



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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

The focus of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) in 2013 was the socio economic and socio cultural changes and challenges of the families around the world. Especially with view of the approaching 20th Anniversary of the International Year of Family 2014 and the ongoing discussions of the Post 2015 Development Agenda IFHE conducted an international Symposium and Committees with their experts developed statements and activities.

1.1 Follow up 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, celebrated in a special way by the UN to support its socio-political concerns for families, the campaign of the International Federation for Home Economics was officially launched in July 2012.

The subject of the campaign is: **“Empowering individuals, families 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.
- Forming awareness for the challenges for families on an international, national, regional and local level.
- Improving the quality of life of families and communities of people through insights from Home Economics and Home Economics education.

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

In 2013, the following efforts were made to conduct the campaign:

- Using of the IFHE Postcard related to the IFHE Campaign. The IFHE Postcards were used in high level education to discuss the relevance of Home Economics education to enable families to improve their lives and manage their resources effectively.
- The IFHE Programme Committee Family (and Gender) in development worked on an E-Publication related to the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family with the theme **“Family Socioeconomic and Cultural Issues: A Continuing Home Economics Concern”**.
- Information about Home Economics projects, workshops and conferences from different parts of the world, which are related to the theme of the campaign, were published on the IFHE Website.

1.2 Symposium of the IFHE on the subject **“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion – the contribution of Home Economics”**

The IFHE conducted a Symposium in February 2013, with the theme: **“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion – contribution of Home Economics”** in Vienna, Austria. The symposium built awareness of the most relevant aspects for poverty in developing and developed countries and the role of Home Economists and Home Economics organisations to reduce or avoid poverty. It contributed to the IFHE Campaign to the 20 Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The keynote speeches were followed by workshops. The participants had the opportunity to discuss and develop strategies and aims related to family poverty and social exclusion from a Home Economics perspective on different levels of the profession.

1.3 Support for a Project in Tanzania

In the reporting year, the IFHE continued the financial support for the project of the Tanzania Federation for Home Economics (TAHEA) “AIDS orphans”, in which family care of AIDS orphan and their education are facilitated.

1.4 Project “Six-country Study from a Home Economics Perspective”

In the report period, the IFHE gave financial support for an international project conducted by six IFHE Experts about the situation of elderly people. The content of the project was related to the following social challenges. Demographic change and splitting up of households is a challenge for seniors all over the world: How are they integrated in private settings, how does their daily routine take place, are they taken care for? This case study is the fundament to develop a curriculum combining Home Economics and Gerontology for all educational levels. The project was finished in 2013 and the results of the entire project will be published in the year 2014.

1.5 Project funded by the GRUNDTVIG Live Long Learning Programme of the European Union

The IFHE is involved in a GRUNDTVIG Project which started in the year 2013 and will last until 2015. The IFHE is one of eight partners developing an online course to raise awareness of households on their entrepreneurial skills and enhance opportunities in income generation for adults.

The GRUNDTVIG Programme, funded by the European Union, focuses on the teaching and study needs of learners taking adult education and “alternative” education courses, as well as the organisations delivering these services.

The IFHE gave input to the development of the application. The project started at the end of the year 2013 with first meetings and decisions about the design and contents of the course.

1.6 Regular Federation Work

- Two issues of the scientific **E-Journal *International Journal of Home Economics*** were published in the year 2013, as well as four IFHE newsletters with current reports from the work of the federation on all levels and the cooperation with the UN institutions.
- **Best Practices**
Four posters about “Best Practices” in “Laundry Washing (manual and machine)” and “Food preservation and drying” were developed by the committee of experts for household technology and sustainability in the year 2013 and will be officially launched by the IFHE in 2014.
- **Public relation**
Three press releases and one background paper were published:
 - International Day of the Family
 - World Home Economics Day
 - World Food Day
 - Background Paper World Food Day.

2. Activities in the IFHE Regions

The members of the IFHE give worldwide support for the goals and activities of the IFHE and improve the quality of life for families, single persons and communities. With respect to their association activities, the following must be especially mentioned:

2.1 Region Africa

The **South African** Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences (SAAFECS) conducted the 6th IFHE Regional Conference Africa in South Africa in Spring 2013. The subject of the conference was “**Development Across the Borders**”.

IFHE Members from the Faculty of Specific Education, Alexandria University, **Egypt**, organised a workshop: “**Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education**” on May 2013.

The **Ghanaian** Association for Home Economics was represented on the Ghana Clean Cookstove Festival in the year 2014. They are committed to promote the new and sustainable cooking technologies.

The **Tanzania** Home Economics Association (TAHEA) continued the AIDS orphan project. In addition TAHEA established the Children Education Programme in 2013 and conducted other projects related to income generation and food security.

The **Kenyan** members of the IFHE support and conduct projects on improving the quality of life for families and communities in the areas of health and sustainable use of resources.

In the year under review, Home Science Association in **Nigeria** organised a Symposium with the theme “**Food Security – Poverty, Hunger and Starvation: Alleviating the Nigerian situation**”.

2.2 Region Americas (North and South America)

Canada

The preparations for the IFHE Council Meeting in Canada in 2014 was undertaken by the members of the IFHE in Canada and the Hamilton Organisation for Home Economics. The final announcement, the schedule and the final programme were developed and published. A Pre-Council Symposium concerning the topics of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of Family was prepared.

Caribbean

The Caribbean Association of Home Economists (CAHE) conducted the 20th Biennial Conference 2013 in Barbados with the subject “**Home Economics Reinforcement: Education for sustainable lifestyles**”.

One day was designated CAHE Water Day in the Caribbean. Home Economists planned programmes to educate persons about water and schools encouraged students to use water instead of other beverages for the day.

2.3 Asia

The 17th Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) Biennial International Congress 2013 was held in Singapore from 15th to 19th July 2013 under the theme “**Home Economics Literacy: Investing in Our Future**”. Literacy in Home Economics is a necessary investment for our future generations. It is the guarantee for the survival of individuals, families and societies.

The Japan Society of Home Economics held a special symposium, which focused on IFHE Activities to share the experiences of collaborative research projects and networking, during its Annual Meeting 2013 in May.

The Korean Association for Home Economics continued with the preparations for the XXIII. IFHE World Congress 2016 in Korea, the theme, the schedule and a congress website were prepared in 2013.

2.4 Region Europe

The European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) established a list of research projects with the help of European IFHE Members, in order to develop an European research agenda.

In Austria in 2013, there was a general meeting of IFHE Austria and a new structure for the IFHE in Austria was set up in 2013.

Members of the German section of the IFHE promoted the IFHE Postcard Campaign related to the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

In Finland, the main activity of the Finnish IFHE Board was organising a seminar celebrating the World Home Economics Day.

2.5 Region Pacific

A special IFHE Website for the Region of Pacific was created and is hosted by Home Economics Victoria. It will be launched in 2014.

In 2013 it was decided that a special IFHE Pacific Food Literacy Network will be inaugurated.

3. Report on IFHE Committee Work

3.1 Committee of Experts in Education

The Committee of Experts in Education was able to finish the evaluation of the questionnaires to ascertain the current professional educational background in the area of domestic economy at schools and universities as well as domestic economy curricula in general education in schools.

3.2 Committee of Experts on Household Technology and Sustainability

The members developed “Best Practise Posters” related to different household work “Laundry Washing (manual and machine)” and “Food preservation and drying”. They started to work on the challenges to clean cookstoves.

3.3 Committee of Experts on the Family

The Committee of Experts on the Family was reinstated with respect to the main goals of the IFHE and the Campaign for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014. The committee worked on the development of an electronic professional magazine on the subject of the IFHE Campaign. The publication will be launched in July 2014.

3.4 Committee of Experts on Nutrition and Safe Nutrition

The Programme Committee started a Programme Committee Food Security & Nutrition & Nutritional Health website as a communication platform for all Programme Committee members. The Programme Committee developed a Press Release and Background Paper concerned with the annual theme of the World Food Day 2013: “**Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition**”.

4. Cooperation with Institutions of the United Nations

The IFHE through its representatives, is contributing to different committees of experts of the FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF and the networks of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Geneva, New York, Paris, Rome and Vienna. The special activities in 2013 were as follows:

4.1 IFHE and UNESCO

Three IFHE Representatives were contributing to the following NGO committees in the year 2013: Education for all, 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

During the report period, the IFHE contributed to the activities of the NGO groups and participated in the FAO conference as well as in the FAO committee for food safety.

4.3 IFHE and UN NGO Committees of Experts

During the report period, the IFHE compiled a position paper for the 3rd Substantial Meeting 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 gives 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”**.

4.4 IFHE and UN DESA

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs conducted an ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) for NGOs from 1st – 5th July 2013 in Geneva Switzerland. IFHE contributed to the open call for oral and written statements for this HLS. The submitted oral and written IFHE Statements to the theme of the HLS were accepted and presented by IFHE Representative at UN Geneva. The written Statement was published in the conference documents in six different languages.

The theme of the statements was: **“The impact of innovations and technologies in Home Economics for realising sustainable development and achieving the UN MDGs – the role of culture”**.

5. IFHE Partnerships

5.1 Global Alliance for Clean Cookstove

- The committee secretary of the IFHE Programme Committee Household Technology and Sustainability attended the October 2013 meeting of the GACC in New York City to represent IFHE and the Programme Committee. IFHE was also represented at a GACC event in India in late November by an IFHE Member who reported to the IFHE Office and provided suggestions how IFHE could be further involved with the Indian Clean Cookstove organisation.
- A representative of IFHE Member in Kenya participated at the GACC Conference in Kitale, Kenya.

5.2 Alliance for Health Promotion

Two IFHE Members participated at a workshop of the Alliance for Health Promotion in Kitale, Kenya on 9th August, 2013.