

International Forum on Women's Information 2003

I. Prologue



An international forum on women's information entitled "Towards a Global Network of Women's Information - Prospects and proposals for empowerment strategies using women's information-" (sponsored by the National Women's Education Center and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) was held over the two-day period

Saturday, December 13 and Sunday December 14, 2003, in the large conference room at the National Women's Education Center in Ranzan-machi, Saitama. The venue was packed with more than one hundred women and men from Japan and overseas who scribbled notes earnestly as they listened to specialists active on the front line in the field of women's information.

II. Summary of the Program

(1) Saturday, December 13th

a) Opening

On the first day, following the President's greeting, Ms. Yoko Amakawa, a Visiting Researcher at the National Women's Education Center, explained the aims of the project on behalf of the Planning Project Committee.

Commenting that the expression "Information is power" was often heard, Ms. Amakawa explained that the goal of the forum was to think about what kind of policies and strategies were needed to enable this power to have a stronger and more effective affect on measures towards women's empowerment and the formation of a gender-equal society; to exchange experiences in terms of current information network activities, what has been achieved hereto and advanced experiments; and to think about what kinds of policies should be engaged in the future.

b) Keynote Speech: "The roles and impacts of women's information networks"

Lin McDevitt-Pugh, Program Director, IIAV/International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (Netherlands)



In the keynote speech that followed, Lin McDevitt-Pugh, Program Director, IIAV/International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement, which has its headquarters in Amsterdam, Netherlands, gave a lecture entitled "The roles and impacts of women's information networks". Citing examples, she explained how the "Know How Community", people involved in public policy proposal,

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women's organizations, the media, researchers and the community of people involved in women's information throughout the world who collaborate effectively to produce results, were collaborating to create national and international partnerships to enable women to secure their human rights with certainty.

Ms. McDevitt-Pugh also reported on the World Summit on the Information Society (held in Geneva, Switzerland on December 10-13, 2003), which she attended immediately before coming to Japan. At the summit, knowing that the media doesn't disseminate gender segregated information, Ms. McDevitt-Pugh collaborated with 13 women from countries such as India, Zambia, Argentina, France, Netherlands, Iran and Poland, to provide information on the state of gender via the Internet each day.

Ms. McDevitt-Pugh expounded on the fact that information was extremely useful in improving women's lives. Explaining that we should look at strategies and identify what is needed in order to do what should be done; that we should identify what needs to be done and do it, Ms. McDevitt-Pugh etched a very clear message in our hearts, "Do what it takes!"

c) Workshops

In the afternoon, participants separated into three workshops where experts in each field reported on case studies and participants engaged in lively discussion.

◆ Workshop No. 1

"Making use of women's information in policy making"

Gertrude Fester,
Commissioner,
Commission on Gender
Equality in South
Africa (South Africa)

Yoshiko Nagai,
Secretary-General,
Beijing JAC

Yasuko Aikawa,
Editorialist, Kobe
Shinbun; Director,
NPO Policy Research Institute



<Coordinator>

Hiroko Hashimoto, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Social and Information Sciences, Jumonji University

Given that the movement opposing enactment of regional ordinances for gender equality has grown stronger in recent years, the following three questions were discussed in terms of what kind of information could be used in what way to help overcome this action.

- 1) What should be done to mobilize the government?
- 2) How can accurate information be provided to people at the grass roots level?

3) How can the media be used?

Establishment of the Committee for Gender Equality in South Africa, to which Gertrude Fester belongs, was provided for in the new constitution adopted after a long period of fierce resistance and emancipation in South Africa. Its authority to monitor the Parliament makes it an extremely unique institution with very few precedents in the world. Through her activities on the Committee, Ms. Fester stressed that "the word feminism should not be used strategically"; "the importance of learning from other countries' examples and realizing that they cannot be applied automatically to your own country" and "the need to think about how we should challenge a patriarchal system and what kinds of weapons we need."

Ms. Yoshiko Nagai reported on the activities of Beijing JAC, an organization to which she belongs, and through which citizens engage in very effective lobbying activities against the government. Ms. Nagai explained that realization of women's policies entailed use of external pressure, increasing the number of female legislators and effective use of women's information.

Speaking third, Ms. Yasuko Aikawa spoke from her position as a newspaper editorialist about the role of the media, how it could be used, and effective ways of appealing to the media. Ms. Aikawa advised that we needed to recognize the difference between policy proposal and policy manifestation, and that we needed to become involved in politics and polish our skills and approach effectively in order to realize women's policies.

◆ Workshop No. 2

"Enhancing the services of women's information hubs and fostering personnel"

Hope Olson, Professor,
School of Information
Studies, University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee
(U.S.A)

Yoko Amakawa,
Specialist in Women's
Information/Visiting
Researcher, NWEC
Makiko Miyazaki,
Librarian, Keisen
University

Michi Mori, Specialist, Information Division, NWEC

<Coordinator>

Junko Kuninobu, Professor, Institute of Gender and Women Studies, Aichi Shukutoku University

We learned from leading case studies how to systemize gender-sensitive information for women's empowerment and how to find ways to effectively promote sharing of such information in order to reduce the information and ICT gap that is in the midst of expansion.



Dr. Hope Olson emphasized that efforts made in the process of providing services that meet needs in the information space would empower women and provide opportunities for them to express their creativity; the process of systemizing women's information would establish its name, and establish it as a right in itself; and the need to consider small ethnic groups, minor languages and hidden cultures.

Explaining that the current state of women's information services in Japan was such that although 80% of women's institutions had forums for providing information, the majority of these were small scale and there were almost no specialized staff, Ms. Yoko Amakawa stressed that training librarians and specialists in women's information, and determining how collections of women's information should be organized comprised important issues for the future, and the need for a network among specialists.

Ms. Makiko Miyazaki introduced a method she had devised for identifying the existence of data related to women's studies that she actually uses in the university library. As a result of research she conducted out of concern about the current lack of documentation on the history of the work of female librarians relative to their numbers, Ms. Miyazaki suggested that tracing the history of female librarians and users would create women's information.

Given that the National Women's Education Center has played a central and leading role as the national center for women's information, Ms. Michi Mori introduced NWEC's information services, and the women's information database and WinetCASS in particular.



◆ Workshop No. 3

“Dissemination and distribution of women's information using a variety of media”

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator/
Producer-Director,
femLINK pacific (Fiji)
Toyoko Nakanishi,
Director, Shoukadoh
Ltd.

Ichimi Koshihara,
President, Double-
square Inc.

Satoko Nakajima,
Secretaire general, La

Centre de Documentation Franco-Japonaise sur les Femmes (Société Franco-Japonaise des Etudes sur les Femmes)



<Coordinator>

Reiko Aoki, Director, Koshigaya Gender Equality Support Center

Using “dissemination” and “distribution” as keywords, four women active in different fields presented reports on how women have disseminated information and why they had to disseminate information.

Conscious of gender inequalities in daily life and believing information could enable women to better express their abilities, Ms. Toyoko Nakanishi opened Japan's first shop specializing in books related to women. Ms. Nakanishi explained that expanding women's networks creates activities, and such activities create more networks; information can become a big asset if it is conveyed properly.

Given that people returning from France were unable to get information about France, Ms. Satoko Nakajima sensed the need for them to produce and disseminate their own information and established La Centre de Documentation Franco-Japonaise sur les Femmes. Ms. Nakajima explained that she felt obliged to disseminate women's information while continuing to advise women of their basic rights.

Ms. Ichimi Koshihara established Double-square Inc. as an internal venture with the aim of improving the status of women via the Internet. She explained that the Internet could be used as a media when first attempting to disseminate women's information. A single dissemination creates a small network, and this can eventually lead to creation of a multi-faceted network.

Stating that her own experience of media had shown her that communication could become the very core of empowerment, Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls explained that the media comprised an important tool for achieving empowerment, and efforts to have the media industry reflect women's voices must be continued.

(2) Sunday, December 14th

Symposium: “Prospects and proposals for empowerment strategies using women’s information”

<Panelists>

Lin McDevitt-Pugh, Program Director, IIAV/International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement (Netherlands)

Gertrude Fester, Commissioner, Commission on Gender Equality in South Africa (South Africa)

Hope Olson, Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (U.S.A)

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator/Producer-Director, femLINK pacific (Fiji)

<Coordinator>

Junko Kuninobu, Professor, Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies, Aichi Shukutoku University

In the symposium held on the second day entitled “Prospects and proposals for empowerment strategies using women’s information”, the four foreign specialists expressed opinions based on discussions from the previous day regarding future prospects and strategies as a key to making concrete use of women’s information for women’s empowerment. Professor Junko Kuninobu of Aichi Shukutoku University served as coordinator.

Ms. McDevitt-Pugh spoke about some methods (tools) used by IIAV. Asking wh-questions such as “what should we do when we use tools with partners in an organization” or “how can we provide information users with the proper information” will become a checkpoint for us in future activities, and once we organize this, it will provide an important framework for future activities.

Ms. Fester presented several concrete proposals including the promotion of activities with men as partners, use of the media to overcome cultural and social pressures, advancement of more women into editorial desks and decision-making institutions, and the need for men to complain about men’s oppression of their own accord.



Dr. Olson commented on the importance of approaching attempts to use information space to create information and information services for women from the viewpoint of whether or not they will achieve empowerment and stir up change. She conveyed the need to organize information and use it to the movement’s benefit.

Ms. Rolls emphasized that despite changing circumstances, obstacles to women’s empowerment were not being shed from the self-censorship and media literacy stage. Providing an alternative proposal, she said that empowerment proposals could be made extremely practical by creating and providing a package that involved all parties.

III. Epilogue

Sub-themed “Prospects and proposals for empowerment strategies using women’s information”, this fiscal year’s two-day forum followed on from the previous two years’ discussions and provided an opportunity to consider future prospects and concrete policies from a global perspective, and the need to improve the quality of information services, foster personnel, and make effective use of the media in order to make effective use of women’s information to make proposals for women’s empowerment and women’s policies.

(Yasuko CHIKA, Chief, International Affairs Unit)

International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information 2003

Introduction

For ten days, from December 5th (Fri.) to 14th (Sun.), the “International Training Course on Processing Women’s Information” was conducted, with 29 trainees from 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan. This Training Course aims to enhance information processing ability through

training on processing of women-related information, and to support empowerment of women in developing countries, through forming an international network, in the third year of the five-year plan that began in fiscal 2001. In this fiscal year, applicants were solicited from administrative personnel in charge and NGO leaders in 38 countries, and a total of 92 applicants from 26 countries applied.

<Participants>

(1) By country (Table 1)

(2) By age

20s : 8 (28%)
30s : 9 (31%)
40s : 9 (31%)
50s : 3 (10%)
Total: 29 (100%)

(3) By affiliation

Administration:
15 (52%)

NGO:
10 (34%)

Research Institution:
4 (14%)

Total:
29 (100%)

Table 1

Country	Number
Afghanistan	1
Bangladesh	1
Cambodia	1
China	1
Fiji	1
Philippines	1
India	1
Indonesia	2
Iran	1
Japan	4
Marshall Islands	1
Mongolia	1
Myanmar	1
Nepal	3
Papua New Guinea	1
Samoa	1
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	1
Thailand	1
Uzbekistan	1
Vanuatu	1
Vietnam	2
TOTAL	29

(Initially, 30 trainees were selected, but one person cancelled participating immediately before the training, for personal reasons.)

This training included programs to enhance information-forwarding abilities, such as preparation of newsletters and presentation using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, in addition to studying roles of women's information and the present state of Japanese women, through lectures and observation of women's facilities. Further, participants learned how to analyze information using Excel, and how to collect information via the Internet. The content is introduced below.

Summary of the Program



1) Lecture: "The State of Japanese Women: Findings Based on Gender Statistics"

In this lecture, Ms. Yuki Takahashi, a researcher at the National Women's Education Center, Japan, outlined the present state and issues of Japanese women, with reference to gender statistics. Many questions and supportive opinions were presented

toward an empirical analysis based on the social and historical background. This lecture seemed to have helped to eliminate a slightly one-sided image toward Japanese women.

2) Lecture: "On Women's Information"

In this lecture, Ms. Reiko Aoki, Director of the "Koshigaya Gender Equality Support Center", called "Hot Koshigaya", explained the concept of women's information, the significance of information for women's issues, and the present state and issues related to the supply of women's information. This lecture was meaningful to share the recognition that information can empower women, and to confirm the purpose and significance of information processing training.

3) Preparation of newsletters

Trainees, divided into five groups, prepared two different newsletters. They learned technique to efficiently prepare long documents using Word, including layouts, image incorporation, and style setting, and they also enhanced management skill to make and organize plans as a group.



4) Presentation theory and practice

To effectively forward women's information, a lecture and practice on presentation methods were conducted. Trainees learned how to organize the content of a presentation for easy understanding, and about ideas to prevent audience distraction. They also practiced slide preparation using PowerPoint, and gave presentations in turn.

5) Visitation to women's facilities

This was the first observation visit to women's facilities as part of the "International Training Course on Processing Women's Information", and visitation was made to the "Saitama Prefectural Center for Promotion of Gender Equality", called "With You Saitama", located in the Saitama New Urban Center. Before observing the facilities, trainees received an explanation on the management and activities of the Center, and active questioning and answering took place. In particular, trainees were highly interested in counseling services related to domestic violence, about which many questions were asked.

6) Participation in the “International Forum on Women’s Information”

All of the trainees participated in the “International Forum on Women’s Information”, as part of the training program. They were divided into workshops according to respective requests, where they spoke actively. In addition, there was a scene of singing a substitute version of “Educate Woman,” which was created in the course of training group work. As such, great appeal was made to the forum participants.

7) Poster session

In this poster session, each group decided a theme based on discussion; it made a poster using information collected and analyzed through skills achieved from information processing practice, and each group gave a presentation, including questions and answers with visitors, by displaying the poster on a panel installed in the lobby of the main building. This session has meaning as a conclusion that brings together various factors of this training. Many forum participants observed a very creative poster exhibition, and opinions were actively exchanged.

Poster session theme

Group 1	Single women : Afghanistan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam
Group 2	Women’s education through ICT
Group 3	Effective methods of dissemination of women’s information
Group 4	Women and employment : gender gap in salary
Group 5	Women in information technology



At the end

Through the ten-day training, trainees exchanged among themselves, and they also conducted their own workshops using free time. Trainees and training staff made a mailing list: “NWEC2003,” and they are continuing information exchange and personal exchange over the Internet even after completion of the training. Another great achievement was interaction with the region, through tea gatherings and home visitations, thanks to warm cooperation from NWEC volunteers and the Ranzan International Association.

(Sumiko HAMADA, Specialist, Information Division, NWEC)

Training schedule

Date	Programs
12/5 Fri.	Arrival at NWEC Opening Ceremony Briefing and Orientation Self-introduction and presentation of Country reports
12/6 Sat.	Overview of the training schedule Lecture “State of Japanese Women: Findings on the Basis of Gender Statistics” by Yuki Takahashi (NWEC) Lecture “On Women’s Information” by Reiko Aoki (Koshigaya Gender Equality Support Center) Facility tour Information Processing Exercise “How to make newsletters with MS Word”
12/7 Sun.	Free
12/8 Mon.	Information processing exercise “How to give a good presentation (MS Powerpoint) Group work (Discussion about a topic for poster presentation)
12/9 Tue.	Field work (Visit to Saitama Prefectural Center for Promotion of Gender Equality) Tea ceremony Party (Ranzan International Association)
12/10 Wed.	Information processing exercise (Creating a newsletter using the information collected at the women’s center and how to use MS Excel) Group work (Creating a poster presentation)
12/11 Thu.	Group work (Creating a poster presentation)
12/12 Fri.	Presentation Group work (Preparing a poster presentation for the Forum)
12/13 Sat.	Participating “International Forum on Women’s Information 2003” Poster presentation Workshops Party
12/14 Sun.	Symposium Closing ceremony Farewell party Leaving NWEC

SURVEY REPORT

Research Report on Policies to Expand and Enrich Lifelong Learning for Women's Empowerment

1. Objective and process of the research

Since 2000, the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) has conducted a joint research project with the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), in order to find out how women empower themselves through lifelong learning as well as how lifelong learning facilities can provide support in promoting women's empowerment.

NWEC and KWDI have long exchanged information with each other. In 1999, Ms Kim Jaemin, the then director of the Education Research Department of KWDI, proposed NWEC to conduct a joint research on women's cultural activities. The research theme was discussed between NWEC and KWDI. As a result, NWEC was assigned to conduct the project "Research on Policies to Expand and Enrich Lifelong Learning for Women's Empowerment" from FY2000 to FY2002. In addition, NWEC applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology under the theme of "Japan-Korea Comparative Research on Women's Lifelong Learning". This study has received the grant for 3 years, from FY2001 to FY2003.

2. Research project members

This research project has been organized with Professor Hiroko Hara (University of Air) as the chair, and consists of staff members from NWEC and committee members from other institutions. Members of the project are as follows:

<Project members in Japan>

Chairperson

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Hiroko Hara | (Professor, University of Air) |
| Machiko Ito | (Assistant Professor, Tohoku University of Community Service and Science) |
| Chung Sei-Wha | (Professor, Poole Gakuin University, until March 2003; Professor Emeritus, Ewha Womans University, from February 2003) |
| Yoko Watanabe | (Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education, Kyoto University) |
| Hiroe Nakano | (Director, Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women's Education Center) |
| Yuki Takahashi | (Researcher, Office of Research and International Affairs, National Women's Education Center) |

<Project members in Korea>

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Kim Jaemin | (Chief of Office of Research Coordination, Korean Women's Development Institute) |
| Lee Sooyeon | (Special Research Fellow, Korean Women's Development Institute, from 2000 to September 2002) |
| Hur Hyun-Ran | (Researcher, Korean Women's Development Institute, from 2000 to September 2002) |
| Yang Ai-Gyon | (Research Fellow, Korean Women's Development Institute, from October 2000) |
| Kwak Samgeun | (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, Ewha Womans University) |

<Research assistant>

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Cheon Illhwa | (PhD student, Sophia University) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|

3. Target group and methodology

In order to collect quantitative data, a questionnaire survey targeting staff members and learners at lifelong learning facilities in Tokyo and Seoul metropolitan areas was conducted. In the questionnaire, respondents were asked about the contents, motivation and results of lifelong learning. In Japan, questionnaires were distributed to 250 facilities and 5,000 learners and 145 facilities and 940 learners responded. In Korea, 248 facilities and 1,800 learners were sent questionnaires, and 200 facilities and 1,620 learners responded. Sample facilities are listed below. Facilities with similar characteristics were selected in order to make comparison easy.

Japan (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama)	Korea (Seoul, Kyonggi-do)
Women's center	Women's center, Women's organization
Community Center	Community center, House for culture
Open seminars at universities	Lifelong learning seminars at universities
Private culture center	Cultural center
House for working women	House for working women
Women's Seminars at Japanese Agricultural Cooperation	Women's University for agricultural cooperation
	Institution for Social Welfare

In addition, to complement the quantitative data, interview survey was also conducted to clarify the actual situation. In Japan, 11 staff members at sample facilities, 8 students, and 10 representatives of voluntary groups, which use the sample facilities as their base,

were interviewed. In Korea, 10 staff members at sample facilities and 26 students were interviewed.

4. Summary of results

In Japan, 70.4% of the respondents are middle-aged housewives in their fifties or over. On the other hand, in Korea, 62.2% of respondents are housewives in their twenties to forties. In both countries, the majority of respondents answered their motives for lifelong learning is “self-realization (E)” or “to enjoy hobby and spare time effectively (C)”. The proportion of respondents who mentioned economic reasons (A or B) is larger in Korea than in Japan (see Figure 1).

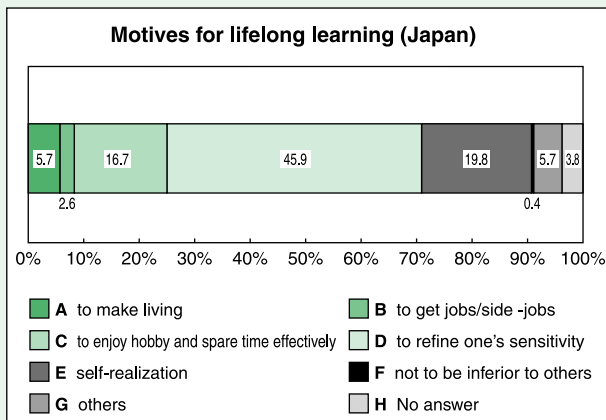


Figure 1

As for the outcomes of lifelong learning, the most common answer was finding it “useful in enjoying my hobby or in self-cultivation (G)” in both countries. It was followed by “made new friends (A)” in Japan, while the second popular answer (D) was “helpful in building positive attitudes towards life” in Korea (see Figure 2).

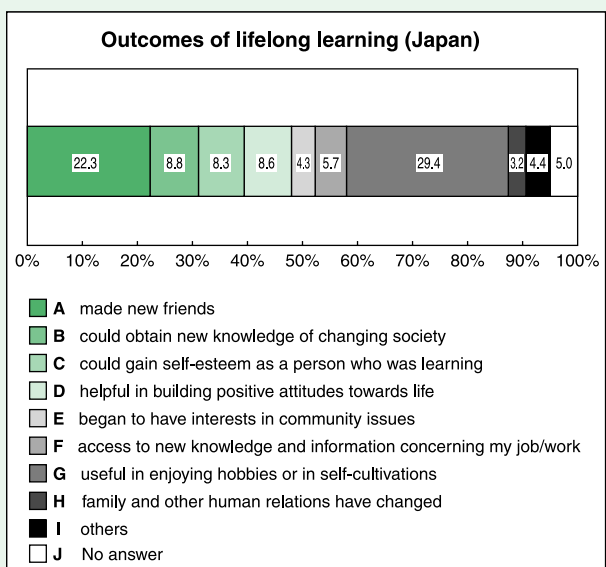


Figure 2

Although there is a slight difference in responses due to the difference in respondents' age group, both Japanese and Korean respondents participated in lifelong learning in order to find and improve their aptitude and capacity, and they gained results matching their needs. Thus, in terms of “strengthening oneself”, they have successfully achieved self-empowerment. However, respondents, especially Japanese ones, still face difficulties in contributing the capacity they have build to the society. For Korean respondents, lack of solidarity among empowered women is the problem they face.

One of the major roles of lifelong learning facilities is to provide learners a chance to utilize their attained qualification in the society. Moreover, lifelong learning facilities are expected to further promote the empowerment of woman, providing social opportunities in which women can use their qualification to their fullest.

Based on these findings, the research project has made a recommendation on developing an empowerment program on the following 4 points 1) to develop a vocational training program which provides women with concrete outcomes, 2) to develop a program which supports women to utilize Information Communication Technology, 3) to develop a program in which nursing mothers can participate, and 4) to develop a program which enables women to become aware of the problems in their community.

NWEC is now in the process of making a second report, “Japan-Korea Comparative Research on Women’s Lifelong Learning (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B))”. In this report, overview of lifelong learning and policies towards women in Japan and Korea will be included. In addition, programs which are related to the above four advices will be described along with some examples from Korea.

* Part of the research findings has been already included in the previous newsletter in the report on NWEC Open Symposium “Japan-Korean Joint Symposium on Women’s Lifelong Learning towards Self-Development and Social Participation”.

(Yuki TAKAHASHI, Researcher, office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC)

Table Attribution of respondents(Korea)

		Number (%)
		Women
Institution	Women's Center,	88 (5.7)
	Social Welfare	563 (36.5)
	Women's Organization	126 (8.2)
	Private Culture Center	191 (12.4)
	House for Culture	37 (2.4)
	Lifelong Learning Institutions at Universities	281 (18.2)
	Community Center	96 (6.2)
	Women s University by agricultural cooperation	31 (2.0)
	House for working women	130 (8.4)
region	Seoul	928 (60.1)
	Kyongi	615 (39.9)
age	10s	11 (0.7)
	20s	332 (21.5)
	30s	630 (40.8)
	40s	391 (25.3)
	50s	143 (9.3)
	60s and above	36 (2.3)
profession	Professional	151 (9.8)
	Management	4 (0.3)
	Clerk, Official worker	100 (6.5)
	service	52 (3.4)
	technical	2 (0.1)
	Agriculture, Fisheries	3 (0.2)
	House wives	933 (60.5)
	Unemployed	55 (3.6)
	Self employed	40 (2.6)
	Student	67 (4.3)
	Day laborer	59 (3.8)
Other	77 (5.0)	
Level of education	Uneducated	5 (0.3)
	Primary school	20 (1.3)
	Junior high school	56 (3.6)
	High school	623 (40.4)
	Junior collage	294 (19.1)
	University	502 (32.5)
	Graduate school	43 (2.8)
income	Less than one million won	175 (11.3)
	one million - less than 2 million won	528 (34.2)
	2 million - less than 3000 million won	463 (30.0)
	3 million - less than -4 million won	218 (14.1)
	4 million - less than -5 million won	80 (5.2)
	5 million - less than 6 million won	37 (2.4)
	6 million won and above	42 (2.7)
Marriage, children	Single	307 (19.9)
	Without child	104 (6.7)
	With preschool child	404 (26.2)
	With single child	678 (43.9)
	With married child	50 (3.2)
religion	Yes	990 (64.2)
	No	553 (35.8)

Table Attribution of respondents(Japan)

		Number (%)
		Women
Institution	Women's Center	153 (17.1)
	Private Culture Center	56 (6.3)
	Open Seminars at Universities	39 (4.4)
	Community Center	278 (31.1)
	Women's Seminars at Japanese Agricultural Cooperation	12 (1.3)
	House for working women	17 (1.9)
	Other Instituitions	42 (4.7)
	Learner in plural institution	240 (26.8)
	Unknown	57 (6.4)
region	Saitama	213 (23.8)
	Chiba	121 (13.5)
	Metropolitan Tokyo	368 (41.2)
	Kanagawa	164 (18.3)
	Other	4 (0.5)
	No answer	24 (2.7)
age	10s	2 (0.2)
	20s	27 (3.0)
	30s	106 (11.9)
	40s	158 (17.7)
	50s	271 (30.3)
	60s	239 (26.7)
	70s	64 (7.2)
	80s	4 (0.4)
	No answer	23 (2.6)
profession	Employee(management*professional*technical)	67 (7.5)
	Employee(clerk)	80 (8.9)
	House wivies	566 (63.3)
	Unemployed	46 (5.2)
	Other profession	82 (9.2)
	No answer	53 (5.9)
level of education	Primary school	2 (0.2)
	Junior high school	44 (4.9)
	High school	351 (39.3)
	Collage, special school	260 (29.1)
	University	182 (20.4)
	Graduate school	12 (1.3)
	Other	11 (1.2)
marriage, children	No answer	32 (3.6)
	Single	62 (6.9)
	Without child	149 (16.7)
	With preschool child	67 (7.5)
	With single child	434 (48.5)
	With married child	333 (37.2)
religion	Yes	135 (15.1)
	No	723 (80.9)
	No answer	36 (4.0)

WOMEN'S CENTER IN JAPAN

Tottori Prefecture Gender Equality Center “Nickname: Yorinsai”

The Tottori Prefecture Gender Equality Center opened on April 21, 2001 in Kurayoshi city as a base facility for providing education, enlightenment, information and assistance as well as supporting various activities for creating a gender-equal society.



Japan-Korean women exchange

It is nicknamed “Yorinsai,” which conveys both the message of “please feel free to visit the center (“Yorinsaina” in Tottori dialect)” and a hope that “various colors (“sai”), young and old, men and women, get together and expand the gender-equal society.”

Facilities related to gender equality throughout the country are supported by the strong power and initiative of the citizens, and Yorinsai is no exception. One such example is the Japan-South Korean Women Friendship Exchange project. Tottori prefecture had active relationships with the countries at the rim of the Sea of Japan, and was the main door to the continent in ancient times. Since exchanges between areas will enrich both parties, one of the pillars of the prefectural administration is to deepen the cultural exchange among the countries at the rim of the Sea of Japan, and Tottori interacts with Kangwon-do in South Korea, Jilin and Hebei provinces in China, and the Central Province in Mongolia. The friendship association with Hebei began in 1986, and the friendship association with Jilin and Kangwon-do will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year. With Kangwon-do, in particular, Tottori has been promoting exchanges among women since 1997, where women from both nations visit each other every year. The citizens of Tottori are fostering a bond of friendship with Kangwon-do as an autonomous project by improving their understanding of each other’s situations beyond their individual historical backgrounds, and by exchanging opinions about individual issues. Last year, women from Tottori prefecture visited South Korea to experience the actual conditions of Kangwon-do, collaborating with citizens from the female department of the government. This year, they are planning to invite women from Kangwon-do to Japan, and are eagerly making preparations for the visit.

Moreover, two years ago, Yorinsai had the honor of receiving the top manager seminar of Mongolia (held by the government) when it visited Japan as part of a study trip to Japan. The vice-chief government spokesman who represented the seminar told us that a national meeting was established in 2001 to address activities similar to ours, which gave us great encouragement.



Scene where citizens are working in a seminar

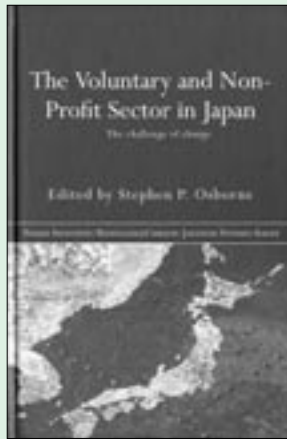
In the following, the operations of Yorinsai are introduced.

- Extension and enlightenment: It is important to enlighten in particular men about gender equality, as well as to extend the overall knowledge of our students. For this purpose, we hold enlightenment lecture meetings (lectures on demand) and give seminars in various locations in order to promote gender equality in various regions within the prefecture.
- Human resource cultivation: This refers to cultivation of female regional leaders and consultants who can share viewpoints of gender equality etc. An ordinance of our prefecture stipulates that the ratio of both male or female members of the prefectural council must be at least 40%. This is quite rare in Japan, and because of it, we have achieved the highest ratio of female members of any prefectural council in Japan. Yorinsai holds seminars to promote participation of women in political decisions, so that the local government itself will continue to support participation of women in political decisions. In the nationwide local elections in 2003, 7 women from this seminar obtained seats in the Diet and a network was created, which will provide a strong basis for further promotion of gender equality in the future.
- Collection and provision of information: We provide books, videos, administrative materials, information on human resources and organization etc.
- Support for participation, exchange and activities of citizens: This refers to operation of projects such as enlightenment events and seminars by “Yorinsai supporters” consisting of citizens selected from among applicants, planning and editing of public relations magazines, and collaboration through prefectural white papers. To support these activities, Yorinsai provides meeting rooms, printing workshops and children’s play rooms for free.
- Consultation: We provide consultation related to fear, worries and legal rights pertaining to gender equality issues.
- Gender equality promotion system: Yorinsai runs a secretariat of a third party organization that has the right to advise the prefecture and deals with related complaints.

In Tottori prefecture, the gender equality promotion ordinance has been enacted from fiscal year 2001 when Yorinsai opened, and the gender equality promotion system has only been active for 3 years. We would like to work toward expanding gender equality in the society by working together with the citizens of the prefecture in order to achieve concrete improvements in quality of life, such as striking a balance between work and family.

PUBLICATIONS

The Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector in Japan



The challenge of change
(By Stephen P. Osborne.
Published by the Routledge
Curzon. 232 pages.)

Can non-profit organizations help solve the crisis in Japanese public services?

Can the non-profit sector grow to make a substantial contribution to Japanese society?

Is civil society possible in Japan?

This book explores the background to the development of the non-profit sector, the potential roles that it can play in society and the key managerial challenges for the leaders of the sector. As well as offering new ways of delivering public services, it also poses questions about the relationship of the individual to society and about the presence, or otherwise of a 'civil society' in Japan. It contains contributions from leading researchers, internationally, as well as from key practitioners from the sector in Japan.

The Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector in Japan provides the first study of the Japanese non-profit sector to combine research findings with the real experience of practitioners inside sector. It will be essential reading for students of Japanese society, or those interested in the development of the voluntary and non-profit sector in Japan.

<Extract from the bookcover>

AN OVERVIEW OF THE 50 POSTWAR YEARS

Summary of the Twenty-fifth National Survey on Family Planning

(By Takenori Oku, Director. Published by the Population Problems Research Council, The Mainichi Shimbun. 220pages.)

Introductory Remarks

During the latter half of the 20th century, Japan's population issue underwent a great change, from focusing on the problems of overpopulation and birth control to those of a declining birthrate and an ageing society. It was a remarkable change to occur within a mere 50 years.

The Mainichi Shimbun's Population Problems Research Council (Chairman: Akira Saito, President of the Mainichi Shimbun) has pursued this trend over half a century through a series of biennial national surveys on family planning that have been conducted since 1950. The massive data accumulated over this period has been utilized in many fields as valuable material for understanding the movement of the Japanese population.

The 25th survey was conducted over three days from April 14 to 16, 2000 with the cooperation of the Family Planning Federation of Japan, the Japan Family Planning Association, and the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), and the results were announced in the morning edition of the Mainichi Shimbun on July 20. It was a multifaceted survey that focused on women's consciousness regarding the declining birthrate, the ageing of society, and the low-dosage contraceptive pill, and its result support the theory that the collapse of the bubble economy and recent economic conditions including corporate restructuring have affected the timing with which women have children, as well as the number of children they finally have.

In addition to the results of the survey, this report includes detailed analyses and reports by Toshio Kuroda, chairman of JOICFP, Yoichi Okazaki, former president of the Population Association of Japan, Makoto Atoh, director-general of National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Naohiro Ogawa, professor at the College of Economics of Nihon University, Kenji Hayashi, director of the Department of Demography and Health Statistics at the National Institute of Public Health, and Takashi Wagatsuma, medical advisor to the Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services. We hope that this report will be utilized as a valuable data book that follows the Japanese consciousness of population over half a century.

We would like to express our gratitude to Yasuo Kon, executive director of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning and to the Opinion Poll and Election Center of the Mainichi Shimbun for their cooperation in conducting this survey. This report was compiled and edited by Takeshi Watanabe and Meguri Ikunaga.

<Extract from the preface>

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- * Survey of Education Programmes on Women and Family Education
- * The Japanese Family as Depicted in Women's Studies

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- * 1994 Status of Women as Seen in Statistics

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- * Preparations in Japan for the 4th World Conference on women



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- * FY 1998 NWEC Advanced Course

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Vol.16, No.2, January 2000

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- * Forums to Promote Gender Equality Learning

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- * Report on Cross-cultural Research on Women/Gender and Development

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Vol.20, No1, September 2003

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Vol.20, No2, March 2004

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- * Japan-Korea Comparative Research on Women's Lifelong Learning

Introducing NWEC

NWEC National Exchange Festival 2003

From Friday the 7th to Sunday the 9th of November 2003, 'NWEC National Exchange Festival 2003' was held, and approximately 700 attendees came to the Festival during that period.

The main theme of the Festival was 'Let's get together, Let's talk, Let's form a circle – Toward The Gender-Equal Society', and through a view point upon international cooperation, Professor Etsuko Kita of the Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing gave her lecture on 'Girls whom I encountered at refugee camp – As Afghan women'.

Along with the address, even at a session of discussion, as the Professor inspired, a topic of international cooperation was raised as a discussion topic.

Furthermore, in response to the Festival's invitations to the public for free programs / topics to be suggested to it, a total of 62 contributions were submitted.

Of them, as an example, like current situations of women in Africa or Afghanistan who are suffering from hunger or a disease of AIDS, some arouse people's awareness as they still need attentions, understanding, and supports of others from all over the world.

Consequently, opinion exchanges and organizing networks on the applicable topics were actively propelled.

Conference on Information Networks for Women's Facilities

The "Conference on Information Networks for Women's Facilities" was conducted, for one night and two days, on December 15th (Mon.) and 16th (Tue.), targeting personnel in charge of information at women's facilities. This fiscal year's conference was participated in by 58 persons from 58 facilities nationwide, and 16 persons among them also participated in the "International Forum on Women's Information", which was conducted on the 13th (Sat.) and 14th (Sun.).

The program of the conference was as follows, based on the main theme "Program Support Using Information."

- Lecture "Program planning support using information"
- Workshop (1) "Use of leaflets as information sources and educational materials"
- Workshop (2) "Collection and database building of human resource information"
- Workshop (3) "Publicity and customer attraction for women's centers, using information"
- WinetCASS Practical training or reference training
- Section meeting (1) "Role and networking of prefectures and designated city centers"
- Section meeting (2) "Library's Book acquisition policy to make a center attractive"

- Section meeting (3) "Plans to expand library users"
- General assembly

Based on various case presentations and information supplied, respective participants conducted research and discussion toward problem solution, and also formed and deepened networking, using such opportunities as information exchange meetings and free exchange. In addition, participants in the Conference on Information Networks for Women's Facilities joined its mailing list, for exchange of information and opinions via the Internet, thus further deepening networking.

The Journal of the National Women's Education Center of Japan (Vol. 7)

The Office of Research and international Affairs periodically conducts research on 'Women's and Gender Studies' and 'Lifelong Learning', and in the purpose of disclosure of results, 'the Journal of the National Women's Education Center of Japan' is issued annually.

For a specific theme of its vol.7, 'Employment, Welfare and Gender' was raised, edited, and published.

For the theme, 3 essays were submitted to the Journal. They were : 'The Wage Gap between Standard and Non-standard Employees : Where is the Discontent ?' by Ms. Nobuko Nagase, 'Diversifying Working Styles of the Retired Men and Their Attitudes Toward Unpaid Work' by Mr. Nobuhiko Maeda, and 'Caring for the Elderly and Gender : Family Support Systems May Bring About Changes in Unequal Gender Relations' by Ms. Miyuki Shimoebisu.

Moreover, 4 essays were selected from the 16 contributions, and were published in the Journal.

Also, some other topics were presented in it such as NWEC's research-related essay, a report from research, records on NWEC Open Symposium 2002, a book review, introduction of books.

From this vol. 7, the Journal can be also viewed and read on the website of NWEC.



Introduction of Foreign Visitors to the Center



On 22 January 2004, Professor and Director Li Xiaojiang of Center of Gender Studies, Dalian University of China, paid a visit to our center.

Prof. Li is a prominent scholar, who first established women's studies in China in the 1980s, and even now she exerts herself in developing research and study on women in China.

Upon her research and study, she describes energetically on the liberation of women in Chinese society in her numerous books obtained even in overseas such as Europe, the U.S.A., and Asia.

Furthermore, she also founded the Women's Society and the Women's Center as she has been playing a central role as a pioneer of women's studies.

As a guest professor, Prof. Li was invited to the Institute for Gender Studies of Ochanomizu University from January to March 2004, so, during that period she was in Japan.

Despite her very tight and busy schedule mostly spent for research, lectures, seminars and such, she made time to occasionally visit the center, where she exchanged ideas and opinions very actively with NWEC staff as regards to both of China's and Japan's present status of Women's and Gender Studies, and related issues to be solved.

NWEC Summary Statistics Women and Men in Japan 2002-2003

The English version of "NWEC Summary Statistics ~ Women and Men in Japan 2002-2003~", a leaflet that comprises one of the results of a study on gender statistics, has been published. This leaflet describes the status of women and men in important fields in Japanese society, and comprises a summary of statistical data on related fields produced by various government institutions.

International Forum on Women's Lifelong Learning

This Forum shall comprise presentation of results derived from an "International Comparative Research on Women's Learning Needs and Practice" and discussion of the types of lifelong learning that contribute to women's empowerment.

Date and time: 3 July 2004 (Sat.) 10:00 ~ 17:00
4 July (Sun.) 9:00 ~ 12:20

Venue: National Women's Education Center
(15-minute walk from Musashi-Ranzan Station on the Tobu-Tojo Line)

Content:
Theme "Lifelong Learning and Empowerment
- What we have learned from an international

comparative research undertaken in Japan, Korea, Norway and America"

July 3: Reports on each country's research and comparative analysis among the four countries

July 4: Workshops "Career building and lifelong learning ~ learning from America"; "A support system for lifelong learning ~ learning from Norway"; "The roles of various types of lifelong learning facilities ~ learning from Korea"; Questions and Answers, etc.

Participation is free of charge and simultaneous interpretation (English-Japanese) will be provided.

Inquiries: Office of Research and International Affairs, NWEC

EDITOR'S NOTE

The NWEC Newsletter is published twice a year (September and March) 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 March 2004, 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.

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