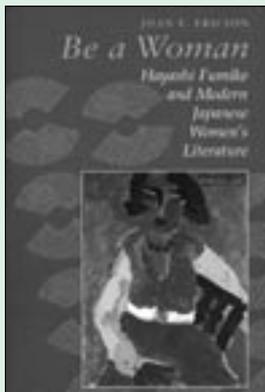


PUBLICATIONS

Be a Woman

—Hayashi Fumiko and Modern Japanese Women’s Literature—

(Edited by Joan E. Ericson, Published by University of Hawaii Press, 1997)



Contents

PART ONE: Literary History

1 Reading a Woman Writer	3
2 When Was Women’s Literature?	18
3 Women’s Journals	39
4 Reading a Women’s Diary	57
5 Transformations	75
6 A Place in Literacy History	92

PART TWO: Fiction **117**

Translator’s Introduction	121
Diary of a Vagabond	123
Narcissus	221

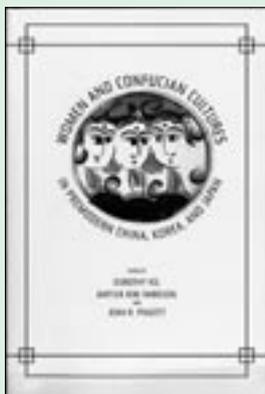
A close scrutiny of Hayashi Fumiko’s work- in particular the two pieces masterfully translated here, the immensely popular novel Horoki(Diary of Vagabond) and Suisen(Narcissus)-Shows the inadequacies of categorizing her writing as “ women’s literature.” Its originality and power are rooted in the clarity and immediacy with which Hayashi is able to convey the humanity of those occupying the underside of Japanese society, especially women. Yet Hayashi enjoyed a kind of celebrity status as a “women writer” and used it to advance her career. Her work and her reception by critics and readers demonstrate the need to adopt a historically grounded appraisal to capture the mechanisms through which gender operates and, most importantly, the means that an individual women writer employed to engage or exploit the limit of her gendered world.

<Extract from the back cover>

Women and Confucian Cultures

—In Premodern China, Korea, and Japan—

(Edited by Dorothy Ko, Jahyun Kim Haboush, and Joan R. Piggott, Published by University of California Press, 2003)



Contents

PART I. Scripts of Male Dominance

1. The Patriarchal FamilyParadigm in Eighth-Century Japan	27
2. The Last Classical Female Sovereign: Koken-Shotoku Tenno	47
3. Representation of Females in Twelfth-Century Korean Historiography	75
4. The Presence and Absence of Female Musicians and Music in China	97

PART II. Propagating Confucian Virtues

5. Women and the Transmission of Confusion Culture in Song China	123
6. Propagating Female Virtues in Choson Korea	142
7. State Indoctrination of Filial Piety in Tokugawa Japan: Sons and Daughters in the Official Records of Filial Piety	170

PART III. Female Education in Practice

8. Norms and Texts for Women’s Education in Tokgawa Japan	193
9. Competing Claims on Womanly Virtue in Late Imperial China	219

PART IV. Corporeal and Textual Expressions of Female Subjectivity

10. Discipline and Transformation: Body and Practice in the Lives of Daoist Holy Women of Tang China	251
11. Versions and Subversions: Patriarchy and Polygamy in Korean Narratives	279

Representing an unprecedented collaboration among international scholars from Asia, Europe, and the United States, this volume rewrites the history of East Asia by rethinking the contentions relationship between Confucianism and women. The authors discuss the absence of women in the Confucian and women. The authors discuss the absence of women in politics, family, education, and art in premodern China, Korea, and Japan.

What emerges is a concept of Confucianism that is dynamic instead of monolithic in shaping the cultures of East Asian societies. As teachers, mothers, writers, and rulers, women were active agents in this process. Neither rebels nor did victims, these women embraced aspects of official norms while resisting others. The essay present a powerful image of what it meant to be female and to live a women’s life in a variety of social settings and historical circumstances. Challenging the conventional notion of Confucianism as an oppressive tradition that victimized women, this provocative book reveals it as a modern construct that does not reflect the social and cultural histories of East Asia before the nineteenth century.

<Extract from the book cover>

Introducing NWEC

Seminar to Promote Support for Career Building

A Seminar to Promote Support for Career Building was held from Tuesday, July 27 - Thursday, July 29. Held in the heat of summer, this Seminar attracted the attendance of one hundred and four individuals from various walks in life, including school officials, personnel involved in lifelong education and women's studies, and other government officers.

Through a number of lectures around the theme, "Advancing support for career building in schools and in the region" provided by university professors and the chairperson of the National Federation of Small Business Associations, participants learned that the term "career" refers to an individual's footprints or experience; working enables people to think about the way they live and it is important to support career building at all life stages in collaboration with schools, homes and the community.

Lively exchanges of opinions on concrete measures ensued in sub-sessions entitled "Career Education at School", "Support for Career Building at Home and in the Community", "Support for Women's Career Building" and "Career Education Overseas". During the symposium, consensus was reached on the provision of support from a gender-equal perspective.

The Seminar was concluded with a lecture entitled "Dreams, Work and "Making the Most of Yourself" by Professor Kiyoko Fukami, Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Science. She gave a comment that "curiosity," "enthusiasm" and "professionalism" made her work continuously. The word was particularly impressive in her lecture. (*comment*)

(Hiroko OKANO, Specialist, Program Division, NWEC)

Forum for Exchange in the Field of Women's and Gender Studies towards Gender Equality

A Forum for Exchange in the Field of Women's and Gender Studies towards Gender Equality was held over the two-night/three-day, from Friday, August 27th - Sunday, August 29th, 2004. Adopting "Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the 21st Century — What we're creating today -" as theme of this year, the Forum comprised keynote lectures, a relay talk, and fourteen workshops organized by the Forum Planning Committee and the Center. Moreover, another one hundred workshops were conducted during the "Open Center" which was held at the same time. In Total, 1,863 participants attended this forum from throughout Japan.

Due to advancement of women's participation in society surrounded by complex and diverse social conditions, this forum aimed to provide participants with an opportunity to consider what gender-equal society is.

In order to establish gender-equal society by their

hands, this forum focused on identifying the meaning of social participation. Also, it was the time to make network for empowerment of women. The Forum was filled with participants' enthusiasm and excitement throughout the three days.

(Akiko OKUMURA, Specialist, Program Division, NWEC)

Seminar on Support for Women's Empowerment

A Seminar on Support for Women's Empowerment was held over the three-night/four-day from Tuesday, November 30 — Friday, December 12, 2004.

This seminar aimed to provide a practical training for project planning and activities of NPOs and other groups related to women's education and family education. The training focused on acquisition of special knowledge and skills in order to improve their activities for supporting women's empowerment. 104 participants belonged to (1) government administrators, (2) individuals involved in the planning and management of government programs related to women's education and family education, and (3) leaders of NPOs, groups and organizations involved in women's education and family education.

The main program was composed of various sessions including lectures on the current status of national policies on women toward the formation of a gender-equal society, lectures on collaboration between NPOs and the Government, workshops, sub-sessions, a plenary session, information exchange and free discussion. Through the 3/4 day seminar, participants were also urged to empower themselves.

(Akiko OKUMURA, Specialist, Program Division, NWEC)

FY2004 Public Lecture

The Center hosted a public lecture on Friday, October 15, and nearly three hundred individuals attended from throughout Japan. The guest speaker was a journalist, Yoko Sato, and she presented a lecture entitled "Challenge! My way of life."

Ms. Sato worked as a journalist and as the head of a women's center following her retirement. From her experience of being involved in activities to improve the status of women, she talked about ways of enabling women to live enthusiastically with hope in a variety of fields. Experience-based comments on topics such as (1)difficulty of finding employment had determined the rest of her life, (2)she had learned "perseverance becomes strength" through working, (3)she had made the most of her experience as a newspaper reporter in community learning, and (4)she had realized after working for forty years that "in the end, continuing to work supports your independence in old age. Her lecture aroused participants' sympathy.

Numerous participants left comments such as “I was encouraged by her words ‘don’t give up’, ‘friends and peers’ and ‘perseverance becomes strength’” and “I could relate to the way Ms. Sato lived. I’d like to refer to it when thinking about the way I live hereafter”.

(Chieko KOBAYASHI, Senior Specialist, Program Division, NWEC)

Introduction to our foreign visitors



On Thursday, November 25, 2004, sixteen trainees from sixteen countries, including Afghanistan and Iraq, arrived at the Center to attend the FY2004 Seminar on Promotion of Gender Equality II. Held annually by JICA and the Cabinet Office, this seminar aims to provide government officials in developing nations with approximately one month’s training in policies to promote gender equality.

Following a briefing on the Center and a tour of its facilities, trainees were provided with information pertaining to two of the Center’s study programs, “NWEC Gender Statistics Project” and “International Comparative Research on Women’s Learning Needs and Practices”, and one of its information programs, “International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information”. At the end of the day, the President responded to questions posed by the trainees, such as “How are the results of the Center’s research activities being used in policy proposal?” and “Why are there very few female assembly members in Japan?”



On Friday, January 14, 2005, three trainees

on a JICA Training Course for Filipino “ARMM ODA Support Advisors” (country-specific training) visited the Center. The party paid a courtesy call on the President who provided them with a briefing on the Center and an explanation of its roles. Following this, the party was shown around the Information Center for Women’s Education and the Tea Ceremony House. Given that the purpose of this training course was “Human Resource Development and Personnel Management — NWEC’s roles and promotion of women’s social participation”, visiting researchers and specialists in the Program Unit provided explanations of a number of relevant programs (“Research on Women’s Career Building and the Use of Lifelong Learning, “Seminar to Promote Support for Career Building” and “Seminar on Support for Women’s Empowerment”), and a lively question and answer session ensued.

**ARMM: Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Yasuko CHIKA, Chief of International Affairs Unit, NWEC)

Message from Michiko KANDA, President of NWEC

Let me start by thanking you for your ongoing support for programs organized by the National Women’s Education Center.

The Japanese Government was pushing ahead with administrative reforms. The Government was currently studying detailed proposals, and a proposal for merging the National Women’s Education Center (hereinafter referred to as “the Center”), with youth facilities such as the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, National Youth Houses and National Youth Nature Houses was identified.

Thanks to you, it was decided on December 24th that the National Women’s Education Center would remain an independent institution next fiscal year and thereafter.

From September onwards, I received a lot of support in the form of submission of numerous petitions addressed in various directions, and I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for this. Thank you so very much.

For our part, we intend to review all future enterprises very carefully, and devote ourselves to fulfilling our role as Japan’s only national center for women’s education and as a focal point for gender equality exchange via the Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific.

I look forward to your ongoing cooperation and support.

EDITOR’S NOTE

The NWEC Newsletter is published twice a year by the National Women’s Education Center to introduce the activities of NWEC, including study, exchange, research, and information dissemination, as well as provide information on women in Japan to persons abroad. It also provides information on women’s education and home education to promote international network building.

As of April 2005, the newsletter is sent to free of charge to approx. 1500 organizations (including individuals) in 193 countries around the world. Anyone knowing of other individuals or groups who might like to

receive this newsletter is asked to have them contact us at the following address.

National Women’s Education Center (NWEC)
728 Sugaya Ranzan-machi
Hiki-gun, Saitama-ken
355-0292, Japan
Tel: +81-493-62-6711
Fax: +81-493-62-9034
E-mail: webmaster@nwec.jp
URL: <http://www.nwec.jp>