

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

A Biannual Publication of the National Women's Education Center of Japan

International Forum on Women's Information

The National Women's Education Center hosted an International Forum on Women's Information over the weekend November 17-18, 2001. The Center held an International Seminar on Women's Information and Communications Network in 1985, the Regional Seminar on the Development of a Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1986, and an International Seminar on Women's Information Network Systems in 1987, to discuss issues related to women and information.



However, NWEC has not held any international conferences around the theme of "Information" since this time. Given the dizzying changes occurring in information environments today, the theme "Women's Information" was selected this year to provide an opportunity to think once again about issues pertaining to women and information.

Women's information refers to information provided, collected and disseminated by women's facilities and other bodies including research institutes, libraries, government institutions, businesses, NGOs and NPOs, volunteer organizations, and so forth. The overriding aim of this year's forum,

"Global networking of women's information –Searching for enlargement of women's information", was to recognize anew the meaning of women's information from our respective viewpoints.

The Forum was held under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, with the support of the Cabinet Office, the United Nations Information Center Tokyo and Fujitsu Limited.

The Forum was attended by 162 participants from women's facilities, government institutions, NGOs and NPOs, universities and research institutes. An outline of the program is introduced below:

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1. Group presentation

Trainees on the International Training Course on Processing Women's Information were divided into five groups, and each group gave a fifteen minute presentation on themes related to "Women's Information". Each group's presentation is outlined below:

- (1) Factors that impede women's access to information
- (2) The Role of women's organizations
- (3) Women's information & ICT skills
- (4) Women and ICT
- (5) Women empowerment through women's information

A PowerPoint presentation explaining the issue whilst touching on issues and situations in group members' countries was easy to understand and favorably received by the audience.

(Please refer to P.4~5 for an outline of the International Training Course on Processing Women's Information.)

2. Workshop

Session 1: Women's information from the perspective of women's and gender studies

<Panelists>

Lynn Westbrook

Associate Professor, School of Library and Information, Texas Women's University (U.S.A.)

Miho Omi

Collection and Provision of Information, Yokohama Women's Association for Communication and Networking

<Coordinator>

Junko Kuninobu

Director, Institute for Gender and Women's



Studies, Aichi Shukutoku University

Women's studies comprises an academic discipline that must be thought of in a social context, and as such, ways of collecting and providing information must include many things. We must recognize the differences between Japanese and American research in women's studies and librarians' situations, and think about ways of collaborating with research institutes, women's centers, public libraries and so forth.

Session 2: Government information promotion the building of a gender-equal society

<Panelists>

Annabelle Sreberny

Professor, Centre for Mass Communication Research, University of Leicester (U.K.)

Tetsuya Iwasa

Deputy Director, General Planning Office, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office

Hisayo Horikoshi

Horikoshi Research & Planning Room/Home Office Working Association

<Coordinator>

Yuko Shozugawa

Senior Researcher, NLI Research Institute

International indices adopted by UNDP and ILO were used to clarify the situations prevailing in Japan and England, and views on the current situation surrounding ICT and women, and administrations were exchanged. If we are to realize a gender-equal society, rather than regarding women's issues from a single dimension, government and civil society must collaborate and exchange information.

Session 3: Utilizing women's information and networking

<Panelists>

Chat Garcia Ramilo

APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APCWNSP), Lesson Learned Project Manager (The Philippines)

Satoko Matsuura

Assistant Professor, Setsunan University

Hiromi Misawa

Product Management Content Producer, Womenjapan.com

<Coordinator>

Yasuko Muramatsu

Professor, Tokyo Gakugei University

Developments in ICT have resulted in the growth of NGO and NPO activities, e-business and other activities. Each panelist reported on the status of these activities and discussed women's empowerment and ICT. Ascertaining necessary information, and strengthening both electronic and human networks comprise important factors.

3. Reports of workshops

The coordinator of each workshop reported the outcome of the previous days' discussion in ten minutes.

4. International Symposium

An International Symposium was held around the theme "Searching for enlargement of women's information". Three specialists from overseas, Dr. Westbrook, Professor Sreberny and Ms. Ramilo, participated as panelists, and Professor Miiko Kodama, Musashi University as coordinator.

Elaborating on the need for research on women and information, Dr. Westbrook suggested that research would indicate the direction we should take, and would someday become the seal of approval required to procure funds for activities. Professor Sreberny suggested that rather than a top-down approach, we needed to consider global recession from the bottom up as this would lead to the formation of new local and global information networks. Ms. Ramilo suggested that unless women gained access to new communication technology and created an environment that would accommodate them, ICT



would have detrimental effects on women.

Following questions pertaining to ICT and the gender gap, and the current state of information education, Professor Kodama confirmed that women's facilities can become a link to women's information between research, the general public, the government, business and internationally.

Forums around the theme "Information" will be held for three years. The second forum to be held next fiscal year will expand upon topics emerging from this year's discussions and delve further into the theme.

(Kazue AOKI, Chief, International Exchange Unit, Information and International Exchange Division, NWECE)



International Training Course on Processing Women's Information



An International Training Course on Processing Women's Information was conducted at the National Women's Education Center during the week November 11-17, 2001. This Training Course replaces the NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues held annually until 2000. The three major differences between the two courses are:

(1) Expanded number of trainees

Previous training courses targeted women administrators, but the training course to be conducted from this year onwards includes participants from NGOs in its scope, and solicited participants directly from women's organizations and university research institutes. Consequently, applications were received from 76 persons in 28 countries. The number of Japanese participants was a distinguishing feature of this year's training course.

(2) Shortened period of training

The previous forty-day training program has been reduced to one week. A long program facilitates the inclusion of numerous programs such as field trips to related institutions and lectures on women's issues, but many women cannot be absent from work for long periods of time and a shorter training period of one week was thought to be more conducive to participation.

(3) Collaboration with the International Forum on Women's Information

Trainees participated in the International Forum on Women's Information held on November 17 – 18, and reported the results of their training during the

Participants comprised 13 trainees from focal points/national machineries, 13 from NGOs and 5 from women's research institutes.

time allocated for Group Presentations.

1. Trainees

This year's training course was attended by 31 trainees from 21 countries

The number of trainees

country	number
Bangladesh	2
China	2
India	1
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Laos	1
Malaysia	2
Maldives	1
Marshall Islands	1
Nepal	2
Pakistan	1
Palau	2
Philippines	2
Solomon Islands	1
Sri Lanka	1
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
Uzbekistan	1
Vanuatu	1
Vietnam	1
Japan	5
Total 21 countries	31

2. Training Program (Refer to Table 1)

The training program focused on acquisition of information processing skills such as Word, Excel



and PowerPoint, and included lectures entitled “An outline of TICT and Open Learning” by Associate Professor Kazuhisa Adachi, Jumonji Gakuen University; and “Women’s Information” by Ms. Reiko Aoki, Director of the Koshigaya Municipal Support Center for the Promotion of Gender Equality “Hot Koshigaya”, as well as a lecture on NWECE’s own information system. Trainees were divided into five groups to prepare their group presentations for the abovementioned International Forum on Women’s Information. Time restraints precluded the presentation of country reports and workshops, but use of group exercises in information processing in which trainees exchanged opinions among themselves, as well as individual exercises, was designed to provide practical training.

our response to trainees, and the compilation of training programs and texts, but opportunities to bring together information supervisors from government and NGOs in Asian and Pacific countries are difficult to find. As a result, we will endeavor to enhance the content of this training program and develop international networks through our trainees.

The English version of the TICT site was launched at the beginning of this training course. It is our hope that trainees on this course and everyone else interested in women’s information will use this site to exchange opinions freely. (Please refer P.6~7)

(Kazue AOKI, Chief, International Exchange Unit, Information and International Exchange Division, NWECE)

3. Towards the Future...

Topics requiring further consideration include

Schedule

Table 1

Date	Programs
Sun. 11	Move to NWECE Arrival at NWECE Briefing and orientation
Mon. 12	Opening ceremony Explanation about the curriculum Lecture"Open Learning and TICT" Professor Kazuhisa Adachi, Jumonji University Ms. Mieko Goda, Specialist, NWECE Lecture"WinetCASS" Ms. Hiroko Shiota, Fujitsu Ms. Kimi Miyazawa, Specialist, NWECE Exercises of personal computer: collecting information (Internet searches)
Tues. 13	Exercises of personal computer: classifying and analyzing information(Word, Excel) Lecture"Women and Information" Ms. Reiko Aoki, Director of Hot Koshigaya
Wed. 14	Exercises of personal computer: disseminating information (PowerPoint / compiling a Web page)
Thurs. 15	Group exercises
Fri. 16	Rehearsal for Group Presentation
Sat. 17	International Forum on Women's Information Closing ceremony
Sun. 18	International Forum on Women's Information

Support Project for Training of ICT for Staff at Women's Facilities

1. Introduction of Personal Computers at Women's Facilities

The Support Project for Training of ICT for Staff at Women's Facilities is conducted as a network support program under the umbrella of NVEC's Information Programs.

In line with government measures promoting information communication technology, several ministries and agencies have continued to install and/or increase the numbers of personal computers in women's facilities and lifelong learning centers for both administrative use and use in training. However, at present, staff are seldom provided with manuals or opportunities to acquire training in computer skills.

NVEC created a project team and proposed supporting skills acquisition and exchange among staff at these facilities through 1) the use of examples directly related to their work; 2) provision of teaching materials on individual skills that can be studied voluntarily; and 3) development of an internet page to facilitate exchange between trainees.

2. Project Team

After designing a site and investigating suitable contents, the Project Team, which comprises staff from women's facilities, external specialists and NVEC staff members, aimed to enhance its content by starting up the site and listening to trainees' needs.

3. TICT Site

TICT (Training of ICT for staff at women's facilities) is the name of the site launched on May 31, 2001 as one aspect of this project. As a portal site for people with an interest in women's information, it provides teaching materials that enable trainees of all levels to study ICT of their own volition. The site's



contents can be viewed by clicking [TICT] on NVEC's homepage. (Japanese version)

URL: <http://www.nvec.go.jp/tict/index.html>

• Wakaba Corner

"Wakaba" means young leaf in Japanese, and the corner's name derives from our comparing TICT to a plant and our desire to see leaves sprout, that is, to foster the abilities of people who access this site. "Networking in TICT" epitomizes the concept of this site, and we welcome the cooperation of individuals and organizations towards enhancing its content.

• Women's Information

Contains a list of useful links for collecting women's information, and collections of immediately usable samples of MS-Excel spreadsheets directly

relevant to the business activities of women's facilities and reference case studies found in libraries at women's facilities.

• **Exchange**

“Wakanae” means young sapling, and this is imaged after the development of a young tree sapling. Wakanae Hiroba features two notice boards: one for posting opinions, thoughts and questions concerning TICT and the other for carefree exchange of opinions concerning women's information.

The Project Team refers to comments posted when deciding operation policies for the site.

• **Training Materials**

(甲) Use of Training Materials

The suggested method for using these training materials is based on open learning theory. Reading these notes when studying the materials can heighten the effectiveness of your study.

(用) List of Training Menus

There are “Menu by Objective” “Menu by Application” “Menu by Technology”. Training materials such as “Creating a Flyer” using MS-Word are now offered. Our intention is to substantiate the content of this site by adding other training materials as they become available.

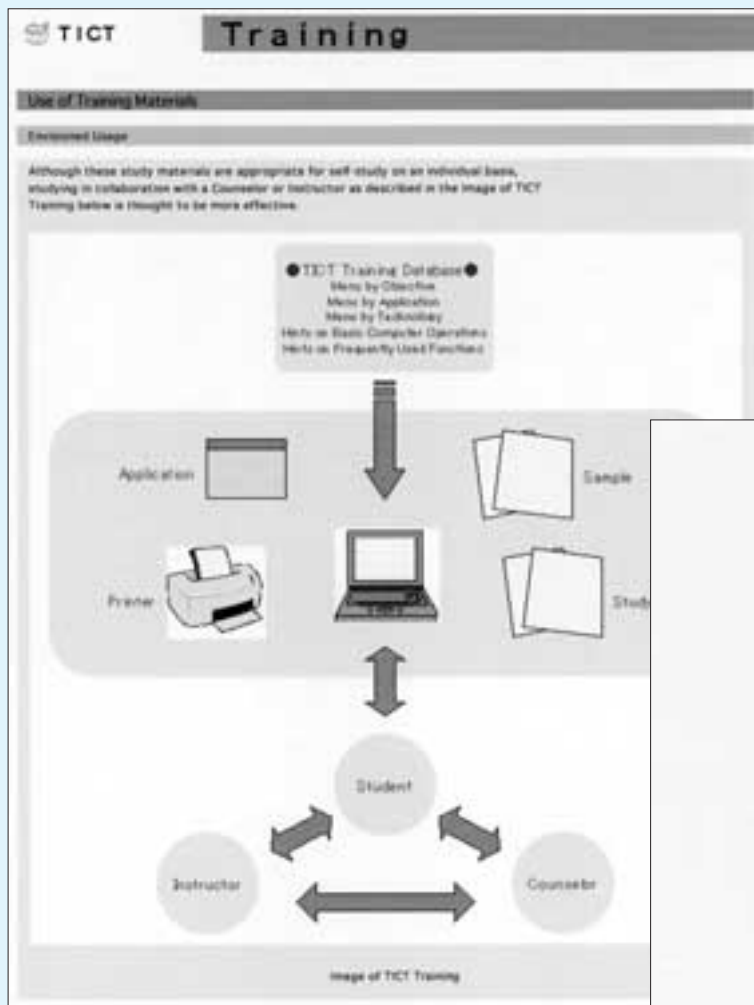
4. English Version of the TICT Site

URL: <http://www.nwec.go.jp/English/tict/index.html>

The English version of the TICT site was launched on November 9.

More than simply offering an English translation of the Japanese version, the English version targets both staff at women's facilities and anyone interested in women's issues. In particular, we hope the Forum page will facilitate exchange among trainees from the International Training Course on Processing Women's Information and participants of the International Forum on Women's Information, as well as other kinds of exchange pertaining to women's information. We look forward to your accessing TICT and giving it a try.

(Mieko GODA, Specialist, Information and International Exchange Division, NVEC)



SURVEY REPORT

Research on Gender Equality Learning in an Aging Society

Japanese society is aging rapidly, and it is estimated that one in four people will be sixty-five years of age or older by 2015. Life expectancy is growing and it is often said that we live in an era in which life lasts some eighty years. As a consequence, the period of life after retirement and after our children have flown the coop is lengthening, and we are beginning to think about how to spend the latter part of our lives.

Believing the way people live and feel before they become elderly to be important in terms of people leading personally successful aging, NVEC instigated this research project in 1999, in conjunction with International Year for the Elderly. Fiscal 2001 comprised the final year of this project.

The generation of people born during the post-war baby boom (1947-1949) will become elderly around 2015. The primary aim of this research, which considered this generation to be in a “pre-elderly stage” was to show them their options in terms of the kinds of lifestyles they might lead in old age. Based on the concept that people are only able to feel they are living enriching lifestyles if they are learning, the secondary aim of this project was to clarify topics of lifelong integrated education for this age group.

The project team comprised six researchers working in the fields of educational gerontology, sociology of family, women’s studies, adult education, welfare for the elderly, and business education, who engaged in empirical research in their respective areas. Results emerging from the research were summarized in a report entitled “Report on Research on Gender Equality Learning in an Aging Society – Preparing for a successful aging”, as they were considered useful to people studying and working at women’s facilities and lifelong learning centers as well as researchers and government officers concerned with issues pertaining to women and the elderly.

Human relationships between people who have pursued lives embracing gender-based roles epitomized by “men work and women stay home” change when they enter old age. We are required to take a new look at close human relationships and the sense of values we have fostered hereto, and to review relationships between men and women (gender relationships) in particular. Creating a lifestyle without gender-biases can provide a link to leading a rewarding life in old age. Rather than simply aiming to collect knowledge and information, learning methods



used for this purpose encourage self-metamorphosis through learning, and participatory and experiential learning methods involving group work are thought to be effective.

A booklet entitled “Gender Equality, Living and Learning Together at the Pre-elderly Stage” based on the abovementioned report was compiled as a guide for government officers and individuals planning and conducting seminars and workshops.

The booklet comprises three volumes: The first volume includes general remarks and explains how the aims of an enriching aging society are tied to the formation of a gender-equal society, and ways to approach learning in the pre-elderly stage. Volume 2 comments on topics of study for the pre-elderly stage, sample programs, things to beware of when conducting programs, reference information, and so forth. Topics of study are divided into four main areas: (㊦) rebuilding human relationships; (㊧) gender-equal participation in various activities; (㊨) combined lifestyles; (㊩) men’s participation in care-giving, and a total of twelve themes are raised by looking at each area in terms of “family relationships”, “life plans”, and so forth. Volume 3 covers a number of methods commonly used when conducting seminars and workshops, such as preparations, methods of communication used in workshops, and methods for stimulating recognition of one’s own gender biases.

The results of this research were made public at a symposium held at NVEC on June 24, 2001 entitled “Living and Learning Together at the Pre-elderly Stage. A synopsis of this symposium was carried in Journal of the National Women’s Education Center of Japan, Vol. 5 pp.139 – 151 (November 2001).

(Yuki TAKAHASHI, Researcher, NVEC)

NWEC BOOKLET

To be published
end of March 2002

**GENDER EQUALITY,
LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER
AT THE PRE-ELDERLY STAGE
TOWARDS LEADING A SUCCESS-
FUL AGING SOCIETY**

Supervision and Compilation
National Women's Education Center
Editing and Production
UD Japan Co. Ltd.
Publishing and Printing
Ministry of Finance Printing Bureau (scheduled)
A5 96 pages

Given that we are plunging towards an ultra-aged society with unprecedented momentum, how we can enhance life in old age so that we may lead a dynamic and enriching lifestyle is of great importance. In particular, what kind of viewpoints should be fostered in people approaching the pre-elderly stage (the period in which we reorganize our identity in preparation for old age)? What kind of learning is required to achieve this? We need to reconsider all aspects of gender equality learning if we are to afford both men and women dynamic lifestyles in old age.

This booklet contains sample study programs designed to teach gender-sensitive perspectives through a variety of citizens' activities and seminars.

It also contains a large number of practical case studies and worksheets that can be used by planners and facilitators.

We hope you will embrace the use of this booklet as an opportunity to enable yourself to lead a successful aging society with dynamic lifestyle of your own choice.

Researchers and writers involved in the compilation of this booklet (Japanese alphabetic order)
Masanobu Adachi (Associate Professor, Nagoya City University); Shigemitsu Arai (Director, Day Center Sakura); Machiko Ito (Associate Professor, Tohoku Koeki Bunka University); Sanae Uchiyama (CEO, UD Japan Co. Ltd.); Ikuko Katsuhara (Associate Professor, Yasuda Women's University); Yuki Takahashi (Researcher, National Women's Education Center); and Isao Hori (Associate Professor, Osaka Education University).



Main Contents

Section 1 Introduction

1. Striving towards a successful aging society involves striving towards a gender-equal society
2. Learning in the pre-elderly stage towards realization of a successful aging society
3. Creating study programs for the pre-elderly stage
4. Study topics for the pre-elderly stage

Section 2 Study Topics and Sample Programs

- Theme 1 Human relationships and interaction
- Theme 2 Family relationships
- Theme 3 Life plans
- Theme 4 Citizens' activities and NPOs
- Theme 5 Work lifestyles from the pre-elderly stage
- Theme 6 Lifelong learning
- Theme 7 Free time
- Theme 8 Health
- Theme 9 Home
- Theme 10 Nursing care
- Theme 11 Death and funerals
- Theme 12 Words and communication

Section 2 List of Sample Programs

- Sample Program 1
Switching from vertical human relationships to horizontal human relationships
- Sample Program 2

Marital relationships in the pre-elderly stage
 Sample Program 3
 Studying family communication in preparation for successful aging
 Sample Program 4
 Recommended combined life plans - catching hold of the rainbow
 Sample Program 5
 Intensive NPO leader empowerment courses
 Sample Program 6
 Creating new work styles
 Sample Program 7
 Studying gender issues and reorganizing human relationships as a form of lifelong learning
 Sample Program 8
 Time management skills in the pre-elderly stage
 Sample Program 9
 Nurturing your own health in the pre-elderly stage
 Sample Program 10 Home
 Sample Program 11 Nursing care ombudsman

Sample Program 12 Death and funerals
 Sample Program 13
 Thinking about coexistence in senior life from the perspective of language

Section 3 Using these Programs

1. Designing seminars
2. Examples for developing programs
3. New study methods
4. Worksheets and their usage
5. Fundamentals of communication

Section 3 discusses a variety of workshops and seminars from the preparation stage through to the worksheets to be used and how to use them. It also discusses study skills for basic communication.

A substantial amount of reference information is noted at the end of this booklet.

[NWECE will charge a using fee for facilities]

<p>1. Residence Hall Western-style room (single, with bath and toilet) ¥2,200 Western-style room (twin, with bath and toilet) ¥2,000 Western-style room (twin, with toilet) ¥1,800 Western-style room (twin) ¥1,600 Japanese-style room (for 2 persons, with bath and toilet) ¥2,000 Japanese-style room (for 4-5 persons, with toilet) ¥1,800 Japanese-style room (for 4-5 persons) ¥1,600 Meeting room / 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥300 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥400 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥300</p> <p>2. Training facilities Seminar Hall Auditorium (capacity of 602 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥4,700 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥6,200 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥4,700 Large Conference Room (capacity of 160 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥1,600 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥2,200 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥1,600 Medium-sized Conference Room (capacity of 40 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥500 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥700 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥500 Small Conference Room (capacity of 12 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥300 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥500 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥300 Seminar Room (capacity of 150 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥1,100 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥1,500 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥1,100 Seminar Room (capacity of 99 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥800 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥1,000 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥800 Seminar Room (capacity of 48 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥400 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥600 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥400 Seminar Room (capacity of 36 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥400 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥500 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥400 Seminar Room (capacity of 30 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥300 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥300 18:00 ~ 21:00</p>	<p>¥300 Seminar Room (capacity of 20 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥300 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥300 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥300</p> <p>Multimedia Training Room (capacity of 30 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥800 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥1,000 Waiting Room (capacity of 12 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥200 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥200 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥200 Waiting Room (capacity of 4 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥100 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥100 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥100</p> <p>Special Activities Facilities Music Room (capacity of 50 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥500 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥600 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥500 Arts and Crafts Room (capacity of 30 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥400 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥500 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥400 Cooking Room (capacity of 30 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥500 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥700 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥500 Tasting Room (capacity of 30 persons) 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥300 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥400 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥300 Japanese House "Hibiki-shoin" 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥1,200 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥1,500 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥1,200 Tea Ceremony House "Nagomi-an" 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥200 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥200</p> <p>Sports Facilities Gymnasium 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥3,500 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥4,700 18:00 ~ 21:00 ¥3,500 Indoor Swimming Pool (capacity of 50 persons) ¥100 Tennis Courts 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥200 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥300 Athletic Field 9:00 ~ 12:00 ¥1,400 13:00 ~ 17:00 ¥2,300</p>
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WOMEN'S CENTER IN JAPAN

Introduction to the Activities of the Fukushima Gender Equality Centre

1. Mission

The Fukushima Gender Equality Centre (Nickname: Onna to Otoko no Miraikan) opened on January 18, 2001. The Centre was established with the goal of realizing a gender-equal society - a society in which both men and women are respected as individuals and support each other whilst sharing the responsibilities of society, and in which actions and lifestyles are not dictated by gender and specific jobs and roles are not conferred upon either sex.

The Centre acts as a focal point for practical activities aimed at fostering self-enlightenment and active social participation that encourage individuals to become autonomously involved in the issue of gender equality.

2. Activities

The Centre collects and disseminates information pertaining to gender equality, and conducts surveys to identify obstacles to realization of a gender-equal society. The Centre also holds lectures and events that encourage men and women to change their views on gender equality, and supports efforts aimed at increasing their ability to participate in and take responsibility for society together.

A counseling room has been established within the Centre to respond to various issues of concern arising in daily life, including women's issues, human relationships at work, and legal and health problems, and support efforts to resolve them.

3. Courses and Events

• Training Course to Foster Local Women Leaders

Given that few women are in a position that allows them to participate in decision-making, a course was held with the aim of fostering women who can participate in various municipal deliberative councils and committees.

• Basic Training Course on Gender Equality

A course was held using local case studies to encourage participants to think about "gender", as this is a precursor to realizing a gender-equal society.

• Specialized Course for Men

A course using group work in which men discussed frankly the "hardships" of living in a male-oriented society was held to encourage them to think about gender-free lifestyles.



exterior



Japanese-American Women Leaders Exchange Project

• Japanese-American Women Leaders Exchange Project

An international symposium was held around the themes "Care-giving for the elderly" and "Violence against women". Panelists from America and Japan shared their views on measures and policies based on regional characteristics and the social background of their own countries.

4. Future Activities

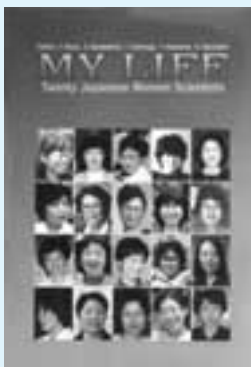
If we are to realize a gender-equal society, each individual person needs to actively think about how they want display their individuality and live fulfilling lives.

The Centre intends to conduct various activities that will attract the participation of large numbers of people, young and old, male and female, and encourage them think about this goal.

Publications

My Life : Twenty Japanese Women Scientists

(Editors, Yoshihide Kozai, et al. Published in 2001 by Uchida Rokakuho. 318 pages. ISBN 4753661814)



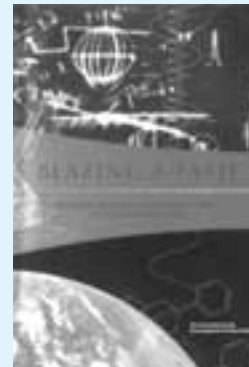
The Association for the Bright Future of Women Scientists was inaugurated in 1980 with an initial fund of five million yen, the total sum of money donated in conjunction with events commemorating the retirement of Dr. Katsuko Saruhashi. The Saruhashi Prize has been awarded annually since 1981 to one outstanding woman scientist under fifty years of age working in the field of natural science.

This book publishes English essays written by recipients of the Saruhashi Award in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Association. The book contains essays by all twenty recipients of the Award, from the first recipient in 1981, Tomoko Ota, through to the twentieth recipient in 2000, Tomoko Nakanishi. In principle, each author was given free reign over the content of her essay, but each was asked to incorporate topics such as her childhood dreams, scientific motives behind her choice of specialty, the joy of discovery, activities within the Association, her lifestyle during experimentation, joint research, support from families and colleagues, views on research, and advice and aspirations for future young women scientists. Publication of this volume has been supported in part by a Grant-in-Aid

for Publication of Scientific Research Results (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) from JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science).

Blazing a Path

(Published in 2001 by the Committee for the Encouragement of Future Scientists. 46 pages. ISBN 4990092112)



This book, compiled with the support of Her Majesty's donation out of royalties from her own published works in literature, reflects her hope that young people be informed of the achievements of Japan's women scientists from the pioneering years to the present.

At the same time, we have tried to present picture of cooperation between men and women in the field of scientific research, aware of the Empress's recognition of the men of science who encouraged women researchers and treated them as equal co-researchers at a time when women scientists were rare and society was not quite ready to accept them.

The book focuses on the achievements of ten women scientists (Ume Tange, Kono Yasui, Michiyo Tsujimura, Toshiko Yuasa, Katsuko Saruhashi, Tsuneko Okazaki, Keiko Yanagisawa, Tomiko Yonezawa, Mizuho Ishida and Chiaki Mukai) and four men scientists (Umetaro Suzuki, Fujio Egami, Uzo Nishiyama and Moto-o Kimura) who encouraged and guided women choosing the field of natural science.

Editor's Note

The NWEC Newsletter is published twice a year by the National Women's Education Center to introduce the activities of NWEC, including study, exchange, research, and information dissemination, as well as provide information on women in Japan to persons abroad. It also provides information on women's education and home education to promote international network building.

As of February 2001, the newsletter is sent to free of charge to approx. 1500 organizations (including individuals) in 178 countries around the world. Anyone knowing of other individuals or groups who might like to receive this newsletter is asked to have them contact us at the following address.

National Women's Education Center (NWEC)
728 Sugaya Ranzan-machi
Hiki-gun, Saitama-ken 355-0292 Japan

Tel: +81-493-62-6711
Fax: +81-493-62-6721

E-mail: webmaster@nwec.go.jp
URL: <http://www.nwec.go.jp>

The above URL address and E-mail address will change from March 25, 2002.

E-mail: webmaster@nwec.jp
URL: <http://www.nwec.jp>

NWEC will charge a usage fee for research training facilities from April 2002 onwards. Please contact the Program Division for details. (Refer to P.10)

Tel: +81-493-62-6723
Fax: +81-493-62-6720
E-mail: progdiv@nwec.go.jp

NWEC's introductory video has been updated and is available for viewing on the above URL.