

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

International Forum on Women's Learning 2005 "Disaster and Women's Empowerment"

On December 10-11, 2005, the National Women's Education Center of Japan held the International Forum on Women's Learning 2005 on the theme "Disaster and Women's Empowerment".

On the morning of the first day, keynote speeches were given by three speakers: Keiko Kiyohara, Director, Hyogo Prefecture; Jean D'Cunha, Regional Program Director, East & Southeast Asia Regional office, UNIFEM; and Akihisa Matsuno, Professor, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, and Representative of the Japan NGO Network on Indonesia (JANNI) on problems affecting women when disasters occur, and women's viewpoints which may be of benefit in disaster prevention and reconstruction.

In the afternoon, attendants divided into three groups for sectional meetings on three topics over a period of three hours. Discussing the topic "Gender Perspectives on Disasters" the first group considered what kind of gender specific approaches are required for disaster prevention and reduction, recovery from disaster, and assistance at the time of disaster, and examined what results can be brought

about by making use of gender perspectives.

In the second sectional meeting where the topic "Women in Disaster-stricken Areas -for the Empowerment of Individual Women" was discussed, participants attempted to clarify latent women's issues and needs that become evident in natural disaster situations and studied initiatives for solving these problems in an attempt to determine measures for empowering women as individuals in disaster-stricken areas.



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In the third sectional meeting where the topic “Women’s Participation in Disaster Rehabilitation” was discussed, participants considered the issue of ensuring women’s participation in disaster mitigation, rehabilitation and community reconstruction, and examined initiatives and systems for international cooperation, coordination between government administration and NPOs, and networks as they ought to be based on a gender-specific approach.

In addition, a symposium entitled “Strategies for Disaster Prevention, Reduction, Rehabilitation, and Support through Gender Equality” was held on the second day.

Five participants who took the platform in the group meetings were invited as panelists. They were: Norma Susanti, Program Manager, Women Volunteer Team for Humanitarian (RPuK-Aceh); Cheryl L. Anderson, Director, Hazards, Climate & Environment Program, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii and The Gender & Disaster Network; Keiko Ikeda, Associate Professor, Shizuoka University; Kumiko Oshima, Chairperson, The Foundation for Women in Niigata, Director, The Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake Reconstruction Fund; Akihisa Matsuno, Professor; and Yasuko Aikawa, Editorial writer of



Kobe Shimbun, as the coordinator. In this symposium, discussions were held on the importance of creating a framework and decision-making processes where women’s viewpoints were included and specific measures to promote the joint participation of both men and women by including men.

With 152 participants, this International Forum on Women’s Learning 2005 provided a venue for the active exchange of views over a two-day period and proved to be a very meaningful conference. (Soichi SUMIYOSHI, Chief of International Affairs Unit, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information

With 30 trainees from 18 countries in the Asia Pacific region including Japan participating, the International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information was held over a 10-day period from December 2 to 11, 2005. Targeting government administrators and NGO leaders in the Asia Pacific region, the course was aimed at providing training in information processing with respect to women’s information to support the empowerment of women in developing countries in realizing a gender equality society.

This year (fiscal) is the final year of a five-year plan which commenced in 2001, and the course targeted government administrators in charge of women’s issues and NGO leaders for recruitment from 35 countries. Seventy-three applications were received from 21 countries.

This year’s training program included a combination of lectures to deepen the trainees’ understanding of information processing for women, group work to promote the issues and themes, information processing practice in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information for women through the use of ICT, and the preparation of websites, leaflets and other material to convey information about women’s issues in various countries featuring gender statistics prominently in the information.

The training also aimed to provide a broader information exchange and interaction through the trainees’ participation in the International Forum on Women’s Learning on the theme “Disaster and Women’s Empowerment” and by presenting the outcomes of their training in the form of a poster session.

A summary of the various programs is given below:

1. Viewing of the video *Password: Women* and presentation of the lecture “Information for Women”

Lecturer: Reiko Aoki, Director, Koshigaya Gender Equality Support Center

During the first half of the session, participants viewed the video program *Password: Women* produced by IIAV (International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement) and examined case studies from all over the world regarding the utilization of media, such as the internet etc., for the empowerment of women. In the latter half of the session, on the premise that information is power leading to action, Ms. Aoki in her lecture “Information for Women” outlined the underlying concept and definition of information for women, its various forms, media and methods of providing women’s information today, and the current situation and issues.

2. Lecture: “Gender Statistics: Possibilities and Limitations”

Lecturer: Yuki Takahashi, Researcher, Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women’s Education Center of Japan

Ms. Takahashi introduced the gender statistics project at the center and discussed the need, significance, and definition of gender statistics in which she clearly stated that the role of the statistics of gender difference was simply to promote gender but was also to shed light on the gap existing between genders.

To deepen participants’ understanding of the lecture content, the latter half of the session was spent on practical group work where participants analyzed the meaning of data as they actually processed statistical data.

3. Lecture: “Presentation Skills”

Lecturer: Makiko Matsumoto, Asia-Japan Women’s Resource Center

Ms. Matsumoto discussed face-to-face presentation skills as one method of communicating women’s information effectively. She explained the various elements comprising presentation, how to draw the attention of audiences, ways in

which to use visuals and body language, and to give easy-to-understand presentations.

4. Lecture: “Overview of the Internet” and “Concepts and Construction of Websites”

Lecturer: Kazumi Yamamoto, Free Hand

Ms. Yamamoto gave a general overview of the internet prior to a practical hands-on session in Web page production. She provided general information on the concept of the internet, what a URL is, the mechanics of Web page browsing, internet searches, and procedures required to actually establish a Web page.

5. Information Processing Practice

Instructor: Makiko Matsumoto, Asia-Japan Women’s Resource Center

Instructor: Kazumi Yamamoto, Free Hand

Utilizing various types of information processing technology, programs were put together to enhance trainees’ technical knowledge for the effective communication of information for women. In the first half, leaflets, posters and other media forms for transmitting women’s issues were produced following the processing of statistics and the creation of graphs using Excel.

In the latter half of the training, trainees concentrated on the creation of Web pages as they studied in stages the techniques of basic HTML structures, links, and style, and created Web pages on women’s issues in each country by groups.

The leaflets, posters, and web-pages were used in the poster session at the International Forum on Women’s Learning 2005.



6. Inspection tours to women related facilities

Trainees visited the Tokyo Women’s Plaza in Shibuya, Tokyo to further their understanding of women-related facilities and women’s issues in Japan. The group listened to an explanation about the operation of the facility and took part in a question-and-answer session. The trainees also went on an inspection tour of the UN University Library and listened to an explanation on collection, organization and dissemination of information and material with respect to the United Nations.

(Sumiko HAMADA, Specialist, Information Division, NWEC)



Detail of Participants

Country	Number of Participants
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	2
Islamic Republic of Iran	1
India	1
Republic of Indonesia	3
Independent State of Samoa	1
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	1
Kingdom of Thailand	2
Kingdom of Tonga	1
Kingdom of Nepal	1
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	1
Papua New Guinea	1
People’s Republic of Bangladesh	3
Republic of the Philippines	2
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	2
Federated States of Micronesia	1
Mongolia	2
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	1
Japan	4
Total	30

Type of Organization	Number of Participants	Rate
Administration (Administrative Agency or Entity)	7	23.3%
Non - Governmental Organization	16	53.3%
Research Institute	7	23.3%
Total	30	100.0%

Age	Number of Participants	Rate
Twenties	11	36.7%
Thirties	6	20.0%
Forties	8	26.7%
Fifties	4	13.3%
Sixties	1	3.3%
Total	30	100.0%

International Symposium on Trafficking in Persons

The International Symposium on Trafficking in Persons, jointly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IOM (International Organization for Migration) and in cooperation with the JNATIP (Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons) was held at the U Thant Conference Hall, United Nations University on Saturday, February 25.

Serious crimes and violations of human rights in the form of trafficking in persons including sexual exploitation of foreign women and children are increasing in Japan and the rest of the world.

This symposium was aimed at strengthening the framework of cooperation for resolving the problem of human trafficking by bringing together concerned agencies including domestic and foreign government organizations, NGOs, women’s centers, researchers, and people in the community.

After addresses by Professor Akiko Yamanaka, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Ms. Mayumi Moriyama, Member of the House of Representatives, during the first part of the morning program, reports were presented on the

morning's topic, Current Situation and Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Presentations were made on case studies overseas and in Japan and initiatives by the Japanese government. First speaker, Mr. Richard Danziger, Head of Counter Trafficking of the IOM (International Organization for Migration), gave a definition of human trafficking and proceeded to speak on best practices for resolving the problem of human trafficking under the governance of national governments.

After a video presentation featuring human trafficking produced by the National Police Agency, Ms. Keiko Otsu, Co-chair of JNATIP and Director of HELP Asian Women's Shelter, spoke about the current situation of support activities by Japanese NGOs and their financial limitations. She also spoke about other issues including the legal aid and livelihood support to victims during and after their repatriation. The last speaker of the morning session, Mr. Toru Ogino, Cabinet Secretariat Counsellor, spoke about initiatives by the Japanese government from the standpoint of the Cabinet Secretariat which is responsible for coordinating measures and policies among government agencies.



During the first afternoon session, International Cooperation to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons, panelists from overseas engaged in vigorous discussions about the situation in their respective countries, including the actual situations in Thailand and Colombia, with respect to their cooperation with international law-enforcement organizations, problems of poverty and education, the necessity of eradicating the demand of "the buyers" in human trafficking, the importance of cooperation with NGOs, and the need for further international cooperation. International



organizations shared their activities in promoting the coordination of regional cooperation by setting up conference and providing training to law enforcement officers. Importance of coordination among the international organization, governments, and NGO in order to eliminate any overlap in activities was also emphasized. Panelists included: Pol. Col. Apichat Suribonya, Superintendent, Royal Thai Police; Ms. Lina Maria Arbelaez, Former Adviser of the Ministry of Interior and Justice, Colombia; Ms. Kristiina Kangaspunta, Officer in Charge of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of UNODC; Mr. Richard Danziger, IOM; and Mr. Tsuyoshi Iguchi, National Police Agency of Japan.

During the panel discussion in the second session on the topic Establishing Bases for Women's Empowerment and Building a Global Network, panelists engaged in an enthusiastic exchange of opinions from various perspectives as to how women's empowerment bases can network to promote initiatives for resolving the issues of human trafficking. Panelists included: Ms. Sumarni Dawam Rahardjo, Deputy Minister for Child Protection, Ministry of Women Empowerment, Indonesia; Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui, Executive Director, Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), Philippines; Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Member of the House of Representatives; Ms. Yoko Yoshida, Lawyer and Co-chair of JNATIP; and Professor Kimio Ito, Kyoto University Graduate School of Letters.

Details of the actual situation of human trafficking in each region, the social and cultural background of poverty and gender discrimination as underlying causes at the root of human trafficking which includes young girls, and the increase in female migrant labor were presented.

During this session, measures in progress in Indonesia were presented. In that country, it was related that women empowerment is being strengthened by increased assistance to an action framework centered on the Ministry of Women Empowerment where all stakeholders contributing to solving women's problems are involved as well as increased support for NGOs working for women's issues.

Ms. Nuqui shared the experiences of NGOs in the Philippines on their groundbreaking programs and promotional activities where theatrical productions, television and radio programs are used as mediums to inform people about matters of law enforcement as well the vital areas of education and consciousness-raising and social service programs.

From the perspective of members of parliament, Ms. Kamikawa noted that the issue of human trafficking has been taken up at the IPU, an international organization of parliamentarians. The necessity of effectively making use of best practices and initiatives worldwide by aggregating the data and gaining the cooperation of the media were underlined. Furthermore, the necessity of making efforts to strengthen networks by various means such as launch of a foundation which could provide a assistance with cooperation of the public and private sector was proposed.

Ms. Yoshida, a lawyer, spoke about the need to pay ongoing attention to and to verify the situation following revision to legislation regarding the protection of victims and the punishment of offenders. She also discussed the development of activities to raise a broader awareness of the situation of human trafficking. She also spoke of the importance of the regular exchange of information between Japanese



and overseas NGOs and the building of relationships of mutual trust through cooperation.

Speaking about the framework of research on trafficking being conducted by NWEC and the issue of "demand" by men who "buy" victims of human trafficking, Professor Ito and others emphasized the importance of creating a framework for raising awareness of issues with a strong orientation on human rights and gender issues among the media and men in general as well as in training and educating public servants who are in control of law enforcement.

In both panel discussions, there were many questions received from the audience, indicating a high level of interest on the subject. Attending the symposium were over 300 people from Japan and overseas who are involved in issues of human trafficking including specialists, members of international organizations, parliamentarians, embassy delegates and staff from various countries, counseling officers for women's issues, administrative officers, members of NGO, and researchers. The symposium marked a significant step forward in strengthening cooperation for resolving the problem of human trafficking in the future.

The program distributed on the day of the symposium can be downloaded from the following Web site:

<http://www.nwec.jp/English/>

(Miho WATANABE, Researcher, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)



WOMEN'S CENTER IN JAPAN

G-NET Shiga–Shiga Prefectural Gender Equality Center

In this column of the previous issue, we presented information in a question and answer format after visiting facilities for women where we conducted interviews with staff. For our second column here, we went further a field to the Kansai area and here would like to tell you about “G-NET Shiga”, the Shiga Prefectural Gender Equality Center.



NWEC (N): Hello, thanks for having me here today. I've come to G-NET Shiga which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

G-NET Shiga (G): Hello and welcome to G-NET Shiga. Yes, we've been involved in various initiatives and I would like to mention three courses that we have been conducting.

N: Yes, I am very interested in hearing about them. Could you start by telling me about your seminar entitled *Discover what I want to be*. This is a seminar for young people, isn't it?

G: Yes, that's right. Basically, it's a seminar for giving young people practical skills that they can apply in their lives straight away. With the theme of balancing work and life, the contents of the course are diverse, ranging from classes and workshops in arrangement and organizational skills to workshops with role-playing where participants learn and develop negotiation skills.

N: That sounds very interesting. Such skills are indeed very important not only in terms of the workplace but at home and in the local community.

G: Exactly. We are aiming for the participants to acquire the ability to efficiently complete what they are required to do in both workplace and home so that they are able to fully demonstrate their individuality as independent individuals finding fulfillment in both work and private life.

N: Well, the next course is *Satellite Coordinator Training*. What exactly is this course about?

G: This course is a transitional course for persons who already have a basic knowledge of promoting gender equality, such as leaders who are taking an active part in organizations and groups or public servants in charge of promoting gender equality in local government. Participants learn how to disseminate information they have and actually plan and manage projects and courses.

N: I see. So, the people who complete this course will in turn become organizers of the same course.

G: That's right. Those who complete the course will go from being recipients of information to communicators of information and are expected to take an active role as facilitators or lecturers in the local communities. They will take on the role as promoters of G-NET Shiga

in conducting lectures in local areas, communicating information about our center to local areas, and communicating local information back to our center.

N: Does everyone who completes the course become a facilitator or satellite coordinator of G-NET Shiga?

G: No, not exactly. We have adopted a registration system. This registration is not a permanent arrangement but is renewed annually, at which time we do follow-ups. There are 56 facilitators and 23 satellite coordinators involved in G-NET Shiga as of February 2006.

N: Fantastic! You seem to have so many encouraging supporters! At the same time, do you have any issues and problems?

G: Each of our facilitators has some forte and wishes to conduct activities using their personal fortes. In reality, however, requests for lectures in line with people's fortes are hard to come by.

N: Finally, I would like to ask about the *Challenge Seminar for Men*.

G: This seminar is mainly for men from middle age onwards who are approaching retirement. It's to provide men with the outlook and methods for making a soft-landing into the home and community after many long years of their lives centered on their work.

N: I see. It's seminar encouraging men to answer the challenge of discovering a new world outside the workplace after retirement. With retirement of baby-boom generation* just around the corner and growing social concerns, it is a very timely course.

G: Yes, I agree. However, courses for men at this center have been on offer since 1990, shortly after it was established.

N: I see. So if your organization was establishment was in 1986, you started offering this course twenty years ago?

G: Yes, that's right. Initially, it started as a male studies course and has continued until now under different

names and different formats following the trends of the times.

N: Very interesting. Although the theme of the course reflects the trends of the times, it is a course with considerable history indeed. I think that courses designed for men offered at a women's center might have difficulties in attracting participants. Can you tell us about the participation situation in this *Challenge Seminar for Men*?

G: As a matter of fact, there is a tremendous amount of interest in this seminar. We had 100 applicants for an enrollment limit of 50.

N: That's great! I'm very curious to know why so many applied for this seminar. What is the secret of the success of G-NET Shiga?

G: Well, let me see. First of all, perhaps the title is easy to understand and interesting. Simply by giving a course a title relevant to the times, the effectiveness of any publicity increases significantly and the chances of being picked up by media such as newspapers also increases. It is also effective if we find lecturers who may become prominent in the near future and invite them before they do become prominent.

N: Aha! I see how it is. It requires both hard efforts on a daily basis in gathering information as well as foresight. I can see evidence of the high level of consciousness of your staff.

As a final question, can you tell me in what kind of measures G-NET Shiga is thinking about focusing on hereafter?

G: First of all, to provide support for challenging issues for women. We would also like to communicate to men how important the promotion of gender equality is. Through such activities, along with establishing human network as the underlying base in our prefecture, we would like to nurture human resources who will become key persons in promoting gender equality.

We believe that voluntary promotion of such activities in communities through such people will become a powerful driving force in realizing a gender equality society in Shiga Prefecture.

N: We look forward to the further development of G-NET Shiga which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Thank you very much for today.

* Baby-boom generation: the generation born during the baby boom years from 1947 to 1949 and which in terms of population significantly outnumbers the generations which came before and after it.

General Information

G-NET Shiga Shiga Prefectural Gender Equality Center
Established in 1986. 22 number of staff. Library and reference room contains about 62,000 materials.
Services: Holding training and lectures; assisting in exchanges and activities; gathering and disseminating information (holding film showings, publishing information magazines etc.); counseling (general and special); temporary child-care

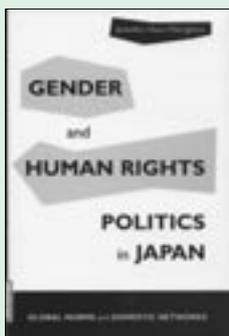
(Kuniko YAMASHITA, Staff of International Affairs Unit, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)



PUBLICATIONS

Gender and Human Rights Politics in Japan Global Norms and Domestic Networks

(by Jennifer Chan-Tiberghien, Stanford University Press, 2004)



The main purpose of this book is to revisit prevailing conceptions of the Japanese state—which tend to focus on bureaucratic dominance, party politics, and interest groups—and argue that these institution cannot explain the extensive legal and political changes in the arena of women's and children's human rights. Instead, the author advances a constructivist approach to examine the impact of

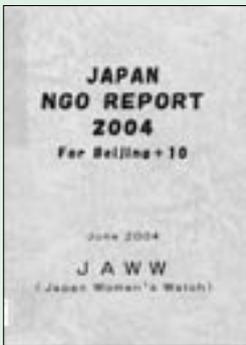
global human rights norms on Japan. This approach is exceptional in linking gender, children, and minority rights to Japanese norms.

This book offers an up-to-date account of the changes since the 1990s. It also explores the issue of universalism versus cultural relativism within human rights and feminist debates. Instead of assuming that traditional Japanese culture is at odds with the individualistic and legalistic orientation of international human rights standards, the book discusses how Japanese civil society as well as state actors grapple with the rise of the individual, the new salience of law in resolving conflicts, the emergence of horizontal networks of cooperation, and the practice of “postnational citizenship.”

<Extract from the end-paper>

JAPAN NGO REPORT 2004 For Beijing + 10

June 2004 JAWW (Japan Women's Watch)



The coming year 2005 will be an important year for women's movement in the world since it marks the 30th anniversary of the UN International Women's Year, 10th year after the Fourth UN World Conference on Women, and 5th year after "Women 2000".

Evolving from the Japan NGO Report (Preparatory) Committee (Chairperson, Michiko Nakamura) which compiled Japan NGO Report in preparation for "Women 2000," JAWW (Japan Women's Watch) was organized in 2001 and began working on the publication of this booklet. JAWW members have come to an agreement to deal with the 12 critical areas of concern (from A. through L.) listed under the "Beijing Platform for Action" as well as other five areas of concern from M. to Q. Sharing the task among its members, JAWW held intensive joint workshops to have discussions on the drafts by each area of concern at the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) in July and August 2003 and have

been promoting exchange among the members and deepening the understanding of the issues.

Assessing the implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and Outcome Document of the 23rd UN General Assembly Special Session, and other emerging issues.

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<Extract from the foreword and contents page>

Introducing NWEC

NWEC Open Symposium: Science Summer School for Girls 2005

At a time when there is growing concern that young people are moving away from science, the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) held a study and interaction program for high school girls aimed at increasing the number of young women who choose to pursue the study of science and technology in the future. The program was held over a period of two days from Monday, August 22 to Tuesday, August 23 and included one night's stay.

A total of 56 female students from 19 prefectures and 39 schools attended the program. These high school girls participated in a variety of programs including lectures by scientists and engineers whom they could look up to as role models, group discussions with university students, a science quiz competition, and consultation about careers in science at a mini-career fair with booths set up by various



academic societies. During the two-day period, the students were able to learn about the attraction of science and technology and their possibilities and had the opportunity to come into contact with people of various backgrounds.

This project was NWEC's first initiative in conducting a program for the young generation by jointly hosting it with various academic societies of natural science. The participation of 23 university students in the planning and management of the program also ensured that the high school students could thoroughly enjoy the program's activities.

Hosts: National Women's Education Center, The Physical Society of Japan, Japan Inter-Society Liaison Association Committee for Promoting Equal Participation of Men and Women in Science and Engineering (EPMEWSE), Science Council of Japan: Special Committee on Promotion of Science Capacity of Youth, Japan Science and technology Agency

Co-hosts: Society of Geomagnetism and Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences, The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, Mathematical Society of Japan, Molecular Biology Society of Japan, The Japan Society of Applied Physics, The Chemical Society of Japan, The Society of Japan Women Scientists

Cooperation: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Cabinet Office, Gender Equality Bureau

2005 FY Cambodia-Analysis of Gender Statistics Training Course

NWEC has been conducting training programs to upgrade the skills of government staff at the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia from 2004 to 2007 (Commissioned by JICA). This year the training took place from September 27 to November 4 at JICA Tokyo International Center and NWEC.



Four trainees acquired a basic knowledge in gender statistics and compiled leaflets (A-3 size, threefold format) after analyzing Cambodian government statistics using the gender statistics method. In 2004, the trainees prepared leaflets that presented gender issues in Cambodia in an easy-to-understand format. This year, however, they attempted to create leaflets with all figures shown in images and charts so that people who cannot read or write well will also be able to use the leaflets adequately.

Each trainee takes on the role of making gender mainstream in their position. Creating their own materials which they will later use assists the trainees in deepening their understanding of gender issues.

(Yuki TAKAHASHI, Researcher, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

Seminar on Support for Women's Empowerment

The Seminar on Support for Women's Empowerment for 2005 was held from Tuesday, November 29 to Friday, December 2, 2005 and was attended by 112 participants (87 women, 25 men).

The seminar was aimed at the qualitative and quantitative improvement of supporters in women's empowerment and the program, which consisted of the following topics, was an important step in resolving issues faced by participants:

1. Understanding government policies and trends and the need for women's empowerment
2. Clarification of issues confronted by participants in support activities
3. Acquisition of the specialist knowledge and practical skills required by supporters.

(Communication skills, understanding their role as study supporters, points to be aware of in business planning, and consultation for achieving effective support measures)

4. Review of the seminar outcomes and prospects for practical measures in problem resolution

The seminar proved to be very valuable in deepening meaningful discussion and exchanges among participants who came from all over Japan and in broadening the network of supporters for women's empowerment.

(Yoshiko KOHASHI, Specialist, Program Division, NWEC)

Seminar on Support for Victims of Domestic Violence

In 2005 NEWC conducted the Seminar on Support for Victims of Domestic Violence as a project commissioned by the Gender Equality Bureau, the Cabinet Office.

In view of the government's Basic Policy Concerning Measures for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, the purpose of the seminar was to promote the implementation of smooth consultation for matters of domestic violence and the provision of high level consultation at gender equality promotion facilities including Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers and Gender Equality Promotion Centers all over Japan. It was also aimed at the implementation of specialized and practical training for personnel responsible for consultation, and managers and other persons who are in the position of supervising consultation programs to improve their qualifications.

Results of a questionnaire survey conducted immediately after the seminar showed that the level of satisfaction in the seminar by seminar participants was high, indicating that the seminar had achieved its objectives.

(Chieko KOBAYASHI, Director, Program Division, NWEC)

Introduction to our foreign visitors

On Wednesday, July 13, 2005, two research fellows, Dr. Kim Namhee and Dr. Chang Mi Hye, from the Korea Women's Development Institute (KWDI) visited NWEC. The purpose of their visit was to learn what kind of support is provided in women's re-employment in regional areas of Japan. The visitors were interested in knowing what kind of messages the center communicates as a national center and what kind of activities it engages in.

After inspecting the center's facilities and paying a courtesy call to the president, a meeting was held

Revision of Charges for the National Women's Education Center Facilities

I: Since the last revision of charges in April 2002, charges for use of the National Women's Education Center facilities have been frozen for the last four years. To enable the upgrading of the facilities, however, a decision was made to go ahead with a revision in charges which are shown below. While the increases are small, they will contribute to improving services for our users. We appreciate your understanding regarding these changes and look forward to your continued patronage of our facilities.

At this time, we are also establishing a new user classification system and accompanying charges. The details are as follows:

Special Purpose Users:

Persons for whom any of the following applies qualify as Special Purpose Users:

- (1) Persons using the facilities to undertake study or training relating to women, family, gender equality;
- (2) Persons using the National Women's Education Center for study and training which in part includes a program(s) concerning women, family, and gender equality issues;
- (3) Persons using the facilities in conjunction with programs concerning women, family, and gender equality organized by national or local government organizations.

General users:

All other users for whom none of the above categories applies are classified as general users.

II: Accommodation Facility Charges during Training

Charges shown below for use of the accommodation facilities are on a per night per person basis from check in time at 15:00 to 10:00 the next day.

Type of facility	Charges until September 30, 2006	New Charges	
		User Classification	Facility Charges (per person)
Western style room (Single: with bath & toilet)	2,200 yen	Special Purpose User	2,400 yen
		General User	3,000 yen
Western style room (Twin: with bath & toilet)	2,000 yen	Special Purpose User	2,200 yen
		General User	2,800 yen
Western style room (Twin: with toilet)	1,800 yen	Special Purpose User	2,000 yen
		General User	2,600 yen
Japanese style room (for 2 people: with bath & toilet)	2,000 yen	Special Purpose User	2,200 yen
		General User	2,800 yen
Japanese style room (for 4 to 5 people: with toilet)	1,800 yen	Special Purpose User	2,000 yen
		General User	2,600 yen

*Under the new charges, a surcharge of 200 yen will apply to single use of twin rooms and Japanese style rooms for 2 people

For further inquiries about facility charges and other details, please either contact the Program Unit of our Program Division by telephone (0493-62-6711) or refer to the table of revised charges on the National Women's Education Center Web site (<http://www.nwec.jp/>)

where there was an exchange of opinions with staff at the center. After staff gave details of the center's activities, the research fellows posed a number of questions and took part in a lively discussion. The discussion resulted in a common awareness that although both Japan and Korea faced various issues concerning the re-employment of women it was important to provide women with incentives in employment. There was also a common realization that there were many issues where organizations like NWEC and KWDI could cooperate.



From Monday, November 28 to Wednesday, November 30, 2005, the center hosted four persons from Korea, Dr. Kim Jae-in, President of the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE), Dr. Song Hyunjoo, Professor, and two accompanying persons, Mr. Choi Chang-haeng, Director, The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, and Mr. Kim Byeong-cheon, Deputy Director, The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. On November 29, the visitors attended the Seminar on Support for Women's Empowerment held by NWEC as observers. After listening to a lecture given by Mr. Akira Shimizu, Director of Gender

Equality Learning Division, Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Science, the group had the opportunity to meet Mr. Shimizu.

Afterwards the group was given an overview of the center by the NWEC president and engaged in a question and answer session about the center's activities, history and other aspects. In the afternoon, the group went out for a stroll to see the historic cityscape of Kawagoe and experienced the regional culture of Saitama firsthand. On November 30, the center's training programs were explained and there was consultation concerning the details of an agreement. The visit resulted in a common desire to build closer cooperative relations between NWEC and KIGEPE in the future.

After leaving NWEC, the group visited the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Science, and the Japan Association for Women's Education on December 1. They also visited the Gender Equality Bureau, the Cabinet Office, and the Institute for Gender Studies of Ochanomizu University on December 2 and left for home on December 3. This visit by the members of KIGEPE proved to be a very meaningful occasion for NWEC not only because it afforded the opportunity to introduce the NWEC programs but also because it provided the opportunity to hold discussions on an agreement between the organizations.

At the same time, for KIGEPE, the visit to Japan was significant. In addition to visiting NWEC, they were also able to visit various organizations involved in the promotion of gender equality in Japan. (Kuniko YAMASHITA, Staff of International Affairs Unit, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Independent Administrative Institution-the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) 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 twice a year to introduce our activities.

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