

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fusako Utsumi, President,  
National Women's Education Center

It is my sincere hope that 2015 will be a wonderful year for you all.

I think everyone will agree that the year 2014 was unprecedented in terms of the spotlight placed on promoting women's participation in society. We engaged in discussion on a society in which all women could participate and flourish in all fields of society. NWEC experimented with various new initiatives, and although mistakes were made, adopting a process of trial and error ensured that our successes have outweighed our failures.

We hope promoting women's participation in society will become an increasingly prominent social movement in the coming year and that this will lead to some concrete results. For its part, NWEC will challenge some new initiatives in the hope of making steady progress towards creating a gender-equal society.

Over the past few years, NWEC has been deliberating adoption of a PFI (private finance initiative) system that facilitates the use of private funds and knowhow in its management and operations with a view to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the services it provides. Operations utilizing this PFI will begin in FY 2015. New challenges are said to be fraught with errors. However, there is no way we can achieve great things in the future if we avoid new challenges out of fear of failure. Surely trial and error is necessary. We see introduction of this PFI as an opportunity for NWEC to evolve into a new entity, and have resolved to undertake the challenge of working with this new system.

We look forward to your ongoing support and guidance over the coming year.

## RECENT NWEC ACTIVITIES

### NWEC International Symposium : Keys to Diversity and Women's Leadership, November 21 (Fri.), 2014



Keynote Address (by Prof. Judy McGregor)

On Friday November 21, 2014, the National Women's Education Center held the 2014 NWEC International Symposium at Kasumigaseki Knowledge Square in Tokyo. The theme of the symposium was Keys to Diversity and Women's Leadership.

The keynote address in Part I was delivered by Professor. Judy McGregor, who served as the first Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission (NZHRC) and is currently a professor at Auckland University of Technology. She described the Commission's work by highlighting gender wage disparities and the conditions faced by women who are engaged in the care of senior citizens, which were revealed by interviews of the care workers conducted by the NZHRC.

During the questions and answers session, a number of questions were raised by the audience, including the pros and cons of a quota system as a means of increasing the number of female managers within organizations, and what is needed to change awareness so as to dismantle the practice of long work hours, which tacitly supports gender division of labor.



Panel Discussion

### Issue-specific Training "Seminar to Promote Cooperation on Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Asia", October 20 (Mon.) ~ 31 (Fri.), 2014



Lecture by related ministries and agencies

Organized in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the seminar targeted individuals involved in initiatives to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) in the Asia Pacific region, and was attended by Myanmar and Vietnamese counterparts in a JICA project to combat TIP, and 12 national and local government officers from the Philippines, Cambodia, and Laos.

Participants learned about Japanese initiatives to combat TIP being implemented by relative ministries and agencies, and deepened their understanding of similar initiatives being taken in other participants' countries.

The majority of trafficking victims in Japan are women. Participants visited Tokyo and Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka and learned about violence against women; systems employed by and collaboration among public and private organizations offering support to non-Japanese women resident in Japan and their children;

and other concrete measures being taken, including support for Japanese language study, in light of gender-equality measures in Japan. Participants also engaged in role plays and workshops where they discussed measures to protect victims and foster their self-dependence, the importance of preventative measures, and how to strengthen the functions of and cooperation among relative institutions

Representatives of relative ministries, the International Organization for Migration, embassy staffs from the participants' countries in Japan, private support organizations and other intellectuals were invited to attend the outcome session held on the final day where participants reported on what they had learned



Role-play workshop at NVEC

during the seminar and introduced initiatives being taken in their respective countries.

Comments received from participants included,

- I gained a lot of knowledge and experience through the lectures and field visits.
- I would like to share what I learned on this seminar with my colleagues at work.
- The seminar was meaningful in that I learned not only about

systems and policies in Japan and initiatives

being taken to protect victims, but also about other countries' experiences.

- I was able to compare and gain insight into differences in the systems in place in Japan, other participants' countries and my own regarding measures such as systems for victim repatriation and telephone counseling.
- Information regarding shelters was particularly useful and helped me realize the need to improve the operation of shelters in my own country.

The seminar also proved to be a valuable opportunity for seminar instructors and other Japanese people involved to learn about initiatives being promoted by participants' countries in Asia, and for everyone to deepen their understanding of the issue.

## Seminar on Career Building for Women University Students, February 21 (Sat.) ~ 22 (Sun.), 2015

Held around the theme "Thinking about your career is tantamount to thinking about your life", this two-day residential seminar gathered 19 women students from various universities and, through a series of lectures, panel discussions



Explanation of the Hamamatsu Foreign Resident Study Support



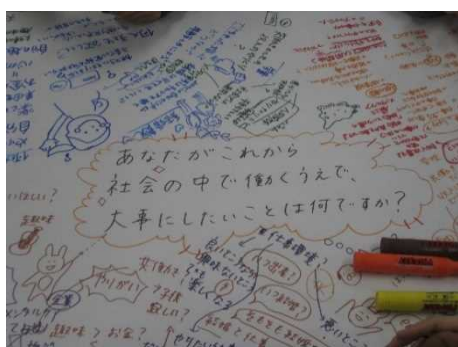
Director Nakano's lecture

and group work sessions, provided an opportunity for them to think about their future from the viewpoint of “their lives after they start working,” a perspective often neglected in so-called recruitment seminars which focus on how to get jobs.

In a lecture entitled “The environment surrounding working women as seen from a comparison of international data” , the director of NVEC’s Office of Research and International Affairs spoke about the current situation in terms of gender equality in Japan and issues women face while working based on a number of opinion surveys and international comparative data.



The three panelists



Brainstorming ideas and opinions

In the panel discussion “Listening to the voices of professional women,” three panelists with diverse experience shared some advice while discussing the paths their lives had taken since becoming members of society, how they had spent their twenties as working women, and perspectives they considered important when thinking about careers.

In the group work session, following a self-introduction ice-breaker, participants used the “World Café” method to discuss the theme “What do you aspire to hold dear once you begin working in society?” Participants then drafted “My Career Strategy” career sheets on which they declared concrete actions they would initiate from the following day such as “Finish the books I’m in the middle of reading,” “Study for the public employee exam,” and “Apply for recruitment exams scheduled for April” .

In the closing session, NVEC President Fusako Utsumi presented completion certificates to each participant.

Post-seminar questionnaires included comments such as “Hearing the opinions of both my contemporaries and working women encouraged me think about a lot of things, and made me feel like a new person” and “The seminar inspired me to revisit my thoughts about my future and consider them earnestly.” Participants’ heightened awareness about their own futures could be seen at various points throughout the two-day program.



Getting advice from professional women

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## Special Exhibition at the Women’s Archives Center “Women in Cinema,” August 1 (Fri.) ~ December 21 (Sun.), 2014

The FY2014 Special Exhibition “Women in Cinema: from women who made challenges to women aspiring

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Exterior view of the exhibition room

to make challenges” is being held in the Women’s Archives Center’s exhibition room (1F, Main Building).

The exhibition is the seventh in a series that considers gender equality in Japan from the experiences of women who have made challenges in various fields. Focusing on women active in the field of filmmaking, it follows the historical path of women’s involvement in film, and introduces both pioneers who made their careers in the industry despite the scarcity of women involved in

filmmaking and women currently pursuing a variety of careers related to

film. Two film directors introduced in the exhibition were also invited to speak at “film & lecture” events held in conjunction with the exhibition.

## Women Featured

### *Pioneers in the field of filmmaking*

- Alice Guy (1873-1968): The world’s first woman film director
- Tazuko Sakane (1904-1975): Japan’s first woman film director
- Kashiko Kawakita (1908-1993): As vice-president of TOHO-TOWA Company Limited, Kawakita devoted herself to importing foreign films and promoting Japanese films overseas
- Kinuyo Tanaka (1909-1977): Actress and film director
- Etsuko Takano (1929-2013): General manager of Iwanami Hall.

Active in various roles including bringing international film masterpieces to Japan and executive production



Inside the exhibition room

### *Women active in the field today*

- Yuka Sekiguchi: Film director
- Natsuko Toda: Film subtitle translator
- Sumiko Haneda: Film director & producer
- Hisako Matsui: Film director

### *Main Exhibits*

- Picture postcard drawn by film director Tazuko Sakane
- Storyboard drawn by film director Kinuyo Tanaka
- “Mädchen in Uniform,” play script for the first film Kashiko Kawakita purchased
- Narration script for the film “Usuzumi no sakura” (The Cherry Tree with Gray Blossoms) directed by Sumiko Haneda

### *Related Events*

- Join film director Hisako Matsui for a talk and screening of “Leonie” (overseas version) and a preview of her new film “Naniwo Osoreru” (What are you afraid of?)

Fri., August 29, 2014

- Screening of “Everyday is Alzheimer’s 2” and a talk by its director Yuka Sekiguchi



Poster

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## Training Course for Women's Information Archivists (Basic Course) + (Practical Course), December 10 (Wed.) ~ 12 (Fri.), 2014

Twenty-seven individuals from throughout Japan (including seven university library staff) attended the Basic Course held on December 10 & 11, and ten attended the Practical Course held on December 11 & 12 (four attended both).



Participants on the Basic Course

Given that this course aims to impart basic knowledge pertinent to appropriate storage and use of source materials related to women (women's archives), NWEC invited outside specialists well-versed in archiving to provide lectures to individuals engaged in such duties. Originally launched as the "Introductory Training Course for Women's Information Archivists" in fiscal 2009, the "Practical Course" was added in fiscal 2012, and the "Introductory Course" was renamed the "Basic Course" in fiscal 2014.

The Basic Course comprised not only lectures outlining women's archives and providing information on copyright theory and the storage and use of paper materials and films, but also reported on a number of case studies of archives being made publicly accessible by archive facilities. Participants were also invited to join an optional tour of NWECC's Women's Archive Center and a social event to promote networking among the lecturers and participants.



Participants on the Practical Course

The first day of the Practical Course comprised practical workshops in which examples were used to explain basic theories on creating exhibition spaces in archive facilities, exhibits in the Women's Archives Center's exhibition room were appraised, and materials for future exhibitions were discussed. The second day involved a long period of practical study including lectures based on the text provided, and covered techniques for restoring minor damage to paper materials, and basic binding techniques appropriate for preservation and storage of pamphlets. Comments from participants included "The practice-based content of the course was very useful," "I could sense the passion and enthusiasm with which the lecturers viewed their work," "The program was very carefully thought out," and "I was able to deepen exchange with the lecturers and participants."

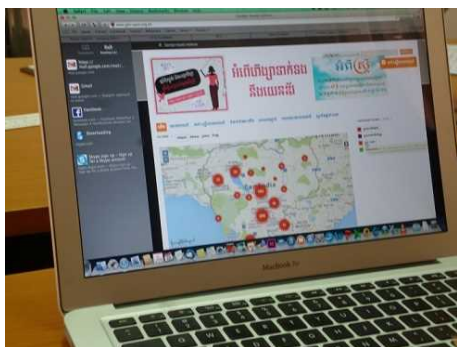
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## TOPICS

### Survey conducted in the Kingdom of Cambodia

NWEC has been conducting a Comparative Study on Gender Equality Policies in Southeast Asian Countries (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C): Principal Researcher: Dr. Masami OCHI) since fiscal

2013.



Online monitoring of the number of cases of sexual assault by region Affairs (center)

The project aims to study gender responsive budgets, as well as initiatives to prevent violence against women and foster their economic independence in the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines.

Accordingly, staff from the Office of Research and International Affairs visited government offices, research institutions and NGOs in Phnom Penh between Tue., January 20 and Thurs., January 29, 2015, and held hearings on gender equality policy in Cambodia.

The major institutions they visited and the content of hearings are summarized below.

- Ministry of Women’s Affairs: An overview of the Fourth Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (Neary Rattanak IV) announced at the end of 2014; anti-violence campaigns targeting men; issues related to the promotion of women’s economic independence (Note: Neary Rattanak means “Women are Precious Gems” in Cambodian)
- The Open Institute: ICT-based support for women
- The Cambodian Center for Human Rights: Campaigns to increase the number of women representatives in local assemblies; disputes regarding land ownership rights
- The People Health Development Association: Gender equality education implemented in collaboration with education institutions



Staff with Dr. Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs (center)

## INFORMATION FROM NWEC

### FY 2015 Programs by NWEC (International Programs)

Program	Targets & Numbers	Date	Content
(1) Seminar for Gender Equality Officers and Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region	Administrative officers and NGO leaders Approx. 12 people	September 27 (Sun.) ~ October 3 (Sat.), 2015 7 nights 8 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 and NGO leaders in a position to propose and formulate policies related to gender equality in the Asia Pacific region.
(2) NWEC International Symposium	• Individuals interested in gender equality Approx. 50 people	November, 2015	Host the NWEC 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.

<p>(3) Issue -specific Training “Seminar to Promote Cooperation on Initiatives to Combat Trafficking in Persons in ASEAN Countries” (To be entrusted by JICA)</p>	<p>• Individuals involved in the prevention and protection aspects of measures to combat trafficking in persons in Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia and the Philippines (Including those from central and regional government agencies and NGOs) Approx. 10 people</p>	<p>October 19 (Mon.) ~ 30 (Fri.), 2015 11 nights 12 days</p>	<p>Organized in conjunction with a JICA project to combat TIP in ASEAN Countries, this is the first year of a three-year plan comprising the second phase of a workshop-based seminar for individuals involved in initiatives to combat TIP. The seminar aims to consider policies that will contribute toward strengthening the functions of entities engaged in initiatives to combat TIP and the formation of networks to address the issue as a broad-area issue.</p>
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## 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 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 NWECC 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>
- NWECC facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NWECJapan>

★It is becoming warmer day by day, and I feel the visit of spring.

Thank you for reading NWECC Newsletter.

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