

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**This message is from the New Year's greetings.*

Building on NWEC's Thirty-Year History — The Next Step Forward



I wish you all a very happy New Year. As we enter 2008, we renew our commitment to take National Women's Education Center (NWEC) forward by building on its legacy.

Last year marked an important turning point for NWEC. We celebrated our thirtieth year with a commemorative event, including a ceremony and an international symposium. To mark the occasion we prepared a commemorative booklet, issued a sheet of memorial stamps and made ball point pens in four colors, each color representing the four functions of

NWEC, all of them the creative efforts of our dedicated staff.

The commemorative ceremony was attended by well-wishers from Japan and abroad who filled our auditorium. A warm message was received from Prime Minister Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, which was read by the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Matsushige Ohno. The Junior Vice Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology, Ms. Yasuko Ikenobo who also attended the ceremony, inspired us with a warm and encouraging message. Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs, Ms. Yoko Kamikawa who missed the ceremony joined us later in the day and gave us heartening words at the reception attended by throngs of well-wishers who filled the big restaurant and overflowed into the entrance foyer. The sociable gathering was packed with the bustling energy of supporters who saw a brighter future for NWEC and through its work for women and the society at large.

NWEC's future direction was set by the international forum and the conference of experts held under the theme: "Women leaders in Asia promoting gender equality in new era". As the only national center dedicated to promoting the realization of a gender-equal society through a focus on education and learning, our role is to implement national policies and measures. It is essential in this regard to give support to the empowerment of women and to encourage women to take initiatives to exercise power. This is a challenge for the development

of Japanese society that we share with other Asian countries. The next stage we identify is to build and strengthen partnerships and collaborate with like-minded organizations in Japan as well as abroad.

The Women's Archives Center will be established during the next fiscal year. Meanwhile, we have put together a preliminary exhibit as part of the Thirtieth Anniversary Program. Under the theme "Spinning a vision for building our tomorrow," the archives center will collect, display and preserve manuscripts and materials by and about women who have worked diligently to realize a gender-equal society, for the benefit of researchers as well as activists with whom we share a common vision and objectives. The archives, we believe, will inspire present users of all NWECC's facilities as well as the young generation who will follow us, to learn by tracing their activities how pioneers have overcome difficulties and turned adversities into strengths, and to encourage women of today to play a part in their turn in promoting the building of a truly gender-equal society.

Last year too, NWECC experienced a major crisis following the government decision to carry out rationalization, and in many cases liquidation, of independent administrative institutions. Consideration was being given as to whether NWECC should be integrated with the National Institution for Youth Education. In other words, we came close to losing our independence. Finally, on December 24, the cabinet decided in favor of NWECC remaining as an independent institution. This was the culmination of the manifold efforts by members of parliament, both women and men, women's organizations and groups, female governors and regional leaders and the many committed individuals who impressed on the government the importance of NWECC's survival as an independent entity. This was a moving experience that reminds us that NWECC has many passionate supporters who expect us to continue as a champion of their aspirations and our society's needs.

We will take NWECC to the next stage by building on the experience of the last thirty years, and we look forward to working on many positive ventures with you in the future.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS

On November 20, 2007, NWECC celebrated its thirtieth anniversary by holding a commemorative ceremony and an international symposium attended by about 560 guests from women's organizations, foreign research institutions and NWECC's past presidents and employees, as well as well-wishers from near and far.

President Dr. Michiko Kanda welcomed the guests, expressing her gratitude for their presence and the support they had given to NWECC. Prime Minister Mr. Yasuo Fukuda sent a congratulatory address which was read by Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Matsushige Ohno. Ms. Yasuko Ikenobo, Junior Vice Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Mihoko Ejiri, Coordinator for the International Women's Year of Liaison Group, Tsuyako Nakaaze, President of the National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations, Dr. Kim Kyung-Ai, President of the Korean Women's Development Institute, Dr. Kim Hee-Eun, President of the Korean Institute of Gender Equality Promotion & Education, and Ms. Zhang Jing, Director-General of All-China Women's Federation, all offered their congratulations.





At the reception that followed, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, and Member of the House of Representatives Ms. Mayumi Moriyama were present to give their congratulatory greetings. The happy crowd raised their glasses at the invitation of Mr. Sachio Kamogawa, Director General for Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Mr. Seisuke Okuno, former Minister of Education, Ms. Yoko Komiya, Member of the House of Representatives, and Ms. Yumiko Himei, Member of the House of Counselors, were among the guests on this special occasion.

Following the celebration, an international symposium was held in the afternoon with the objective of further promoting the empowerment of women and to search for the kind of social support needed to nurture women leaders, as well as to envision the kind of women leaders demanded in the future. Lively discussion was coordinated by Ms. Makiko Arima, President of Japan National Committee for UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women). Ms. Zhang Jing, Director-General of All-China Women’s Federation, Dr. Kyung-Ai Kim, President of Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI), and Ms. Fusako Utsumi, President of NEC Learning Ltd., and Dr. Michiko Go, President of Ochanomizu University, were invited as panelists to share their own experience in career development. Among topical issues examined were effective ways of developing support for women leaders in every field in every country. Following the symposium, a short commemorative concert was presented by students of Sakamoto Music School.

The next day, as a follow-up to the international symposium, a Conference of Experts was held on the topic: “Women leaders in Asia promoting gender equality in new era- necessary support for women’s capacity development in government, Universities, orivate corporations and others-”. Dr. Hiroko Hara, a professor at Josai International University Graduate School, coordinated the conference of fifteen women leaders from China, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand, all involved in nurturing women leaders. After presenting reports on initiatives taken by their institutions they engaged in a constructive exchange of views on the challenges they faced.



A preliminary exhibit of the Women’s Archive Center expected to be opened during FY 2008 was held on the second floor of the exhibition hall in the main building. The Center also published a commemorative booklet covering its thirty-year history in photographs, and had arranged for sheets of memorial stamps to be issued with unique designs depicting local scenes in the four seasons.

Memorial Goods: Original bags (Left), Commemorative booklet (Middle), Memorial stamps (Right)



International Symposium in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary

On November 20, 2007, the international forum was held on the theme “Women leaders in Asia promoting gender equality in new era”. Its aim was to blueprint the kinds of social support needed in nurturing women leaders, anticipate the qualities of leadership that will be required of them in the 21 century, and promote further empowerment of women in Asia. Leaders in government, business and NGOs and NPOs were invited from China, Korea and Japan to exchange views on the capacities needed for women to exercise leadership, and on the environment that must be developed to make this possible.



Ms. Makiko Arima, President of the Japan National Committee for UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) coordinated the symposium with Ms. Zhang Jing, Director-General of the All-China Women's Federation, Dr. Kim Kyung-Ai, President of the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), Ms. Fusako Utsumi, President of NEC Learning Ltd., and Dr. Michiko Go, President of the Ochanomizu University as members of the panel who discussed their career development as well as their personal history as pioneering leaders of their respective organizations. This was followed by discussions on issues and challenges faced in supporting efforts to develop women leaders in every field in the panelists' countries. Frank accounts by the panel members of how they had managed successfully to build their careers inspired the participants. As an outcome of the symposium some common challenges faced by China, Korea and Japan in building a gender-equal society emerged, notably the need to achieve work-life balance for both men and women, and for men to change their attitudes.

NWEC International Forum for Women's Empowerment (Conference of Experts)



Following the International Symposium in commemoration of NWEC's 30th anniversary, a Conference of Experts met in a large conference room in the Seminar Hall to discuss the topic ““Women leaders in Asia promoting gender equality in new era- necessary support for women's capacity development in government, Universities, orivate corporations and others-”.

Dr. Hiroko Hara, a Visiting Professor at Josai International University Graduate School, coordinated the conference to which fifteen panelists had been invited from organizations which support women leaders in China, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. Each panelist reported on initiatives taken by organizations and challenges they face. This was followed by an active discussion.

It was generally agreed that women's leadership was essential in advancing women's education and development. There was also a need to enlarge the pool of women leaders as well as to empower all women at the grassroots level.

WELCOME ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT



It is such a joy to welcome you to our Center located in Ranzan town nestled in the fertile Musashi Ranzan Valley in Saitama Prefecture, to celebrate together the 30th anniversary of the National Women's Education Center. We have the honor to have with us Matshushige Ohno, the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary; Yasuko Ikenobo, the Junior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; many friends to whom we are grateful for giving us the benefit of their guidance; our supporters from women's groups, facilities, universities and other organizations, guests who have traveled from neighboring countries to be with us today.

The Center was established in 1977, the year in which Japan adopted the action plan for the International Women's Year, as an organ attached to the Ministry of Education at the passionate request of the many women's groups and organizations. For thirty years since then, NWECC has served as the sole national center for women's education responding to the social demands of the times, and with this objective has initiated diverse innovative projects.

At the same time, the Center has steadily addressed issues of internationalization and needs of the information society, by streamlining programs and making use of the latest communications technology, organizing international cooperation and other projects, as well as improving its research capabilities.

The successful strategies of the Center's projects have been widely replicated by leaders in the field of women's education in many local and regional projects in Japan, as well as in their own projects in developing countries on returning after attending sessions at NWECC.

In 2001, the Japanese name of our organization was changed, and the Center became an independent administrative institution. The Second Basic 5-Year Medium Term Plan beginning in 2006 set priorities on training for core leaders, research and survey of pressing issues, development and dissemination of learning programs, collaboration with related organizations in Japan and overseas, promotion of exchange programs and international cooperation as a hub of networks that promote gender equality in the Asia Pacific Region, and creation of an archive to pass on the history of women's struggle to achieve gender equality and empowerment.

In the Second Basic Plan for Gender Equality adopted in December 2005, the need for NWECC to continue to serve as the only national center in Japan for preparing women for leadership, by providing training, developing learning programs, disseminating needed information and furthering education for all women in collaboration with other regions through active exchanges among core women's facilities.

The Center has won high recognition for its response in further strengthening mutual collaboration in our four key functions of training, information, research and exchange/collaboration.

Our Summer School for High School Girl Students organized on the basis of a model established with the cooperation of more than thirty academic associations was adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a model national project to encourage and support junior high school and high school girl students into science and technology. We are proud that the Summer School is playing a pioneering role.

Our gender equality statistical research was recognized by the Japan Statistical Association in fiscal 2005 and honored with a Statistical Activity Encouraging Award. The more recent Gender Statistics Databook 2006 has been translated into Chinese and published this year by the All-China Women's Federations.

As an important feature of our international cooperation efforts, we regularly conduct international training programs for women leaders in the Asia-Pacific region. We are pleased to report that these efforts have been highly regarded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that is increasingly commissioning us to organize training sessions, which we have conducted for government staff of Cambodia, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

With regard to the building of the Women's Archive Center, which is one of the pillars of the current medium plan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has established a new budget this year for building facilities, in spite of the fiscal challenge. We are working hard to prepare for its opening in the spring. We have begun the research earmarked by the Grant-in-Aid Scientific Research. For the present, we have prepared a preliminary exhibit on the second floor of the main building with some of the materials collected. I hope you will find the time to see the exhibit.

I am glad to report to you that the total number of users of the Center is rising. The total to date stands in excess of 3.15 million, which includes 19,000 overseas visitors from 164 countries. Local residents enjoy the use of the premises for the cherry blossom festival each spring, and for the Ranzan fall festival in the autumn.

We are actively promoting partnerships with universities and related organizations within and outside Japan. In fiscal 2005, the Center concluded cooperative agreements with Japan Women's College of Physical Education and Kagawa Nutrition University. At the end of this month, with the full cooperation of Japan Women's College of Physical Education, we will establish a walking course using the paths within the green premises of the Center to encourage visitors to participate in fitness walks.

Also, last fiscal year, we were happy to conclude a cooperative agreement with the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion & Education and the Korean Women's Development Institute in order to deepen the benefit of mutual exchange and enhance projects. We would like to gradually expand partnerships with similar organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, with regard to gender equality Japan presently ranks 42nd out of 75 countries, and according to the World Economic Forum, 91st out of 128 countries. This is indeed a poor showing internationally.

The Center will continue to perform its mission and pioneering role in response to the rising expectations of women, and serve as a visible focus for women's advancement. Our commitment is to build a gender equal society based on the mutual respect of all people in which everyone is able to live a full and meaningful life, by enhancing our core functions as a national center in collaboration with many like-minded organizations within and outside the country.

I would like to take this occasion to express our sincere appreciation for the very warm support you have given to the Center all these years, and ask you in advance for your continued understanding and cooperation.



↑ Scenes from the celebration



↑ Minister Kamikawa inspecting the Archive



↑ Various guests greet each other

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Dr. Kim, Hee-Eun

President,

Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion & Education

I would like to thank you for inviting women leaders in Asia to the 30th Anniversary of NWECC. And, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to make this congratulatory speech at this honorary event.



Most of all, I'd like to congratulate the 30th Anniversary of NWECC. It is very impressive that NWECC was established as far back as 1977, which was two years before the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), regarded as international law for women, was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. NWECC was launched as a forerunner, far earlier than when gender issues entered into the international mainstream. And NWECC has made many efforts to empower Japanese women in a gender-discriminatory society. I highly regard these achievements of NWECC.

I hope more and more Japanese people will become aware of the powerful influence and importance that NWECC has through NWECC's Winet, which is an on-line information system started from 1991, and its improved knowledge awareness through constant updates. Especially, Japanese government should appraise the achievement of NWECC and acknowledge the vitality NWECC's presence contributes to Japanese society.

NWECC, a leading educational institute for women, has provided not only Japanese women but also women throughout Asian and African nations with opportunities to grow by learning through various programs, including those for fostering leadership. I would like to express my appreciation for NWECC's activities and efforts which have contributed to a theme, 'Asia & the World, Growing Together.' Development in women is crucial for a nation's development.

NWECC has grown by going through difficult times over the past 30 years and by coping well with changes in the nation. NWECC should continue to seek for opportunities for growth in the face of growing challenges and changes, as a 30-year-old grown-up does. By doing so, I hope NWECC will remain an institute to be remembered by all of us and by future generations.

I suggest we make Asia a place where we help one another and grow together through forming a strong network amongst all of us gathered here today to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of NWECC. Let's work together to make a 21st century of 3F, which are Female, Fiction, and Feeling, for Asian women.

I wish you all good health and luck. Thank you.

Dr. Kim, Kyung-Ai,

President, Korean Women's Development Institute

It is my great pleasure to witness the 30th anniversary of the National Women's Education Center. For the last thirty years, the National Women's Education Center has contributed to the empowerment of women and the establishment of gender equal society not only in



Japan but also in many other countries by promoting gender awareness and educating the general public. The Center is a great asset to the Japanese society and my organization, Korean Women's Development

Institute, has benefited a lot from the partnership with the NWECC.

The National Women's Education Center now faces a challenge of adapting to a changing environment and guiding the society further into a more equal and efficient system. It needs to persuade the society that promoting gender equality is not just for a political campaign but for the efficiency of the society and well-being of the people. We all know that gender equality gives women and men more choices and opportunities. Gender equal society can make men happy as well as women.

I am participating in this ceremony with the expectation of meeting many friends of NWECC and learn from their experiences. I hope this opportunity could encourage us further to cooperate with one another to build a society where women can enjoy sisterhood all around the world and no human being is left behind because of their gender. As president of Korean Women's Development Institute, I give my words that my organization will always be with NWECC and many other organizations represented here in this room in making the world a better place for all.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Kanda for inviting me and giving me a chance to address to the distinguished participants. I wish all the best to the National Women's Education Center in its efforts to perform its mission for the society as it always has been during the past thirty years.

Ms. Zhang Jing
Director-General, All-China Women's Federation,

I would like to express my hearty congratulations to you on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the National Women's Education Center. At the same time, I offer my sincere respects to the honored guests and friends who are collaborating in support of programs designed to empower women.



Since its inception thirty years ago, NWECC has achieved great results in its mission to improve the quality and capacities of women, and to pursue and protect women's rights and interests, through your enduring efforts to promote sustainable development of programs for women in Japan. At the same time, the Center has passionately promoted international exchange and cooperation, in particular by organizing training programs to improve practical skills of women in developing countries and to raise gender equality awareness. Through these efforts you have raised the interest of the international community on women's issues and have played an active role towards the realization of United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Coming from a neighboring country, I am pleased that women's empowerment support programs are reaping great results in Japan. In the 21st century, when the importance of the role of women increases every day, I sincerely pray that with leading organizations with high aspirations such as NWECC in the forefront, successful measures to promote the advancement of women will spread throughout the world and shine ever more brightly.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. Our two countries are close neighbors across a narrow body of water, and have nurtured deep friendship through our intercourse over a long period. The All-China Women's Federation, the largest women's organization in China, acts as a window for international exchange and in that capacity has enjoyed a long history of amicable exchange with the National Women's Education Center. This is at the same time a proof

that our two governments and the people of our two lands have beautiful, peace-loving minds. I would like to say that this is partly due to the joint efforts of our two organizations.

We hope that in a broader international perspective we will be able to promote wide and deeper relations and enjoy sharing learning experiences with women around the world, including Japan, so that we can all share and respect the rich culture developed by women in every country and mutually learn from our valuable experiences, refer to them, discuss them on an equal basis, and respect each other's differences. In this way, we may heighten the role and capacity of women in international politics as well as in social development, and together push for the constant progress and development of programs that support and promote women's empowerment throughout the world.

We would like to actively work to promote and increase mutual understanding, friendship, trust and cooperation, and to build a sustainable peace in a harmonious world that enables us to prosper together.

MESSAGE FROM FORMER PRESIDENTS

Ms. Yoko Nuita (The First President)

My congratulations to NWECC on your thirtieth anniversary. As one who was involved at the time of its founding, I am deeply moved to know that the Center has been visited by over three million people and that it is well recognized as playing a full part as the only national center for women in Japan.

Since I had no special relationship with the Ministry of Education, nor was I an expert on education, before accepting the invitation to be the first president of the Center, I asked for endorsement of the following three points. First, that education must serve all aspects of women's lives and not suffer from bureaucratic oversight. Second, the facility must be opened to all users, including men. Third, recognizing the importance of information, it should aim at becoming the center of information to benefit women.

When I stated these three points as my basic conditions for accepting the position at the Ministry of Education press club, a correspondent remarked "Well, that's a naïve statement coming from a person who does not know the ministry". I also came under strong criticism from some women's and citizens' groups that pointed out that the Center would be symbolic of government control over the education of adult women.

The atmosphere some of us faced as the Center took off belongs to a distant past. The success we celebrate today is due entirely to the passionate resolve of the leaders in the Women's Education Section of the Ministry and all of you as well as the many who have since supported their conviction.

I would like to express my very sincere respects and gratitude to all those who have supported the Center, among them the ardent volunteers who are the best friends of the Center, and all its loyal users. Thank you.

Ms. Atsuko Shikuma (The Second President)

It was forty years ago that the idea of establishing a women's education center was first conceived. By then, women's groups were organizing classes to empower women, and their learning activities had spread throughout the country. Women's hopes and dreams of establishing their own national education center were gaining momentum.

Finally, our passion jelled into a pioneering concept—the creation of NWECC. The concept evolved into blueprints of a building and the drawing up of a budget. It is hard to know exactly how many of us were involved. Countless numbers of us were involved: those of us who had the original vision, those of us who

helped realize the vision, and those who were involved in the construction... It took nine years for the Center to become a reality. Ms. Yoko Nuita, a journalist, was our first president. She was chosen because we wanted the facility to be managed with unprecedented freedom and flexibility. Another strength was the diverse composition of the staff, including qualified researchers who gave their energy and hearts to running the Center.

Particularly noteworthy is the existence of the Center volunteers. They were pioneers where a social educational facility was concerned. I can see in my mind's eye the faces of all those who were so happily involved.

With a thirty-year history behind it, I hope that NWECC will continue to receive every visitor with open arms and remain an inspiration to women everywhere. Thank you.

Ms. Mizue Maeda (The Third President)

It is indeed a great joy for me to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Center with you. It is wonderful to come back to the Center for its commemorative ceremony after so many years. It has been pleasing, to say the least, to see the Center playing its rightful role as the true national center for women's education and striving to build a gender-equal society.

I served the Center between 1987 and 1994 and was involved in the opening of the Information Center on the occasion of the tenth anniversary. As the information project grew, there was a need for the Center to have full-time researchers to underwrite information for it to be credible. We were gratified when our request was granted and researchers were joined us in 1993. Our Center thereafter had a "research institute", and I will never forget that deep emotion I experienced at that time.

I also have special memories of our exchange programs, including international ones. These programs brought leaders of women's education from all corners of the country, researchers of women's challenges from abroad, and policy makers who were able to meet under one roof and network together. I was personally enriched by being introduced to Women's Studies. NWECC benefits from its natural environment which adds to what it has to offer.

I pray that NWECC will continue to grow and play a useful part.

Ms. Teruko Ohno (The Fourth President)

I fondly recall NWECC's twentieth anniversary. At the time, we were driving for further development with our slogan: "Empowerment is the Password to the Twenty-first Century—Towards a New Relationship of Sharing the Joy of Living". That vision has evolved to the opening of Women's Archive Center and international research networking with China and Korea. Again, NWECC volunteers have been creative in exhibiting their record of the past thirty years. On learning that there was a plan to amalgamate our Center with another to reduce the number of administrative institutions, our supporters throughout the country lost no time. They rallied together and lobbied for the continued autonomous existence of NWECC, mobilizing their collective power to successfully convince policy makers.

Many trees that were planted anonymously on the Center's premises on commemorative occasions have taken root, each of them embodying the hopes and dreams of NWECC's many friends and supporters. I hope that NWECC continue to leap forward and mark its successful fortieth and fiftieth anniversary.

RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region

The Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region was held from February 14 to 23, 2008. A total of eleven women leaders engaged in promoting gender equality participated from seven countries: the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh and Korea. They represented various backgrounds including legislative, executive (administrative), research and local private groups committed to promoting women's rights that have cooperative arrangements with the Center.



One sub-theme addressed at the seminar was “The Issue of Human Trafficking and How to Resolve It.”. The occasion also provided an opportunity for participants to attend the “Expert Group Meeting on Human Resource Development and Staff Training to Combat Trafficking in Persons achievements so far and ways forward,” to make presentations based on their own experience, and to engage in productive discussion. They also learned about measures taken in Japan to combat trafficking and visited related facilities. All in all, the seminar provided a useful opportunity for mutual learning.



Through the ten-day program, in addition to leadership empowerment, a network was built among the participants as well as with related individuals and organizations in Japan. On the last day, a wrap-up forum was organized at *Shufu-kaikan* in Yotsuya, Tokyo under the title: “Combating the Demand and Supply for Sex Trafficking; Challenges for Global Cooperation.” It provided an additional opportunity to present the outcomes of the seminar and as a forum for exchange. Updated information was presented on actual situations in the countries represented as well as measures taken to address them. Recommendations were adopted targeting sending countries and receiving countries.

NWEC will continue to support networking and contribute to nurturing and training leaders to solve challenges related to gender-equality in Asia. This year's seminar is scheduled from Nov.6 to 16. Please check our website for further information.

VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO NWEC (April 2007-March 2008)

On December 12, 2007, Ms. Joanna Liddle, a senior lecturer at the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender at Warwick University, visited our Center at the invitation of our president. Ms. Liddle gave us the benefit of her experience and insight on Gender, Social Identity and British Politics at a meeting of our staff. She covered life in the U.K. and the kinds of challenges women encounter in Britain. An energetic exchange followed her lecture with the Center's staff and volunteers.

On February 15, 2008, Dr. Elisabeth Regnault from the Department of Education Sciences at the University of Louis Pasteur visited the Center with Professor Dr. Kenji Miwa of Ochanomizu University. Following a courtesy call on our president, Dr. Regnault spoke of women's advances in the fields of Science and technology in France and Finland as well as the governments' policies. They had a lively discussion comparing the situation and policies on the subject in Japan.



On February 15, Dr. Sarah Perin Otto, professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, visited the Center with Professor Dr. Kimiko Murofushi and an academic affairs assistant, Ms. Tomiko Mori from Ochanomizu University. Dr. Otto gave a lecture to the Center's staff members on "Striving for Balance: Women in Science in Canada". The audience was very much inspired by the professor's talk based on her own experience, and an active Q&A session followed.

On February 27, we welcomed Dr. Seungah Hong and Dr. Ryu Yeon Kyu from the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), with which the Center has a collaborative arrangement. After paying our president a courtesy call they were invited to inspect the facilities. Dr. Hong had been a panelist at an international forum organized by the Center held last February in Tokyo, but it was her first visit to the Center. We were pleased that she thought the Information Center for Women's Education and the residence hall wings were well organized. They also met with the staff and had a very productive time discussing together some concrete ideas about a future exchange program between the two institutions.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The National Women's Education Center (NWECC) -the Independent Administrative Institution strives towards the formation of a gender-equal society. Cooperating with organizations and institutions involved in women's education in Japan and other countries, NWECC functions as a national center for women's education to promote training opportunities for leaders in women's education and others in the field; opportunities for exchange between groups, both women's groups and family education support groups; specialized research into women's education and family education; and the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on women and the family. The NWECC Newsletter is published twice a year to introduce our activities.

NWECC Newsletter has been publishing since 1984 information on various activities undertaken by the National Women's Education Center as well as women in Japan. The paper-based newsletter will be reborn as a digital-based news source to facilitate more efficient and timely dissemination of the information.

We invite you, hereafter, to access information real time from the Center's Home Page as well as read our latest newsletter from the following pages.

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

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