

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IFHE Council 2006 Cape Town

Press Release

Bonn 26th July 2006

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) held its biennial Council Meeting from 16 - 20 July in Cape Town - South Africa. IFHE President Lilha LEE Ph.D. and Dr. Judith CORNELISSEN, IFHE – EC member for the Africa Region welcomed 135 participants from 24 different countries. They attended the IFHE Symposium, different Programme Committee workshops and discussed aims and plan of actions for the next IFHE Congress 2008 in Switzerland. The Council was hosted by the South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences (SAAFECs).

IFHE Symposium “IFHE SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY for a better quality of life for all”

David Sanders, Director: School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape gave a presentation on the theme “Globalisation Health Sector Reform and Health for All: the Challenges Facing Africa”

In his interesting speech he outlined the following aspects:

- n Trends in global health in the area of Primary Health Care (PHC), 1980 - 2004, with special emphasis on Africa’s health situation
- n Impact of globalisation, health sector reform and HIV/AIDS on poverty, health “determinants”, health systems and human resources for health
- n The role of research, training and advocacy in addressing these challenges, with an illustrative example from South Africa

As a summary he identified

- n Health for all (HFA) threatened by globalisation and neoliberal economic policies and by health sector “reform”
- n Primary Health Care (PHC) successful in certain health care programmes but social mobilising role and intersectoral focus (determinants) neglected
- n Government health departments must work with other sectors and civil society to address determinants of ill-health
- n Policy development must be inclusive, transparent and supported by finances and legislation
- n PHC must be revitalised by drawing together the Health Policy initiative and the PHC experience

As conclusions he pointed out:

Main actions required from Public Health Community:

- n Challenge unfair globalisation and ill-considered health sector reforms through research and advocacy
- n Advocate for increased investment in enhancing capacity of and reorientating Southern institutions (incl. equitable collaboration/partnerships with Northern institutions)
- n Develop capacity through health systems research, practice-based and problem-oriented training.
- n Improve quality of interventions and develop well-managed comprehensive programmes
- n Involve other sectors and communities
- n Support with better management systems
- n Focus on health centres
- n Rapidly (re)train Commiunity Health Workshop´s (CHWs)
- n Provide resources to and develop partnerships with progressive civil society

Margaret JEPSON, Liverpool John Moores University, Faculty of Education, Community and Leisure, United Kingdom presented to the theme “Education and Sustainability” She gave a detailed description of aspects and about the requests of appropriate education for sustainability. In her presentations she provided examples by which teachers can integrate education for home economics and sustainability. She accentuated that school management must convert aspects of sustainability in an exemplary manner.

Sharon FOLLTENTINE, Director of Social Policy in the Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation, South Africa referred to the theme “**Policy Perspective on Sustainable Development**”.

Geraldene HODELIN, IFHE President Elect

One main topic of the agenda of the IFHE Council 2006 was the election of the new IFHE President Elect. The term of the IFHE President Elect will be two years then the IFHE President will be IFHE President for the following 4 years, followed by 2 years as Past President.

The IFHE delegates voted for Geraldene HODELIN as the next IFHE President Elect. Geraldene HODELIN has an Ph. D. (Education), M.A.(Home Economics Education) and a B. A. A. (Home Economics). She is Dean, Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies at University of Technology, Jamaica. She introduced herself as a:

- Home Economist
- Entrepreneurial Educator
- Teacher Educator
- Higher Education Administrator
- Researcher
- Consultant

Geraldene Hodelin has a long-standing relationship with IFHE. She is IFHE individual member and Organizational representative and has been a co-opted EC-Member. She is member of the IFHE Region of the Americas; of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists and the Jamaican Home Economics Association.

Geraldene Hodelin believes:

- In the Home Economics profession
- That Home Economists can influence the quality of life of individuals and families in whatever context they live and operate
- In the notion that home economists should position themselves to be subjects of change as well as agents of change
- In the fact that as home economists, we must collaborate with others in achieving our goals where necessary.

IFHE Council honoured the Past President Gertraud PICHLER

Dr. Gertraud PICHLER was IFHE President in the years 2000-2004. Since 2004 she served as IFHE Past President. IFHE President Lilha LEE acknowledged that Gertraud PICHLER took over her Presidency when IFHE had been at a critical point. With her convincing leadership and her high management competence Gertraud PICHLER managed the reinvention of the Federation. The IFHE delegates thanked Gertraud PICHLER with a standing ovation.