



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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

The reporting year 2015 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.

In 2015 IFHE was acknowledged as an official partner of the 10-year Framework Programme for Sustainable Production and Consumption and participated in a planning workshop Vienna, October 2015.

The IFHE followed the launch of the UN SDGs and started to develop statements related to six chosen SDGs from a Home Economics view. The statements will be launched in 2016.

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 research and education.

In 2015, the main event of the IFHE were the IFHE Annual Meeting 2015 in Malta in correlation with a Home Economics Conference with the theme of **“Action for Family and Consumer Wellbeing: Home Economics Literacy Bringing Skills to Life”**.

It was a joint conference between IFHE, University of Malta and the European Association for Home Economics. There were 204 participants from 29 countries at the conference. The theme was related to the World Home Economics Day.

The Executive Committee agreed to the concept of Home Economics Literacy as a framework for World Home Economics Day over a four-year period with the idea of focusing on different types of Home Economics literacies each year. The theme for 2015 was **“Home Economics Literacy: Food Skills for Families and Consumers with a focus on Food Literacy and Environmental Literacy”**. IFHE initiated activities around the world through a campaign related to the theme.

Beside the activities in correlation with the UN the IFHE Executive Committee focused on the following areas and topics in 2015:

- Preparation of the Annual Meeting 2016 in London.
- Preparation of the IFHE Congress 2016 in Daejeon, Korea which included the discussion of the structure of the programme, invitation of keynote speakers and the starting of registration. In 2015 abstracts were collected and reviewed.
- Publication of four IFHE Newsletters, monthly newsletter updates and two issues of the International Journal of Home Economics in the reporting year 2015.

- Development of the structure and the format of the IFHE Policy and Procedure Manual, increase IFHE Membership and IFHE Finances.
- The finalisation of the European Project M-HOUSE. During the project an online learning course was developed which raise awareness of the potential of household competencies for entrepreneurial activities. The results were published and the course was offered to IFHE Members for education activities.

The IFHE developed in total four written statements for UN Conferences in the year 2015.

- IFHE developed a statement related to the 59<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Commission of Women/Beijing 20+, which was accepted and published in six languages.
- For the 2015 ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) for NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status in July 2015 which has been published by the UN and translated in six languages.
- The second statement of the IFHE was also developed in cooperation with the ACWW Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW) - Joint Statement with IFHE for World Food Day 2015 “**Improving Rural Women’s Access to Markets**”.
- The IFHE developed a statement related to the World Food Day 2015 “**Social Protection and Agriculture, breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty**”.
- IFHE supported the development of the IFHE Statement for the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD54) to be held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York. The priority theme is: “**Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world**”.

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

In 2015 Press Releases were developed and published related to the World Home Economics Day, the International Day of Families, World Health Day and World Food Day.

IFHE published

- two issues of the International Journal of Home Economics (IJHE) and
- launched Best Practice Posters related to sustainable lifestyles with the focus on Household Technology in different languages.

## 2. Activities in the IFHE Regions

### 2.1 Region Africa

The Region of Africa hold two meetings in 2015. The 7<sup>th</sup> IFHE Africa Regional Conference took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt with the theme: “**Advance united man and woman: A new pathway to family wellbeing and sustainable living**”. Several other meetings took place in different African countries. IFHE Region Africa started with a project on a recipe book with recipes typical of the different countries in Africa which should be available in 2016.

### 2.2 Region Americas Caribbean

Home Economists in the Caribbean continue to feed upon the energy and success of their 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference held in Guyana in early 2015. A Home Economics teacher education workshop was conducted in cooperation with the ministry. CAHE aims to spread the workshop to other countries.

### IFHE US

IFHE-US was able to add money to the development fund and is looking forward to seeing funds awarded to projects during the 2016 IFHE Congress. After considerable discussion, the IFHE-US prepared a bid for the IFHE Congress 2020. This bid is for the Atlanta/Athens, Georgia area was accepted by the IFHE Executive Committee.

### 2.3 Region Asia

The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Congress was held at Hong Kong Institute of Education in Hong Kong, from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 under the theme “**Technology and Living Literacy: A Pathway to Achieve Health and Well-being**”.

The Korean Home Economics Association was busy with preparation of the IFHE Congress 2016, in Daejeon in Korea.

### 2.4 Region Europe

The IFHE Sections Germany, Austria and Swiss applied for funds for a conference to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2016, in Bonn, Germany. The subject is related to the “**10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns of the United Nations**”.

IFHE, EAHE and Malta Home Economists conducted a Research Conference with the theme “**Action for Family and Consumer Wellbeing - Home Economics Literacy bringing Skills to Life**” in connection with the IFHE Annual Leadership Meeting. Home Economists from 29 countries, including Malta, attended the conference.

In Sweden was one important task during 2015 to write to members of parliament in the Education Committee about the need for strengthening and promoting the school subject Home and Consumer Studies in Sweden. Another task was to write to the National Agency of Education (Skolverket) giving suggestions for changes in the syllabus of Home and Consumer Studies, a work that the agency started in 2015 and will continue until the following spring.

The IFHE UK was involved in preparing and hosting the IFHE Annual Leadership meeting 2016 in London.

### 3. Report on IFHE Committee Work

IFHE Council Committees and the IFHE Programme Committees met at the Annual Meeting 2015 in Malta.

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 continued in 2015 a “**Call for Snapshots**” with the aim of publishing photographs.

The Programme Committee Family and the IFHE Office cooperated to develop statements related to the United Nations events and a few Sustainable Development Goals.

The Programme Committee Household Technology & Sustainability was working on translations of eight Best Practice Posters in Arabic language, Mandarin and Spanish. During the fall of the year, the Best Practice posters were transformed into teaching units to use in different grade levels at different types of schools in German. The Programme Committee Outreach to Central and Eastern European Country (PC CEEC) prepared a workshop for the Congress in Korea 2016. The title is: “**United Nations Hunger Challenge and Reducing Waste in the CEEC**”.

A “Textile Challenge” to all FHE Countries is planned for Congress through the Committee Textiles and Design.

A special committee of experts started to develop an IFHE Statement related to the **SDG 6 “Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All”**.

In 2015, the Council Committee Disaster Assistance Partnerships (DAP) started a new cooperation with the NGO Global Honduras and other organisations from the US to determine how Home Economics programs could help educate youth for productive, sustainable life in Honduras. Meetings were held in Santa Barbara at Centro Cultural Hibueras with staff, teachers, youth, parents, and trainers. IHES and DAP already sent five sewing machines to schools in Honduras. In 2016 partners are planning to identify the specific contribution of Home Economics and how long-term involvement can be planned and managed successfully.

## 4. Cooperation with Institutions of the United Nations

### 4.1 IFHE Partnerships and participations

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,
- 10 Years Framework Programme for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

IFHE is a participant of the Zero Hunger Challenge. The IFHE Programme Committee Food Security and Nutrition started to work on a statement related to **SDG 2 “No Hunger”**. In addition they developed a Press Release to the FAO World Food Day 2015.

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.

### 4.2 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 2015 ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) for NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status.

The theme for the Annual Minister Review segment in 2015 focused on “**Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: what it will take**”.

The written Statement of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) related to the theme “**Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: What will it take**” submitted to the ECOSOC High Level Meeting was accepted and published in six languages on the ECOSOC website.

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The main focus of the session was on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. ECOSOC published the IFHE Statement related to the theme: “**Success for sustainable development through Home Economics Education and training**” related to the 59<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Commission of Women. The statements were translated into the six official UN languages.

#### **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” focussed 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.