

HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

JUNE 2005

Publication of the International
Federation for Home Economics



A TRIBUTE TO IFHE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Message from the President, Lilha LEE, Ph.D.

It is with a great pleasure to inform all IFHE members that IFHE member organizations worldwide are actively engaging in various activities strengthening competitiveness of home economics discipline. In March, Caribbean Home Economics Association held its biennial conference in Trinidad and Tobago. The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics is planning to hold its 13th biennial world congress in August in Singapore the 2nd.

biennial conference of Africa Regional Home Economics Association in Sudan in September.

In addition, many member organizations celebrated the WHED in March with the theme "Home Economics supporting Sustainable Development and Quality of Life for All". There have been numerous symposia and seminars on Home Economics related topics, press releases advocating the role of

home economics, and Newsletters (IFHE Pacific Region).

Another significant development in IFHE is that Young Home Economics Professionals Network is being undertaken with several meetings scheduled in Germany and the United Kingdom. I am certain that this will make good headway for expanding young home economists affiliates, invigorating IFHE with fresh insights and new

perspectives. I firmly believe that all these positive performance of IFHE members around the world will certainly be our precious assets for sustainable development of IFHE as well as Home Economics at large. In this regard, I am particularly grateful to you all for your commitment, passion, and enthusiasm.

Announcement XXI IFHE-WORLD CONGRESS 2008

24th-28th July 2008

Lucerne, Switzerland

THEME:

**"REFLECTING THE
PAST – CREATING THE
FUTURE"**

**1908 – 2008
International
Federation for Home
Economics**

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International Day of Families Report

Submitted by Mary Miller

The observance of the International Day of Families 2005 is organized jointly by the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in consultation with the New York NGO Committee on the Family.

The topic for the briefing was "HIV/AIDS and Family Well-Being"

Eric A. Olson (Focal Point on the Family) introduced the Video: "Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS".

Mr. Paul Hoeffel (NGO Section Department of Public Information) as moderator for the NGO Briefing introduced **Mr. Johan Scholvinck** (Director of Division for Social Policy and Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs). **Mr. Scholvinck** read the message from **Koffi Annan** (UN Secretary-General).

Presentations were made by the following panellists: **Dr. Mark Belsey**, (World Health Organization) author of the forthcoming UN/DESA publication entitled "*AIDS and the Family: Policy Options for a Crisis in Family Capital*", **H.E. Mr Alfred M. Dube** (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations), and **Ms. Beatrice Krauss** (Executive

Director, Hunter College for Community and Urban Health).

As stated by **Dr. Belsey**; "HIV/AIDS is a family disease. The family network and family capital are major factors influencing the capacity of families to cope with disease and its consequences. Families affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) may be considered "healthy", depending on the strength of the bonds within the family network and the effectiveness with which family capital continues to be accumulated, used and protected for the benefit of infected and uninfected family members". **H.E. Mr. Dube** talked about the National AIDS Council which from 2003 to 2009 is working on National Framework for prevention and treatment. Counselling and testing is critical in this framework. Life-skills are being taught in schools. Community awareness is very important. Young people aged 19 to 35 are trained in special skills in order to train others in the community. International partnerships in bringing in drugs for treatment and education: you do not have to die of HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Krauss stated that families care and collaborate to prevent HIV/AIDS. The PATH program in which parents work with pre-adolescents for HIV prevention is most successful. 75% of the families are extended families and 21% immediate family members have been helped by

this program. Twenty five schools in India have accepted the "PATH" program. The message is that with continual education that HIV/AIDS pandemic can be reduced tremendously.

WHED – Celebration in the Philippines

Submitted by Emma Collins taken from speech delivered by Dr Angelita M Dizon, former Dean of the College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines

"Home Economics is a field of study. It's a career to engage in. It's a profession to live by"

Dr Cecilia Florencio.

World Home Economics Day (WHED) marks the worldwide observation of an event declared by the United Nations. The Philippine Home Economics Association (PHEA), Council of Deans and Heads of Home Economics of the Philippines (CODHHEP), Home Economics Extension Association of the Philippines (HEEAP) and the Philippine Women's University (PWU) celebrated **World Home Economics Day** in coordination with the Philippine Home Economics Foundation Inc, and in cooperation with the Department of Education.

A symposium focused on the World Home Economics Day 2005-2008 theme

“Home Economics Supporting Sustainable Development and Quality of Life for All” included a detailed programme of speakers, including representatives from PHEF, CODHHEP, and a number of universities. Issues surrounding the topics “Home Economics Then and Now”, “Threats and Challenges in the Family” and “Status of Home Economics Education in the Philippines” were discussed. An extract is given below.

“We do not stop being Home Economists. Whether you are retired or active, regardless of the specialized major we do not neglect the basic mission and vision for Home Economics. Nomenclature has changed but not the concept and the essence. We will always have the same focus. The approach of being preventative, educational and developmental makes us very distinct. There are always three components; people, resources and interaction, which together with the values developed in ethics and society ensure Home Economists are professionally prepared to make a difference, that is the Home Economist in us”. Dr Angelita M Dizon

The World is Fast Ageing – Have We Noticed

A Seminar at WHO

Abridged report by Joanna Koch, IFHE Representative to the United Nations

At my age you cannot help noticing that ageing is here. But

at the Seminar we learnt the passing years are not just about physical failings and discomforts, but that ageing has political, financial, social, environmental and health problems. The demographic pyramid charts showed only too clearly that the ageing populations are making these pyramids top heavy. Thus a high percentage of 90 and 100 year olds overburden the health systems and impoverish pension funds.

In many parts of the world the elderly face discrimination, marginalisation, dwindling resources, elderly abuse and worse, being left behind a digital divide. Yet they also represent a vast resource in “know how”, experience, cultural knowledge and traditions. In many countries they are the informal care sector, stepping in where governments cannot. In sub-Saharan Africa they are an essential part of the economy, by mothering the 14 million orphaned grandchildren, and entering once again the labour market, by tilling the land and filling in the gaps left by the AIDS toll.

By their sheer numbers the ageing population will be a powerful force to reckon with. A force that will be able to wield political power in the industrial world.

Dr. Alexandre Kalache, Coordinator, Ageing and Life Course, Non Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion Cluster encouraged us to reflect. And we did. We looked at the contribution of the informal sector to the economy. We

reflected on the informal sector whose place in health care is so vital, yet so often neglected, the burdens and joys of coping with our elderly relatives, the need for support and care for the carers, the downside of “imported” health care workers who leave generations of their “orphaned” children back home, (Philippines, Africa, South America) the need for more resources and so on.

The final word went to a doctor from Uganda who said that they are confronted now not only with the elderly dying but also the young. Moreover, she said, “In Africa, we are losing our culture of accepting and honouring our elderly. Our youth is abandoning their traditional values and are increasingly incorporating western ideas of fast consumerism with little or no time and thought for their elderly. A whole middle generation is dying- the generation, which would have been teaching traditional values and experience and increasingly communities are left just with children and grandparents”.

Yes, Alex certainly woke us up. He alerted us to an emerging problem, taking us out of our daydreams of a cozy old age dozing in front of the fire.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IFHE COUNCIL MEETING

16 – 21 July 2006

**Breakwater Lodge
Graduate School of Business
University of Cape Town
South Africa**

Abstracts of 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

28 February – 11 March 2005.
New York

On the agenda:

1. Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled: "Women 2000: gender, equality, development and peace for the twenty-first-century".

2. Current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

Agenda of the 50th CSW session:

1. Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work

2. Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

Report see under
www.ifhe.org

A Tribute to Dr Wangari Maathai

2004 Nobel Prize winner – Submitted by Joanna Koch

Dr. Wangari Maathai is the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize in Peace. She was also the

first woman in central or eastern Africa to hold a Ph.D. and the first woman head of a University Department in Kenya.

By planting trees Wangari Maathai has protected hectares of soil from erosion, has secured sustainable energy supplies for the rural poor, and has safeguarded human rights. After three decades of afforestation, she has been awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her achievements in promoting sustainable development, democracy, and peace. Wangari Maathai also serves as the Kenyan Deputy Minister of the Environment.

Wangari Maathai was born in 1940 in Nyeri. She was able to pursue higher education, a rarity for girls in rural areas of Kenya. Her first degree was in Biology from Mount St. Scholastic College in Kansas and a master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. When she returned to Kenya, she worked in veterinary medicine research at the University of Nairobi where she awarded her Ph.D. She worked her way up through the academic ranks, becoming head of the Veterinary Medicine faculty.

Wangari Maathai worked for environmental and women's causes and served as national chairperson for the National Council of Women of Kenya. In 1998 she gained worldwide attention when the Kenyan President backed development of a luxury housing project and building began by clearing hundreds of acres of Kenyan

forests. She was arrested and imprisoned and it was thanks to Amnesty International letter-writing campaign that she was released from prison.

In December 2002, Wangari Maathai was elected to Parliament and she was named Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife in January 2003.

European Regional IFHE Meeting 2005

Kari Sundsbo Mollen and Kirsten Schlegel-Matthies invite all IFHE members Europe to the European Regional IFHE Meeting

"Sustainable Consumption and Home Economics"

Wednesday, 6 July 2005
14h – 17h

John Moores University – Liverpool, UK
Themes are:

- Learning for sustainable development – a challenge for home economics – A Swedish perspective
- Sustainable consumption – a challenge for home economics – A British perspective
- Plan of action for establishing a regional IFHE structure in Europe

For more information see

www.ifhe.org and registration please contact:

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IFHE Office Report

January – May 2005

Quality Management System

Petra Wehmeier, trainee at the IFHE Office from March-August 2004, is studying Home Economics and Nutritional Science at the University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrück, Germany. Under the guidance of Prof Leicht-Eckardt, she is currently working on her thesis "Establishing a Quality Management System in the IFHE".

During the last few months we have been discussing a number of questions:

- What should, can or must the IFHE do, to support the IFHE Executive Committee, the Liaisons, the UN Representatives and in particular the IFHE members as well as possible?
- What is the vision of the IFHE?
- What are the main aims, where are the problems and in which way can we reach these aims and improve our services?

From our point of view, optimisation the IFHE Communication Network and providing extensive information about Home Economics are the core aims of the IFHE Office.

In addition, the image of IFHE to the public is important. We want to improve the promotion of IFHE to attract new members.

We have discussed the role and the possibilities of the IFHE Office and we have a number of ideas and see many possibilities for the future.

However, we recognise that the volunteer commitment of IFHE members and representatives is our most valuable resource. IFHE Office can do nothing without the volunteer work of the members. Therefore the IFHE Office works hard to serve everybody involved in IFHE.

Petra Wehmeier will finish her thesis in August 2005 and will give a report in the IFHE Newsletter in December 2005.

Documentation of the Annual Leadership Meeting 2005

The documentation of the IFHE Annual Leadership Meeting 2005 has been completed and mailed to all participants and Organizational members. It includes the reports of the IFHE Programme and Council Committees, the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting and the reports of the presentations of the IFHE Symposium. If anyone would like a copy, please let us know.

UN Questionnaire

Cooperation with the UN is one of the important tasks of IFHE with 15 IFHE representatives working in different UN Committees and Institutions. Following discussion at the Annual Leadership Meeting 2005, a questionnaire regarding the work of the IFHE

Representatives has been developed by the IFHE Office. For members it may be difficult to understand the roles of the representatives and the way in which they are able to make suggestions and proposals at UN events. IFHE also wants to improve the support for the representatives. The questionnaire, sent to all representatives, aims to find out what support is necessary and what activities each representative is involved in, and the information they require. We are currently in the process of working on the feedback received from the IFHE representatives. On the basis of the results the IFHE Executive Committee will establish a procedure to support the UN Representatives with current information from the different Programme Committees, so that they are able to work out statements and reports on behalf of IFHE. The IFHE Office will further work to create a number of resources available to members outlining the consultative status of IFHE and the UN.

IFHE Online Member Database

We announced that the IFHE member database will be accessible on-line from 1st July 2005. Unfortunately it has taken a long time to achieve this aim reality. There are still some problems to solve, but the main functions are working.

Every IFHE member with e-mail access will be able to login under www.ifhe.org/ifhem.

Click on Request Login data, fill in the fields and send it. After entering your own data, you will automatically receive your personal password. With your e-mail address and your personal password you can enter the database. The database allows you to check your personal data and update it if necessary.

We have added a special field where you can – if you want – give detailed information about your particular field of work. We hope that many IFHE members will complete this field, so that we will have a list of experts for home economics which will be accessible exclusively for IFHE members. The database can also be used to write emails to other IFHE members.

The database is particularly important for IFHE Liaisons so that they can check the payments of the individual members in their country and update member data.

We have tried to ensure correct member lists and updated payments of each country, but we are sure that mistakes exist. We would like to ask everyone to check their personal data and please change any errors in the data. If you have any difficulties please let us know.

We hope that we will have developed a good IFHE member database, which will become a valuable tool for every member.

The “member only” area of the website, providing special information for IFHE members and young professionals, is also being developed and we hope

that it will be available in the coming months.

Placement Report

Stefan Wahlen

Two month student placement at the IFHE office

February-March 2005

As a student of Home Economics at the University of Bonn in Germany and a student-member of IFHE, I had the opportunity to attend the general secretariat of IFHE to undertake a student placement. I started in February, attending the Annual Leadership Meeting in Bonn. I was involved in the preparation and organization of the meeting and prepared the post-meeting documentation. Whilst working for IFHE I was assigned several tasks.



After looking at an overview of the structure and activities of IFHE and of the office organization, I worked on the activities of IFHE. As the Federation is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008, there are many historical documents, found in the office. My main task

during the placement was to organise a structure and to systematise the historical documents. This involved a review of the archives, and establishing a logical system. I was also involved in developing a concept for an International Young Professional network for students, graduates and younger people involved in home economics. Work for the Young Professionals is ongoing and we have already held several sessions in universities promoting the recognition of IFHE and encouraging young people to get involved on an international level.

Other tasks during the placement included:

- Organise the content on the web based member database
- Reorganising the office
- Survey about credit card payment for IFHE members via internet
- Accomplishment of daily office activities

Recapitulating my work in the office, I was faced with a lot of interesting, diverse tasks. IFHE offers many engaging fields of which I am glad that I was able to get involved in. The Young Professional Network (YPN) is starting to grow internationally and I would like to call everyone to use and promote the YPN.

Stefan Wahlen
swahlen@uni-bonn.de

Programme Committee Institutional and Hospitality Management (IHM)

Submitted by Helge Huelle

I am pleased to inform all members that the first meeting of the **Program Committee on Institutional and Hospitality Management (IHM)** at the Annual Leadership Meeting in Bonn was successful and began to start its work. **Hertje Funke** (Germany) will undertake the role as chair. At this time IHM has 16 active and corresponding members from Australia, Germany, Guyana, Switzerland, Taiwan and the USA. We invite all interested IFHE members to participate in the work of this committee. Concerning the World Congress 2008 – “Reflecting the Past – Creating the Future” - the goals of discussion are:

- Trends and future development
- Comparison of countries and cultures
- Demands on the professional education of home economics

The focus of the committee work for the next three years will be on trends of out- and in-sourcing and comparisons between homes for the elderly, attitudes towards the elderly, and different solutions for life after retirement. Furthermore we want to have a focus on education concerning demands of employers and necessary abilities.

Over the year we will get involved in communication and discussion of the chosen topics with all committee members. Minutes of the first meeting held in Bonn in February and a plan of work for the next three years are available by e-mailing office.ifhe@t-online.de

XIII BIENNIAL ARAHE Congress, 2 – 5 August, Orchard Hotel, Singapore

Developing Values, Innovation and Enterprise in Home Economics

An Invitation from the Congress Organisers

It is our pleasure to cordially invite you to the 13th Biennial ARAHE Congress to be held from 2 – 5 August 2005 in Singapore. The theme of the congress, *Developing Values, Innovation and Enterprise in Home Economics* is more than timely in this rapidly advancing technological and entrepreneurial era. This congress promises a sharing of innovative ideas and entrepreneurship in educational knowledge and professional know-how by home economics educators, researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals from business and industries, in the context of appropriate value systems

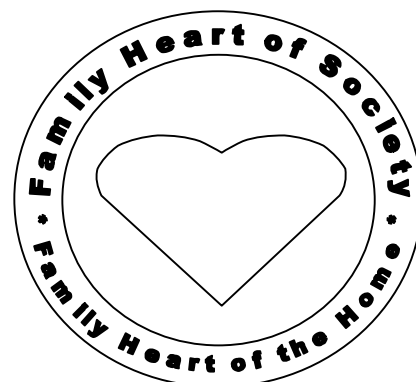
Organising Committee ARAHE Congress 2005 Singapore

World Congress on the Family

Restore Family Life and Sustain World Peace

*1 – 5 January 2006 – CHENNAI, India
First Announcement*

You are cordially invited to participate at the World Congress on the Family. Venue is Chennai, India, 1 – 5 January 2006. Organised by the Service and Research Foundation of Asia on Family and Culture in collaboration with other NGO's in the Development and Women's Sector.



For more details see www.ifhe.org (calendar)

Young Professional Network - YPN

Information about the work of YPN, the aims, plan of action and information on how to get involved are available. For more details please send an e-mail to office.ifhe@t-online.de

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005

4 – 6 July

2nd International Conference of the Institute of Consumer Sciences

“Consumption, Culture & Community”

John Moores University, Liverpool, UK

For more information see: www.jmu.ac.uk/olf/conference

25 – 27 July

10th Anniversary: Home Economics at Global Perspective

“The Future is Promising”

University of Botswana - Department of Home Economics Education

For more information see: www.ifhe.org/calendar.html

2 – 5 August

XIII Biennial ARAHE Conference

“Developing Values, Innovation and Enterprise in Home Economics”

Orchard Hotel, Singapore

For more information see: <http://arahe.ku.ac.th/eng/announce.html>

19 – 25 September

18th International Congress of Nutrition

Durban, South Africa

with Pre-Congress Safaris on September 17 and 18 September 2005

For further information see: www.puk.ac.za/iuns

30 September – 2 October 2005

2nd IFHE African Regional Conference – Khartoum – Sudan

2006

4 – 6 February

IFHE-Annual Meeting

Berlin, Germany

2006

22 – 24 March

I. International Home Economics Congress Ankara, Turkey

Theme: "Sustainable Development and Quality of Life"

For more information see:

www.ifhe.org/calendar.html

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation

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HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

Published by the International Federation for Home Economics IFHE

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Next Issue: September 2005

Please submit information and articles for this issue by

1st August 2005 to IFHE Office Bonn, Germany