



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

Press Release

Bonn, December 2006

IFHE enhances the “WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY” 21st March 2007”

“Home Economics Supporting Sustainable Development and Quality of -Life for All- through Sustainable Consumption”

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe. IFHE enforces the aim of Sustainable Development and Quality of life with its international work.

Sustainable Development includes protecting the Earth’s capacity for regeneration and respecting the rights of future generations.

An important issue of increasing the Quality of Life for families and individuals all over the world and the following generations is Sustainable Consumption. Individuals seek positive changes for themselves but they have to do it in ways that respect not only the rights of people all over the world but also their children and grandchildren.

To ensure the equitable availability of resources for all there is a need to consume more efficiently, for example using fewer resources and causing less pollution and waste. To achieve that it is necessary to change the lifestyle and consumption habits of the modern industrial society. People must get used to keeping a closer watch on their attitude towards consumerism in a much more critical way. Moreover Sustainable Lifestyles are central to overcoming poverty and conserving and protecting the natural resources for all forms of life.

Consuming efficiently to achieve a better quality of life for all should be a non controversial demand. However, insufficient awareness sometimes leads to a hesitant or slow uptake of the required policies. Consumers need to be guided. To point consumption in a more sustainable direction includes offering better information or pilot projects about purchasing, transport systems and energy sources. Education and training for sustainable handling of resources and consumption must be a lifelong process for individuals, institutions and societies.

— IFHE supports the aims of the UN-Decade: Education for Sustainable Development 2005 - 2014 and UNESCO with its demand “Education for All”. As an International NGO, IFHE offers the great opportunity for international exchange about this important theme. IFHE supports the aim of Sustainable Consumption by organizing international symposiums about Sustainable Development with experts from all over the world. To support and promote education and training for sustainable consumption IFHE Members are developing syllabuses and information material.

IFHE celebrates the “World Home Economics Day 2007” as a chance to challenge the governments, industry and families all over the world to reflect about their contribution to Sustainable Development in relation to their way of consumption. There is a need to view tomorrow as a day that belongs to all of us, or it will not belong to anyone.