

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On entering the new fiscal year 2012

Fusako Utsumi, President,
National Women's Education Center

Now that March has come we are gradually putting this year's exceptionally cold winter behind us. By the time the new fiscal year begins, we at NWEC will be enjoying a lovely season with fresh buds sprouting and cherry blossoms and wild flowers in full bloom.

On March 11, 2011, we experienced the terrible Great Eastern Japan Earthquake that caused worldwide concern. There was a generous outpouring of support and warm cooperation from friends across the world. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to them.

In October 2011, NWEC organized an international symposium, "Disaster and Earthquake Restoration and Community Building – Perspectives on a Gender-equal Society", to make the most of the lessons we can learn from the disaster. The records of the symposium and the Seminar for the Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region that took place at about the same time have been uploaded onto our webpage. We will be very happy if you read the report and find it useful in developing disaster-fighting measures in your respective countries.

With one year behind us since that dreadful day we are engaged in a national effort at restoration. Little by little we are beginning to see signs of recovery. Still, there remain many problems to be resolved, and NWEC will play its part in helping to cope with the disaster, especially in restoring and rebuilding affected communities from the perspective of gender equality. We will share the results of our efforts with Japanese and foreign friends and colleagues as part of our international commitment to promote gender equality and women's education.

In the past, NWECC has conducted programs focusing on the managerial staff of women's facilities and organizations, local governments and universities, and local leaders. Building on this experience, we will undertake in the next fiscal year new programs focusing on promoting the concept of gender equality in business enterprises. We will also implement programs to encourage active contributions by women in the fields of business, government and academia.

Please be sure that we will do our utmost at NWECC to fulfil your highest expectations.



RECENT NWECC ACTIVITIES

Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region and the NWECC International Symposium (Wednesday, October 20—Saturday, October 29)

The 2011 Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region was held from October 20 to October 29 around the theme “Gender-Responsive Management: How Could Women Play a Pivotal Role in Post-disaster Community Development?” with the attendance of eleven participants from nine countries.

In addition to attending lectures at NWECC, seminar participants visited the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology where they deepened their understanding of the Japanese Government's gender equality policies. They also participated in a networking event at the Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality (NWECC Forum) where they deepened exchange with individuals promoting gender equality in Japan.

Feedback from seminar participants included comments such as “The seminar provided a valuable opportunity to learn about efforts related to disaster prevention, disaster mitigation and gender in Japan and other Asian Pacific countries” and “I'd like to use the network of contacts I've accumulated through this seminar in my work in the future.”



In between lectures and visits, seminar participants were provided opportunities to learn about Japanese culture and history. On October 27, NVEC volunteers held a tea ceremony class that enabled the trainees to experience Japanese culture.



The 2011 NVEC International Forum was held on Saturday, October 29 around the theme “Disaster Restoration and Gender.” The Forum comprised two parts, the first of which featured keynote addresses on issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific Region: Ms. Akiko Domoto, former governor of Chiba Prefecture, spoke on the subject of “Disaster restoration based on gender equality perspectives ~ Lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami” and Dr. Sepali Kottegoda, Chair of APWW (Asia Pacific Women’s

Watch), presented a lecture entitled “Gender mainstreaming within disaster management policy ~ Key Issues and Challenges in the Asia Pacific Region”. During the interval between the two parts of the program, participants from the Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region, which was sponsored by NVEC immediately before the Symposium, conducted a poster session on how to intergrate gender perspectives into Disaster prevention and mitigation initiatives disaster prevention, gender mitigation and gender in their respective countries.

The second part of the program was held with Ms. Asako Osaki of Gender Action Platform as facilitator. Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan, Founder of the Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society in Thailand; Dr. Shantana R. Halder, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist for the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme in Bangladesh; and Ms. Keiko Hiraga, Chair of Sankaku Planning Iwate presented reports and case studies of disaster prevention and mitigation.

The Symposium closed with a representative of the seminar participants presenting the outcome of their training.

Thailand-Japan Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Monday, November 7 ~ Friday, November 18, 2011)

Fourteen members from Thailand visited Japan to attend Country-specific Training: Thailand-Japan Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons.

In Thailand, a project to promote collaboration and coordination among organizations involved in protecting victims of trafficking in persons and supporting their self-sustenance has been developed with the assistance of Japanese support. NVEC has been hosting this workshop since 2009 under commission from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)



The purpose of this workshop is to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Thailand among stakeholders involved in measures to protect victims of human trafficking and to investigate measures that will contribute to strengthening the coordination functions and activities of multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) in Thailand.

Workshop participants listened to lectures on efforts by the Cabinet Secretariat, the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the International Organization for Migration based on the Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons; visited and engaged in discussions at public and privately run women's shelters, prefectural police and international exchange associations in Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Gifu and Aichi; and exchanged views with individuals associated with NGOs, including Thai nationals resident in Japan. Through lectures provided at NWEC on measures to combat trafficking in persons, the roles of women's facilities, and training in women's information and counseling, participants deepened their understanding of the roles of pertinent institutions in Japan, the roles of public and private sectors, and differences in judicial systems. A briefing session was held in Thailand with the aim of sharing the outcome of this Japan-based training to relative members of MDT and members in the Mekong region.

Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality (NWEC Forum) (Friday, October 21 ~ Sunday, October 23, 2011)

The FY2011 Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality was held with the aim of promoting mutual exchange and networking among individuals and organizations engaged in practical activities and research toward realization of a gender-equal society.

On the first two days, 57 workshops were held around themes selected on the basis of policies indicated in the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality (50 solicited nationwide, 6 organized by NWEC and 1 organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). Trainees on NWEC's Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region also conducted a poster session on "Disasters and Gender".

In the symposium entitled "Disaster Reconstruction and Community Building –A Vision for a Gender-equal Society" held on the final day, which was coordinated by Prof. Natsuko Hagiwara (Rikkyo University), symposiasts Ms. Mieko Yoshimura (Governor of Yamagata Prefecture), Ms. Junko Nakamura (Director, NPO Community Support Center Kobe) and Mr. Moto'o Suzuki (Chief Editorial Writer, Kahoku Shimpō) shrewdly raised compelling challenges from their respective perspectives of government, NPOs and journalism. Active contribution of questions and opinions from the floor ensured a fruitful symposium.



Gender Equality Exchange Week (Ranzan Exchange Week)

FY2011 Gender Equality Exchange Week (Ranzan Exchange Week) was held over the four day period Tuesday, November 8 through Friday November 11. This year, in an effort to make this event more engaging for people participating in a NWEC program for the first time, activities were planned around topics such as culture and current affairs.



Mr. Hideaki Kojima, Instructor
at the Kanze School of Noh

Cultural programs comprised “Laugh First! Gender Equality” (Lecturer: Kikuchiyo Kokontei, Master Rakugo Performer) and “Introduction to Noh in Ranzan ~ Women in the world of Noh ~ A woman waiting for someone & Noh play *Izutsu*” (Lecturer: Hideaki Kojima, Instructor at the Kanze School of Noh), which enabled visitors to learn about the world of traditional Japanese entertainment and history, and hear various stories about encounters they had made while training and through later activities.

The current affairs program comprised lectures on “Eating safe and delicious vegetable” (Lecturer: Kiyoko Yoshida, Professor Emeritus, Kagawa Nutrition University) and “Support activities in disaster-stricken areas” (Lecturer: Yaeko Tabata, Director, Morioka Women’s Center). Participants took notes earnestly throughout both lectures.

Programs designed to facilitate learning about gender equality included a lecture on “Gender statistics” (Lecturer: Ms. Takahashi, Visiting Researcher) and a special lecture entitled “The history of gender equality” (Lecturer: Dr. Kanda, Visiting Researcher). Both of the lectures were attended as a part of training programs offered by local government entities and women’s classes.

The program also benefitted from the cooperation of numerous groups and individuals including NWEC volunteers, who organized a workshop for flora observation and making handicraft using a variety of flora and deciduous broad leaved trees that took advantage of NWEC’s natural environment, and NWEC Knot no Kai (an independent group of individuals who have completed NWEC gender equality programs), who organized a mini Tsugaru *shamisen* concert. The networking event held on the evening of the 10th became a forum for lively exchange among Thai trainees visiting NWEC for a JICA seminar and participants from Kumamoto Prefecture, Kitakyushu City and Ranzan Machi, and thanks to the help of many individuals, the week was a great success.

Training Course to Promote Multifaceted Career Development Supporters from the Perspective of Gender Equality (Wednesday, November 16 – Friday, November 18, 2011)

Held over a period of two nights and three days, the Training Course to Promote Multifaceted Career Development Supporters from the Perspective of Gender Equality attracted the attendance of 75 individuals including staff from women’s and social education facilities, members of NPOs and other organizations and faculty responsible for career guidance at universities, etc. nationwide.

Participants on this course engaged in specialized and practical training on the concept of “multifaceted careers” which is gradually emerging from the Center’s research and practice, and policies and future directions required to support career development with a long-term perspective through lectures, reports from related ministries and agencies and related discussions, case studies, etc. In the course-specific workshops, participants pooled their daily challenges and formulated, through discussion and group work, draft plans for (study) programs that could be taken away and implemented in their respective organizations and communities. Participants then listened avidly to reports presented by course representatives in the plenary session.

Feedback collected through a post seminar questionnaire included opinions such as “I got the feeling I could make direct use of what I learned in the programs I’m currently involved in”, “Perhaps it’s one of the merits of residential training courses, but I was able to exchange views with instructors and other participants and this enabled me to clear things up in my head” and “Planning a draft program was difficult, but it was a good experience”.



Training Course to Promote Gender Equality among University Personnel (Thursday, December 8 – Friday, December 9, 2011)

A Training Course to Promote Gender Equality among University Personnel was held over a one-night two-day period with the attendance of 88 faculty affiliated to decision-making organs at universities, research institutions and vocational schools.

Participants first listened to a lecture on gender equality promotion at universities and an explanation of the current situation surrounding women researchers and key measures to support women researchers provided by the Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology. Then, they each noted challenges they were facing and their views on question slips. These were collected and sorted by a coordinator, whereupon participants deepened their understanding of Japan’s current policy issues, trends and topics that they are eager to learn about.



The following lecture on support measures for women researchers in Korea, U.S. and Germany, which incorporated case studies of best practices in businesses where women play an active role, encouraged participants to think deeply about gender equality in universities and organizations in Japan.

For the workshops, participants divided into three groups: “Fostering an awareness of gender equality on campus”, “Work-life balance at Universities” and “Enhancing the capacity of women researchers”, where, through reports on

practices, discussion and group work, they were able to gain new insights that they could make use of at their respective universities and organizations. Feedback on the course included comments such as “The course was great because I was able to gain insight into the internal structure of companies, something I seldom have a chance to learn about”, “I was able to hear about what is happening in other organizations” and “I was able to build up my network of contacts, which I hope to make use of in the future”.

Exhibition from the Women’s Archives Center’s Collection

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of “Seito”, a feminist magazine featuring contributions from Raicho Hiratsuka among others that was first published in 1911, materials pertaining to Raicho Hiratsuka from the Center’s Oku Mumeo Collection and “Zenkoku Fujin Shinbun Photograph Collection (women’s newspaper photograph collection) have been on exhibit since Tuesday, November 8, in the Women’s Archives Center’s Exhibition Room located on the 1st floor of the Main Building at NWECC.



The exhibition also introduces materials pertaining to and works of Kokonoe weaving, a type of hand weaving established by Toshiko Kokonoe (1904-2002), founder of the Japan Women Inventors’ Association.

In conjunction with the special exhibition, the Information Center for Women’s Education on the 2nd floor of the Main Building is also exhibiting and introducing books and other materials pertaining to Raicho Hiratsuka, so please come and have a look.

We look forward to your visit.

The Information Center for Women’s Education’s Book Package Lending Service

The Book Package Lending Service selects “packages” of books from the Information Center’s collection around themes such as gender equality, women’s labor issues and women’s career development, and lends them to universities, women’s facilities and other institutions.



Launched in June 2010, the service lent a total of 3,850 books on 20 occasions to 11 institutions nationwide during fiscal year 2010. In fiscal year 2011, the scope of institutions targeted by the service was expanded, and as of January 2012, 7,329 books had been lent on 47 occasions to a total of 23 institutions, including 18 universities, 4 women’s/gender equality centers and 1 other. From March this year, the Information Center started lending to businesses, and currently provides information on gender equality not only to researchers,

students and people involved in gender equality, but also to regular members of the public.

The Information Center is also engaged in trial demonstrations of a book management system (provided by Teijin Fibers Ltd.) with cooperating institutions. The system involves affixing IC tags to books and covering bookshelves with UHF antenna sheets, and facilitates counting the number of books visitors pick up and measuring how long they are away from the shelf. Unlike previous systems, which only considered how much a book was used by its lending record, this system facilitates analysis of use within the library and is expected to lend insight into a wider range of users' needs and facilitate provision of better services.

Komaba Library, the University of Tokyo has been cooperating with this trial since October 2011 and Kyoto University Library has done likewise since January 2012.

TOPICS

2011 Asia Women Eco-Science Forum

The 2011 Asia Women Eco-Science Forum was held at the Westin Chosun Hotel in Korea on Monday, November 7 through Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

Held as a forum to support women researchers and scientists through an agreement concluded by Japan, China and Korea in 2008, the first forum was held in Korea (2008) and the second at the Sanjo Conference Hall, The University of Tokyo (2009).



Organizations of women scientists play a pivotal role in this forum, and the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists is responsible for this in Japan.

This year's forum was attended not only by participants from Japan, China and Korea, as was the case hereto, but by participants from a total of eight countries in South East Asia including Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Ms. Kayoko Sugawara, Deputy President, International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists and Dr. Fusako Utsumi, President, NWECS were invited from Japan. At the round table meeting held on Monday, November 7, Dr. Utsumi presented a report on the current status of women researchers in Japan and challenges therein to approximately 30 representatives of the eight countries. The session held on Tuesday, November 8, where some 30 women researchers made presentations on the theme of eco science, was attended by more than 200 individuals.

The value of reporting the status of support for women researchers in each country and sharing this among participating countries as a whole, and enabling young women researchers to make ambitious presentations is significant.

Visit by delegates from the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Ms. Bui Nhu Uyen, Director General of the Department of Personnel and Organization, Ministry of Information and Communications, the Vice-Chair of the Ministry's Committee on the Advancement of Women and six other committee members visited NWECC on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. The purpose of this visit was to gain insight into gender equality in Japan, measures and concrete activities pertaining to advancement of the status of women, and networks that promote gender equality in Japan.



Ms. Nakano, Director of the Office of Research and International Affairs, gave a presentation on the history of NWECC and the programs it offers. Staff from the Ministry asked about the content of NWECC's training programs and their targets as well as numerous other questions and a lively exchange of views ensued.

The delegates then toured NWECC's residential halls and practical training facilities, its Japanese house, the Information Center for Women's Education and the Women's Archives Center.

"Reflections on NWECC Leader Seminar" Dr. Xuebo Cui, Women Research Center of Yanbian University in China

The reason I applied for 2011 Leader Seminar is to enhance my knowledge and practical skills for promoting gender equality, to develop capacity as a woman leader for promoting gender equality, to build a collaborative network with NWECC and the seminar participants in Asia Pacific Region, and to experience Japanese culture and better understand Japanese people. I really appreciate the opportunity to exchange latest information and profound insight on gender equality with women leaders in Japan and seminar participants from other Asian countries.



Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming and Disaster Management: Practice and Reassessment in Yanbian University, China on November 18, 2011

After the seminar, we the participants and NWEC keep the network sustainably and interactively through yahoo group. We share the information on the gender-related conferences and transmit thoughts and feelings to each other.

I am able to apply information and knowledge gained through this program at work upon returning to my country. I facilitated the seminar on *Gender Mainstreaming and Disaster Management: Practice and Reassessment* in Yanbian University, China on November 18, 2011. The participants were researchers on gender, professors and graduate students of Yanbian University, and women CEOs in Yanbian. During the seminar, we mainly discussed about the key issues and good practices of different countries on disaster restoration and gender. During the seminar we came to an agreement that the serious consideration was needed on gender-sensitive disaster management and had a fundamental rethink on the related policy of China.

No doubt, it is a valuable opportunity for me and for our research center to develop leadership management and communicative skills, to learn precious experiences from Japan and other countries, and to further establish a mutually supportive relationship among women leaders in Asia.

INFORMATION FROM NWEC

The 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

CSW 56 was held from Monday, February 27 through Friday, March 9, 2012 at United Nations Headquarters (New York). Two NWEC staff, from the Office of Research and International Affairs and the Information Division respectively, participated as members of the Japanese government delegation (Representative: Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto).

Held around the priority theme of “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges”, the session comprised statements by national representatives, pertinent UN organizations and NGO representatives; high-level round table discussions; and interactive expert panels.

In the opening sentence of her statement, Ms. Hashimoto expressed Japan’s appreciation for the support each country offered in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. She then went on to explain that in its 3rd Basic Plan for Gender Equality, Japan had identified “Promotion of gender equality aimed at bringing about vibrant agricultural, forestry, and fisheries communities” as one of 15 priority areas. To facilitate women’s participation as equal partners in managerial and other aspects of agribusiness, the plan also emphasizes promoting further increases in the number of “family management agreements” entered into and their effective utilization; promoting support for women’s entrepreneurial activities; and promoting diversification of management of rural communities.

CSW 57 will be held at United Nations Headquarters around the theme “Elimination and Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”.

FY2012 Programs by NWEAC

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

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(1) Training Course to Promote Gender Equality for Leaders of Women's Facilities, Groups and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managerial staff at women's facilities - Administrative officers responsible for gender equality - Leaders of women's groups and organizations, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	<p>June 13 (Wed.) ~ 15 (Fri.), 2012</p> <p>2 nights 3 days</p>	Conduct advanced and specialized training to facilitate the acquisition of specialized knowledge, management skills, uses of networks, etc. required of leaders who proactively promote gender equality in their communities.
(2) Training Course to Promote Gender Equality among University Personnel	<p>Faculty staff, etc. affiliated to universities' decision-making organs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">80 people</p>	<p>November 29 (Thu.) ~ 30 (Fri.), 2012</p> <p>1 night 2 days</p>	In recent years, not only are universities responsible for training and preparing human resources to enter society as adults and workers, they also play an important role as a hub for knowledge in their communities. Implement a training course for faculty, staff, etc. affiliated to decision-making organs at universities with substantial influence in society and their communities so that they promote gender equality.

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

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

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(4) Research on the resolution of community issues and women's economic independence and development of a relevant program	<p>Researchers in the field of women's education; social education; administrative officers; individuals involved in women's facilities; groups and organizations, etc.</p>	<p>As the second year of a two-year research on promoting economic independence through community activities, develop and implement programs targeting women's facilities, etc. that organize courses to support entrepreneurs and community businesses, and compile a report thereon.</p>

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(5) Research on the promotion of men's participation at home and in the community and development of a relevant program	Researchers in the fields of women's education, family education and social education; concerned administrative officers; concerned parties from groups and organizations, etc.	As the second year of a two-year research on promoting men's participation at home and in the community, develop and implement appropriate programs and compile a report thereon.

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(6) Training Course for Leaders of Family Education and Child Raising Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officials in charge of support for family education and child raising - Leaders of child raising supporters, child raising networks, etc. - Individuals in charge of corporate support for child raising, etc. - Staff at women's facilities, social education facilities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	<p>May 18 (Fri.) ~ 19 (Sat.), 2012</p> <p>1 night 2 days</p>	Conduct specialized and practical training that incorporates case studies of various businesses and institutions collaborating to foster support for family education and child raising by society as a whole, and examples of men participating in child raising into the content of training, and seeks to foster gender-equal solutions to issues confronting participants on a day-to-day basis.
(7) Training Course for Counselors at Women's Facilities	<p>Individuals involved in counseling services for women's troubles and concerns at women's facilities and private counseling offices</p> <p style="text-align: right;">120 people</p>	<p>October 17 (Wed.)~19 (Fri.), 2012</p> <p>2 nights 3 days</p>	With a view to supporting women's empowerment by improving the quality of counseling services so they can deal with the increasingly complex and diverse issues confronting women, conduct specialized and practical training to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed to resolve pressing issues, including violence against women and poverty among women.
(8) Training Course to Promote Multifaceted Career Education from the Perspective of Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff at women's facilities, social education facilities, etc. - Members of organizations, groups, NPOs, etc. - Faculty responsible for career education at universities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">60 people</p>	<p>January 10 (Thu.) ~ 12 (Sat.), 2013</p> <p>2 nights 3 days</p>	Specialized and practical training that will link the diverse careers of individuals to society from a gender-equal perspective and contribute toward career development with a long-term perspective
	<p>Joint training with local government organizations, etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30 people</p>	<p>(Undecided)</p> <p>1 night 2 days</p>	Host the abovementioned Training Course to Promote Multifaceted Career Education from the Perspective of Gender Equality held at NVEC together with local women's facilities, etc.

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(9) Summer School for High and Junior High School Girls 2012 ~Scientists and Engineers of the Future ~	3rd year junior high school girls; senior high school girls; and parents and teachers with an interest in science and technology Students 100 persons Parents & Teachers 50 persons	August 9 (Thu.) – 11 (Sat.), 2012 2 nights 3 days	Hold a residential hands-on science program with the aim of enabling junior and senior high school girls to discover new possibilities for themselves in the fields of science and technology through dialogue and interaction with scientists, engineers and students at science and engineering universities. Hold a program for parents and teachers in conjunction with this.

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

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(10) Research on Gender Statistics	Researchers in the fields of women's studies, gender research and statistics	Based on the Data Book of Gender Equality Statistics 2012 compiled in FY2011, engage in research into ways of providing statistical data on women and men that contributes to the formation of a gender-equal society so that it can be used as a reference for planning and implementation when women's facilities, etc. organize programs.

Program	Content
(11) Dissemination of research results	Disseminate the results of studies undertaken to enhance the capacity of key leaders and address pressing issues via websites, community repositories, etc.
(12) Collection, Organization and Provision of Information and Literature on Women and Families	Collect, organize and provide information and literature pertinent to gender equality, women and families. Provide information to visitors and in response to telephone, mail and email inquiries.
(13) Maintenance and Development of the Women's Information Portal	Improve dissemination of information by updating the contents of portal sites for women and family and the various databases constructed and provided by NVEC that contribute to the formation of a gender-equal society.
(14) External lending of literature and information	To promote gender equality at individual facilities, loan out "packages" of books and other literature selected around themes corresponding to their activities as a model service.
(15) Construction of Women's Archives	Collect and organize historical materials pertaining to women and make them available to the public through the Women's Archives Center, the Women's Digital Archive System and exhibitions. Collaborate with universities and other concerned institutions on special exhibitions.

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(16) Training Course for Women's Information Archivists (Introductory) + (Practical Course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals involved in women's histories, staff at women's facilities, library staff and individuals with an interest in women's histories and archives <p style="text-align: right;">30 people</p>	<p>December 5 (Wed.) ~ 6 (Thu.), 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 night 2 days (Introductory)</p> <p>December 6 (Thu.) ~ 7 (Fri.), 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 night 2 days (Practical course)</p>	<p>Introductory : Provide practitioners with basic information as a first step toward systematically learning concrete techniques for storing and organizing women's archives. Foster information exchange and the building of networks among concerned individuals.</p> <p>Practical Course: Upon completion of the introductory course, participants learn necessary skills for storing and organizing archives.</p>

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

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(17) Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality (NWECE Forum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders of women's groups and organizations Researchers Administrative officers in charge of gender equality, women's education, family education, etc. Staff at women's facilities NPO, students, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">1,000 people</p>	<p>August 24 (Fri.)~ 26 (Sun.), 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 nights 3 days</p>	<p>Support the building of networks to promote mutual exchange through practice and research, and create opportunities to discover, secure and train new human resources with a view to contributing toward resolving pressing issues such as support for women's diverse career development, child raising support and the work-life balance.</p>
(18) Gender Equality Exchange Week (Ranzan Exchange Week)	<p>Organizations and individuals using NWECE during this period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">200 people</p>	<p>November 6 (Tue.) ~ 9 (Fri.), 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 days</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for mutual interaction and information exchange among participants from women's organizations, etc., and support the building of networks between organizations.</p>
(19) Meeting for Exchange and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders of women's groups and organizations who have participated in NWECE's training and exchange programs and engage in network building in their communities Administrative officers in charge of gender equality and women's issues Individuals involved in women's facilities, etc. <p style="text-align: right;">150 people</p>	<p>February 8 (Fri.)~ 10 (Sun.), 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 nights 3 days</p>	<p>To promote gender equality in the region, provide an opportunity for participants from NWECE's training and exchange programs to share what they put into practice when they returned to their communities; engage in opinion exchange with a view to sharing case studies of good practices and community issues; promote cooperation and collaboration among women's facilities and other concerned institutions, women's groups etc.; and promote the building of networks and collaboration between NWECE and the region.</p>

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

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(20) Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region	Administrative officers and NGO leaders Approx. 12 people	October 18 (Wed.) ~ 27 (Sat.), 2012 9 nights 10 days	Conduct a practical participatory seminar on pressing issues pertaining to women's capacity building for administrative officers responsible for women's policy and education, NGO leaders, etc. in a position to formulate and propose gender equality policy in developing countries, etc.
(21) NWECC International Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative officers responsible for gender equality, women's education, family education, etc. - Staff at women's facilities, etc. - Leaders of women's organizations, etc. - Researchers - Individuals involved in supporting international exchange and development - Individuals from concerned companies, etc. Approx. 100 people	October 27 (Sat.), 2012	Host the NWECC International Symposium, which invites overseas specialists to address a global issue pertaining to women's human rights and empowerment; analyze issues in the Asia Pacific region; deepen exchange among overseas researchers, administrative officers and leaders of women's groups and organization; and engage in opinion exchange.

Programs	Research Collaborators	Goals and Content
(22) Research on Support for Difficulties Facing Non-Japanese Women	Researchers, administrative officers, practitioners and NGOs specializing in women's education, social education, social policy and international cooperation	Conduct a basic survey of the difficulties facing non-Japanese women and awareness-raising activities to resolve issues therein as the second part of a three-year study on the theme: the current status of difficulties facing non-Japanese women and education and awareness-raising activities to resolve issues therein.

6 Learning Support Programs & Publications

Program	Content
(23) Learning Support Program	<p>Respond to inquiries about programs planned and implemented by groups, organizations and individuals that use the NWECC and support the formulation thereof. Make use of the Center's expertise to provide programs related to gender equality and women's education.</p> <p>Systemize the content of information to be provided and carefully consider suitable themes for study materials to facilitate the compilation of teaching materials for provision over the internet.</p>

Program	Content
(24) Social Education Internship Program	<p>Aims to enable students taking practical courses in social education at universities to learn the current status of women's education and the roles played by women's facilities through experiential learning in the form of assistant work at sponsored programs.</p> <p>Period: One week including the duration of the sponsored program</p> <p>Acceptance: a few individuals</p> <p>Commissioned programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum to Promote Exchange on Research and Practices Pertinent to Gender Equality (NWECE Forum) Late August • Training Course to Promote Gender Equality among University Personnel Late November
(25) PR & Information Dissemination	<p>NWECE News</p> <p>Provides information on NWECE activities; researches and the ensuing reports and preparation of material; fundamental knowledge about words; users' opinions; and articles related to the Center.</p> <p>Distribution: Government institutions; women's facilities; women's organizations; universities; mass media; general, etc.</p> <p>Publication: Biannual (July 2012 & January 2013)</p> <p>NWECE Newsletter</p> <p>Introduces NWECE activities and updates on the current status of women in Japan to readers overseas in English.</p> <p>Main distribution: Overseas government institutions responsible for women's issues; women's centers and organizations; and international organizations, etc.</p> <p>Information dissemination: Biannual (October 2012 & March 2013)</p>
(26) NWECE Action Research	<p>Publish NWECE Action Research featuring reports on research pertaining to the promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality and the practical activities of women's facilities and organizations.</p> <p>Publication: Annual (February 2013)</p>

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

NWECE Newsletter has been published since 1984. It includes information on various activities undertaken by the National Women's Education Center as well as women in Japan. The paper-based newsletter was renewed as a digital-based news source to facilitate more efficient and timely dissemination of the information.

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

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

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

★It becomes warm little by little, and I feel the visit of spring.

Thank you for reading NWECE Newsletter.

National Women's Education Center (NWECE)

Address: 728 Sugaya, Ranzan-machi, Hiki-gun, Saitama-ken 355-0292, Japan

Tel: +81-493-62-6714 Fax: +81-493-62-9034 E-mail: webmaster@nwec.jp



Published in Japan ISSN 1882-0697