

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Seeking new expansion and depth founded on continuity



As we entered 2009 our Center took a new step forward.

We are now into the fourth year of our second medium-term objectives that began in 2006 when we became an independent administrative institution. So far we have celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of our founding, successfully warded off for the second time strong pressure to be integrated with youth centers, and held a gala opening of the Women's Archives Center. But our basic policy remains unchanged—to cherish continuity and on the strength of it through education and learning to build new networks and deeper relations. Needless to say, our fundamental and core objectives are to support the realization of a gender-equal society and to play our rightful role as the national center. For the coming months of the second medium-term, our task is to break down these objectives into visible and concrete measures and so serve and exemplify the special character of the Center.

The Center undertakes functionally-related programs in training, exchange, research and studies, and collection and provision of information while at the same time working in partnership with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Last year, we opened the Women's Archives Center that will collect, conserve and make available to our members and the public source materials concerning women's advancement. This addition to our information services has put us in newfound relationships and collaboration with individuals, groups and universities throughout the country. We will seek creative ways of using archive materials to develop diverse programs.

We believe that there is much to be done and much value in collecting regional archive materials, conserving them for study and as a resource for new research. The Center sees that as the national center its

role is to promote and support such activities and believes that it is in playing this role that it will be serving and fulfilling its best purposes.

In response to these challenges and in pursuit of these aims, we developed a learning program to support leadership training for community building. This requires linking personal career development and social imperatives for nurturing leaders. With this objective we identified the Center's record of research and studies, community-building, and NPO activities as "career in social activities" and building on these embarked on experimental research in program development.

In pursuing this approach, teams were put together in the Center and new relationships and partnerships were developed with like-minded individuals and others engaged in community research. This enabled us to equate "developing career in social activities" with "providing support to nurture social human capital required for community building". In the process we have become more confident than ever of the great value in creating such diverse partnerships and collaborative relationships.

This year we will continue these programs, add new dimensions of breadth and depth, and thereby forge a unique and ever stronger presence of the Center at home and abroad.

I very much look forward to working with you in the coming year.

RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region



[Trainees with the President and other NWEC staff at the welcome party](#)

The FY2008 Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region was held at NWEC from November 6-15, 2008. A total of 13 women leaders active in national machineries, NGOs and women's organizations in nine countries in the Asia Pacific region (India, Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Laos) participated in this year's seminar.

The title of this year's seminar, the third of these seminars, was Eliminating Violence Against Women - Sharing Various Forms of Partnership and Collaboration. The 12-day seminar began with trainees presenting cases studies on violence against women and eradication thereof in their own countries.

During the seminar, lectures by experts and specialists in the field were complimented by visits to the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office; the Gender Equality Planning Section, Chiba Prefecture; the Chiba Women's Support Center and Shelter; the Tokyo Women's Plaza; shelters for women victims of trafficking in persons; and private enterprises that develop campaigns to eradicate violence against women as a part of their CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities, and trainees deepened their understanding of gender equality policy and measures taken to support women subjected to violence in Japan.



[Trainees making case presentations](#)

On the final day, November 15, an Outcome and Exchange Forum was held at the Gender Equality Center “Space Yu” in Kita City, Tokyo, where issues pertaining to the eradication of violence against women, an issue common to all countries, and policy proposals were presented. During the Q&A session comprising the latter half of the forum, participants from various walks of life including government officials, graduate students, and support providers posed numerous questions and a lively discussion ensued.



The Outcome and Exchange Forum held at Space Yu (Kita City)



Trainees enjoying their first experience of the tea ceremony at Hibiki-shoin

In between the lectures and visits, an exchange program was planned for trainees and NWECC volunteers and staff. On the afternoon of Thursday, November 13, NWECC volunteers performed the tea ceremony at Hibiki-shoin. Trainees demonstrated great interest in traditional Japanese culture, wearing kimono for their first experience of the tea ceremony and enquiring about the origins of the scroll reading “Ichigo Ichie”

(Treasure every encounter for it will never recur) displayed in the hall. Later that evening, trainees joined NWECC volunteers and staff for a social gathering. Trainees tried their hand at making Japanese dishes such as *hana-makizushi* and *oden*, as well as Thai *harusame* vermicelli salad and curry stir-fry, and a friendly ambience filled the venue till late that night.

Trainees expressed opinions such as “I was able to visit welfare facilities and learn firsthand about measures to eradicate violence against women in Japan, and this was a very valuable experience” and “I would like to use the knowledge I gained from this seminar in the operation of women’s centers (in my country).” For its part, NWECC was able to further expand the human network it has been building, and will continue to offer training programs for human resources involved in gender equality in the Asia Pacific region.

NWECC International Forum for Women’s Empowerment

NWECC International Forum for Women’s Empowerment was held on Sat., December 20 and Sun., December 21, 2008, with “Global Partnership to Tackle Human Trafficking” as its main theme. The Forum received an address from the Chairperson of the Parliamentary League of Women in Development and a message from its Director General.

A symposium entitled “Current Issues of Trafficking in Persons – In the World, Asia and in Japan” took place on the first day at which reports



were given on the reality of human trafficking and the issues we face from officials of the United Nations (UN) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), government officials of Thailand and the Philippines and members of NGOs and NWECC Research and Studies.

This was followed by three session meetings; 1 on the Issue of Rescue and Protection; 2, Rehabilitation and Empowerment; and 3, STOP on DEMAND: Prevention, Education and Awareness Raising. At each session meeting after experts reported on recent initiatives taken and the latest update on the situation around the world active discussion took place with the participants including foreign citizens in Japan, staff at women's related facilities and educators.

On the second day, the Forum on Global Partnership for Solution heard presentations focusing mainly on the measures to be taken for the resolution of the problem ,reflecting the discussion that took place in the session meetings.

The plenary session saw active exchange of views particularly on the importance of initiatives in the field of development, issues that must be addressed in regard to the rising number of international migrant workers and the critical nature of women's empowerment.

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 at NWECC from Tuesday, January 13 through Thursday, February 5, 2009. Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), this seminar targets supervisors of women's education in developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It has been held annually since FY2001.

This year's seminar was attended by seven trainees: two from Laos, and one from each of Gambia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Niger and Malawi. The trainees learned about a broad array of topics through workshops on gender-equal policy in Japan and how to improve literacy among women, and a study tour to Hiroshima Prefecture. From Tuesday, January 20 through Friday 23, the trainees stayed at NWECC where they attended a lecture entitled "Our Experiences of Promoting Women's Education in Japan" and a workshop on gender statistics. Touring both the Information Center for Women's Education and the Women's Archives Center, they gained a better understanding of NWECC's role as a national center for women's education.

On the final day, through the process of formulating action plans, trainees considered practical measures for improving access to education in developing countries and mitigating gender disparities in school attendance rates.



From workshops

The Archives Center organizes an Opening Event for its Special Exhibition



On October 10, 2008 The Women's Archives Center opened its Special Exhibition “Dawn of Higher Education for Japanese Women: Women who met the Challenge” with a colorful ceremony. The exhibition was concluded on December 23, 2008.

The ceremony was opened by NWEC President Michiko Kanda with the attendance of invited guests and Member of the House Representatives and the members of the House of

Councilors and women's groups and organizations.

The crowd then moved upstairs for a Salon talk on “What inspired women to create universities for women”.

Guest speakers introduced Ms. Utako Shimoda, the founder of Jissen Women’s University and Ms. Umeko Tsuda, the founder of Tsuda College respectively. For the next hour the two speakers shed light on the personalities of the pioneers as well as on how they strategically went about to successfully establish institutions of higher learning at the time.



The relaxed salon talk proved successful as the audience enjoyed hearing about some colorful episodes. Utako Shimoda who was sent to Europe with a mission to educate women of higher birth changed her mind when she learned of the higher education in England and how women benefited from them. On her way back to Japan she made up her mind to aim for the education of the ordinary Japanese women. Umeko Tsuda, apparently had a publicity strategy; she changed her emphasis when she was talking in Japan to increase the number of enrollment of students at her women’s English language school and when she spoke to Americans to raise funds.

The audience was genuinely inspired by the stories of the pioneering founders who armed with curiosity had the eyes to see Japan and their female compatriots from abroad, and the readiness to act on their convictions.

Special Exhibition at the Women’s Archives Center

The Women’s Archives Center at NWEC holded its first special exhibition entitled "Dawn of Higher Education for Japanese Women : Women who met the Challenge " from 10 October to 23 December 2008.

The exhibition introduced five women founders of women’s universities and showed the early history of higher education for women in Japan.

Five women, namely SHIMODA Utako (a founder of Jissen Women's University), TSUDA Umeko (Tsuda College) , YOSHIOKA Yayoi (Tokyo Women's Medical University), NIKAIDO Tokuyo (Japan Women’s College of Physical Education) and KAGAWA Aya (Kagawa Nutrition University) founded private institutions of higher education for women in the early twentieth century, when higher education for women was overwhelmingly regarded as premature or useless.

The exhibition traced the lives and times of these women and tried to find out why and how they founded institutions of higher education for women.

★Exhibits (examples)★



Tsuda College : Tsuda English Readers
(English textbook)



Tokyo Women's Medical University :
Roentgen therapy at Tokyo Women's
Medical School (photograph)



Japan Women's College of
Physical Education : Gymnastic class
(photograph)

Training Program for Women's Career Development Supporters



Training for Women's Career Development Supporters was conducted over three days from Wed., October 8 to Fri., October 10, 2008. There were seventy-six participants representing various support functions including members of groups, organizations and NPOs, women's facilities, staff at lifelong learning facilities and universities.

At present, there is a need to support various and diverse careers including, but not limited to business, but in broader social activities and lifelong learning processes in order to fully demonstrate their individuality and capabilities for the creation of a gender-equal society requires women. With this as the backdrop, the training program focused on the importance of community activities that enable women at different stages of life to flexibly design their career. Accordingly, the theme "Community-building from the perspective of career development" was adopted, to encourage individual career development in community activities and for communities to provide support.

The three-day training included an explanation of measures adopted by the government as well as recent trends in this area, relay talk, workshops and case studies. As the outcome document, "Activities/business plans to support women's career development that encourage community activities" was prepared and made publicly available. Through group discussions and information exchange, participants were able to network and mutually share their issues. All in all, these gave vitality and useful clues to participants to support career development in their respective communities.



Training Program for Spousal Violence Counselors of Women's facilities



A three-day residential training program for spousal violence counselors of women's facilities was organized by NVEC from Wed., November 19 to Fri., November 21, 2008. The practical training program for professionals focused on their acquisition of knowledge required for the resolution of contemporary issues including spousal violence as well as to improve their counseling skills. There were 74 participants, mainly

counselors from women's facilities from the breadth and width of Japan.

Since there were many requests for consultation from victims of spousal violence at women's facilities, the training program incorporated a seminar with the objective of providing better support to victims of spousal violence.

The first day was dedicated to building the basics to enable counselors to respond better to requests for counseling; confirming the role and significance of counseling provided at women's facilities and to learn about the effective use of legal provisions and counseling methods citing concrete cases of violence.

On the second day, session meetings focusing on four concrete issues of spousal violence were held, as well as a symposium focusing on collaboration for support. Lectures by NVEC staff providing information from human trafficking studies conducted and preventing secondary damage of counselors contributed to the understanding of the need for a continuous and broad-range support required.

On the last day, practical guidance was given to the participants to successfully maintain and improve their counseling skills as well as provide appropriate supervision. On the first two evenings, participants coming from all over the country enjoyed mix-and-mingle opportunities to share their experience and information.

We were pleased to learn from their responses to our questionnaire that they "found the training to be immediately useful for application on the ground" and that "in addition to deepening knowledge, motivation and confidence were raised through learning together with colleagues sharing same objectives".

Supporting Cambodia's Ministry of Women's Affairs through a leaflet on gender statistics

Ms. Takahashi, a researcher at NVEC, was invited to Cambodia as a short-term JICA specialist from February 22~28, 2009 to renew their statistics leaflet and popularize gender statistics. In the background to this invitation lies the Project on Gender Mainstreaming and Policy Development through Upgrading Information and Research Capacity (PGM) that JICA commissioned NVEC to conduct for ministerial officials from Cambodia's Ministry of Women's Affairs from FY2004~2007. As part of their training in gender statistics, trainees examined the content and quality of as many Cambodian government statistics as they could obtain, analyzed the values from a gender-sensitive perspective, compiled diagrams and text, and created a leaflet and booklet about gender statistics.

On this visit, Ms. Takahashi incorporated the latest values available as of February 2009 into the leaflet made on the previous occasion, and amended the text. She also conducted a workshop for new officials to facilitate their understanding of the characteristics and usefulness of gender statistics.

The Cambodian government conducted a national census last year with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, and is gradually putting together some government statistics. They have also taken measures such as the inclusion of a gender category in survey slips at the suggestion of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and have begun to incorporate gender perspectives at the production stage of statistics. Cambodian ministerial officials are getting to grips with how to interpret figures on their own as well as how to produce leaflets and booklets. Dr. Headman of Statistics Sweden (SCB) says that statistics can be the "tools of change" for advancing gender equality, but for officials at Cambodia's Ministry of Women's Affairs, the acquisition of gender statistics as a tool has given them power.



The workshop on gender statistics for junior officials from the Ministry of Women's Affairs



The Vice-Minister of Women's Affairs with other concerned individuals



The leaflet (far left) and booklet (2nd from left) compiled during training in Japan

VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO NVEC (October 2008 - March 2009)

Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI) President visits to National Women's Education Center (NVEC)



President Kanda welcomes KWDI President Kim and researcher Kim

KWDI President Taehyun Kim and KWDI External Cooperation Team Research Fellow Young-Hye Kim visited NVEC on December 7, 2008. NVEC and KWDI have enjoyed close mutual exchange since signing a research exchange and cooperation agreement in 2006. The visit was a courtesy call on Michiko Kanda, NVEC president made by President Taehyun Kim, who took office as KWDI president in June 2008. In an enviable cordial atmosphere the presidents exchanged their views and shared information on issues common to women and families in Japan and Korea, including

the need to promote work-life balance and nurture women leaders in communities.

The visitors took a tour of the Women's Archives Center as they were contemplating the establishment of a similar facility in their country. They were enthusiastic visitors who were actively engaged at all time in discussion, receiving explanation on how Women's Digital Archive System published on the Internet worked or enjoying the special exhibition: " Dawn of Higher Education for Japanese Women :Women who met the Challenge". The visit was much appreciated here as it further deepened collaborative relations between the two institutions.



President of Yanbian University Graduate School visits to National Women's Education Center (NWECC)



Dr. Cai Meihua, President of Yanbian University Graduate School, and Dr. Jin Huashan, Director of its Center of Women's Studies visited NWECC on Sunday, March 1, 2009. Yanbian University is a public university located in Yanji City, Jilin Province in the People's Republic of China, with a student body of 16,000. The purpose of this visit was to discuss the possibility of NWECC and Yanbian University building a cooperative relationship, and everyone involved spent March 2 and 3

exchanging information on their respective activities and vigorously sharing opinions on the possibility of future cooperation.



Dr. Christine Keyser , French Female researcher visits to National Women's Education Center (NWECC)



Dr. Christine Keyser, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Life Sciences at University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg visited NWECC on Thursday, March 5, 2009 with staff from Ochanomizu University. After paying a courtesy visit to President Kanda, Dr. Keyser presented a lecture entitled "Women in Science in France" to NWECC staff. In her lecture, Dr. Keyser introduced various statistics in the course of describing circumstances surrounding female researchers in scientific fields

in France and related government measures, and a lively question and answer session ensued.

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Professor Donna Eileen Stewart , Canadian Female researcher visits to National Women's Education Center (NVEC)



Professor Donna Eileen Stewart of the University of Toronto, Canada visited NVEC with Associate Professor Misako Kato of Ochanomizu University on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. Presenting a lecture entitled “Gender Inequities in the Global Village,” NVEC staff listened intently as Professor Stewart described the current situation surrounding women and future issues, and various governments’ measures and proposals for resolving these issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) -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, NVEC 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 NVEC Newsletter is published twice a year to introduce our activities.

NVEC Newsletter has been published since 1984.It includes information on various activities undertaken by the National Women's Education Center as well as women in Japan. The paper-based newsletter was 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.

- NVEC Home Page(English) <http://www.nwec.jp/en/>
- NVEC Newsletter Top Page <http://www.nwec.jp/en/publish/#head1>

★It becomes warm little by little, and I feel the visit of spring. Thank you for reading NVEC Newsletter.

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