

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ms. Fusako Utsumi, President
National Women's Education Center

I am writing to introduce myself to you as the new president of the National Women's Education Center, NWEC. My name is Fusako Utsumi and I assumed the office on July 1, 2011.

I have worked for 40 years in the IT industry, covering a broad area including technology development, personnel management and human resources development. When I graduated from my university in the 1970s, it was difficult to even imagine a woman being employed in that industry or to think about gender equality. Looking back, I can say that since the implementation in 1985 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law, the environment for working women has undergone a major change. My appointment to the posts of section director and later department director gave me valuable experience of leading and managing an organization. In addition, I had the opportunity of managing a company as a member of the board and also as president of a subsidiary of the parent company.

Since taking office as the president of NWEC, I have been impressed by the high regard in which our organization is held and the passionate support it receives, as well as the significant role expected of it in the future. I am humbled by the tremendous and meritorious efforts of its past leaders, and the weight of the responsibilities now thrust on me.

As the next runner receiving the baton from my predecessor Dr. Kanda, I am committed to doing my

utmost to realize the advent of a truly gender-equal society, and I ask for your continued support and guidance in this task.

I take this opportunity also to express my most sincere appreciation for the generous support and encouragement received from all over the world in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake that hit our country on March 11, 2011. We are all engaged in every kind of initiative to reconstruct our country after what is regarded as a once-in-a-thousand-years disaster.

In this respect NVEC is undertaking a number of initiatives in our FY 2011 programs.

At the NVEC Forum for Gender Equality, an exchange program that attracts over 1,000 participants each year, we will organize a symposium on “Disaster Reconstruction and Community Building—A Vision for a Gender-equal Society”. The symposium will discuss from many perspectives how all affected persons can connect and support each other so that none will be left isolated, and we will consider what has to be done in order to create a community that ensures the safety and security of all in the process of building a gender-equal society. Workshops will also be held on “Disaster, Community Building and Job Creation.”

We will also hold an NVEC International Symposium on the theme “Disaster Restoration and Gender.” The first part will feature keynote addresses by Ms. Akiko Domoto, a representative of Japan Network for Women and Health and former Governor of Chiba Prefecture, who will talk on “Disaster Restoration based on Gender Perspectives — Lessons Learned from 3.11.” Dr. Sepali Kottegoda, chair of APWW (Asia Pacific Women’s Watch) and Women and Media Collective will speak on the theme “Gender Mainstreaming within Disaster Management Policies — Key Issues and Challenges in the Asia and Pacific Region.”

The panel discussion in the second part will focus on “Community Construction and Gender: Proposals from the Asian Pacific Region,” with Ms. Asako Osaki, Gender Action Platform Advocacy Specialist, as the facilitator. Panelists, Dr. Juree Vicht-Vadakan, founder of the Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society, Dr. Shantana R. Halder, Comprehensive Disaster Management Program Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ms. Keiko Hiraga, chair of the NPO Sankaku Planning Iwate and a representative of multi-country capacity building seminar sponsored by NVEC, will be discussing reconstruction in the area affected by the disaster from the perspective of gender equality.

We will be strengthening women’s networking through domestic and international exchange programs. I personally look forward to seeing you at our events and working with you to strengthen our shared causes.

INFORMATION FROM NVEC

FY2011 Special Exhibition at the Women's Archives Center

Given that the United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry, NVEC will hold a special exhibition entitled "Women in chemistry: Our role models from past to present~"

This exhibition will introduce the careers of women who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, and the involvement of women throughout the history of chemical research in Japan from modern times through to the present.



Exhibition Period: Monday, August 29 ~

Sunday, November 6, 2011

Venue: Exhibition Room, Women's Archives Center, 1F, Main Building, NVEC

Please refer to our website for details. <http://www.nvec.jp/jp/archive/>

Report on the US-Japan symposium "Connections - Bringing Together the Next Generation of Women Leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics"

A report on the US-Japan symposium held over the two-night, three-day period Monday, July 5 through Wednesday, July 7, 2010 has been compiled. This report can be downloaded from the NVEC website in both English and Japanese (PDF).

NVEC website: <http://www.nvec.jp/jp/program/invite/2010/page04Ms.html>



**Connections: Bringing Together the Next Generation
of Women Leaders in Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics**

The English version of this report is also available on the website for the Tokyo Regional Office of the National Science Foundation of the United States. It is posted as "Report" under "Latest News" on its top page.

NSF Tokyo Regional Office website:
<http://www.nsftokyo.org/index-j.htm>

RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

FY2010 Seminar on the Promotion of Education for Girls and Women II, January 25 (Mon.) ~ February 10 (Wed.), 2011

Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), NWEC has been holding this program since FY2001. It aims to improve the ability of administrative officers in developing countries in Asia, Africa, the Near and Middle East and other regions to formulate and plan education promotion programs with a view to eliminating gender disparities in basic education. This year, the Seminar was attended by a total of ten trainees, including two from Malawi and one each from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Gambia, Laos, the Marshall Islands, Mali, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe.



Closing Ceremony

Trainees listened to an explanation of gender mainstreaming activities and programs at JICA and attended lectures on gender equality policy and education administration in Japan by officials from the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. NWEC staff also provided lectures on topics covering the historical development of promotion of girls' education in Japan, dissemination of women's information, and statistics-based international comparisons in education.

During the second week, trainees visited Hiroshima where they toured the Atomic Bomb Dome, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the office of an NPO in Hiroshima city, and attended a workshop on peace education. At the Hiroshima Women's Education Center (WE Plaza), in addition to learning about the role the Center plays as a hub for women's lifelong learning, trainees exchanged opinions on women's participation in society with local women leaders.

They also attended the Eighth Japan Education Forum in Tokyo where they deepened their knowledge of the latest trends in community schools in Africa and Asia.

The following week, the trainees visited Yonominami Junior High School where they observed a coeducational home economics class and an English conversation class taught with a native English-speaking assistant English teacher, and participated in a second year homeroom class where they interacted with students and teachers.

FY2010 Seminar for Individuals Supporting Female Students' Job Hunting Activities and Job Assistance, March 3 (Thu.) ~ March 4 (Fri.), 2011

Held at NWEC, this seminar was attended by 65 university faculty. The Seminar started with a representative of the Higher Education Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology explaining “Career education and support measures for job hunting activities and job assistance at universities, and trends therein,” that provided participants with up-to-the-minute information and enable them to grasp their respective positions.

This was followed by a lecture entitled “Seamless support for employment” where participants learned what university staff responsible for supporting job hunting should think about, life planning support for female students, and the abilities female students need to foster in the midst of a severe employment situation. Participants then got to grips with and analyzed prevailing circumstances and challenges from reports on four forward-thinking case studies. In an information exchange session aimed at fostering interaction, participants actively conversed and exchanged information among themselves. On the second day, a panel discussion entitled “Human resources and human resource development sought by companies in periods of recession” was held. Fundamental challenges facing students were discussed from a corporate perspective on the basis of firsthand experience predominantly among human resource staff. Participants then joined one of three workshops and formulated either a program for seamless support from the freshman and junior years, a program for seamless support that heightens awareness about employment among students and enhances their capabilities, or a program for seamless collaboration among faculty, companies and graduates.”

Feedback from participants included comments such as “Each of the lectures were interrelated so I was able to learn and think about everything as a single issue” and “The seminar was very rewarding not only because I was able to gain a lot of useful information from the many case studies presented and from interacting with other participants, but also because there was great variation among the participants who came from different regions nationwide.”



Panel Discussion

FY2011 Training Course for Leaders of Family Education and Child Raising Support, May 13 (Fri.) ~ May 14 (Sat.), 2011

Held as a residential one-night/two-day program, the FY2011 Training Course for Leaders of Family Education and Child Raising Support was attended by 112 individuals from throughout Japan.

Theme of this year's program was "Child raising by the family and the community." Pertinent issues such as men's participation at home and in the community and various relationships within communities that support families engaged in child raising were considered through explanations of national policies and trends provided by the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology, the Cabinet Office and the

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare as well as lectures, panel discussions and workshops.



Panel Discussion "Men's participation at home and in the community from the child raising aspect"

In particular, for the panel discussion on "Men's participation at home and in the community from child raising aspect," we invited a number of panelists from NPOs supporting fathers, companies supporting child raising in the community in cooperation with organizations supporting child raising as one aspect of CSR, and NPOs that conduct child raising courses for fathers and grandparents in collaboration with women's facilities.

Enthusiastic participation in the form of questions from the audience ensured a rewarding panel discussion. Furthermore, taking advantage of the residential aspect of the program, an information exchange session was held in the evening. This provided an invaluable opportunity for administrative officers involved in family education, and support for child raising and fostering of the next generation; leaders of organizations involved in support for child raising; individuals responsible for corporate support for fostering of the next generation; staff at women's facilities and social education facilities throughout Japan; and other individuals at the heart of community support for child raising to get together, share information and deepen exchange.

FY2011 Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations, June 20(Mon.) ~June 22(Wed.), 2011

A Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations was held at NVEC.(The Course for Managerial Staff at Women's Facilities was co-hosted by The National Council of Women's Centers.) Attended by 130 participants from throughout Japan, the course provided specialized and practical training to facilitate acquisition of the knowledge, management skills and networking competency required of leaders who proactively promote gender



equality in their communities.

A cycle whereby each participant would take the outcome of the training back to each of their community and implement it, reflect on what they had achieved and make further use of it in other activities was envisaged when determining the content of each program. Lively discussion based on the experiences of both participants and the case study presenters ensued.

Feedback from participants included comments such as “I was able to gain new perspectives while learning the basics,” “I was able to get up-to-date information and learn about circumstances prevalent at individual facilities nationwide and measures being taken. This will serve as a very useful reference” and “I gained insight into problems faced by organizations and issues involved in self-evaluation.”

1. Workshops to promote public-public and public-private sector collaboration on support for victims of spousal violence

Commissioned by the Cabinet Office, these training programs targeted managerial staff and mid-level counselors with a certain amount of experience at public and private support organizations that provide spousal violence counseling.

- **Workshop for Managerial Staff (Directors of Overseeing Bodies and Directors of Support Centers)**

A workshop for directors of overseeing bodies was held at NVEC on Monday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 12. Targeting directors, etc. of prefectural and municipal departments (bureaus) that oversee support centers responsible for spousal violence counseling services. This workshop covered topics pertaining to basic knowledge about spousal violence, models for collaboration with relevant organizations within support centers, effective operation of support centers and information exchange.



President Utsumi greeting participants at the Workshop for Managerial Staff



Workshop for Managerial Staff

A workshop for directors of support centers was held at Kyoto Terra on Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15. Targeting directors of spousal violence counseling and support centers (hereinafter, “support centers”) nationwide, this workshop covered topics such as basic knowledge about spousal violence, management skills required of the heads of support centers and information exchange.

● Workshop for Counselors

Targeting mid-level counselors (staff engaged in counseling) at facilities such as spousal violence counseling and support centers and gender equality centers, practical training courses were conducted nationwide by dividing Japan into three regional blocks.

The first workshop was held on Tuesday, October 4 and Wednesday, October 5 at the Fukuoka Prefectural Gender Equality Center Asubarū; the second on Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13 at NWECC; and the third on Tuesday, November 1 and Wednesday November 2 at the Osaka Prefectural Center for Youth and Gender Equality (Dawn Center). Through lectures and case examinations by lecturers active on the frontline of counseling, participants learned about the current situation in terms of suffering associated with spousal violence and ways of providing counseling on the basis of a variety of cases studies. They also engaged actively in opinion exchange throughout the workshop.



Dr. Sayoko Takeshita giving a lecture at the Training Course for Counselors

2. Training Course for Counselors at Women’s Facilities

Held at NWECC on Wednesday, October 12 through Friday, October 14, this course aimed to foster the acquisition of specialized knowledge and improve practical counseling skills. Participants also attended the Workshop for Counselors, commissioned by the Cabinet Office and held during the same period, where they deepened their understanding of spousal violence, an issue that must be resolved before a gender-equal society can be realized.

Classes held in Collaboration with Saitama University and Aomori Chuo Gakuin University

NWECC held a number of classes in collaboration with Saitama University and Aomori Chuo Gakuin

University. Classes taught in collaboration with Saitama University comprised a series of 14 classes entitled “Thinking about a gender-equal society” which was classified under “Encounters with society” in the themed education program. In the second class (April 20), Vice President Maki Kubo gave a lecture entitled “Thinking about a gender-equal society” in which she described national and international trends in gender equality. In the third class (April 27), staff from NWEC’s Information Division gave lectures on information retrieval around two themes: “Using specialized information” and “Learning about gender statistics – Using databases of statistics pertaining to men and women.” During these classes, students used computers to learn about report writing, techniques for obtaining information from specialized databases and the use of statistical data.

The eleventh and twelfth classes (June 25) were held at the Information Center for Women’s Education at NWEC in Ranzan-machi, and students collected information using the information retrieval techniques they had learned and by perusing materials housed in the Center.

A three-part series of public lectures entitled “Living Life Your Way – At Work, At Home and In Community Activities” were conducted as classes taught in collaboration with Aomori Chuo Gakuin University. The first class (June 15) comprised a keynote public lecture by Mr. Naoki Atsumi, Director of the Diversity & Work Life Balance Research Department, Toray Corporate Business Research, Inc., and the second and third classes (June 22 & 29) comprised open workshops on the theme “Working and Living - Work, Marriage and Child Raising -.” What distinguished these classes were ① they were open lectures that both students and members of the public could attend, ② they incorporated workshops for both students and members of the public, and ③ the workshops were implemented with the cooperation of the NPO, the Aomori Association for Gender Equality Promotion.

The first class involved learning about the concept of a work life balance through a lecture. Then, in the workshops comprising the second and third classes (June 22 & 29), students and members of the public



Practical training at the Information Center for Women’s Education, NWEC



Ms. Nakano, Director of the Office of Research and International Affairs, making a comment during a workshop

worked in mixed groups to consider solutions to issues pertaining to “What needs to be done to foster a society more conducive to realization of a work life balance?” and came up with concrete measures on the four levels of the individual, schools, companies and society through discussion.

To deepen understanding of these classes, NWEC’s Information Center for Women’s Information provided learning support by availing its Book Package Lending Service by which it lent sets of 200 specialized books pertaining to a particular theme to both the Resource Center in the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Saitama University and the Library in Aomori Chuo Gakuin University.

“Career Development for Female Students” program conducted in collaboration with the Saitama Association of Private Junior Colleges

NWEC hosted a course on Career Development for Female Students over the two-night, three-day period Thursday, September 1 through Saturday, September 3, 2011, with the aim of enabling participants to learn about the concept of lifelong career development as women in a gender-equal society, as well as to foster the basics of interpersonal skills and attitudes of mutual acceptance of diversity through interaction and discussion with students from other colleges and universities.

Held under the joint auspices of NWEC and the Saitama Association of Private Junior Colleges, the program was attended by 25 female students from Akikusa Gakuen Junior College, Saitama Junshin College, Saitama Women’s Junior College and Yamamura Gakuen College.

On the first day of the program, participants learned about the importance of thinking about careers from lectures on the theme “Thinking about your future career” given by a number of people including President



Dr.Kanda, former president of NWEC, presenting her keynote speech “Thinking about your future career”

Fujita of Saitama Junshin College and President Fukazawa of Akikusa Gakuen Junior College, and a lecture entitled “The revolutionary idea of social participation in career development” presented by Dr. Kanda, former president of NWEC.

From the second day, participants divided into groups of six to analyze case studies of women who engaged in child-raising and community activities while working, exchange opinions on their ways of life and think about the meaning of developing a career.

During the evenings, graduates of junior colleges visited the Center as guest speakers to talk about their own careers, and the students appeared impressed and encouraged by their predecessors' descriptions of overcoming various challenges in the course of building their careers.



Students' presentations on the final day

During students' presentations on the final day, opinions such as "I thought that it could be possible to continue working while engaging in housework, child-raising and nursing care if you managed to make wise use of the help available," "Seeing the active lives my predecessors lead made me want to continue working after having children," "I want to make the most of any opportunities I get" and "I realized the importance of involvement in society" emerged, and the program seemed to have encouraged them to think about life plans for their future.

This program was accredited with two credits for a corresponding subject (career design, etc.) at each college. NWEC will continue providing support for students' career development in collaboration with universities and colleges nationwide.

TOPICS

NWEC's Response to the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake

NWEC provided accommodation and help with relief supplies to victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011.

1. Accommodation of victims and evacuees

Fortunately there were no reports of injury or damage to NWEC facilities or equipment immediately after the earthquake. In addition to announcing details of the situation surrounding the earthquake to Center users, NWEC made information available via various media including both television and the internet.

NWEC began offering temporary accommodation to victims and evacuees immediately after the earthquake occurred, and provided overnight accommodation for 96 individuals including program participants who were unable to return home as well as students and teachers from local private junior and senior high schools who were experiencing difficulty getting home. During the approximately six months following the earthquake up to September 30, NWEC accommodated 115 people for varying lengths of time, amounting to a total of 1,946 nights' accommodation.

2. Support for victims and evacuees accommodated at NVEC

Volunteers provided victims/evacuees accommodated at NVEC with support in the form of free lunches and help buying daily necessities, and NVEC made its cafeteria available free of charge. NVEC volunteers and staff also offered various kinds of support such as provision of information on nearby places of interest, and picture books readings and origami classes for children.

3. Other responses

The decision to officially provide free accommodation was made on March 18, and this was announced on both our website and in our email magazine. We also made this information available to women's groups and organizations. This free accommodation of victims was gradually extended and was provided until the end of August.

Moreover, in addition to providing 50 mattresses to evacuation centers in Saitama prefecture, NVEC collaborated with neighboring facilities and citizens of Ranzan-machi to establish a support system for disaster victims, and to accept and distribute relief supplies delivered to the Center.

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 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.

○NVEC Home Page(English) <http://www.nvec.jp/en/>

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

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

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