



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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

The reporting year 2014 of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) was very busy and successful.

As an international non-profit organisation with consultative status with the UN ECOSOC, FAO and UNESCO as well as an acknowledged member of the DPI IFHE was very much committed to support the aims and activities of the United Nations.

IFHE especially was involved with:

1. The topics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Family 2014.
2. The conference of the UN Department of Public Information and Non-Profit Organisations, DPI/NGO Conference 2014, which focused on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014 and further topics at the UNESCO and in addition IFHE developed and distributed IFHE Statements and Press Releases to other UN related discussions or international days (see topic 4).

On the other hand IFHE fulfilled its role as an organisation, which serves its members and aims to improve professional development, to support well-being of families through promoting Home Economics education. In 2014 main events of the IFHE were:

- IFHE Annual Meeting 2014 in Fulda in correlation with an international Symposium and
- IFHE Council Meeting 2014 in London, Ontario, Canada in conjunction with a Home Economics Symposium of the Hamilton Home Economics Association Canada.

Beside the activities in correlation with the UN the IFHE Executive Committee focused on the following areas and topics in 2014:

- Preparation of the Meetings in 2014 and the preparation of the Annual Meeting 2015 in Malta as well as the Home Economics Conference in cooperation with the University of Malta and the European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) with the theme Home Economics Literacy.
- Publication of four IFHE Newsletters and two issues of the International Journal of Home Economics in the reporting year 2014 and seven Press Releases and the launch of an IFHE Twitter account.
- Development of the IFHE Action Plan 2014 - 2016, the Congress Manual 2016, the structure and the format of the IFHE Policy and Procedure Manual, the IFHE Communication Policy, a strategy to improve member service, increase IFHE Membership and IFHE Finances.
- Preparation of the IFHE Congress 2016 in Daejeon, Korea which included the discussion of the structure of the programme, possible keynote speakers and the registration categories. In 2014 the "Call for Abstracts" for Congress was published on the Congress website.

- To contribute to the European Project M-HOUSE, which aims to develop an online course to raise awareness of the potential of household competencies for entrepreneurial activities.

Many IFHE Members and Delegates from all over the world participated at the Symposium and/or the Annual Meeting 2014 in Fulda (over 100). They contributed to the discussions in the symposium workshops which reflected the keynote speeches and developed strategies in which way Home Economics and Home Economics education can contribute to the challenges of social inclusion and intergenerational relation.

At the Council Meeting 2014 with over 120 delegates in Canada, the elections of Prof. Dr. Sidiga WASHI as IFHE President-Elect 2014 - 2016 and Prof. Dr. Elisabeth LEICHT-ECKARDT as IFHE Treasurer General 2014 - 2018 were important decisions of the Delegate Assembly, which also discussed and approved the increase of the annual IFHE Membership fee and for the first time implemented a four year IFHE Membership.

Beside the four regular issues of the IFHE Newsletter and Press Releases to the special UN Days such as the

- International Day for Family,
- World Food Day,

IFHE published

- two issues of the International Journal of Home Economics (IJHE),
- a special E-Book related to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Family and
- launched Best Practice Posters related to sustainable lifestyles with the focus on Household Technology.

## 2. Activities in the IFHE Regions

### 2.1 Region Africa

In 2014 the new Vice-President took over her office. She established a direct communication with IFHE Members in Africa and supports the new IFHE Country Liaison in Nigeria. In 2014 the preparations started for the 7<sup>th</sup> IFHE African Regional Meeting and Conference, which will be held in Alexandria, Egypt during November 2015. The theme of the conference is “**Leading the way to the future we want**”, “**Individuals, Families and Communities in the Focus of the Millennium Development Goals – a Specific Education and Home Economics Perspective**”. IFHE Members from Egypt has grown in number now raised to 32 members.

IFHE Member from Nigeria wanted to raise awareness of the importance of Home Economics and World Home Economics Day to the Nigerian populace. So they made a great effort to bring the attention of the Nigerian television to the event.

### 2.2 Region Americas

In 2014 the Region of the Americas decided to accept the developed regional structure with four sub-regions.

**Elected Officers:** Vice-President and Member Representative, who serve on the IFHE Executive Committee, each for a period of four years, one starting at the close of Congress and one at the close of the next Council Meeting.

**Appointed Positions:** Four country/area liaisons; Chair of Nominating Committee; YPN Representative from the region to serve on the YPN Coordinating Committee for two years and four sub-regional YPN representatives each for a period of two years; Webmaster.

**Nominating Committee:** Composed of at least three people, each from a different sub-region and the chair of the committee appointed by the regional Vice-President.

**Dues for the Region:** None.

The most important activity in the Region was the preparation and organisation of the IFHE Council 2014, which included sessions of the delegates, committees, a range of different technical, professional and historic excursions. In addition a one-day Pre-Council Symposium with the focus being the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014 was conducted.

### 2.3 Region Asia

In the Region of Asia, through professional exchanges and amity among members, they have promoted academic activities of Home Economists and carried out objectives of IFHE. Focusing on the next IFHE World Congress to be held in Korea in 2016, members from Region Asia are supporting the Korean IFHE Members by putting our energy and efforts together to realise that this Congress will be a big success.

Region Asia are very excited to welcome all IFHE Members from the world.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Year of the Family (IYF)

A special symposium to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IYF was held during the Annual Meeting 2014 of the Japan Society of Home Economics. As a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IYF, this symposium revisited the activities in relation to IYF for the last twenty years and discussed issues on Home Economics.

## 2.4 Region Europe

### European Research Agenda

One of the activities of the European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) board was to list research projects and plans of European IFHE Members, in order to establish a European research agenda and to try to realise grants for research projects and possible other activities. The collection of projects and ideas is an on-going activity. Unfortunately, an attempt to involve students of Wageningen University (the Netherlands) to bring this a step further, so far did not succeed. Nevertheless, an oral presentation will be given at the European Meeting during Council 2014.

### Country Activities

Activities range from almost nothing to a wide range of activities:

- Austria: actively involved with students and professors at the IFHE-Annual Meeting 2015, in particular to deliver a workshop and presentation in Green Care. Furthermore, 35 workshops were held.
- Denmark: the board of the Danish IFHE Organisation – DKIN – had four meetings.
- Germany: a workshop concerning “**Securing quality of life of all generations – innovative approaches for rural areas**”, in German language.
- Germany: Postcard Campaign for the World Home Economics Day.
- Finland: the yearly seminar was held (19<sup>th</sup> March).
- Finland: working with a position paper, published in 2014.
- Malta: Preparation of the hosting the IFHE Leadership Meeting and an International Conference with a Home Economics related theme in Malta in 2015.
- Netherlands: A symposium was organised and a book published, both titled “***The arena of everyday life***”.
- Switzerland: Activities in 2014 were in the field of:
  - Research – making research visible and supporting young researchers.
  - Politics – contact with Pro Familia, the umbrella organisation of family organisations.
  - International organisations in Geneva – in particular ECOSOC, the Alliance for Health Promotion; input to and from IFHE.
  - PR activities – raising membership, greater publicity to IFHE.
- United Kingdom: with the help of British Nutrition Foundation, a webinar on Food Photography was arranged.

## 2.5 Region of Pacific

Several types of activity have been pursued in the Region. These include the following:

- The creation of a dedicated webpage for the IFHE Pacific Region, hosted by Home Economics Victoria. It is available at:  
<http://www.homeeconomics.com.au/about/partners/ifhe-pacific-region.aspx>.
- Several successful conferences were held in 2013 including the Home Economics Institute of Australia Queensland Conference and the Home Economics Victoria.
- The **IFHE Pacific Food Literacy Network** was inaugurated. Food literacy is emerging as an exciting research and practice specialty, as is evidenced by the increasing number of PhD graduates in the Region and elsewhere.

### 3. Report on IFHE Committee Work

IFHE Council Committees and the IFHE Programme Committees met at the Annual Meeting and the Council Meeting 2014.

Beside the preparations for their congress activities the members of the Programme Committees worked on special professional questions or themes.

To mention a few the Programme Committee Institutional and Hospitality Management aims to demonstrate its relevant areas and published a “Call for Contribution” for publishing photographs, the Programme Committee Family developed and realised a concept for an E-Publication related to the topics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Family, the Programme Committee Household Technology & Sustainability launched eight Best Practice Posters, conducted a workshop during the Council Meeting 2014 and started to translate the Best Practice Poster into other languages such as Mandarin and German. The Programme Committee Textiles & Design developed a concept for a textile presentation at Congress and a “Call for Contribution” to an exhibition to demonstrate the different materials and designs around the world. The Programme Committee Food Security contributed to the development of the IFHE Statement for the International Nutrition Conference. During the reporting year the Programme Committee Outreach to Central and East European Countries successfully got in contact with experts in the Ukraine and realised that one expert of the University of Kiev attended the IFHE Annual Meeting and the IFHE Symposium.

## 4. Cooperation with Institutions of the United Nations

### 4.1 IFHE International Symposium 2014

The IFHE Symposium during the IFHE Annual Meeting was the first of several activities from IFHE to mark the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF). The theme was: **“Solidarity between young and elderly citizens - creating and living a joint future – contribution of older persons”**. More than 100 participants from 23 different countries listened to the keynote speeches and discussed aspects of the theme in the five workshops. Three well known experts from three different regions Europe, America and India presented keynote presentations to the following themes:

- **“Ageing, intergenerational Relations, and the Welfare State”**.
- **“Demographic Change: Effects on Families and Society”**.
- **“Exclusionary Urbanisation and Migration: Impact on Family with Reference to India”**.

A new initiative for the annual symposium included a “Call for Posters and Table Displays”. This was well received with 15 submissions. An award was given to the “Best in Show” and three were highly commended.

Based on the input from the keynote presentations and inputs at the workshop the participants discussed aspects of the symposium theme in five different workshops.

### 4.2 Launch of the IFHE E-Publication

The IFHE continued its Campaign on **“Empowering Individual, Families and Communities through Home Economics”** by celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) 2014 at the opening ceremony of the Council Meeting.

IFHE Online-Publication entitled: **“Family Socioeconomic and Cultural Issues, a Continuing Home Economics Concern”** was launched by Renata KACZMARSKA, Social Affairs Officer of the Focal Point on the Family, UN DESA.

She gave a keynote speech on the aspects of the **“20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IYF 2014”**: “Family perspective to address poverty eradication, social inclusion and intergenerational solidarity. The role of education to enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities”. She pointed out that families have an important role to overcome problems and to achieve goals in these three areas.

Geraldene HODELIN, IFHE Past President delivered the keynote response addressing, **“The role of Home Economics to address economic and social factors for families”**.

She showed by six statements, developed from research with Caribbean Home Economists in which way Home Economics and Home Economists are actively involved in family development and motivated to bring back Home Economics education in schools as well as to partner with other relevant disciplines and organisations. As Chair of the IFHE Programme Committee Family (and Gender) she was responsible for the development and preparation of the E-Publication.

### 4.3 IFHE Workshop at the 65<sup>th</sup> DPI/NGO Conference, New York

A special activity in 2014 was the IFHE contribution to the UN DP/INGO Conference “**2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda**” in New York in August 2014. IFHE conducted a workshop to the theme “**Focus on Families to improve sustainable development and eradicate poverty by providing basic conditions and empowerment**”. Five IFHE Experts from different regions of the world demonstrated for example in which way Home Economics education can contribute to:

- Raise income,
- Improve healthy nutrition,
- Contribute to sustainable development,
- Empower women for community development,
- Improving quality of live,
- Support Gender Equality.

They presented background information about the significance of Home Economics and focused on projects which demonstrate the effects of education in different fields of Home Economics such as socio economic, gardening, food and nutrition, entrepreneurial competencies, sustainable consumption and lifestyles.

### 4.4 IFHE Statements

#### The IFHE Written Statement for the ECOSOC HLS

The NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs announced an open call for oral and written statements for the 2014 ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) for NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status.

The theme for the Annual Minister Review segment in 2014 focused on “**Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining gains in the future**”.

The written Statement of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) related to the theme “**Focusing on Individuals, Families and Communities as key issue for development**” was accepted and published in seven languages on the ECOSOC website.

#### The IFHE Statement related to the second ICN Conference

#### The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health

**Organization (WHO)**, in close collaboration with many other related organisations conducted a conference to the theme “**better nutrition better lives**”. The IFHE Statement focused on the aims of the “**Zero Hunger Challenge**” which aims to eliminate hunger and further five special topics. As a global network of Home Economists the IFHE and its members support projects and efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in every region of the world. It supports the exchange of experiences and promotes the role of Home Economics in reaching the UN MDGs. IFHE promotes the aims and advocates the ideas and implications of “Sustainable Food Systems” focused on Food Security including high quality nutrient-rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification. With the sequel to the E-Book, “**Global Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Consumer Citizens**”, the Consumers and Sustainable Development Committee of the IFHE continues a successful approach to presenting current projects and research reports on related Home Economics issues. This approach includes compiling information, ideas, theories, practices, perspectives and recommendations from Home Economics experts in order to improve sustainable consumption and education for consumer citizens all over the world.

## 5. IFHE Partnerships

IFHE is committed to four international partners. The partners are:

- The Alliance for Clean Cookstoves,
- The Global Alliance for Health Promotion,
- The European Grundtvig Partnership the IFHE applied successfully for a partnership with the
- Zero Hunger Challenge.

IFHE contributed to the aims of these partners through discussions, development of papers, attending online and face to face meetings and workshops, disseminating outcomes and findings and supporting evaluation.