

COUNCIL COMMITTEE IFHE Young Professionals Network (YPN)



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

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"Come with me I hold your hand this time"

(Geraldene HODELIN at the IFHE Council Committee Meeting 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa)

Starting out from a pictorial presentation from Geraldene HODELIN I write this article and notice that only I haven't fared so:

I don't know exactly when it happened but I remember the situation with pleasure. It must have been in the end of 2003 when Hertje FUNKE asked me an irritating question. I think I sorted out a couple of documents at a table next-door to her when she asked me if I want to go to Japan. For my part I gave a confused look back. Hertje FUNKE gave me a short overview about the world of IFHE. The idea was enticing and according to consultation of my parents to the financial support of the journey as well as the membership in the German and international association moved it into proximity.

The structures and processes of the association, its work and its history became clear after a while. Hertje FUNKE supported me and helped me to a better understanding of IFHE.

I had not heard about this association before. I knew the national associations like VDOE and DGH. But an association on an international level provided an incentive.

I faced IFHE first at the annual leadership meeting in Bonn. Confessed professors from different universities, in their profession established persons and English as a foreign language let my heart slip to my trousers. I was introduced to the IFHE delegates and made first experiences regarding meetings. After this meeting the fire was sparked and I was looking forward to Japan with more than 1000 home economists from all over the world.

I wouldn't want that somebody "holds my hands" but it makes everything much easier if someone shows the way. New members and primarily young members should get involved in the work of our association and should maintain it. Young in their profession, young in their age, young in IFHE. My friend, teacher and adviser supports me and shows me the way, the relation between Mentor and Mentee.

Regarding this YPN tries to develop guidelines for mentoring IFHE members to be involved in our federation; "reflecting the past – creating the future".