

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Michiko Kanda, President,
National Women's Education Center

We are truly grateful for the generous support and encouragement given to Japan from many countries following the catastrophic earthquake that struck the Tohoku region and the Pacific coast on March 11, 2011, causing extensive damage throughout Eastern Japan. The Japanese people are resolved to overcome the current crisis and collaborate as one in rebuilding the country. We hope you will continue to give us support and cooperation.

The Independent Administrative Institution - National Women's Education Center (NWEC) is entering the period of its third midterm-term objectives and plans (2011-2015).

NWEC, as our country's single national center concerned with women's education, strives to contribute to the creation of a gender-equal society by promoting the education of women through courses of training programs for leaders and other persons involved in women's education, as well as conducting specialized research and surveys on the subject.

NWEC, under the umbrella of medium-term objectives presented by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, carries out its interactive programs based on our four functions: namely, training, exchange, research, and the collection and provision of information.

During the third-term we will implement the following initiatives.

1. Upgrading qualifications and capabilities of key leaders

Advanced specialized trainings will be conducted for the key leaders of local public bodies, women's facilities and women's organizations that will serve as a basis for the human development of the promoters of gender equality and women's education.

2. Development and dissemination of learning programs on urgent issues

As the national center, NWEC will support local public bodies and other organizations, plan and

implement unique training programs targeted at those issues judged most urgent, including: ① vitalization of communities through women's active involvement; ② provision of support to persons in difficult situations, such as poverty and victims of human rights violation such as DV (domestic violence); ③ promotion of regional gender equality; and ④ promotion of men's participation at home and in their communities. For all of these, research and surveys will be undertaken, learning programs developed, teaching materials prepared and model training sessions held.

3. Provision of reports, documentation and information on research and surveys conducted regarding gender equality, women and family education, etc.

NWEC will, as the information base for the promotion of gender equality and women's education, continue to implement research and surveys that are difficult for local public bodies to undertake, and make their results available through the Internet and other media.

NWEC will also upgrade its women's archive as well as conduct specialized training programs to support the setting up of bases for the conservation of documents throughout the country.

4. Promotion of collaboration with relevant organizations and groups concerning gender equality, and women's and family education

NWEC will effectively conduct programs by implementing them in partnership with women's facilities and organizations as well as private groups and enterprises.

NWEC will also conduct national forums as well as provide opportunities for exchange among those involved throughout the country in promoting gender equality and women's education by facilitating personal contact, presenting follow-up reports and promoting regional networking for gender equality.

5. Pursuit of its international outreach and partnerships on gender equality and women's education

Continuing its initiatives in the second-term, NWEC will organize Empowerment Seminars for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region targeting administrative and educational officials in developing countries, support human resources development related to gender equality and women's education, as well as strengthen the cooperative network built during the second-term and initiate collaborative research and survey programs.

6. Promotion of gender equality in universities, etc.

NWEC will conduct training sessions targeting teachers and staff at universities and other institutions, in order that educational and research activities at higher-educational facilities will be conducted according to the principles of gender equality. Also, in order to promote women's participation in various fields, we will jointly with universities and other institutions develop and provide learning programs on career building as well as support students by lending gender equality-related books packaged by theme, owned by the Information Center for Women's Education.

FY2011 Programs by NVEC

1 Improvement of the capabilities of core leaders for women's education

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(1) Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managerial staff at women's facilities - Administrative officers responsible for gender equality - Leaders of women's groups and organizations, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	<p>June 20 (Mon.) ~ 22 (Wed.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 nights 3 days</p>	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.
(2) Training Course to Promote Gender Equality among University Personnel	<p>Faculty staff, etc. affiliated to universities' decision-making organs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">80 people</p>	<p>December 8 (Thu.) ~ 9 (Fri.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 night 2 days</p>	In recent years, not only are universities responsible for training and preparing human resources to enter society as adults and workers, they also play an important role as a hub for knowledge in their communities. Implement a training course for faculty, staff, etc. affiliated to decision-making organs at universities with substantial influence in society and their communities so that they promote gender equality.

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(3) Research on Women's Facilities	<p>Researchers in the fields of women's education and lifelong learning; individuals involved in women's facilities; leaders of women's organizations, etc.</p>	<p>As the first year of a five-year study to investigate and analyze designated management, personnel training and other new issues with a view to enhancing and reinforcing the functions of women's facilities, conduct a fact-finding survey and compile a report on designated management of women's facilities, etc.</p>

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

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(4) Research on the resolution of community issues and women's economic independence and development of a relevant program	<p>Researchers in the field of women's education; social education; administrative officers; individuals involved in women's facilities; groups and organizations, etc.</p>	<p>As the first year of a two-year study on the promotion of economic independence through community activities, conduct a survey of both mainstream case studies of community businesses and case studies of overseas training programs that implement pioneering programs, and compile training materials.</p>
(5) Research on the promotion of men's participation at home and in the community and development of a relevant program	<p>Researchers in the fields of women's education, family education and social education; concerned administrative officers; concerned parties from groups and organizations, etc.</p>	<p>As the first year of a two-year study on the promotion of men's participation at home and in the community, conduct a survey of measures being taken by women's facilities, and the perceptions and activities of men who engage in community-based activities, and compile a report on the results.</p>

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(6) Training Course for Leaders of Family Education and Child Raising Support	Officials in charge of support for family education and child raising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaders of child raising supporters, child raising networks, etc. - Individuals in charge of corporate support for child raising, etc. - Staff at women's facilities, social education facilities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	May 13 (Fri.) ~ 14 (Sat.), 2011 1night2days	Conduct specialized and practical training that incorporates case studies of various businesses and institutions collaborating to foster support for family education and child raising by society as a whole, and examples of men participating in child raising into the content of training, and seeks to foster gender-equal solutions to issues confronting participants on a day-to-day basis.
(7) Training Course for Counselors at Women's Facilities	Individuals involved in counseling services for women's troubles and concerns at women's facilities and private counseling offices <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	October 12 (Wed.)~14 (Fri.), 2011 2 nights 3days	With a view to supporting women's empowerment by improving the quality of counseling services so they can deal with the increasingly complex and diverse issues confronting women, conduct specialized and practical training to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed to resolve pressing issues, including violence against women and poverty among women.
(8) Training Course to Promote Multifaceted Career Education from the Perspective of Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff at women's facilities, social education facilities, etc. - Members of organizations, groups, NPOs, etc. - Faculty responsible for career education at universities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">80 people</p>	November 16 (Wed.) ~ 18 (Fri.), 2011 2nights 3 days	Conduct specialized and practical training to introduce the concept of linking the activities of individuals arising from diverse careers to society, and contributing toward support for career building with a long-term perspective.

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

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(9) Research on Gender Statistics	Researchers in the fields of women's studies, gender research and statistics	Review the Data Book of Gender Equality Statistics 2009, collect and analyze data on new issues, and produce the Data Book of Gender Equality Statistics 2012.

Program	Content
(10) Dissemination of research results	Disseminate the results of studies undertaken to enhance the capacity of key leaders and address pressing issues via websites, community repositories, etc.
(11) Collection, Organization and Provision of Information and Literature on Women and Families	Collect, organize and provide information and literature pertinent to gender equality, women and families. Provide information to visitors and in response to telephone, mail and email inquires.

Program	Content
(12) Maintenance and Development of the Women's Information Portal	Improve dissemination of information by updating the contents of portal sites for women and family and the various databases constructed and provided by NWEC that contribute to the formation of a gender-equal society.
(13) External lending of literature and information	To promote gender equality at individual facilities, loan out "packages" of books and other literature selected around themes corresponding to their activities as a model service.
(14) Construction of Women's Archives	Collect and organize historical materials pertaining to women and make them available to the public through the Women's Archive Center, the Women's Digital Archive System and exhibitions. Collaborate with universities and other concerned institutions on special exhibitions.

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(15) Training Course for Women's Information Archivists (Introductory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals involved in women's histories, staff at women's facilities, library staff and individuals with an interest in women's histories and archives <p style="text-align: right;">30 people</p>	<p>December 1 (Thu.) ~ 2 (Fri.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 night 2 days</p>	Provide practitioners with basic information as a first step toward systematically learning concrete techniques for storing and organizing women's archives. Foster information exchange and the building of networks among concerned individuals.

4 Promotion of collaboration with relevant organizations and groups concerning gender equality, and Women's and family education

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(16) Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality (NWEC Forum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaders of women's groups and organizations - Researchers - Administrative officers in charge of gender equality, women's education, family education, etc. - Staff at women's facilities - NPO, students, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">1,000 people</p>	<p>October 21 (Fri.)~ 23 (Sun.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 nights 3 days</p>	Support the building of networks to promote mutual exchange through practice and research, and create opportunities to discover, secure and train new human resources with a view to contributing toward resolving pressing issues such as support for women's diverse career building, child raising support and the work-life balance.
(17) Gender Equality Exchange Week (Ranzan Exchange Week)	<p>Organizations and individuals using NWEC during this period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">200 people</p>	<p>November 8 (Tue.) ~ 11 (Fri.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 days</p>	Provide opportunities for mutual interaction and information exchange among participants from women's organizations, etc., and support the building of networks between organizations.

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(18) Meeting for Exchange and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaders of women's groups and organizations who have participated in NWEC's training and exchange programs and engage in network building in their communities - Administrative officers in charge of gender equality and women's issues - Individuals involved in women's facilities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">150 people</p>	<p>March 9 (Fri.)~ 11 (Sun.), 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 nights 3 days</p>	<p>To promote gender equality in the region, provide an opportunity for participants from NWEC's training and exchange programs to share what they put into practice when they returned to their communities; engage in opinion exchange with a view to sharing case studies of good practices and community issues; promote cooperation and collaboration among women's facilities and other concerned institutions, women's groups etc.; and promote the building of networks and collaboration between NWEC and the region.</p>

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

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(19) Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region	<p>Administrative officers and NGO leaders</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Approx. 12 people</p>	<p>October 19 (Wed.) ~ 30 (Sun.), 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 nights 12 days</p>	<p>Conduct a practical participatory seminar on pressing issues pertaining to women's capacity building for administrative officers responsible for women's policy and education, NGO leaders, etc. in a position to formulate and propose gender equality policy in developing countries, etc.</p>
(20) NWEC International Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative officers responsible for gender equality, women's education, family education, etc. - Staff at women's facilities, etc. - Leaders of women's organizations, etc. - Researchers - Individuals involved in supporting international exchange and development - Individuals from concerned companies, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">Approx. 100 people</p>	<p>October 29 (Sat.), 2011</p>	<p>Host the NWEC International Symposium, which invites overseas specialists to address a global issue pertaining to women's human rights and empowerment; analyze issues in the Asia Pacific region; deepen exchange among overseas researchers, administrative officers and leaders of women's groups and organization; and engage in opinion exchange.</p>

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(21) Research on Support for Difficulties Facing Non-Japanese Women	Researchers, administrative officers, practitioners and NGOs specializing in women's education, social education, social policy and international cooperation	With the aim of fostering a convivial society, as the first year of a three-year study to investigate the situation in terms of difficulties, etc. facing Non-Japanese women in local communities and the support needed to resolve them, conduct a basic survey to the situation in terms of difficulties, etc. facing non-Japanese women and the window and person who engage in the support needed to resolve them.

INFORMATION FROM NWEC

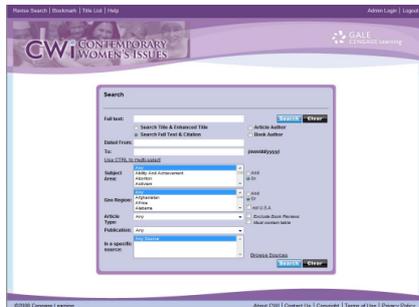
At NWEC we have expanded our database service specializing in information about women overseas

Adding to the Contemporary Women's Issues, the Information Center for Women's Education has introduced Gender Watch and The Gerritsen Collection, two new databases specializing in information about women.

These overseas databases specializing in information about women contain major academic journals on the study of women and gender issues, minutes of conferences, and reports, and make it possible for the NWEC to offer users a broader range of valuable information on women's issues.

Visitors to the Center can access the databases at the Information Center for Women's Education, as well as from the seminar hall and residential halls. A copy mail-out service (literature copying service) is also available.

Please see the page below for details of the individual databases and lists of titles.



Contemporary Women's Issues



The Gerritsen Collection



GenderWatch

RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

2010 Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region, International Forum for Women's Empowerment

The National Women's Education Center was proud to organize and host the 2010 Empowerment Seminar for

Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region from Wednesday, September 29 to Saturday, October 10. The theme of this year's seminar was "Development of Women's Leaders: Implications from the Japanese Experience" and brought together 14 women who are currently active leaders in national machineries in their countries, non-government organizations and educational institutes from 11 countries in the Asia Pacific region: India, Indonesia, Korea, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Palau, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The participants not only listened to presentations about the Japanese education system but also visited various women's facilities and universities where they learned about current programs and initiatives in leadership training for women. On Saturday, October 9, the participants then attended the International Forum for Women's Empowerment.

This year's forum focused on the theme "Role of Education to Develop Women's Leadership" and was divided into two parts. In the first part, Her Excellency Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Royal Government of Cambodia, and Dr. Yoriko Meguro, Professor Emeritus of Sophia University and Representative of Japan to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, delivered the keynote speeches.

In between the first and second parts of the forum, there was a poster session on gender equality policies in the Asia Pacific countries. This session provided a valuable opportunity for the participants to report on policies in their respective countries and engage in lively discussions with other attendants on issues of policy and approaches to gender equality in various countries.

In Part II, which consisted of a panel discussion entitled "Women's Leadership and Empowerment - Contributions of Lifelong Learning," Ms. Maki Hayashikawa, Education Specialist at UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and Dr. Hyunjoo Song of the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education presented reports on issues related to international organizations and case studies in Korea and Afghanistan. In addition, the Empowerment Seminar participants divided into three groups – government organizations, research organizations and NGOS – and presented their seminar outcomes.



The presentations were followed by a stimulating question-and-answer session, where thought-provoking questions regarding progressive approaches being trialed in different countries were posed one after the other in rapid succession. Before the International Forum was brought to a close, all attendants reaffirmed the need to form interpersonal networks and to exchange information among educators and policy experts involved in training women to be leaders in the Asia Pacific region.

Visit to Japan by Minister of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia

From Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10, Her Excellency Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia paid a visit to Japan at the invitation of the National Women's Education Center.

Minister Phavi's visit was realized with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan's International Exchange Project in the New Century Invitation Program, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Exchange and Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia and the National Women's Education Center on Tuesday, April 6 this year.

After making a courtesy visit to Ms. Kumiko Bando, Director-General of the Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, on Friday, October 8, Minister Phavi met and discussed with Ms. Tomiko Okazaki, Minister of State for Social Affairs and Gender Equality, the gender equality policies of their two countries.

In the morning the following day on Saturday, October 9, gender equality administrative officials, researchers, and practitioners involved in international cooperation in various capacities joined Minister Phavi in a round table discussion. During the discussion the minister shared her views on gender equality administration and government



Minister Phavi (left) shakes hands with Minister Okazaki (right)

development assistance in Cambodia. In the afternoon the minister attended the International Forum for Women’s Empowerment hosted by the National Women’s Education Center, where she delivered a keynote speech entitled “Women’s Leadership and Education in Cambodia – How Far We Have Come and the Way Forward.”

The National Women’s Education Center intends to further deepen exchanges with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia through greater interaction among human resources and programs promoting the exchange of information and research on gender equality and women’s education.

Country-Specific Training: Thailand-Japan Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons

From Monday, November 8 to Friday, November 22 the National Women’s Education Center conducted the Thailand-Japan Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons as one of our country-specific training courses for Thailand. Fifteen officials and other persons came to Japan to attend the workshop.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) previously launched a project for strengthening cooperation among organizations to protect victims of human trafficking and to assist them in becoming self-sustaining. In efforts to realize these objectives, the Center has been hosting the workshop in Japan since last year.

The main purpose of this workshop is to deepen a mutual understanding between Japan and Thailand among the stakeholders involved in policies to protect victims of human trafficking in Thailand and to investigate measures that will contribute to strengthening the cooperative roles and activities of multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) in Thailand. Based on the 2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the first half of the 2-weeks workshop consisted of lectures concerning various initiatives of the Cabinet Secretariat, the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Police



At the National Shelter Symposium in Kurume

Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the International Organization for Migration. The trainees also visited public and private shelters and other women's facilities as well as prefectural police headquarters in Chiba and Saitama where they had the opportunity to discuss and share their views. They also held discussions with persons representing NGOs including persons from Thailand living in Japan. The trainees also listened to lectures at the Center on initiatives to combat trafficking in persons, the role of women's facilities, and training in women's information and counseling.

On November 17, the trainees welcomed administrators and persons in charge of various relevant ministries and agencies to listen to presentations of their research results and join them in an exchange of opinions and views. The presenters, who spoke on subjects such as approaches to protecting victims, initiatives of MDTs, judicial redress and legal action, included a manager of a shelter and employment support center for men, a social worker of a shelter and employment support center for women, and a lawyer. In the course of the discussion, many questions were raised regarding differences in the legal systems of the two countries and labor exploitation conditions in Thailand at present.

At the National Shelter Symposium in Kurume, trainees also gave presentations on conditions and activities in Thailand, which were of particular interest to persons associated with government and private shelters.

Through this workshop, trainees were able to deepen their understanding of the roles of relevant organizations and the activities of the public and private sectors under Japan's Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. They also became aware of the differences in the legal systems of Japan and Thailand. Through their study in the workshop, the trainees also showed a strong interest in the efforts of private organizations to cooperate on an equal footing with the government in promoting measures to counter domestic violence. Strengthening cooperation between organizations in Japan and Thailand will undoubtedly contribute to preventing trafficking in persons, protecting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators.

Introduction Course for Archivist of Women's Information

From Wednesday, October 27 to Thursday, October 28, the National Women's Education Center again conducted the Introduction Course for Archivists of Women's Information. Aimed at persons already involved in the storage and provision of source materials on women ("women's archives"), the course took place over a period of two for women's archives. This course has proved to be quite popular and has been running continuously since last year. With 37 attendants hailing from diverse backgrounds including women's facilities, study groups on local women's history, universities, public libraries and resource centers, the attendants shared a common interest in learning effective methods for organizing and archiving information on women.

The course consisted of seven lectures and reports on a range of practical topics such as an introduction to women's archives in countries overseas, lectures on copyrights and examples of how archives can be used. Feedback on the course was very positive and many attendants commented that it provided them with practical knowledge ranging from the fundamentals of the organization and storage of women's archives to their utilization and provision to the public. At the end of every lecture, attendants were eager to ask questions and share their views and opinions with others.



On October 27, the first day of the course, an information sharing session was held in the evening. The Koganei

NWEC case study report

Women's Network began the evening's activities by screening a photo-movie called "Women of Koganei through Photographs" to illustrate how archives can be used. This provided a good opportunity for attendants to see an excellent example of the use of photographs, and both attendants and lecturers engaged in meaningful interaction in their discussion.

Among the comments about the course made by attendants were: "The content of the lectures was practical and easy to understand" and "We were able to exchange information with the people from various regions and this has broadened our outlook of the world."

2010 Meeting on Exchange and Learning

From Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 13, for two nights and three days, the National Women's Education Center held its 2010 Meeting on Exchange and Learning. Attracting 157 participants from all regions of Japan from Hokkaido in the north to Kumamoto Prefecture in the south, the meeting brought together members of various organizations and groups who had previously attended training and exchange programs held by the Center and who have been actively involved in their respective fields since then, as well as individuals in charge of the administration of gender equality and women's education and the staff of women's facilities.

The Center has been holding this meeting since 2008 to share the outcomes of the Center's training and exchange programs and to promote the building of networks between the Center and local communities. This meeting was the third of its kind and the theme was "Promoting Gender Equality in Local Communities through Collaboration and Cooperation – a Career in Social Activities for the Revitalization of Local Communities."

In addition to a lecture by NWECC President Kanda, Ms. Akiko Domoto, the former Governor of Chiba Prefecture, gave a special lecture entitled "Women's Network and Gender Equality." During the meeting, the latest information concerning the promotion of gender equality was presented. Participants also had the opportunity to exchange opinions and information based on their first hand experience in their fields and positions.

In this regard, seven reports on hands-on activities in four particular areas were presented. They were: "Revitalization of Organizational and Group Activities through Collaboration and Cooperation", "Activities for Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence through Collaboration and Cooperation with Government and Various Organizations", "Resolving Local Issues through the Community and Local Businesses", and "Building Local Communities through Collaboration and Cooperation with Schools and Local Communities". The participants



took them as examples to resolve problems they encountered in the course of their work and daily activities.

March 11, the first day of the conference, was the day the great earthquake of unprecedented magnitude occurred and the tremors were felt even in Ranzan. Although the Center did not suffer major damage, some of the participants from the Tohoku area were unable to make contact with their parents and this was very distressing for them. Nevertheless, everybody carried on with the training and completed the program of two nights three days as planned.

Former Governor of Chiba Prefecture Ms. Domoto delivering a lecture

Summer School for High and Junior High School Girls 2010

At the request of the Japan Science and Technology Agency, the NVEC once again organized its educational summer school program for two nights and three days from Thursday, August 12 to Saturday, August 14. With the cooperation of various academic societies, universities and firms, junior high school and high school students, their teachers and parents had the opportunity to engage in up-close exchanges with scientists, engineers and university and graduate school students who demonstrated to them how exciting a future career path in science can be.

The NVEC summer school program has continued to develop over the years and this summer marked the sixth year the NVEC has organized such a program. Every year the science experiments and practical training prove to be very popular among junior high and high school students. The poster session, which featured 35 participating booths this time, was also an excellent opportunity for students to experience firsthand the latest in scientific technologies and engage in genuine career consultation with experts in various fields.

The Science Café, an innovative program for parents and teachers, provided up-to-the minute information and information on general trends in government and the corporate world to parents. Parents and teachers alike found this form of discussion very helpful and a number of them commented that the two-hour session was over before they knew it. In the program for teachers, the participating teachers prepared a simple teaching guide to enable other teachers to incorporate outcomes of this program into the curriculum. Teaching assistants (TAs) from universities and graduate schools also planned fun-filled activities such as the “Science Battle” and “Science *Sugoroku*” that enabled students to experience the joy of science as they engaged in friendly exchanges with the TAs.



Teleconference with a Korean girls' high school Physics camp

The three-day summer school program was a time of valuable discoveries and new encounters for the participants as they came into firsthand contact with the world of science and technology.

The Center has also compiled a summary of profiles of staff and TAs involved in the summer school programs thus far as role models for the students.

Forum on Exchange in Research and Practices Promoting Gender Equality (NVEC Forum 2010)

A program organized to promote interaction and networking among individuals and groups engaged in research and practical activities nationwide, this year's forum attracted more than 1,400 participants from all over Japan. Aiming to promote the building of a gender-equal society, the program took place over two nights and three days from Friday, August 27 to Sunday, August 29.

Special features of this year's forum were a symposium on building local communities, an increase in workshop time bands to six over the three-day period, programs for supporting the promotion of interaction among women and “a marketplace” for introducing women who have launched new enterprises locally.



At the Symposium

With Professor Takahito Hirose of Utsunomiya University acting as coordinator, the program's symposium focused on the theme "Building Relationships for the Further Promotion of Gender Equality." Participants listened to addresses by Ms. Emiko Okuyama, the mayor of Sendai City, and Ms. Mariko Saigo, President of the Machidukuri Company "Sheep Network," who spoke of their practical experiences and shared their views on "equality" and "cooperation." Some of the comments made by participants after listening to the speakers were: "I felt very encouraged about women's participation in local community activities" and "It was both easy to understand and very stimulating."

A total of 66 themed workshops were conducted over the three-day period. These included 58 workshops organized on an open recruitment basis from all over Japan, seven workshops offered by the National Women's Education Center, and one workshop sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology. Some of the comments from participants in these workshops were: "I learned a lot by listening to new viewpoints and opinions from people in various fields" and "I was able to participate in some very satisfying workshops." Comments from the workshop organizers were equally enthusiastic: "Conducting the workshop was an empowering experience for our group" and "The opinions and information we received from participants were very useful." Through mutual learning, the workshops offered valuable opportunities for interaction between participants and organizers, which led to a feeling of empowerment for both parties.

Other activities such as Information Square, Sankaku Café, and the Interaction Program, organized with the cooperation of the NWEC volunteers to further support and encourage interaction among participants, were also very popular. Many participants enthusiastically commented that their exchanges with participants from all over Japan at these venues were very valuable and useful.

Completed questionnaires the Center received back from participants indicate their wishes and suggestions for future forums. This is very useful information for us in organizing future forums. We intend to make every effort to organize next year's forum to be a satisfying experience for as many people as possible.

Training Program on the Promotion of Support for Women's Career Building

The National Women's Education Center views a woman's "career" not only in terms of professional achievement but also in terms of contribution to community activities and pursuit of lifelong learning. This is what we refer to as a "diverse career concept". In contrast to the notion of a "professional career," we refer to achievements in and contributions to civic and social activities such as community building as a person's "social activity career". This training program, which is based on this concept of career in a broader sense, ran for two nights and three days from July 14 to 16 and attracted 81 participants. The aim of the program was to link activities of individual women to social activities, bearing in mind their diverse careers.

On the first day, participants' listened to lectures aimed at raising their awareness of gender equality and providing them with basic knowledge in career building for women. A research report based on data was also presented, and participants were given the task of clarifying the issues and sharing their views. The program then introduced five case studies presented in an interview format on two progressive career themes: "Diverse Career

Building Support for Women” and “Career Building for Young Women”.

In the afternoon on the second day, participants divided into three groups to discuss three course concepts and then prepared project (learning) plans for each: “A Course for Supporting Social Activity Careers,” “A Work-life Balance Course,” and “A Course for Supporting Younger Women.” This was followed by presentations of the plans they created by two representatives from each group.

The questionnaire survey participants were requested to fill out after the completion of the program contained considerable positive feedback from participants. For example, one participant remarked, “All lectures had meaningful content, and I was able to understand it from the both theoretical and practical aspects.” Another stated, “Since I have very little time to organize my own ideas on a regular basis, it was extremely useful to be able to organize project (learning) plans through this program.”

Training Course for Counselors at Women’s Facilities

This training course took place over two nights and three days from Thursday, October 7 to Friday, October 9. The purpose of the program was to assist in the empowerment of women and improve the skills of counselors who must deal with various problems encountered by women. The program was designed particularly for counselors at women’s facilities from all over Japan and aimed to supplement their professional knowledge and enhance their practical skills.

The participants of this course also attended the Seminar on Support for the Victims of Spousal Violence (Applied Seminar) held during the same period. The program gave participants the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of spousal violence, an issue that must be resolved to realize a gender-equal society. Some of the comments made by participants were: “All the lecturers were wonderful people. I am really happy that I was able to attend this seminar,” “This seminar was truly meaningful and gave counselors a sense of empowerment,” “This seminar enabled me to reaffirm the meaning and responsibility of my own work.”



At a plenary session

Seminar on Support for Victims of Spousal Violence

The NWEC was commissioned by the Cabinet Office to conduct the following seminars to enable individuals who are responsible for providing support at spousal violence counseling and support centers of local municipal governments and organizations nationwide to acquire the knowledge and skills they need.

Seminar on Support for Victims of Spousal Violence (Applied Seminar)

This seminar took place over two days and one night from Wednesday, October 6 to Thursday, October 7. The purpose of the seminar was to provide counselors who had two or more years of experience with specialist and practical training to enable them to appropriately handle various incidents related to spousal violence and matters to be considered at that time. Through lectures and studies of case studies presented by lecturers actively involved in the frontline of consultation, participants learned about the effects of spousal violence on families and society and practical methods of consultation based on various case examples. They also had the opportunity to exchange opinions and perspective with lecturers and other participants. In summing up the seminar, one participant said, “I was able to gain a new awareness and viewpoints through the multifaceted studies.” Another participant commented, “The content of seminar was very useful for my future consultation work.”

Seminar on Support for Victims of Spousal Violence (Management Seminar)

This seminar also took place over two days from Monday, November 1 to Tuesday, November 2. The purpose of the seminar was to reinforce the knowledge and skills required of individuals who are in charge of managing counseling operations that deal with spousal violence.

In discussions centered on real life cases, participants considered a range of issues such as the responsibilities and role of managers in creating a safe, reassuring counseling system and networking among relevant organizations for providing seamless, ongoing support. In their assessment of the program, one participant said, “I was able to study about the role a manager must play in the counseling system,” and another commented, “As a manager, I would like to apply what I learned to improve services for users and staff management.”

Book Package Lending Service of the Information Center for Women’s Education

The book package lending service of the Information Center for Women’s Education began in June 2010 and as of January 2011 was being utilized by eight national universities, two private universities, and one women’s facility throughout Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

This service gives suggestions and prepares packages of books to suit the purpose of individual organizations. For universities, it provides knowledge and information on gender equality as well as support for students in lifestyle including diet and relationships. It also provides information packages to assist in the preparation of theses. For women’s facilities it networks with the organizers of classes and lectures aimed at reemployment for women and other purposes.

We intend to offer a service that meets the needs of various organizations and we hope that your organization will take advantage of it.

For further details of the service and activities of the packaged book lending to date, please refer to the National Women’s Education Center website.

TOPICS

Conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation with Saitama University

On September 13, the National Women’s Education Center concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation with Saitama University.

The decision to enter into such a partnership developed as a natural progression after the Center and the Office of Gender Equality of Saitama University successfully cooperated in the running of a joint course. As one of several courses in the themed education program “Coming into Contact with Society” offered by the Saitama University Center for Education and Research in Cooperative Human Relations, the course entitled “Thinking about My Career — for Students Getting Ready to Join the Ranks of Society” was a joint initiative of the Center and Saitama University. Held in the first semester from April 14 to June 23, the course consisted of 15 classes including a one-night, two-day intensive learning program at the National Women’s Education Center. The classes aimed to affect students in a way that would encourage them to consider their careers from the perspective of promoting social participation based on gender equality.

In an environment where securing employment continues to be difficult, this course challenged students to be the creators of their own careers by adopting a multifaceted concept of career from a perspective that included social activities and a long-term view of their careers rather than simply considering their professional pursuits in the job market. This course was the first of its kind to be offered anywhere in Japan.



Mr. Yoshihiko Kamii, President of Saitama University (center left, front row) and President Kanda, NWECC (center right, front row) hold the signed memorandums

At present the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology believes there is a need for initiatives in guiding students in the direction of social and professional autonomy both within and outside the parameters of the educational curriculum and it plans to implement a partial revision of the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and the Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges in 2011. In this sense, the joint course launched by Saitama University and the Center was a groundbreaking initiative.

In the future, Saitama University and the Center plan to strengthen their cooperative efforts to contribute to promoting gender equality through their memorandum of understanding.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

NWECC 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 renewed 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.

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

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

★In the singing of insects, I feel the coming of Autumn. Thank you for reading NWECC Newsletter.

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