

IFHE

is an International Non Governmental Organisation (INGO) in consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe

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Press Release

Bonn 4th March 2011

International Women's Day Centenary 1911 - 2011: Home Economics contribution to the Empowerment of Women



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS



IFHE 2012
World Congress International Federation
for Home Economics

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on 8th of March. On this day and throughout March the economic, political and social achievements of women are marked.

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) celebrates the International Women's Day 2011 under the theme

“Home Economics contribution to the Empowerment of Women”

Home Economists acknowledge the importance of equality in education, employment and business. Both women and men should have access to primary and higher education, and through the empowerment the knowledge gives, to act in employment or business. The skills learned and the equal opportunities acquired also improve the quality of life at home.

From the Home Economics perspective, family life at home should be built on equal partnership. On one hand that means respectful attitude towards each other, so that no woman or man is repressed. On the other hand that means equal discussion and sharing of housework and other family life duties.

Promoting equality at home is a special area of expertise for Home Economists. As women are increasingly involved in employment, it is crucial to observe the sphere of home, to avoid a situation where new possibilities would mean double burden for women. From Home Economics perspective a basic Home Economics education for both women and men strengthens their skills for everyday life. It enables them to use their resources appropriately, to avoid financial problems and stressful time management and unequal burden for women.

Behind all efforts towards gender equality lies the idea of empowerment. To the discriminated should be given the tools, such as education, to gain self-confidence and ability to speak and act for oneself. In Home Economics context, empowerment also means making the unpaid work at home more meaningful to boys and men, who in many countries traditionally have not been involved in it. This sets challenges to Home Economists and Home Economics education.

The International Federation for Home Economics is the only worldwide organisation concerned with Home Economics and Consumer Studies. It was founded in 1908 to serve as a platform for international exchange within the field of Home Economics. The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe. The IFHE influences individuals, families, communities and policy makers through research publications, pedagogy and advocacy.

IFHE is committed through its continuing professional activities:

- To promote attitudes towards equality in education and membership of community, both in the fields of Home Economics and beyond it.
- To empower women and men to act equally in community as well as at home.
- To encourage Home Economists to have sensitivity to the gender questions.
- To promote Home Economics as a curriculum area for both boys and girls.
- To influence and develop policies and public debate to promote gender equality.