

Foreword

This book, *Home Economics Education in Japan*, was prepared by the Japan Association of Home Economics Education for the 20th World Congress of International Federation for Home Economics in Kyoto in 2004. Japanese home economists take pride in their home economics education at schools in Japan. All male and female students learn home economics as a required subject from fifth to eleventh grade. In primary schools the subject has been required in a coeducational setting for over the past 60 years. In junior high schools there was a period of separate education such as industrial arts for boys and home Economics for girls. In senior high schools there was a long period during which home economics education was required only for girls.

Under the influence of the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985), the home economics education requirement only for girls was criticized, and became a focus of debate. In order to ratify the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” in 1985, home economics education became a requirement for male students as well.

The Japan Association of Home Economics Education has been promoting Coeducational movement, and proposed new curriculum for coeducational home economics. We are now in a new reformation stage of home economics education. The aims of this book are to describe this educational reform in Japan and to seek outside suggestions for our future home economics education. The editors also hope that this book will help strengthen the home economics education in different countries.

The members of the editorial committee of this book greatly contributed to making plans and completing the project. As the President of the Japan Association of Home Economics Education, I wish to acknowledge and thank the chair of the committee, Dr. Noriko Arai, and the other committee members.

Katsuko Makino
The President of the Japan Association
of Home Economics Education
May 2004

Foreword for the Revised Version

This Book “Home economics education in Japan 2012” is the revised version of “Home Economics Education in Japan” published in 2004. The Japanese Association of Home Economics Education published the book written in English on Japanese Home Economics Education of elementary and junior/senior high schools, in 2004. Until then, there was very little information available on this subject in English, and this book provided a good opportunity to introduce the Japanese Home Economics Education to many researchers or teachers in this field of other nations.

The curriculum guidelines by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, which defines the educational contents of elementary schools and junior/senior high schools in Japan was modified in FY2009, and under this new guideline, home economics textbooks for elementary and junior/senior high schools have also been revised in FY2011. Following the above changes, we updated a few sections of this book with the latest data as well as the most recent information of the new national curriculums.

Today, we can see the various reforms in the educational systems or the national curriculums in many different countries. We would very appreciate if you could utilize this book as one of your references when you conduct a research on those new home economics curriculums of Japan and compare them with those of other countries. We hope that continuous progress in the home economics would enrich quality of lives of people in the world.

Midori Otake
Presidents of the Japanese Association
of Home Economics Education
May 2012