Colleagues,

After a very stimulating and productive Annual Leadership Meeting and Symposium in Bonn, it is time to get ready for the World Congress scheduled for July 2012. The day long symposium focusing on our professional response to the UN Millennium Goals was a precursor to the vibrant and intellectually stimulating presentations and discussions that will take in Melbourne.

Please take full advantage of the savings economic benefits of registering early for the congress.

I wholeheartedly thank the participants who made the efforts to travel to the Bonn meeting, bearing in mind the sacrifice of having to travel to Melbourne later this year as well. I urge members who were unable to attend the February trip, to avail themselves of the reports that are posted on the Members Only section of the IFHE website. This forum for sharing continues to be an important place to stay updated on IFHE Activities.

I thank the IFHE Bonn staff for continuing to fashion the IFHE website so that it is not only interesting but instructive for members and non-members.

I also urge you to take advantage of the more economical registration package by registering early for Congress.

I encourage members to invite a young member of our profession to the Congress and introduce them to the work of IFHE. Use the opportunity to recruit new members as “future-proofing” our discipline.

....continued on page 2
I regret the news about the passing of President of Honour Prof. Dr. Maria THIELE-WITTIG. Most of us will remember her for her concerns about the issues impacting the “everyday lives of individuals, families and households”.

We pray that her soul finds rest in the bosom of her maker.

On behalf of the IFHE Family, I express profound condolences to her family and closest friends.

Please share this Newsletter with colleagues and spread the good news about our professional work

God Bless and I hope to see you in Melbourne.

Geraldene B. HODELIN
(IFHE President 2008 – 2012)

**IFHE PRESS RELEASE WHED 2012**

The IFHE Press Release to the World Home Economics Day 2012 on 21st of March with the title

“Home Economics Empowerment; Education for Sustainable Lifestyle”

is available for downloading on the IFHE Website under [http://www.ifhe.org/58_html](http://www.ifhe.org/58_html)

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**OBITUARY NOTE PROF. DR. MARIA THIELE-WITTIG**

IFHE has received the sad news that IFHE President of Honour has passed away

Prof. Dr. Maria THIELE-WITTIG had a very strong and longstanding commitment with IFHE she served on many committees and was involved in many IFHE Activities.

In 1978 the IFHE Council accepted a definition of “Home Economics” which was presented by Maria THIELE-WITTIG as chair of the Commission on Definition. The definition was selected for its clarity, brevity, comprehensiveness and ease of translation into different languages.

One important step for IFHE was the IFHE Congress 1980 in Manila. Maria organised the first research presentations and project reports. From that time Research reporting was formally incorporated into the IFHE Congress Programme.

In 1988 Maria THIELE-WITTIG became chair of the United Nations Programme Committee. Its aim was to strengthen IFHE as an International NGO by increasing communication between IFHE and the UN System.

At the IFHE Council 1990 in Melbourne Prof. Dr. Maria THIELE-WITTIG was elected as IFHE President Elect. At the IFHE Congress in Hannover 1992 Maria THIELE-WITTIG took over the office as IFHE President.

Her Plan of Action as IFHE President focused on six major topics which are as relevant today as they were twenty years ago:

1. To pinpoint the importance of households and families for society and for social change.
2. New competencies are needed for coping with everyday day life.
3. Strengthening the relation of IFHE as an INGO in the system of the UN.

*Photo: Prof. Dr. Maria THIELE-WITTIG*  
(Source: University of Applied Sciences Münster 2009)
4. Identify and Profile of the Profession.
5. Infrastructure of the IFHE.
6. Focal theme of the next four years “Living Conditions: A global responsibility”.

During her term of office IFHE was very much involved in the International Year of Family 1992. Maria THIELE-WITTIG gave presentations and received a Testimonial from the Secretariat of the International Year of Family for her commitment during the preparation of the year and for the activities.

She was also a member of the IFHE Delegation at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum in Beijing, China 1995. At the IFHE fourhour workshop she presented the Potentials of Home Economics and women in development.

During her professional life Maria THIELE-WITTIG was a great fighter for Home Economics, Home Economics education and the International Federation for Home Economics.

In all her activities she pointed out the importance of international exchange and cooperation in a global world.

Her extraordinary expertise as Home Economics was recognised by Home Economists around the world. With her openness and warmth she built many friendships within IFHE.

“I have experienced the international work as a demanding but also a dominating activity, with many new perspectives and insights and I am filled with gratitude and respect to everybody, who is working in this field.” (Maria THIELE-WITTIG, Germany 1999)

IFHE has lost a wonderful woman, friend and expert with far-sightedness appreciation for the work of the Home Economist as change agents in the lives of ordinary people.

Maria God bless you, your legacy and your love for the Home Economics profession!

Geraldene B. HODELIN
IFHE President (2008 – 2012)

Please note:
The Obituary Note for IFHE President of Honour Prof. Dr. Maria THIELE-WITTIG, and the Expression of Condolences are available under http://www.ifhe.org/611.html.
she has received include the **Global 500 Award** of the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) in 1993, and the **Earth Day International Award of the United Nations** (UN) for her dedicated commitment to the preservation of the planet as demonstrated by her actions, leadership and by setting an example for the rest of the world. For more details about the IFHE Congress Programme please see the IFHE Congress 2012 website [www.ifhe2012.org](http://www.ifhe2012.org).

Carol WARREN, IFHE President Elect reported on the online submission process for abstracts. There were 557 abstracts and 66 full papers accepted (47 for publication on the congress and IFHE Websites and 19 were accepted for possible publication in a future edition of the IJHE). All accepted abstracts are published on the IFHE Congress Website and the IFHE Website. The completed programme with the schedule of the concurrent sessions will also be published on both websites.

The Call for Nominations for **IFHE Award for Special Benefits** the IFHE Executive Committee received four proposals from three different IFHE Regions. The Executive Committee made a decision and will present the award at the IFHE Congress banquet.

2. The concept for an IFHE Campaign related to the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of Family in 2014 was discussed. It will be presented at the IFHE Council 2012. For more information, please see the pages 9 and 11.

3. It was decided that the **IFHE Annual Meeting 2013** will take place in Germany. The location and time will be announced on the IFHE Website.

4. The Executive Committee launched a new **IFHE Website HOME ECONOMICS**.

   This sub-website of the IFHE Website is divided in five sections. The sections include presentations, articles and reports related to Home Economics areas. The content of this website will be open to the public but only IFHE Members will have access to the documents. IFHE Office will add further documents.

   The website will be launched at the IFHE Congress 2012.

**IFHE SYMPOSIUM 2012**

IFHE conducted a Symposium on Saturday, 4th February 2012, with the theme: “Development Cooperation as Basis for reaching the United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Home Economics Contribution” in Bonn, Germany. The Symposium was supported by “Stiftung Internationale Begegnung der Sparkasse Bonn”.

About 60 participants from 21 different countries listened to stimulating keynote presentations. Prof. Dr. Ursula EID, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück, focused on the theme “The range and role of Home Economics to support the UN MDGs”.

In her presentation she highlighted that Home Economics can have an important contribution to reach the development goals and to improve the situation of people living dramatically in poverty and hunger to the year 2015. As Vice-Chair of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Water & Sanitation (UNSGAB) she presented
the complex problem around wastewater. She indicated that the danger of infection by water often results in the improper handling of feces which contaminate clean water. From her perspective Prof. Dr. EID management at the household level is per se driven by precaution and sustainable development and must always be the main guiding principle in Home Economics.

The theme for the second keynote presentation “Intercultural understanding as basis for development cooperation” Dr. Gertraud PICHLER from Wien, Austria, focused on the important intercultural competences which strengthen the Intercultural understanding, which is the base for International cooperation’s or organisations. In development cooperation the different roles of culture have to be considered and intercultural competences have to be developed. For this, an intercultural education is urgently needed. Intercultural understanding, intercultural competences and intercultural management should be basic for the work of Home Economists and should especially be implemented in development cooperation.

In the following workshops the participants had the opportunity to discuss strategies and aims for concrete development cooperation in Home Economics working areas.

The presentations are published on the IFHE Website.

**IFHE WORLD CONGRESS 2012 UPDATE**

The early-bird registration for the 2012 Congress closes on 31st of March. Please note that registration as a IFHE Member needs a payment of membership fees for 2012. The e-mail address which is used for registration must be the same as registered at IFHE Member database. Please consider that updates of membership fee payment may take up to two weeks to process. It is strongly advised that you pay your membership no later than two weeks before the registration deadline!

**Overview of accepted proposals of IFHE Congress 2012 now available**

An overview of all accepted proposals and presentation guidelines are now available on the Congress website www.ifhe2012.org and on http://www.ifhe.org/682.html .

All successful submissions require the presenter to register for Congress by 31st March 2012.

**IFHE WORLD CONGRESS 2012 QUILT**

Submitted by Gail BODDY, EC Member Region of Pacific

**History**

Carolyn BLOUNT of the USA coordinated the making of an IFHE Quilt for the 2004 IFHE Congress, held in Kyoto, Japan. It was made of patchwork squares from IFHE Member countries around the world. Carolyn BLOUNT also coordinated the making of two quilts for the Centenary Congress, held in Lucerne, Switzerland in 2008. The larger quilt was raffled and the smaller quilt is now hanging in the IFHE Office in Bonn, Germany as a permanent reminder of the Centenary celebration.

The quilts have been raffled at both Congresses and the funds were for IFHE-US Development Fund projects.

Carolyn BLOUNT created a wonderful historical record and we are very grateful for the work that Carolyn did in organising and constructing these two Congress quilts. We are also very pleased that so many IFHE Members contributed to the project.
Invitation

IFHE Members are invited to contribute to the third Congress quilt that will be presented and raffled at the Congress to be held in Melbourne, Australia in July 2012. Funds earned will be used for the Development Fund.

Gail BODDY (Executive Member, Pacific Region) is coordinating the construction of the IFHE Congress 2012 quilt.

Home Economics organisations and members can contribute to the IFHE Congress 2012 quilt by contacting Gail BODDY via email ifhepacific@gmail.com.

The brief

Cotton fabrics must be used. The square must have a finished dimension off 11x11 inches (28 x 28 cm). It may be pieced, patched, appliquéd, embroidered, or embellished using any technique. The patchwork square design must be your original work.

Patchwork squares are regarded in the same way as any other art form with respect to intellectual property.

Record the following information on each square. This is a permanent part of the design.

- The name of person/people who designed and stitched the square.
- The Home Economics organisation, the location and IFHE Region that it represents e.g. Home Economics Victoria, Australia, Pacific Region.
- The date it was completed

For historical purposes a central register of the squares will be kept. Please include the following details:

- The name of person/people who designed and stitched the square.
- The inspiration for the design e.g. the symbol of Home Economics Victoria and the use of Australian Indigenous designed fabric.
- The Home Economics organisation, the location and IFHE Region that it represents e.g. Home Economics Victoria, Australia, Pacific Region.
- The date it was completed.

The due date is 31st May 2012.

Please send the completed squares and documentation to:

Gail BODDY
9 Peppertree Grove
Bendigo 3550
AUSTRALIA

REPORT 50th COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Mary W. COVINGTON

50th Commission for Social Development

I was an observer representative at the 50th Commission for Social Development which was held February 1 - 10, 2012 at the United Nation, New York. The priority theme was poverty eradication.

To understand the workings of the Commission, it is important to know the basis for its action. Therefore, at the conclusion of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995, governments adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action. The Programme of Action outlined the policies, actions, and measures to implement the principles and fulfill the commitments as set forth by the 117 heads of states or government.

The three areas of discussion for the Commission were poverty eradication, financing of development, and youth-poverty and unemployment.

The 2012 50th Commission focused on Agenda Item (3) a: poverty eradication. Even so, much was said about poverty among youth, family, women and the disabled. Papers were read by representatives from many countries, just to name a
few, Brazil, Denmark, Japan, Venezuela, Korea, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Indonesia.

**Older Persons**
Addressing the chairman, countries believe that poverty eradication, as one of the Millennium Development Goals, deserves full support: with a clear view of implementation by 2015.

The United Nations Committee On Ageing clearly states that poverty eradication for older persons is an issue whose resolution is necessary for the financial health of the world. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing touched upon the issues of promoting self-employment and ensuring access to credit for older persons. Nevertheless, older persons around the world, due to age discrimination still have no access to micro financing of loans. The Madrid Plan contains many policy recommendations in the area of social protection, employment, retirement and pensions; if implemented by member states, would drastically reduce, if not eradicate poverty among the world ‘s older population.

The most vulnerable group of people affected by poverty is persons with disabilities, the elderly, and at risk youth. Poverty can only be halted by long term interventions aimed at addressing the conditions that cause and perpetuate poverty.

**The Disabled**
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the main human rights treaties adopted by the United Nations. The framework is to ensure the respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for persons with disabilities. The disabled are faced with challenges; they need support to remain physically, socially, politically and economically active. Reasonable accommodations, education, employment, and other social services are but a few of the things the disabled ask so that they can live with dignity and self-worth.

The NGO Committee on Ageing of which I am a member, advocates within the United Nations community to encourage and support the active participation of older persons in planning and implementation of economic and social policies globally. The NGO Committee, in the year marking the Tenth Anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, that I attended, in Madrid Spain, stands ready to work with the Commission for Social Development, the member states, and NGOs to further the recommendations of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and to promote a human rights instrument for older persons.

**Youth**
According to the European Union, the main challenge to young people is to speed up the delivery of concrete policies and measures for implementation. The World Youth Report, reports that youths transitioning from school and training into the labour market is a scary disposition. Young people are in pursuit of decent and productive work. With less experience and fewer skills than many adults, young people often encounter difficulty finding work. During economic downturns young people are the last hired and the first fired.

Young people make up a disproportionate number of the world’s working poor. Young people question the quality of the education they received: whether or not it is relevant to available jobs.

**REPORT 56th COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**
*Submitted by Eileen GALLAGHER LABINER*
27th February – 9th March 2012

Access to land and secure tenure is a key requisite to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development in developing countries. Often only 30% of land is registered and less than 2% of this land is held by women. Existing land initiatives tend to deliver land to middle and high income groups. Women often face discrimination under formal, informal and customary systems of land tenure because social
customs or patriarchal tenure systems prevent them from holding rights to land. As women often gain access to land through male relatives their rights are vulnerable to breakdowns in relationships, divorce, or to the changing priorities of male land owners.

Land Tools - defined as practical ways of achieving objectives that are set by laws and policies - require that women and men are actively involved in the design of the tool, its implementation and evaluation process. The diversity of women should be recognised with attention given to female heads of households, widows and refugees, for example. The process of designing the evaluation criteria itself also needs to be gender-responsive. Regarding Land Tools, such as: land titling, land taxation, enumeration or city wide slum upgrading - one must take into account voices from grassroots as well as land professionals, always realising the impact of power, society and culture on gender-sensitive relations.

The Global Land Tool Network(GLTN) was established in 2006 as a partnership of key international actors working to promote land reform and global coordination of land issues. It aims to help attain the Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation, improved land management and security of tenure. UN-HABITAT facilitates this network.

GLTN partners have identified five themes which successfully implement land programmes: land rights, land records and registration, land use planning, management and administration, land law and enforcement and land value stability. LAND TOOL ensures response to the needs of women, recognising that women are not a homogenous group, and that gender responsive land management caters to women and men who may have specific and potentially different needs.

Are there linkages to: agriculture, water, sanitation; land for a livelihood and other assets including collateral to access credit; contact with justice systems as well as alternate land dispute resolution mechanisms specific to the socio-cultural context?

GLTN has grown to encompass more than 45 global and regional partners. These include professional groups, multilateral and bilateral organisations, academia, civil society and grassroots organisations. Partners play a key role in developing GLTN’s land tools and provide technical expertise on land issues through a peer-review mechanism. GLTN has completed an E-forum to generate questions we need to ask to judge whether a land tool is responsive to both men’s and woman’s priorities. Further information is available on www.gltn.net

An independent mid-term review presented in 2010 commended the GLTN network for its achievements and progress in advocacy and land tool development. GLTN Partners include: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Huairou Commission, Habitat International Coalition, National Land Survey of Sweden, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Should you need more information or have suggestions, please contact: E-mail: gltn@unhabitat.org .

GLTN Secretariat facilitated by UN-HABITAT, P.O. Box 300030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya.

2011 LINKS UNESCO IFHE

Submitted by Jacqueline FRITSCH, IFHE Representative

2011 has been a very important year for

It was increasingly at the forefront of multilateral action for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while also preparing the ground for the actions beyond 2015. It is the same for IFHE!
IFHE is one of the NGOs at UNESCO and IFHE Representatives were Jacqueline FRITSCH and Chantal HUEBER.

The most important meeting was the General Assembly in November for three weeks for the 193 States representatives and for two days for the NGOs representatives for the draft programme and budget for 2012 – 2013. It is during this meeting UNESCO agreed that Palestine was accepted as a member, with the USA voting against and stating that they would in future pay half of their annual participation. During the year there are many Joint Meetings to which we attended and where Home Economics is concerned in most subjects:

- Education For All.
- Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) to revitalise and accelerate efforts in countries where literacy poses critical challenge.
- Early Childhood.
- Science and Ethics, and Bio ethics.
- Health African Women.
- Ethics and environment.
- Holding Cultural Dialogue.
- Sustainable Development.
- Poverty Eradication.
- Human Rights.
- Micro Finance.

THE UNITED NATIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (IYF)

Submitted by Ruth NORMAN, IFHE-US UN Liaison

The 20th Anniversary of IYF

The 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be in 2014, an important date for IFHE as one of the organisations which petitioned the General Assembly for such a year. Success for this petition was achieved in 1987 when 1994 as designated as the Year of the Family.

The Family Unit, of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), works continually with other agencies of the UN to issues related to the family within the focus of their mission. Each year an expert committee meets to discuss the achievements of the goals set in 1994 and plans are set for the coming year as well as the 20th Anniversary of IYF.

The 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family was discussed at a meeting of ECOSOC in November, 2011. The report of the meeting recommended that the focus be on developing and implementing policies in the following areas: family poverty and social exclusion; work-family balance; advancing social integration and intergenerational. In addition the report recommends the sharing of good practices and data on family policy development.

Publications on the Family since 2008 – All are available through UN Publications:


Grants available to NGOs: UN Trust Fund on Family Activities

The United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities provides financial assistance for activities specific to the family and projects of direct benefit to it, with special focus on least developed and developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. Grants from the Fund support practical action by governments and by Non-Governmental Organisations at the national, regional and global levels.

Guidelines for grants are available through the UN Representative or the Unit on the Family on the UN site of DESA under http://social.un.org/index/Family/InternationalObservances/TwentiethAnniversaryofIYF2014.aspx.
NEWS FROM THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Submitted by Edith KJÆERSGAARD, Chair

As IFHE Members know, the SAC Committee is a committee for all former members of the IFHE Executive Committee and other members of IFHE who have given special service to IFHE.

At the SAC’s 10th Meeting held during the Council Meeting in Sligo, Ireland, in 2010 it was the wish from the committee members, that the SAC in the future should be a formalised and recognised as a permanent committee of IFHE and included on the programme of future Council and Congress programs.

A proposal was made to the President requesting consideration for the SAC to be recognised as an IFHE Committee, to assist the IFHE President, the Executive Committee, IFHE Office Staff and any other IFHE Committee who wish to use the committee in an advisory capacity to participate if asked for advice on IFHE Issues. Members have a variety of expertise; knowledge of this expertise is available from the IFHE Office, the President and Convenor of the SAC with the proviso that the expertise is available. Request for advice to be made via the IFHE Office who will communicate with the SAC member. List of members of SAC to be revised annually.

Revision of membership, status, goal and meetings were undertaken and circulated to members of SAC Committee.

At the Leadership Meeting in Bonn in February 2012 the President and the Executive Committee agreed that SAC Committee would in future be a recognised IFHE Committee.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY UNDERWAY!

Submitted by Juanita MENDENHALL, IHE President

“Partnership for Home Economics Disaster Assistance to Developing Countries”

Nearly one hundred FCS professionals have attended initial meetings or expressed interest in a worldwide preparedness effort initiated by the International Home Economics Services (IHES) to rebuild Home Economics programs, which may be disrupted by or destroyed in a disaster. Prototype efforts provided materials to Antigua, St. Lucia and Grenada after recent disasters. Meetings were held at AAFCS in June 2011 and at the International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) Council in Sligo, Ireland, to explore and gain interest and ideas. The goal is to establish a partnership of organisations WORLDWIDE with the objective of assisting with the rebuilding of devastated programs that enables their educational efforts to resume after disasters. Organisations indicating cooperation include AAFCS, the Global Perspectives Community, The Caribbean Association of Home Economics (CAHE), IFHE worldwide, and IFHE-US as well as the International Home Economics Services (IHES). Efforts are underway to identify additional partners and professional contacts around the world, determine the process for delivering assistance, and to develop a worldwide plan, that will be organised around the Regions of IFHE. This is a great opportunity for international involvement by taking action with local efforts whether a project for a classroom, one’s community, or any group of our professionals.

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT NOW!!
We need small donated items for our “Partnerships” Product Sales Tables at various meetings. The money raised will help fund the US Partnerships Fund that is housed with the IFHE-US as a central collection organisation for organisations in the United States. Other countries and organisations are encouraged to contribute funds to the IFHE Partnerships Fund housed in Bonn at IFHE Headquarters for now. As more plans are laid, there may be other collection sites. ANYONE can contribute by making and/or bringing items to AAFCS and IFHE-US or IFHE Meetings and selling them to raise funds. The US will have a sales table in Indianapolis in June. To participate in that event, simply get your donation to Juanita MENDENHALL by the beginning of June or bring it to the AAFCS Convention in Indianapolis if you are coming (HINT: Involving students works!!).

Send items to: Juanita MENDENHALL, 122 Point Lane, Ridgeway, SC, 29130 or hold your own event and send the money to the IFHE fund. Requests for more information or expressions of interest to participate should be made to Juanita Mendenhall, IHES President, at juanitam@usit.net or 803-337-4012.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PROMOTE HOME ECONOMICS AROUND THE WORLD!

IFHE CAMPAIGN: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The IFHE will conduct a Campaign related to the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014 with the theme: “Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities through Home Economics”. The Campaign will be launched at the IFHE World Congress 2012 in Melbourne.

Aims of the Campaign

The aims of the IFHE Campaign will be to promote family related challenges worldwide and to support the UN aims related to families as well as to strengthen the IFHE/UN Correlation. The role of Home Economics and Home Economics education to improve quality of life for families will be demonstrated by the campaign.

Content and Background

The UN is proposing three major themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family:

- Confronting family poverty and social exclusion.
- Ensuring work-family balance.
- Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities.

The United Nations recognises the family as the basic unit of society. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16(3):

“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”.

Families have been transformed to a great degree over the past 50 years as a result of changes in their structure. The following dynamic social forces have had a manifest impact on the capacities of families to perform such functions as the socialisation of children and caregiving for their younger and older members:

- Smaller-sized households.
- Delayed marriage and childbirth.
- Increased divorce rates and single parenthood.
- Global trends in migration.
- The phenomenon of demographic ageing.
- The HIV/AIDS pandemic
- And the impacts of globalisation.
- Nearly all UN system activities touch on the family, in its various forms. Other UN bodies support the family by promoting health, well-being and development.
Home Economists contribution to the Campaign can be the information and training of Home Economics skills including topics like dealing with money and resources, nutrition and health, household management, textile and technology, human development and also gender equality as well as the education in kindergarten and schools, but also adult education.

There will be a social-politically contribution to the Campaign at the following levels:

- **Globally:** promote and celebrate the IYF with a global theme.
- **Regionally:** organise various projects regarding the social and economic problems.
- **Nationally:** carry out projects, e.g. school activities, free information and counselling at markets, open house presentations at universities / organisations, cooperation with celebrities, provide press with photo and video material.

Home Economics members should contribute to projects on regional and national levels.

There should be conducted projects and conferences on these and other topics in 2013 and 2014 by Home Economics. A brochure with the major information related to the theme, an IFHE statement and other topics will be available.

Please contact the IFHE Office under office@ifhe.org if you have any ideas to conduct projects or conferences in your country. If there is an IFHE Liaison in your country please contact the IFHE Liaison first.

**REGION OF THE AMERICAS REPORT**

Submitted by Joanne PEARSON, IFHE Vice-President Region of the Americas

“United Nations Offices Around the Region”

In the last two issues of *Home Economics News* there have been multiple excellent articles written by IFHE Representatives at the United Nations (UN) in New York and by the IFHE Representative to FAO, one of the UN agencies, in Rome. If you have not had a chance to read those articles I encourage you to do so. In one of the articles that appeared in the September 2011 issue, the authors mentioned that although the UN headquarters are located in New York City, New York, there are UN agencies with programs of concern to IFHE located in Paris, Vienna, Rome and Geneva and UN Agencies in all regions of the world. This article will focus on some of the many UN agencies and United Nations Information Centers that are located within the Region of Americas.

There are 10 United Nations Information Centers located throughout the Americas. These are located in the following cities: Washington, DC, USA; Mexico City, Mexico; Panama City, Panama; Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago; Bogota, Columbia; Lima, Peru; LaPaz, Bolivia; Asuncion, Paraguay; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These centers serve as a reliable source of up-to-date information about the UN and provide products and services such as newsletters, libraries, and internet facilities.

Three UN agencies that have regional and national offices within the Americas are UNESCO, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; WHO, World Health Organization; and FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization. The headquarters for these organisations are in Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; and Rome, Italy, respectively.

UNESCO has a Liaison Office in New York, USA and regional bureaus for Latin America and the Caribbean in the following three cities: Regional Bureau for Culture in Havana, Cuba; Regional Bureau for Science in Montevideo, Uruguay; and Regional Bureau for Education in Santiago, Chile. National offices are also found in Brazil, Guatemala, Jamaica, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, Ecuador, and Costa Rica.
WHO Regional Office for the Americas, known as the Pan American Health Organization, is located in Washington, DC, USA. There are sub-regional offices for Central America and the Andes. The Office of Caribbean Programme Coordination is located in Bridgetown, Barbados. There are 196 WHO Collaborating Centers within the Americas, 100 of which are in the USA, 25 in Canada, 21 in Brazil, 10 in Cuba, 9 in Mexico, 9 in Argentina, 7 in Columbia, 4 in Chile, 3 in Costa Rica, 3 in Puerto Rico, and 1 each in Barbados, Bolivia, Jamaica, Uruguay and Venezuela.

FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is located in Santiago, Chile. There is also a sub-regional office for the Caribbean located in Bridgetown, Barbados and a sub-regional office for Central America located in Panama City, Panama. There are also country offices in almost every country within Latin America and the Caribbean region.

With these many UN offices located within the Region of Americas, and programs of interest to Home Economists carried out in each of them, it is important for us to become familiar with their work and for us to make contact with these offices so that they know of our interest in what they do and they know of our relevant professional expertise and our willingness to become involved in their program efforts.

**NEWS FROM THE PC HOME ECONOMICS POLICIES IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

*Submitted by Sandra FORDYCE-VOORHAM, Chair*

We have been very pleased to welcome many new IFHE members who have expressed an interest in being actively involved in our Committee. Several issues related to the areas of education have also been raised for discussion at the recent Annual Meeting in Bonn including the global Home Economics education overview, the Home Economics teacher survey and the “Partnerships for Home Economics Disaster Assistance to Developing Countries” Project (submitted by Juanita MENDENHALL). Please let me know if you would like to contribute your country’s Home Economics education overview and I will send you a template. To date, we have uploaded samples for Australia, Pakistan, Japan and Greece. In order to provide our members with a comprehensive report it would be great if we could have representation from all your countries.

We are also in the process of modifying our Teacher Survey as some members felt that whilst the original survey was valuable, it was too long and broad.

It is also delightful to note that we have several young Ph.D. students and recently graduated teachers who have joined our committee. I am also involved in post-graduate studies and am in the process of testing a food skills rating checklist that can be used by teachers in schools to assess the procedural food skills of their students.

If you are interested in participating in the evaluation of this teaching tool for your own students you are welcome to visit my blog at [http://foodskillsexpert.blogspot.com.au/](http://foodskillsexpert.blogspot.com.au/) to find out more information.

Thank you in anticipation! If any other IFHE Member is interested in publicising their own research, please let me know so that we may advertise on our Education wiki [http://policyeducationtraining.wikispaces.com/](http://policyeducationtraining.wikispaces.com/).

**ELECTION IFHE VICE-PRESIDENT REGION OF EUROPE TERM 2012 – 2016**

The online election for the Vice-President for Europe (2012 - 2016) is open from **Monday 13th of February until Friday, 30th of March 2012**.

Nominated are **Gerda CASIMIR**, Netherlands and **Ruth GIBBONS**, UK.

Please note that only European members who have paid their membership fees in **2011 and/or 2012** are eligible to vote.

For more information and to enter the online election process please have a look at [http://www.ifhe.org/121.html#c2977](http://www.ifhe.org/121.html#c2977).
NEWS FROM THE PC OUTREACH TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Submitted by Leena SAVISALO, Chair

The IFHE CEEC Outreach Committee will organise a special seminar during the IFHE Congress 2012. The seminar will take place during the Plenary Sessions. It is two (2) hours session where there are four presentations:

1. “The Role of school meals of pupils activity during the schooldays”, Dr. Irena SIMCIC, example from Ministry of Agriculture, Slovenia.

2. “The ICT Information and Communication Technology in Education of healthy Nutrition – Case from Slovenian Ministry of Education”.

3. “Extension education and Home Economics the role of women in advisory work in Finland”.

The fourth presentation is about textile education. The discussions are most important.

JAMES MCINTOSH HAS WON ANOTHER BIG AWARD

Submitted by James MCINTOSH, Chair IFHE International Business Group

James MCINTOSH (UK) has won a big award for his Chinese TV series – “Food Adventures on the Silk Road”, produced by China Food TV and Gourmand International, won the first prize of Awards.

for Outstanding Digital Radio and TV Programs in 2010. This award was given by China Radio and Television Association, the national association of radio and television industry in China.

The foreign celebrity chefs on the show of 40 episodes are Chef Wan, Yvan Cadiou, Chakall and James MCINTOSH, starring with two Chinese chefs. This is an extremely prestigious award, the best food show has ever received at this top event, and a rare success for an international co-production in China.

TOWER PERSON AWARD FOR CONSUMER EDUCATORS 2011

Miriam O’DONOGHUE, Chair of the IFHE Programme Committee Consumers & Sustainable Development has received the 2011 Tower Person Award for Consumer Educators.

Photo: Dr. Heiko STEFFENS, Victoria W. THORESEN, Miriam O’DONOGHUE, Aidan CLIFFORD (Director, CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit) (from l. to r.)

The award recognises the outstanding achievement of dedicated consumer educators and is hoped to encourage successors. Miriam received the award from the founder, Dr. Heiko STEFFENS, at the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

Miriam has been an outstanding contributor to many aspects of consumer education in Ireland and Europe, and has been a productive and motivating force in PERL.

Congratulations Miriam and we look forward to your continuing work!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012

29 February – 2 March
2012 EFERMA (Eastern Family Economics Resource Management Association) Conference
Holiday Inn Charlotte City Center – Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

19 – 20 March
2nd PERL (Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living) International Conference
“Beyond Consumption – Pathways to Responsible Living”
Technische Universität Berlin - Germany

21 – 22 March
5th International Scientific Conference
“Rural Environment. Education. Personality (REEP)”
Latvia University of Agriculture, Faculty of Engineering, Institute of Education and Home Economics – Jelgava, Latvia

20 – 22 June
RIO+20 United nations Conference on Sustainable Development
Rio, Brazil

24 – 27 June
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) 103rd Annual Conference & Expo
“Connecting Professionals: Leadership in Action”
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown – Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

16 – 21 July
XXII. IFHE World Congress
“Global Creativity and Innovation: Developing Capacities for Sustainable Futures”
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre – Melbourne, Australia

2013

3 – 5 June
6th International Consumer Sciences Research Conference (ICSRE)
“Food Culture”
University of Helsinki – Helsinki, Finland

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Order forms can be downloaded from the IFHE website or use the online order form under http://www.ifhe.org/299.html.

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