



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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1. The IFHE President's Report Carol WARREN, Australia

In 2012, IFHE made socio-political contributions for the improvement of the conditions for families and single persons through various activities. Special emphasis was placed on the advancement of the exchange of experiences and the cooperation in Home Economics, Home Economics education and training for the improvement of well-being and quality of life of single persons and families worldwide.

1.1 XXII. IFHE World Congress in Melbourne, Australia 2012

The XXII. IFHE World Congress 2012, held every four years according to the IFHE statutes, took place in Melbourne, Australia in July 2012. The theme of the Congress was **“Global Well-being - Global creativity and innovation: Developing capacities for sustainable futures”**. More than 400 experts from Home Economics, education and other disciplines presented their research and experiences in presentations and posters on the subject of **“Global Well-being”**. A total of more than 700 persons attended the congress.

The opening address on the subject **“Oikos: Bringing the economy home”** was given by Dr Vandana SHIVA, India, the recipient of the alternative Nobel Prize. The presentation has been published as a video on the IFHE Website. Dr Gwang-Jo KIM, Director of the UNESCO regional office Asia-Pacific, talked about the **“Education and Capacity Building”** in a keynote speech. Further plenary lectures were given on the following subjects

- **“Family financial sustainability through values-based financial education: Implications for Home Economics”**,
- **“Creativity and innovation: The role of young professionals in sustaining Home Economics”**,
- **“What can we do to recover sustainability? Challenges in rebuilding lives in the wake of disaster”**.

Within the programme of the congress, symposia, workshops and discussion groups on various subjects were held in addition to the many parallel subject presentations.

A special open forum with experts from the five IFHE Regions of the world participated in discussing the **“Contribution of Home Economics to the UN Millennium Goals”**. It was an impressive forum showing through examples from all over the world that skilled workers in Home Economics and Home Economics education support the United Nations Millennium Goals in many different ways. Important development goals of the United Nations after 2015 from the viewpoint of the IFHE were discussed with the participants. The period after 2015 should focus on gender equality and the reduction of poverty and hunger, especially in Africa.

IFHE World Congress 2012 Resolution “Global Well-being”

On the occasion of the XXII. IFHE World Congress, the IFHE passed a resolution on the subject of “**Global Well-being**”.

IFHE demands that according to socio-political and structural framework, conditions in countries where there is poverty and hunger, improvement of the social infrastructure, the education system as well as public health services and, above all, strategies for combating poverty and hunger are paramount. All the members of IFHE will advocate these goals worldwide.

1.2 Launch of the IFHE Campaign 2012 - 2014 on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014, IFHE will celebrate in a special way to support the UN in its socio-political concerns for families. The campaign of the IFHE was officially launched by a decision taken by the IFHE Council in July 2012.

The subject of the campaign is: “**Empowering Families, Individuals and Communities through Home Economics**”.

The goals of the campaign are:

- Making a contribution to the goals of the UN for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014.
- Form awareness for the challenges for families on an international, national, regional and local level.
- Improving the quality of life of families and communities through knowledge and education from Home Economics and Home Economics professionals.

The campaign of IFHE was acknowledged as an important contribution of civil society to the goals of the UN by the United Nations.

In 2012, the following information materials were developed to publicise the campaign:

- Postcard: IFHE Campaign on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014,
- Brochure IFHE Campaign on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014,
- IFHE Position Paper on the goals of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family indicated by the United Nations.

The information material was published on the Internet and mailed to the members worldwide. Members of IFHE are called on worldwide to take part in the campaign with activities, thus supporting the goals of the UN on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

A special page for the campaign on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family was set up on the IFHE Website to publish all communications and contributions.

1.3 Symposium of the IFHE on the subject “Cooperation in development as a base for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals: Contribution and relevance of Home Economics”

On Saturday, February 4th, 2012, IFHE hosted a symposium in Bonn with more than 60 participants from 21 nations on the subject.

Within the framework of the symposium, concepts for practical development and cooperation in Home Economics and action on an international level were presented and refined.

The symposium confirmed, in the presentations and in the workshops, areas of positive action in Home Economics. Knowledge and competences in these fields of action must be reinforced internationally. Networks and cooperation must be extended and initiatives taken so that projects can be advanced for a better support of the Millennium Goals of the United Nations.

1.4 Home Economics projects and the development goals of the United Nations

A worldwide enquiry of projects of Home Economics, Home Economics education in relation to the development goals of the United Nations was conducted. The presentation of 62 projects was published on the special IFHE Website. The evaluation of the projects reviewed proved that families and households are encouraged by Home Economics and by Home Economics education to improve resources to counteract poverty and hunger, and to support effective development, thus improving the quality of life.

1.5 Project in Tanzania

During the year, IFHE continued the financial support for the project of the Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) "AIDS orphans", in which family care of AIDS orphan and their education are facilitated.

1.6 Project "Six-country Study from a Home Economics Perspective"

During the year IFHE gave financial support for an international project concerning the situation of elderly people.

The research project is conducted in Brazil, Japan, India, Swaziland, Guyana and Germany. The goal of the project is to examine the special social situation of elderly people and to examine the requirements for the provision and assistance for households with elderly members and to make recommendations for the training of skilled workers to support the households. The first intermediary results were presented during the IFHE Congress in July 2012. The results of the entire project will be presented in the year 2014.

1.7 Project "Clean Cookstoves"

During the year, IFHE developed a project in the area of "Clean Cookstoves". Project partners came from Germany, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Pakistan and India. The suggestion for the project was submitted to the "Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves" within the period prescribed, but not supported financially.

Since October 2012, a project in cooperation with the Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) for the provision of "Clean Cookstoves" for infant school is being prepared, for which an application for co-financing will be submitted to the Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development.

1.8 Regular IFHE Work

- Two copies of the scientific **E-Journal *International Journal of Home Economics*** was published in 2012, as well as four IFHE Newsletters with current reports from the work of the federation on all levels including co-operation with the UN institutions.
- Public relations:
 1. A poster and a postcard were distributed worldwide for the IFHE Congress 2012.
 2. A postcard and brochure was published and mailed worldwide for the campaign on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014.
 3. Two posters about “Best Practices” in “Machine Dishwashing” and “Manual Dishwashing” were developed by the Programme Committee Household Technology and Sustainability and published by IFHE.
 4. Eight press reports were published in 2012:
 - International Day of Families
 - World Home Economics Day
 - Press Releases Pre and Post of the IFHE World Congress
 - IFHE Round Table Discussion on the development goals of the United Nations
 - IFHE Distinguished Service Award
 - World Food Day
 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
 5. A special web site “Home Economics” with professional contributions from the different areas of expertise in Home Economics was launched. On the occasion of the assembly of delegates it was presented to the public and put into operation. According to its statutes, IFHE made an important contribution to the exchange of information and experience in the various sectors of Home Economics.
 6. The web page of IFHE was updated.
 7. The IFHE Distinguished Service Award for the contribution to IFHE and Home Economics in 2011 was given to Janett GIBBS from the USA during the World Congress in Melbourne in 2012. This was to honour an expert who has contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of families in a commendable manner and has rendered outstanding services to IFHE.
 8. The concept for the support of Home Economics associations and teachers in disaster areas of developing countries was refined and presented to the assembly of delegates in 2012. The first donations for the projects were accepted. Partners are from North America, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand.

2. Activities in the IFHE Regions

The members of IFHE give worldwide support for the goals and activities of IFHE and improve the quality of life for families, single persons and communities.

2.1 Region Africa

The South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences (SAAFECs) prepared for the 6th IFHE Regional Conference Africa. It will take place from 26th February to 1st March 2013 in South Africa. The subject of the conference is “**Development Across the Borders**”.

The Ghana Association for Home Economics (GHEA) has been supporting the programme of “Clean Cookstoves” since mid 2012. Members of the board of executives of the association took part in a meeting of the “Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves” in October.

The Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) continued the AIDS orphan project in addition to other projects. In this project, AIDS orphans living in a rural community receive support.

2.2 Region of the Americas (North and South America)

North America

The IFHE-US (USA) has 524 single members and 16 organisations. The IFHE-US was represented by a strong delegation at the IFHE World Congress 2012.

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) held their yearly conference with the subject “**Connecting Professionals: Leadership in Action**” in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA from 24th to 27th June 2012. IFHE-US members attended the AAFCS Conference and a cooperation agreement with AAFCS was signed.

A coordinator of the Young Professionals Network of the IFHE for the region North America was elected.

The details of the proposed programme for the IFHE Council in Canada in 2014 was presented by the members of IFHE in Canada and the Hamilton Organisation for Home Economics in cooperation with IFHE. The IFHE Council will be held from 19th to 25th July in London, Ontario, Canada. The first announcement and the proposed programme has been published.

South America

In 2012, the focus of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists Inc. (CAHE) has been on the planning of the 20th Biennial Conference, which will be held from 7th - 10th April 2013 in Barbados with the subject “**Home Economics Reinforcement: Education for sustainable lifestyles**”. A total of five skilled employees from the region have been awarded the certificate of the Caribbean Association of Home Economists Inc. “Professional Expert for Home Economics”.

2.3 Region of Asia

In the region, many yearly meetings, conferences and workshops with participation of IFHE Members and member organisations have been held. The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) publishes a scientific journal four times a year under the guidance of IFHE members in Asia. It has been digitally available since the 2012.

The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) gave details of their 17th Biennial International Congress in Singapore 2013. The congress will have the theme: “**Home Economics Skills and Education: Investing in our future**”. They received support from the National Institute for Education and the Association for Home Economics in Singapore.

The Korean Association for Home Economics publish two different journals. The *Journal of Human Ecology* is published ten times a year in Korean, the *International Journal of Human Ecology*, the English version twice a year. The Korean Association for Home Economics holds a yearly meeting. The preparations for hosting the XXIII. IFHE World Congress 2016 in Korea was started in 2012.

The Japanese Society for Home Economics held their yearly congress in Osaka in 2012. More than 600 participants took part in presentations and a symposium. The Japanese Society for Home Economics publishes a monthly journal.

2.4 Region of Europe

The European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) published a “plan of action” for the period 2012 – 2016. The European Association for Home Economics awarded a bursary to enable a student to attend the IFHE World Congress 2012 in Melbourne, Australia. The winner of the bursary came from Germany.

The Finnish section of the IFHE organised a seminar, the subject “**The role of Home Economics on the way to the development goals of the United Nations and sustainable development**” which was held to mark World Home Economics Day 2012.

Members of the Danish section of the IFHE conducted a three-day information and education journey about their professional work in secondary schools and universities for participants from Finland working in the fields of Home Economics and nursing.

The German section of the IFHE gave their yearly European Award to the winner of the Federal Competition in Home Economics in 2012.

2.5 Region of the Pacific

In the Pacific region, the XXII. IFHE World Congress 2012 was held from 26th to 31st July. The number of participants was 730. The preparation and organisation of the Congress were the main tasks of members in this region.

3. Report on IFHE Committee Work

3.1 Think Tank

The project for “**Re-Branding-Process for Home Economics**“ was considered further by the Think Tank Committee of IFHE in 2012. A first evaluating report will be presented to the Executive Committee in February 2013.

3.2 Research Committee

The committee undertook the screening and selection of abstracts for the XXII. IFHE World Congress 2012. More than 400 “abstracts” were received.

3.3 Young Professionals Network (YPN)

The YPN prepared the video contributions from the different regions for a comprehensive digital presentation during the XXII. IFHE World Congress 2012. The video was shown during the World Congress and is available on the IFHE Website.

3.4 Home Economics Policies in Education and Training Committee (HEPET)

The committee was able to complete the evaluation of the questionnaires on the training of Home Economists and Home Economics teachers in schools and universities including curricula taught at all levels of education.

3.5 Textiles and Design Committee (TD)

The committee presented an exhibition with beautiful textile exhibits during the XXII. IFHE World Congress 2012.

In addition to this, poster presentations and lectures on professional and social questions of textile industry were held.

3.6 Outreach to Central and Eastern European Countries Committee (OCEED)

The members of the committee maintain a great number of contacts with academic staff at universities and institutions in Eastern European countries. A workshop was conducted during the XXII. IFHE World Congress.

In September 2012, IFHE was represented at an International Seminar in Budapest, and in October 2012 in the Czech Republic on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the agricultural school in Chrudim. The committee hopes to recruit a new member to the committee from Kiev.

3.7 Household Technology and Sustainability Committee (HT&S)

The members of the committee presented their joint research results and the posters “Best Practice Tips Manual Dishwashing” and “Best Practice Tips Automatic Dishwashing”. More posters on established methods will be produced by 2014. During the congress, the committee was able to conduct four sessions on the subject of household technology and sustainability with presentations from the various regions of the world.

The members decided to focus their work in the period from 2012 until 2016 on the area “Clean Cookstoves” and air quality in households and to continue their cooperation with the “Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves”.

3.8 Consumers and Sustainable Development Committee (CSD)

The committee plan a fourth edition of the e-book, “**Sustainable development: a challenge for consumers**”. Contributions to be submitted by 1st November 2012.

During the XXII. IFHE World Congress the committee conducted a workshop on the subject of education for sustainable development in the field of Home Economics.

3.9 Institutional and Hospitality Management Committee (IHM)

The committee revised their aims and objectives to be in line with the main goals of IFHE and the campaign for the 20th. Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014 and to develop an electronic professional magazine concerned with the anniversary in 2014.

3.10 Food Security & Nutrition and Nutritional Health Committee (FSNH)

The committee considered future work. It will include compiling a special internet platform and members of the committee will collate research work on certain subjects and undertake a joint research projects in order to be able to integrate its members more effectively into the work of the committee.

4. Cooperation with Institutions of the United Nations

The IFHE has nominated representatives in the different locations of the UN and in the Council of Europe. The representatives are members of committees at FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF and other networks of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

4.1 IFHE and UNESCO

Three IFHE Representatives contributed to the following NGO committees in 2012: Education for everybody, human rights, bio-ethics in the area of health, cultural diversity, fresh water supply management, combating poverty and gender equality.

4.2 IFHE and FAO

The focus of the commitment of the IFHE Representative is the committee for food safety and nutrition.

During the year IFHE Representative contributed to the activities of the NGO groups and participated in the FAO conference.

4.3 IFHE and UN NGO

Two IFHE representatives in New York contributed to the conventions and work meetings of the NGO and of the UN Department of Public Information.

Representatives of the IFHE are members of the following NGO committees:

- NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York and Vienna),
- NGO Committee on the Status of the Family (New York and Vienna),
- NGO Committee on Ageing (New York and Vienna),
- The CONGO (New York and Vienna),
- NGO Committee on Girls (New York).

They prepare statements, support the lobbying work and participate in the preparation of conferences, preparation of programmes, contributing in the accompanying workshops and exhibitions.

During the year, IFHE compiled a position paper for the 3rd Substantial Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing of the United Nations with the subject: “**The International Federation for Home Economics demands support and protection of human rights for elderly people in any cultural context**”. This IFHE statement was presented by the representatives during the meeting.

The IFHE gave special support to the goals of the UN on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family with the IFHE Campaign “**Empowering Families, individuals and communities through Home Economics**”. IFHE initiated and planned three international symposia on three focal topics. One of them will be held in the 2013, the others in the 2014.

4.4 IFHE and the Council of Europe

The IFHE Representatives at the Council of Europe took part in the panel meetings and in a convention on the World Day of Combating Poverty on 17th October 2012. One of the representatives is participating actively and regularly in the study group “**Households and Health**”.

The IFHE is accredited by the United Nations (UN) and several UN agencies.