

RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region was held from February 1 to 11, 2007,

Targeting government officials of development countries in position of leadership responsible for women's policy and education to realize gender-equal societies and NGO leaders. The seminar was attended by nineteen women from eight countries in the Asia Pacific Region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, and Republic of Korea) all engaged in various activities to promote women's empowerment,

During the first half of the seminar, participants learned about the current situation in Japan and measures being taken at the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and other relevant ministries. They also visited Shiseido, global cosmetics company to see their childcare support measures, WWB Japan which supports women to start-up businesses. Other visits included Gender Equality Center Yokohama, a regional women's center, where they engaged in opinion exchange with leaders of Smile Body Network (NPO) and Empowerment Kanagawa, women's organizations that address the issues of women's health and violence against women and children. They also visited WE21 which supports developing countries through raising funds in Japan by local recycling activities.

Given that the seminar aims to enhance the capabilities of leaders and build international networks among them, lecture was given on gender statistics and examples of Japanese women's networks were shared by the International Women's Year Conference – The Fusae Ichikawa Memorial Association and the National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations and the National Council of Women's Centers.

For the latter half of the seminar, participants relocated to the residential facilities at NWEC to attend workshops on leadership skills, and engaged in discussions pertinent to the formulation of action plans to address pressing issues common to all countries that influence the advancement of gender equality. At a symposium held at the Center for the Advancement of Working



Women on the final day, trainees engaged in to lively discussion of future issues and measures around the themes of human trafficking and prostitution, and gender mainstreaming in education and policies. In the end, trainees promised to cooperate while promoting women's empowerment, building an environment in which both men and women can realize their potential, and advancing measures that enable everyone to accept each others' diversity and work together.

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

The Seminar on the Promotion of Education for Girls and Women II



The Seminar on the Promotion of Education for Girls and Women II was held over the approximately one-month period from Thursday, February 1 through Friday, February 23. Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), NWEC holds the seminar targeting individuals involved with women's affairs in developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East annually since fiscal 2001.

This year's seminar was attended by a total of thirteen trainees from nine countries: two from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Malawi and Nepal, and one each from Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

The trainees acquired knowledge and perspectives necessary to formulate and implement policy to reduce gender disparities in access to education and achievement levels in developing nations by attending lectures on women's education and the education system in Japan; visiting elementary and junior high schools, and a girls' high school (junior and senior high); presenting country reports; and formulating action plans, among other activities.

With the help of NWEC volunteers, the seminar also gave trainees an excellent opportunity to experience traditional Japanese culture such as the tea ceremony and trying on *kimonos*, Japanese traditional clothes.

(Soichi SUMIYOSHI, Chief of International Affairs Unit, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

Country-specific Training – Cambodia

Four-year training program, from fiscal 2004 to 2007, is being carried out to enhance the skills of staff at the Ministry of Women in Cambodia (commissioned by JICA). This fiscal year, four trainees took part in the four-week training program from October 2 to 30.

The objective of the training is to improve the trainees' ability to formulate policy through the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills concerning gender statistics. Accordingly, gender indices were selected this year on the basis of the framework for "Nari Ratana (Women are Treasure) Plan II", Cambodia's Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and practical training was conducted to grasp the progression of relevant policies.

Having learned that although the process of selecting indices was laborious, appropriate targets could not be set without the knowledge of the actual situation, the trainees returned home confident that they would be able to make use of what they learned in their work.

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

Country-specific Training – Afghanistan

Three-week training program, focusing on the theme of collecting, analyzing and disseminating information from a gender-equal perspective, was held for eight trainees from Afghanistan's seven ministries including the Ministry of Women from February 6 to 22 (Commissioned by JICA).

Although the program had a considerably tight schedule – beginning at JICA in Tokyo, then participating in a regional study tour to Ehime Prefecture, followed by practical training at NVEC and With You Saitama before returning to JICA in

Tokyo – the trainees, all government officials in their 20s and 30s, were passionate about rebuilding their country, and their youth and enthusiasm enabled them to make the most of their first trip to Japan and the first long-term training course overseas.

NVEC's collection of women's information, and gender equality statistics accumulated from implementation of the International Training Course on Information Processing over a period of 17 years up until 2006, as well as research undertaken over the past 20 years were utilized plan and implement the program for this training. The trainees learned the importance of gender equality and returned home carrying with them the posters they had made as information dissemination tools. We are confident of their success in their future endeavors.

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



Symposium Commemorating the Conclusion of an Agreement between NVEC and the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education



The symposium commemorating the conclusion of an agreement on exchange and cooperation with the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE) was held on December 12, 2006, at the Large Conference Room in the Seminar Hall at NVEC. This Agreement, concluded on April 26, was the first for NVEC to have concluded with an institution overseas.

Dr. Jae-in Kim, president of the KIGEPE presented a keynote address on the theme “Gender Equality Education for Civil Servants in Korea” in which she described recent developments regarding education to heighten gender-sensitive perspectives and prevent sexual harassment as a means of gender equality education for civil servants responsible for promoting women's policies and gender equal policies in Republic of Korea.

This was followed by a panel discussion on the theme “An Image of Leaders to Promote Gender Equality”. Coordinated by Ms. Mariko Hara (journalist), three panelists, President Kim, Ms. Yasuko Kagawa (President of WE Plaza, Hiroshima Women's Education Center) and Dr. Michiko Kanda (President of NVEC) cited examples from Korea, Japan and England as they engaged in a lively exchange of opinion on kinds of measures women's centers should implement to promote gender equality as well as on roles of leaders based on their regional circumstances.

A fruitful discussion ensued with the participation of citizens and staff of women's facilities active in Tokyo, Kyushu and other areas nationwide.

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

International Forum for Women's Empowerment (YOMIURI - NWECA ACADEMIA 21)

The International Forum for Women's Empowerment was held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 in conjunction with an international comparative study conducted by NWECA.

Given the theme "To have a child or not? Child rearing around the world - From the International Comparative Research on Home Education", Dr. Takashi Inoguchi, Professor of Chuo University talked about his own experience of child raising in his keynote speech, and Ms. Hiroe Nakano, Senior Researcher and Director of the Office of Research and International Affairs, NWECA, gave a general overview of the International Comparative Research on Home Education (targeting France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and USA) conducted by the Center.



Then panelists from Japan (Ms. Katsuko Makino, Visiting Professor, Ochanomizu University), Republic of Korea (Dr. Seungah Hong, Research Fellow, Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI)), France (Dr. Frédérique Leprince, Municipal Director of Family Policies in France), and the USA (Dr. Ralph LaRossa, Professor, Georgia State

University) gave reports on such issues as the current status of fathers' participation in housework and childcare, and family policy in their respective countries.

Professor Makino said the results of the International Comparative Study on Family Education revealed that although the gender disparity in time spent participating in housework remained large in Japan with fathers spending very little time with their children at present, contemporary fathers did not think that this situation is right and worried about spending so little time with their children. She identified this as a sign of change in Japanese fathers.

Dr. Hong noted that while the valley in the M-shaped curve describing women's participation in labor had been becoming shallower of late, women shouldered a disproportionate responsibility for housework and childcare, and reported that women faced dilemma between their increasing career mindedness and persistently deep-rooted perceptions of gender roles.

Dr. Leprince said that social acceptance of freedom of lifestyle lay behind France's growing fertility rate, and the current situation was such that not only did the country offer various support measures and social security, but companies also actively supported child-raising and a work-life balance.

Dr. LaRossa talked about changes in American fathers who, compared to the '70s and '80s, had come to regard child raising as an important part of their lives, and reported that the current situation was such that couples now chose when to have children in accordance with their life plan, and fathers had become more involved in the growth of their children due to the popularization of developmental psychology.

In the discussion of country reports, a lively debate took place on the current situation of women's advancement in society, housework and child-raising in Korea, the background to France's high fertility rate, and transitions in images of the ideal father in the USA. Dr. Inoguchi and Dr. Keiko Funabashi of Shizuoka University wrapped up the panel discussion by offering their thoughts and the forum drew to a successful close.

The contents of this forum was covered in a feature article on pages 28-29 of the March 7, 2007 issue of the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's newspaper with the largest circulation. Details can be viewed only in Japanese on the following website.

http://job.yomiuri.co.jp/afterfive/jo_af_07030701.cfm

(Hiroe NAKANO, Director and Senior Researcher, Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO NWEC (September 2006 – March 2007)



Ms. Kum-Lae Kim, Executive Director of Seoul Women's Foundations (SWF), Dr. Seon-Ju Koh, Director of Policy Development Dept., SWF, Mr. Sang-Sek Jeong, Manager of Planning & Coordination Dept., SWF, and Ms. Jiwoon Lee, Program Officer of Program Support Dept., SWF visited the Center on December 14, 2006. After meeting the President and a tour of the center, they had an informal meeting with Center staff. Both institutions expressed their wishes to further exchanges.

Dr. Barbara S. Lollar of the Department of Geology, University of Toronto visited the Center on the introduction of Professor Kimiko Murofushi of Ochanomizu University on January 12, 2007. After meeting the President, Dr. Lollar gave a lecture on Women Scientists in Canada including her own inspiring experiences to Center staff and a lively discussion ensued.



Dr. Elsa Poupardin, Senior Lecturer at the University Louis Pasteur in France visited the Center with Prof. Kenji Miwa of Ochanomizu University on March 28, 2007. After meeting the President and a tour of the center, she had an informal meeting with Center staff. Dr. Poupardin talked about the current status of women's advancement in the field of science and technology in France and related issues, and discussion ensued.

Dr. Poupardin was charmed by the beauty of the pure white flowers of the magnolia kobus tree in full bloom in front of the Center's entrance.

(Kuniko YAMASHITA, Staff of Planning Unit, Administration Division, NWEC)

FY2007 Programs by National Women's Education Center (NWECC)

1 Improvement of the quality and capabilities of core leaders of women's education

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Contents
Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations 【Course for Managerial Staff】 【Course for Group Leaders】	Managerial staff at women's facilities and leaders of women's groups and organizations 100 persons	Wed. 13 - Fri. 15, June 2007	Conduct advanced and specialized training to facilitate the acquisition of specialized knowledge, management skills, uses of networks, etc. required of leaders who proactively promote gender equality in their communities.

Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents	Notes
Research on Women's Facilities	Researchers in the fields of women's education and lifelong learning; staff at women's facilities, etc	Research women's facilities' programs, management systems, etc. to clarify the roles they play in women's empowerment and the formation of a gender-equal society, and evaluate their social impact.	Second year of a 3-year plan initiated in fiscal 2006

2 Development and popularization of learning programs related to pressing issues concerning gender equality, women's education and family education

Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents	Notes
Research on Women's Career Development Programs	Researchers and practitioners in the fields of women's education, lifelong learning, women's labor and career education	Research the learning content and learning methods needed to support women's careers, including new challenges with the aim of supporting women's career development throughout their lives. Focus on how careers develop through social activities in the community with the aim of examining measures that effectively support "diverse careers" comprising all kinds of social experiences such as work activities, social activities and lifelong learning, and develop support programs.	Second year of a 2-year plan initiated in fiscal 2006
Research on Child Raising and Family Life Support Programs	Researchers in fields related to family education, those involved in child raising support, government officers, etc.	Research the learning content and learning methods needed to advance family education and child raising support from the perspective of gender equality, and develop support programs based on gender equal perspectives.	Second year of a 2-year plan initiated in fiscal 2006

Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents
Training Course for Leaders of Child Raising and Family Life Support 【NWECC Training】 Training Seminar for Leaders of Child Raising and Family Life Support 【Regional Training】 Child Raising and Family Life Forum with Regional Cooperation	【NWECC Training】 100 persons -Officials in charge of support for family education and child raising in prefectures and designated cities -Leaders of child raising supporters, child raising networks, etc. -Individuals in charge of corporate social contributions, raising of the next generation, etc. 【Regional Training】 100 persons -Officials responsible for support for family education and child raising in cities, towns and villages -Leaders of child raising supporters, child raising networks, child raising circles, etc.	 【NWECC Training】 Fri. 18 - Sat 19, May 2007 【Regional Training】 October- December 2007	 Given a background of rapidly declining birthrate and environmental changes surrounding families and communities, conduct specialized and practical training necessary to support family education and raising of the next generation based on gender equal perspectives with the aim of establishing an environment conducive giving birth to and raising healthy children to shoulder the next generation

Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents
Training Program for Spousal Violence Counselors of Women's facilities	Counselors at women's facilities such as public and private women's centers 60 persons	Wed.18 - Fri 20. July 2007	Aim to improve the quality of counseling services and enable them to respond to the increasingly diverse and complex nature of consultations by facilitating the acquisition of specialized knowledge and advanced skills needed to resolve contemporary issues.
Forum on Exchange in Research and Practices Promoting Gender Equality	-Administrators of gender equality, women's education, family education, etc. -Staff of women's facilities -Leaders of women's groups and organizations -Researchers, etc. 600 persons	Fri.31 Oct - Sun. 2 Sep 2007	Promote the provision and exchange of research results and highly specialized information based on related practices, and the building of domestic and international networks with the aim of supporting activities that contribute to the establishment of women's empowerment and the formation of a gender-equal society.

3 Provision of information, materials and research findings relating to gender equality, women's education and family education

Program	Contents		
Construction of Women's Archives	Collect and organize materials related to women and make the "Women's Digital Archive System" and the Women's Archive Center partially accessible to the public.		
Information Center for Women's Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection, Organization and Provision of Information and Materials on Women and Family • Reference Service and Photocopy Service • Exhibitions of Books and other Materials on Women and Family 		
Maintenance and Development of the Women's Information Portal "Winet"	Improve dissemination of information by updating the contents of portal sites for women and families and the various databases constructed and provided by the Center that contribute to the formation of a gender-equal society		
Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents	Notes
Research on Gender Statistics	Researchers and experts in the fields of women's studies, gender research and statistics	Research the content of statistical data on men and women that contributes to the formation of a gender-equal society and methods of provision, etc.	Second year of a 3-year plan initiated in fiscal 2006

4 Promotion of international contributions and collaboration related to gender equality and women's education

Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents	Notes
Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region	Administrative officers and NGO leaders (incl. Japan) 20 persons	Thurs.10-Sat.19 January 2008 10 days	Conduct a practical participatory seminar on women's capacity building and personnel training for administrative officers responsible for women's policy and education and NGO leaders in a position to disseminate and popularize the results of training in developing countries etc.	
Country-specific Training	Staff at the Ministry of Women in Cambodia, etc. 4 persons	Four weeks in May - June 2007 [NVEC will not solicit participants]	Conduct practical participatory training for staff at the Ministry of Women in Cambodia, etc. with the aim of improving their ability to formulate, implement and monitor policy through the acquisition of knowledge and skills related to gender statistics.	(Commissioned by JICA) Fourth year of a 4-year plan initiated in fiscal 2004

Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents	Notes
International Forum for Women's Empowerment (30 th Anniversary Event)	Men and women with an interest in women's education and learning in Japan and overseas 100 persons	The.20 th Wed. 21 November 2007	Invite overseas specialists and analyze issues pertinent to the Asian Pacific Region around themes of a global scale such as women's human rights and women's capacity building and training; deepen exchange with researchers, government officials and leaders of women's organizations, etc. overseas; and promote the building of networks.	
Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents		Notes
Research on Multifaceted Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Education and Awareness Raising	Researchers and practitioners specializing in fields such as women's education, social education, jurisprudence, information science, social policy, international cooperation.	Clarify human trafficking situation, and conduct research that will contribute to development of a program that focuses on the kind of preventive measures, education and awareness raising needed to resolve the issue.		【NEW】 First year of a 2-year plan initiated in fiscal 2007

5 Learning Support Programs

Program	Contents
Learning Support Program	Respond to inquiries about programs planned and implemented by groups and organizations that use the National Women's Education Center. Expand the services provided to users and usage by providing and implementing NVEC programs related to gender equality
Social Education Internship Program	Aims to enable students taking practical courses in social education at universities to learn the current status of women's education and the roles played by women's facilities through experiential learning in the form of assistant work at sponsored programs. Period: One week including the duration of the sponsored program Acceptance: a few individuals

6 Publications

Name	Contents & Distribution
NVEC Newsletter	Introduces NVEC activities and updates on the current status of women in Japan to readers overseas in English. Main distribution: Overseas government institutions responsible for women's issues; women's centers and organizations; and international organizations, etc. Information dissemination: On demand (URL: http://www.nvec.jp/en/publish/#head1)
NVEC News	Provides information on NVEC activities; researches and the ensuing reports and preparation of material; fundamental knowledge about words; users' opinions; and articles related to the Center. Distribution: Government institutions; women's facilities; women's organizations; universities; mass media; general, etc. Publication: Quarterly (April, July & October 2007; January 2008)
Journal of the National Women's Education Center of Japan (Vol. 11)	Publishes NVEC research on women's education, family education, women's studies and women's information in Japan and overseas as well as selected publicly solicited papers. Publication: Annual August 2007 Theme "International Comparisons of Child Rearing and Working styles"
Annual Report of the National Women's Education Center of Japan	Outlines study, exchange, research and information programs implemented by NVEC during fiscal 2006. Publication: Annual May 2007 Distribution: Prefectural boards of education, women's facilities, women's organizations and other relevant institutions.

7 Programs Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Opening of NWEC

Program		Date	
Commemorative Ceremony		Fri. 16 November 2007	
Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents
International Forum for Women's Empowerment	Men and women with an interest in women's education and learning in Japan and overseas 100 persons	The. 20 - Wed. 21 November 2007	Invite overseas specialists and analyze issues pertinent to the Asian Pacific Region around themes of a global scale such as women's human rights and women's capacity building and training; deepen exchange with researchers, government officials and leaders of women's organizations, etc. overseas; and promote networking.
Name	Contents		Published
Commemorative booklet	Commemorate the 30 th Anniversary of the opening of the NWEC and its 30-year history.		November 2007

INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN'S CENTERS IN JAPAN

The National Council of Women's Centers' "Subsidized Programs"

The National Council of Women's Centers

The National Council of Women's Centers (President: Ms. Teruko OHNO) was established in 1956 as a network organization of women's facilities (gender equality centers, women's centers, women's organizations, etc.) throughout Japan. There are approximately 360 women's facilities nationwide, 87 of which are currently members of the National Council.

Key activities of the National Council of Women's Centers include organizing the national conference each year; providing information and training for managerial and regular staff of women's facilities; engaging in counseling and consulting on the management and operation of women's facilities; and providing support to enable women's facilities in each area to offer more substantial programs and to manage their facilities as a hub for promoting gender equality.

Subsidize "Computer Courses" to member centers by the grant from private businesses

We have "Subsidized Programs" which is one of the support programs for member centers. We provide them with funds financed by private businesses etc.

During 2006-2007, we received a grant from Microsoft Inc. to carry out the program called "ICT Training Course for Women in Financial Difficulties" to the members.

Planned by the National Council of Women's Centers, this program is currently being offered to 1200 people at 17 member centers nationwide as the women's version of the

"UP (Unlimited Potential) Program" (a social contribution program that offers support to the elderly, the disabled and others who have little opportunity to use IT (Information Technology) with the aim of eliminating the IT gap) being developed worldwide by Microsoft Inc.



Characteristics of this program

“ICT Training Course for Women in Financial Difficulties” is a program with characteristics typical of women’s facilities. It only targets “women in financial difficulties” such as single mother households and DV victims unlike ICT training courses offered at private culture centers, community centers. Moreover, as the objective of the program is to facilitate “women in financial difficulties” to find jobs and become independent, it not only provides ICT training, but also enables participants to learn how to look for a job, how to write an effective CV, job interview skills, how to put on make-up appropriate for interviews and other essential skills. It also provides participants with information that enables them to make full use of the various courses, and information provision, counseling and other services provided as regular programs at women’s facilities.

“Subsidized Programs” that realize the mission of women’s facilities

Having the National Council of Women’s Centers intermediate between businesses and member centers to conduct “subsidized programs” offers businesses the merit of ensuring that programs are held nationwide, and offers women’s facilities in each area the important merit of securing program expenses externally at a time when budgets are severely restrained. Moreover, conducting this program provides an opportunity to advance cooperation and collaboration with various institutions in each region, and to make use of social resources.

However, we believe it is important to ensure that “subsidized programs” conducted by the National Council of Women’s Centers are also significant in realizing our mission to enhance the management and operation of women’s facilities and promote gender equality. Accordingly, before conducting this “subsidized program”, we hold a two-day residential training course where the people who will be in charge learn about the meaning of the program and relevant skills. This also provides them with an opportunity to exchange information and network among themselves.

In order for women’s centers to become rooted within their communities as hubs for promoting gender equality, they must carefully ascertain their mission and be recognized as a facility that can realize it. The “subsidized programs” conducted by the National Council of Women’s Centers are positioned to realize the necessary support.

(Sachiko KIZAWA, Staff of the National Council of Women’s Centers)

For Further information

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Announcement regarding Digitalization of NWECE Newsletter

Thank you for reading our NWECE Newsletter.

NWECE Newsletter has been publishing since 1984 information on various activities undertaken by the National Women’s Education Center as well as women in Japan. The paper-based newsletter will be reborn as a digital-based news source to facilitate more efficient and timely dissemination of the information.

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

NWECE Home Page(English) <http://www.nwec.jp/en/>

NWECE Newsletter Top Page <http://www.nwec.jp/en/publish/#head1>

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