

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thoughts on the opening of the Women's Archives Center

Come April, the National Women's Education Center will be surrounded by cherry blossoms, flowering quince and magnolias in a glorious announcement of spring. NWEC will be bubbling with groups of high school and university students who have come for residential orientation meetings. NWEC, thirty years old last year, will be opening a new facility—The Women's Archives Center.



The Women's Archives Center will systematically collect, organize and conserve important records and materials related to women from women's perspectives. Archives are treasure houses of history and source materials—diaries, letters, manuscripts and photographs of individual women who fought their way to be recognized as equal members of society. NWEC plans to collect materials concerning individual women and women's organizations, as well as educational and national policies affecting women who have contributed greatly towards creating a gender-equal society, focusing on Ten Years toward Equality starting from the Meiji era.

Today, valuable materials that trace the advancement of women are in danger of being lost in the process of administrative mergers of towns and cities, or as their owners pass on and leave us. This short message is a plea to my readers to please bring to the attention of NWEC any knowledge you may have of such cases.

NWEC will not just collect materials but will also put them at the disposal of all initiatives to support educational and research activities for the promotion of gender-equal attitudes and policies. Our illustrious pioneers such as Ms. Mumeo Oku, Ms. Raicho Hiratsuka and Ms. Fusae Ichikawa had to overcome unimaginable trials in meeting the challenges of finding an equal place for women in our society. How they overcame those challenges cannot be fully understood just by reading published writings or records of their activities. I believe we can come closer to understanding their dreams and their trials by going through original materials housed in our archives.

I personally have an interest in how those pioneers linked their own wish for social participation with a vision

for the creation of a gender-equal society. In our times, I fear that too many of us think only about our own future. We may learn that those pioneers too may have begun by seeking a better future for themselves. My interest lies in discovering by what process they were able to reconcile their self-interest with their concern for others and come to adopt the realization of a gender-equal society as their purpose in life. Their motives may be complex but are sure to be illuminating, and I shall have joy in getting to know these people personally through the materials in the archives. The cherry blossom in full bloom will remind me of the treasures that await us.

Extract from NVEC News No.121 (May 5 , 2008)

RECENT NVEC ACTIVITIES

Women's Archives Center was opened



The Women's Archives Center was opened on 12 June 2008 by President of NVEC Michiko KANDA. The opening ceremony was held with the attendance of invited guests and participants of training course to promote gender equality for leaders of women's facilities and women's groups and organizations.

After the ceremony, the attendances visited the Exhibition Room and looked on an exhibition introducing some of the collections of NVEC such as Inatori Experimental Women's Class Archive.

Women's Archives Center

The Women's Archives Center at NVEC collects historical materials on pioneer women, women's group activities and public records on women's education and women's/gender-equal policy.

The acquired materials will be organized and preserved and the Center will make use of them for learning and research activities to realize a gender-equal society in collaboration with other organizations.

Collections

■ Subject areas:

- (1) Women's education
- (2) Women's issues, women's labor, women's movement and women's policy
- (3) Individuals and Women's groups
- (4) Materials used for compiling women's history
- (5) Materials on NVEC

■ Periods: Mainly from Meiji Era (1860's-) to UN Decade for Women (1976-1985)

■ Geographical areas: Materials on nationally influenced women's activities

■ Materials: Unpublished official and private records, documents, audio records and visual records



Women's Digital Archives System

The catalogue records and digital images of the collection became available on the Internet on 15 October 2008.

(URL:<http://w-archive.nvec.jp/>)

Exhibition

Regular Exhibition

- Exhibition Room at 1st Floor of Main Building
- Admission Free

Special Exhibition

Once a year

(Fri. 10, October-Tue. 23, December, 2008)

- Exhibition Room at 1st Floor of Main Building
- Admission Free

Information for Visitors

Reading Room (3rd Floor of Main Building)

- Opening Hours : 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Browsing Request : 9:00 ~ 16:30)
- Closed Days : Closed days of NWECC
- Browsing :
 - Materials are in closed access stores.
Please fill in an application form and submit to the reception desk.
 - Those who wish to visit on Saturdays, Sundays and National Holidays are advised to contact in advance.



Exhibition (Exhibition Room at 1st Floor of Main Building)

Our collections will be introduced at Exhibition Room.
We also construct our exhibition to show what the archive is.

- Opening Hours : 9:00 ~ 17:00
- Closed Days : Closed days of NWECC
- Admission Free

A guided tour is available upon request.
Please contact in advance.



Country-specific Training – Nigeria (Commissioned by JICA)

Gender-equal Community Development Planning for Staff at Women's Centers

Country-specific training for Nigeria was conducted in continuation from last year. Individuals involved in the “Project on Activation of Women Development Centers (WDCs) to Improve Women's Livelihood” currently being conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Nigeria were invited to Japan to learn about the role staff in public institutions play in supporting women.

This year, four trainees visited Japan between Mon., June 30 and Fri., August 1. NWECC's program offered training on the role national centers play in promoting gender equality during the four-day period Tues., July 15 through Fri., 18.

The trainees also visited Aichi Women's Center (Will Aichi) and Nagoya City Gender Equality Promotion Center as examples of local government centers.



Trainees experience making sticky rice cake while researching farming villages

With the assistance of Professor Nishikawa's Laboratory at Nagoya University, trainees conducted interviews about women's activities and efforts to revitalize farming villages in Seinaiji-mura, Achi-mura and Neba-mura, three villages in the Shimoina district of Nagano prefecture, as well as case research analyzing the results of these interviews.

The training program concluded with a TV conference with Nigeria where each of the trainees presented what they had learnt.

JICA Technical cooperation project in Nigeria

The Project on Activation of Women Development Centres (WDCs) to improve women's livelihood

Kiyomi Kaida (JICA)

The National Center for Women Development (NCWD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a three-year long technical cooperation project jointly in January 2007. Its title is the “Project on Activation of Women Development Centers (WDCs) to Improve Women's Livelihood” (WDC Activation Project). It aims to develop a guideline for activating WDCs based on the experiences of the pilot project with a

view to contribute to women's empowerment in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, women's empowerment is crucial to mitigate poverty at grass-roots level since women play an essential role for welfare within a household as well as community. The role of Nigerian women in household is various for example: engaging in (i) income generation activities and (ii) household activities such as fetching water & firewood and taking care of basic education and health issues of family members. However, these are not fully realized because of various limitations surrounding women such as limited participation in decision making in the household. Also the limited access to ownership, credit facilities and resources are affecting on women's situation.

Against these situations, NCWD and JICA consider that a key player is Women Development Centres (WDCs), and decide to launch a project for activation of WDCs. In Nigeria, WDCs were established throughout the country during 1980's and 1990's for the purpose of empowering grass-roots women through the vocational training and basic literacy education. WDCs had contributed to improve women's capacities at that time. However, most of WDCs are nowadays deserted, or are not in good condition. Each Local Government has at least one WDC, which means that more than 774 WDCs exist in Nigeria. (There are 774 Local Government under 36 States in Nigeria) This is a big resource for women's empowerment at grass roots level if utilized properly.

To reduce poverty at household level, the following three aspects would be essential, (1) to increase household income itself, (2) to reduce household expenditure and unnecessary chores through better management of household, (3) to allocate the current household resources for the basic needs.

The household income will be increased if women earn income as well as men do. The household will be better managed if women are more educated and have more knowledge on nutrition, health, childcare, accounting and so on. The household resources will be allocated to the daily life necessities if women participate in decision making on the household expenditure. For women to earn income, to be educated and to participate in decision making within household, women need to be empowered. This project, therefore, chose women's empowerment approach to address the poverty reduction at household level.

Women's empowerment approach does not intend to reinforce the existence gender division of labor such as men to be breadwinners while women to be homemakers. It is however realistic to focus on women's skills and knowledge concerning their role of homemakers as the first step to improve women's condition in their everyday life. It is assumed that as the women's condition is improved to some extent, then the needs to improve women's position would be arisen, which will require to challenge the existence gender division of labor, such as participation in decision making within household and in community.

In this project, we define the WDC activation in the following three aspects; 1) WDC service quality is improved, 2) Positive recognition to WDC from community is increased, 3) WDC management quality is improved. To improve the WDC service quality, the project has been providing a series of skill up training for WDC instructors, for example, sewing, knitting, food processing and maintenance of sewing/knitting machine. A study tour to the advanced WDC in Zamfara State was also conducted to broaden the views of WDC instructors. To increase positive recognition to WDC from community, a three months long radio programme was broadcasted. Government officials, religious and traditional rulers, WDC participants and their husbands participated in the radio programme and talked their experiences and views on WDC. This radio programme created understanding on WDC activities and women's empowerment in Kano State. To improve WDC

management quality, management training has been provided to WDC instructors and Local Government officials, and after a series of management training, WDC staff can handle record keeping, report writing and personnel management.

Since the Project started, it has been producing a lot of positive impacts on women and men at grass roots level as well. More husbands allow their wives to go to WDC to acquire skills, more women come to WDC, and more community people recognize that WDC participants are more educated and can assist their family. WDC participants get to know other women at WDC and share their ideas and problems, learn how to set up their business and become confident of being engaged in social and economic activities outside their home.

The NCWD/JICA WDC activation project will continue to work for grassroots women together with Nigerian civil servants until the end of the project.

Impression on training at NWEC from Nigerian trainees

Mr. Emmanuel Onilearo, Nigerian Trainee in 2008

The training at NWEC opened our eyes to various ways. This training will enable me to ensure quality service delivery in executing project. We shared few things in common, and still some aspects could be introduced to suit Nigerian context. The knowledge I learnt at the training will be helpful to train other staff in my workplace.

Ms. Jummai Modu, Nigerian Trainee in 2007

The NWEC concept is just like NCWD, but NWEC is more advance in term of management, training, research and documentation. Their library is well equipped than the one we have, for example, it's computerized, so that one can research, exchange views easily. NWEC has more activities than NCWD. They provide education for training and women and people come from different part of the world to research, for training and to also empower themselves. The concept of NWEC is also to create a network for women in terms of gender equality and engage in activities such as organizing conferences each year, consulting on the management training and operation of women facilities, women come from different part of the world to NWEC to participate on one or two activities to provide women's empowerment.

Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations

NWEC carried out a residential Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations, from June 11 to 13, 2008. All in all 109 participants, including managers of women's facilities, and leaders of women's groups, organizations and NPOs, came from Aomori prefecture in the north and Okinawa in the south. The 2008 management course was jointly organized with not-for-profit National Council of Women's Centers, from planning to implementation.



With the recent introduction of designated manager system and an increased attention given to public and private partnerships, the roles of regional women's facilities and organizations have become increasingly important. Under the circumstances, NWEC has been surveying and researching on the status of women's facilities, organizations and related NPOs. Based on the outcome of the research we decided to adopt as themes

for this year's training: empowerment of managers of women's facilities and leaders of organizations as well as building partnerships and collaborative relations between and among facilities and organizations.

Highlights of the concrete outcomes are as follows: the program started with learning about the recent trends in gender equality policies and measures, and a desirable perspective from which gender equality should be addressed. Issues surrounding women's facilities and organizations identified in surveys conducted by the Center were discussed in small groups. The second day (June 12) marked the opening of the Women's Archives Center and the participants were invited to see the exhibits. This was followed by 3 case reports: one on regional efforts to nurture a vision of gender equality against a pressing need to resolve certain problems by Osaka Prefectural Women's Center and Dawn Center. The second case involved building partnerships and cooperative relationships by Shiroi City Youth and Women Center and a case of training regional leaders to promote gender equality on the part of Hachinohe Women for Town Building. There were heated discussions that focused on how partnerships and collaborative relations could be built between women's facilities and organizations. Participants from the two courses were asked to prepare concrete plans for their future activities. On the last day, participants were divided into a group of managers and a group of organization leaders and held two sub-sessions: "Recognize the importance of evaluation" and "Focus on nurturing leaders within the organization."

Some participants wrote the following on the questionnaire they were asked to fill: "The programs provided during three days and two nights were organically related so that I was able to follow the contents step by step", "I believe what I have learned at the training will give me an enormous support in operating my organization.", "Workshop themes were well chosen and I found group-work to be meaningful."

Summer School for High and Junior High School Girls

"Girls love science too!" To answer the burning desires of girl students, NWECC organized a Summer School for High and Junior High School Girl Students-Budding Scientists and Engineers on August 14 to 16, a three-day residential program.



The Summer School for High and Junior High School Girl Students 2008 had the objective of providing them opportunities to consider science and engineering option for their academic career. Female researchers and engineers from universities and business enterprises engaged in the state-of-the-art research and practical development shared their rich experiences encouraging young

women to find an exciting world for themselves. The event was co-hosted by NWECC, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan Inter-Society Liaison Association Committee for Promoting Equal Participation of Men and Women in Science and Engineering (EPMEWSE), Subcommittee on Promoting Science, Science and Social Commission, Science Council of Japan. From all parts of the country 110 girl students participated in the summer school.

This year, being the fourth year, the participation was extended to allow third year junior high school students

in addition to those from the high schools. With a broad partnership among academic societies and research institutes we had girl students who have successfully enrolled in the science and engineering courses, graduate school students and researchers participated to share their experiences enriching the scientific program. The feature of this year's program centered on three key words: Initiation, Interaction and International, encouraging students to form small groups to get to know and engage in dialogue with scientists and engineers. On completion of the program participating girl students were assigned as science ambassadors. They were asked to actively engage in PR activities focusing on attractiveness of science and engineering courses.

At the opening ceremony, Professor Kimiko Murofushi of Ochanomizu University and member of the Subcommittee on Promoting Science, Science and Social Commission, Science Council of Japan gave the 110 participating students great encouragement.

On the second day, the participants were invited as science explorers to explore 8 experimental practical training sessions, 33 poster sessions and career counseling and enjoying an experience of sharing dreams in English booth in search of scientific treasure. The evening program was trained on chaperons who shared their thoughts on what kinds of people universities and business enterprises were seeking. Teachers and parents, as well as participating university lecturers and business people enjoyed informal exchange on those pertinent subjects.

Throughout the 3 days, students enjoyed scientific entertainment planned by their seniors, female university students, as well as preparing science explorer reports and play scientific cards. They got to know undergraduate and graduate students and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the participatory creative programs.



Experiments / Practical Sessions

“Secret of eggs”



“Natural Radiation through Cosmic Nuclear Phenomena”

“Let's find the origins of rice ingrained in its DNA”



“Observing nature in a bird sanctuary”



Other Sessions

“Measuring Comfort-Relationship between Environment and Temperature”

“Find a clue to mathematics looking through folded paper (origami)”

“Manipulating light and LASER (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation)”

Participants wrote enthusiastically: how they were able to share uncertainties with peers around the country, how three days were full of fun, and how talking with undergraduate and graduate female students were important experiences in choosing their own career path. Others said, their perspectives were broadened by being exposed to fields they had little knowledge of, talking with university professors and students confirmed my expectation for science and engineering option. It seemed that the 3 days exposed students to living worlds of science and engineering and were productive days in discovering their own treasures.

NWEC gratefully acknowledges the generous cooperation extended to us from joint organizers, academic societies, research institutes and business enterprises in running the program.

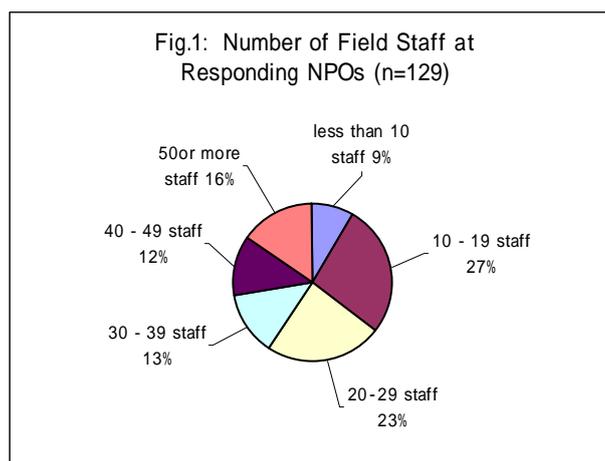
RESEARCH OF NWEC

Research on Women's Career Development Programs

NPO activities have attracted attention in recent years as a field in which women can develop diverse careers. NWEC conducted a field survey of women's NPO activities in 2006. Questionnaires were distributed to 300 certified NPOs headed by women and 3000 female staff working for them. Responses were received from 129 NPOs and 717 individuals.

Small-scale community-based activities

In terms of responding NPOs' scale of activities, 79.1% were "active on a community level"; 9.3% were "active on a national level"; and 7.0% were "active on an international level". Organizations with less than 20 active staff accounted for more than one-third of the total number (Fig. 1), and the majority of organizations were involved in small-scale community-based activities. Moreover, approximately 30% were engaged in activities to promote the formation of a gender-equal society, a higher-than-normal level for NPOs in general.



Well-educated middle-aged housewives are at the core of activities

The average age of female staff responding to the survey was 51.1, and 66.8% had spouses. 81.7% had children, and the average age of their youngest child was 21.9. With regard to the composition of their current households, approximately 40% "live as a couple with unmarried children"; approximately 20% "live as a couple with one or other of their parents" or "live as a couple on their own" respectively, and 10% "live alone." Approximately 40% had experienced nursing or assisting a family member, 30% of whom were currently engaged in doing so. Of those who were married, approximately 70% responded that the husband was the main "breadwinner" while the wife was the main "homemaker."

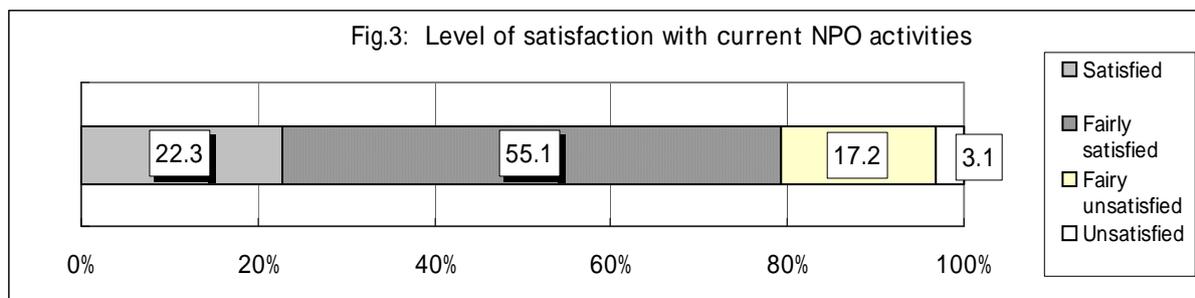
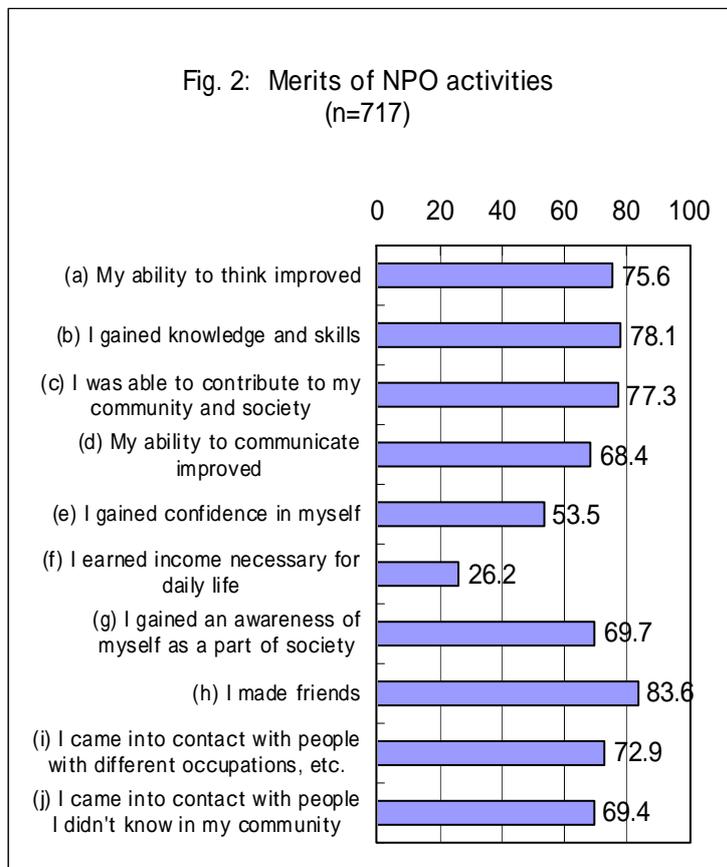
Approximately 40% of all respondents engaged in jobs other than their NPO activities, and their main occupations were professionals (39.9%), clerical (19.0%), service-sector (15.7%), management (6.5%) and sales and retail (6.0%). With regard to the personal annual incomes of all respondents, including those who did not

engage in jobs other than their NPO activities, the largest percentage, 28.2%, earned “1~2 million yen,” followed by “less than 500,000 yen” (21.3%), and “2~3 million yen” (12.4%), a low level overall. Moreover, in terms of their annual income from NPO activities, an overwhelmingly large percentage, 49.9%, earned “less than 500,000 yen,” followed by “500,000~1 million yen” (10.9%) and “1~2 million yen” (16.2%); three-quarters of all respondents earned an annual income of less than 2 million yen from their NPO activities. With regard to education, 32.2% graduated from high school, 13.4% from “vocational or other type of school”; 21.8% from “junior or technical college”; 25.5% from “university”; and 3.3% from “graduate school”; approximately half of the respondents completed some form of higher education. Given the aforementioned attributes of respondents, we can say that women who engage in NPO activities are generally educated, middle-aged, married women whose husbands are the main breadwinner.

Merits and demerits of NPO activities

The most frequently cited merit of NPO activities was “I made friends” 83.6%, followed by “I gained knowledge and skills” 78.1%; “I was able to contribute to my community and society” 77.3%; “My ability to think improved” 75.6%; and “I came into contact with people with different occupations, etc.” 72.9% (Fig. 2).

However, when asked about their level of satisfaction with their current NPO activities, only a little more than 20% responded “satisfied”; more than half responded “fairly satisfied”; and approximately 20% responded “fairly unsatisfied” or “unsatisfied.” The level of satisfaction is not high in general. Income from NPO activities is low and only 26.2% cited “I earned income necessary for daily life” as a “merits of NPO activities.” While women are aware of the positive effects of NPO activities such as networking, career development and contributing to society, they are currently unable to fulfill their ambitions in terms of direct economic effect in the form of income.



Research on Promotion for Girls' Career Development on the Field of Science and Technology

The National Women's Education Center conducted "Research on Promotion for Girls' Career Development on the Field of Science and Technology" in fiscal 2007 under commission from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology. This research investigated effective gender-equal measures for enhancing female students' interest and understanding of science and technology and aimed to raise awareness of the resulting outcome among individuals involved in social education and promote adoption of such measures with a view to supporting promotion of their advance into related fields.

The current status of girls' advance into science and technology fields in Japan

International comparison of the percentage of researchers accounted for by women reveals that the percentage of female Japanese researchers is extremely low (Fig. 1). Measures to promote women's participation in science and technology fields comprise a pressing issue in terms of realizing a gender-equal society.

Although the absence of an environment conducive to allowing female researchers to continue their research contributes to the low percentage of female researchers, even before that, there is a large gender gap in the selection of such a career path. Compared to male elementary and junior high school students, interest and confidence in their ability to excel at science and math is lower among their female counterparts, and there is a tendency for parents and teachers to have lower expectations of girls. When choosing courses of study at university and graduate school, the percentage of girls opting to advance into science and technology fields is also lower. Even among those advancing into undergraduate faculties of science and technology, the percentage of female students advancing into master's and doctoral programs is lower in many faculties. To encourage women's participation in science and technology fields, we need to provide numerous opportunities for female students to become interested in science and technology and think about choosing a career in a related field.

Roles played by social education facilities

In view of the gender gap currently observed in students' choices of career path, this research examined the role social education facilities play in terms of proactively supporting female junior and senior high school students' selection of science and technology career paths. We conducted interviews at social education facilities offering relevant programs, engaged in discussion with relevant individuals at social education facilities and boards of education nationwide, and used the outcome of these activities to compile a report summarizing concrete ways of raising social education facilities' awareness of the need for measures to support selection of career paths in science and technology and how to develop such programs, and examples of programs developed for female junior and senior high school students.

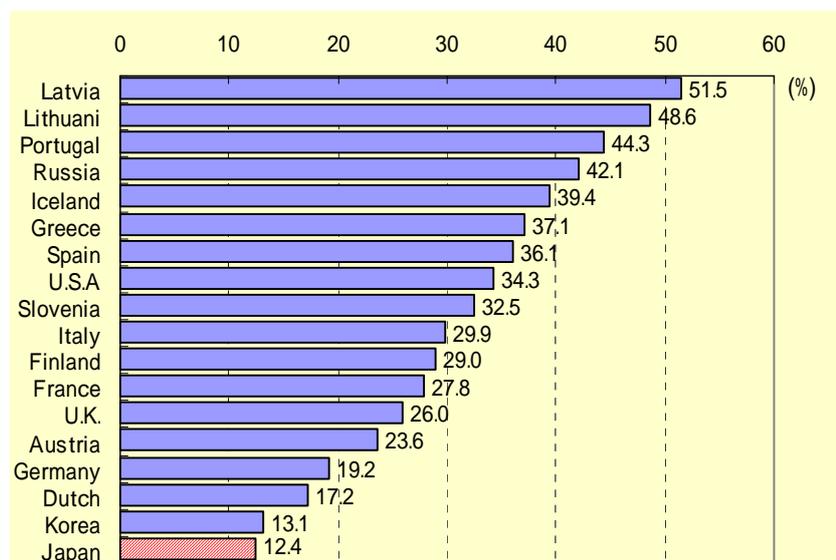
When conducting programs to promote girls' career development on the field of science and technology, local social education facilities are expected to play a role in coordinating cooperation between local institutions such as schools, universities, research institutions and science museums. The involvement of social education facilities in using local human resources, creating ties that extend beyond generations, approaching parents and guardians, ongoing involvement appropriate for students' stages of development, and so forth, facilitates the provision of support unattainable from school education on its own. Moreover, social education facilities can share the benefits of ties fostered through these programs and the outcome of diverse capacity building in

children and local human resources with the community as a whole, and contribute to revitalization of the community.

Towards implementation of support programs at social education facilities

At present, programs related to promoting female junior and senior high school students' career development on the field of science and technology are conducted at a small number of universities and women's facilities. For example, the National Women's Education Center has conducted a three-day residential program for female high school students each summer since 2005 (Photo 1). The program comprises lectures by scientists and engineers, university students, etc. and exhibitions on their activities; introduction of role models of female scientists and engineers; interaction with scientists and engineers, university students, etc. and networking; and experiential learning through experiments and so forth.

Results of the survey revealed that although few social education facilities nationwide, including women's facilities, conduct science-oriented programs exclusively for female students, many offer courses featuring science experiments and environmental study for male and female elementary students. In order to popularize programs that support female students, it is important that we identify and present points to consider when implementing programs that incorporate a new perspective into existing programs. Points to consider include supporting female students by presenting female role models and encouraging female students' active participation in experiments, etc.; careful selection of the program content and layout with a view to making jobs in science and engineering fields feel accessible to participants; deepening understanding and interest by making ingenious use of worksheets and tools such as information technology; and collaborating with universities, business enterprises, etc. that already understand the importance of supporting women. The report contains these hints and detailed information on actual examples as well as other information that could prove useful to staff of social education facilities when conducting programs.



Note: "Report of Research on Promotion for Girls' Career Development on the Field of Science and Technology", NWECC, 2007.

Fig. 1: International comparison of the percentage of researchers accounted for by women



Photo1: Scenes from a NWECC program targeting female high school students

INFORMATION FROM NWEC

NWEC will host a seminar and an international forum and participants will be needed. If you are interested in this seminar and forum, please contact to us.

Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

Date: Thurs. 6 - Sat. 15 November 2008 10 days

Objectives: 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.

Targets: Administrative officers and NGO leaders (incl. Japan) Around 15 persons

International Forum for Women's Empowerment

Date: Sat. 20 - Sun. 21 December 2008 2 days 1 night

Targets: Administrative officers and NGO leaders (incl. Japan) Around 60 persons

Details to be announced soon. Please e-mail your request for the application form to the contact below.

HP: www.nwec.jp/en/

E-mail: rese@nwec.jp Fax: +81-493-62-6722

Address: Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women's Education Center

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FY2008 Programs by NWEC

1 Improvement of capabilities of core leaders for 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. 11 - Fri. 13, June 2008	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	
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.	

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

Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents	
Research on Promotion of Gender Equality for Revitalization of Local Communities	Researchers, administrators and individuals from groups and organizations involved in the fields of women's education or home education.	Research policies and measures that will enable both men and women to flourish with the aim of stimulating communities by supporting women's challenges in local activities such as NPOs and promoting men's participation in community activities that support raising the next generation.	
Training Course for Leaders of Child Raising and Family Life Support 【NWEC Training】 Training Seminar for Leaders of Child Raising and Family Life Support 【Regional Training】 Child Raising and Family Life Forum with Regional Cooperation	【NWEC 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.	【NWEC Training】 Fri. 30 - Sat. 31, May 2008 【Regional Training】 November, 2008 - January 2009	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 Women's Career Development Supporters	Staff of women's facilities and leaders of women's groups and NPOs 60 persons	Wed. 8 - Fri. 10, October, 2008	Creation of a dynamic society requires women to fully demonstrate their individuality and capabilities. Conduct specialized and practical training in the provision of support for career building, such as program formulation and the building of support systems at women's facilities, etc., that will enable women to flexibly plan careers and engage in study in a manner appropriate to their individual situations.
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.19 - Fri. 21. November 2008	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. 29 - Sun. 31 August 2008	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.
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3 Provision of information, materials and research findings relating to gender equality, women's education and home education

Program	Contents	
Maintenance and Development of the Women's Information Portal "Winet"	Improve dissemination of information by updating the contents of portal sites for women and family and the various databases constructed and provided by the Center that contribute to the formation of a gender-equal society	
Construction of Women's Archives	Collect and organize materials related to women and make the "Women's Digital Archive System" and the Women's Archives Center accessible to the public.	
Collecting, Organizing and Providing Information and Materials on Women and Family	Collect, organize and provide information and materials pertinent to gender equality, women and family.	
Reference Service and Photocopying Service	Provide information to visitors and in response to mail, email and telephone inquiries. Provide a photocopying service for materials housed in the Information Center for Women's Education.	
Exhibitions of Books and other Materials on Women and Family	Deepen understanding in the fields of women and family by displaying materials owned by the Center in exhibitions organized around quarterly themes and special exhibitions.	
Program	Research Collaborators	Goals & Contents
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.

4 Promote international contributions, collaboration and cooperation related to gender equality and women's education

Program	Targets & Numbers	Dates	Contents
Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region	Administrative officers and NGO leaders (incl. Japan) Around 15 persons	Thurs. 6 - Sat. 15 November 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.

Seminar on the Promotion of Education for Girls and Women	Supervisors of women's education in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East 12 persons	Tue. 13, January - Fri. 6, February 2009 [NWECC will not solicit participants]	Conduct a practical participatory seminar for supervisors of women's education in developing countries with a view to improving their capabilities to formulate programs to promote education that addresses mitigation of gender differences in basic education by recognizing issues prevalent in each country and acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to resolve them.
Seminar for Promotion of Gender Equality	Administrators who play a leading role in gender equality promotion through the national machineries of their respective countries 6 persons	Mon. 17, November - Tue. 16, December 2008 [NWECC will not solicit participants]	Invite administrators who play a leading role in gender equality promotion through the national machineries of their respective countries, and conduct training with a view to contributing to women's empowerment in each country by sharing issues and experiences involving national machineries and women through horizontal dialogue between Japan and participating countries.
International Forum for Women's Empowerment	Administrators involved in gender equality, women's education and home education; staff of women's facilities; leaders of women's groups and organizations; researchers; individuals involved in international exchange and development assistance; business people, etc. Around 60 persons	Sat. 20 - Sun. 21 December 2008	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	
Research on Multifaceted Prevention, Education and Awareness Raising of Trafficking in Persons	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.	

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 NWECC 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
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6 Publications

Name	Contents & Distribution
NWEC Newsletter (English)	Introduces NWEC 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.nwec.jp/en/publish/#head1)
NWEC News (Japanese)	Provides information on NWEC 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 2008; January 2009)
Annual Report of the National Women's Education Center of Japan	Outlines study, exchange, research and information programs implemented by NWEC during fiscal 2007. Publication: Annual May 2008 Distribution: Prefectural boards of education, women's facilities, women's organizations and other relevant institutions.
Journal of the National Women's Education Center of Japan (Vol. 13)	Publishes NWEC 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 March 2009 Theme "Support for Women's Career Development"

VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO NWEC (April - September 2008)

Attendance at the Ceremony Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of KWDI



A ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), a Seoul-based institute that researches women's policy on behalf of Korea, was held on Friday, April 18, 2008. NWEC President, Michiko Kanda represented Japan at the Ceremony, accompanied by Director-General Suzuki.

The KWDI's 25th anniversary ceremony was held in grand style and attended by Korean congresswomen, cabinet ministers, individuals from women's organizations, former presidents and concerned individuals, as well as the president of NWEC from

Japan and a congresswoman (representative) from Mongolia. The Ceremony comprised an address by KWDI President Kim, a video message from Korea's first lady, congratulatory addresses by the Minister of Gender Equality, the chairperson of the Federation of Women's Organizations, etc., messages from attendees from Japan and Korea, a performance of Korean folksongs by the wife of Oman's Ambassador to Korea, and a commemorative piano recital that was dedicated to KWDI.

Taking the rostrum, President Kanda read her message and congratulated the KWDI on its 25th anniversary.

At the banquet after the ceremony, President Kanda chatted with numerous representatives of Korea. A party held later for President Kanda was attended by KWDI managers and researchers who enthusiastically exchanged opinions on future collaborations with the KWDI and directions for research.



Japanese- Filipino children (JFC)* from the Philippines - based NGO “DAWN” visit the Center

Seven Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) and three female staff members of the Filipino NGO “DAWN (Development Action for Women Network)” headed by Carmelita Nuqui, the Executive Director, visited NWEC from May 7th through 9th. This is DAWN's third visit to NWEC.



With an office in Manila, DAWN supports Filipino women with children fathered by Japanese men and their children, mainly by supporting women's independence and providing legal and financial assistance to both mother and her children. It also cooperates with international symposiums, research, and development of awareness-raising programs through a study on trafficking in persons initiated by NWEC in fiscal 2005.

This year, the party from DAWN visited the six cities of Tokyo, Niigata, Saitama (NWEC), Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka between May 1st and 16th, where they performed a children's musical; engaged in exchange with local citizens, international organizations and human rights organizations; and visited schools. The main program during their visit to NWEC, comprised: 1) an experimental workshop; 2) a visit to an elementary school; and 3) interaction with the community.

At Yoshimi Municipal Nishigaoka Elementary School, which warmly accepted DAWN's visit, the visitors engaged in exchange in the form of song and dance with a class of fifth grade students. Although JFC usually speak in Tagalog, they can speak a little English and Japanese. The JFC performed Japanese and Tagalog songs and dances, sang “It's a Small World” accompanied by the 5th graders on their recorders, and spent an enjoyable time interacting with the cheerful Nishigaoka Elementary School students through gestures and body language. The JFC were also warmly received by the school principal, the homeroom teacher, other members of staff and parents responsible for school publications.

Held over a two-week period each year, DAWN's study tours offer JFC in the Philippines an opportunity to reflect on their identity as a JFC through song, dance and Japanese language study. Accordingly, this year's musical depicted family relationships and issues and problems faced by children of dual nationality. During

their stay at NWEC, two of the children were reunited with their fathers. Moreover, during their tour in Japan, contact was established with the fathers of a number of children in the Philippines who were unable to come to Japan on this occasion.

We sincerely hope this tour afforded a large number of people in Japan an opportunity to gain even a little insight into the issues and realities confronting these women and children.

NWEC will continue this research in cooperation with DAWN, and pursue policies for programs to support such women and children in the Philippines.

Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) refers to mixed-race children of Japanese and Filipino parentage. In most cases, the father is Japanese and the mother Filipino.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

NWEC 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.

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

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

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