

Preface

The council meeting of the Japan Association of Home Economics Education decided, in September 2002, to create a book which would be offered at the 20th World Congress of IFHE in Kyoto in order to introduce home economics education in Japan. The editorial committee was organized with five association members, all of which are university researchers who specialize in home economics education. Since that time, the committee has held meetings to discuss the conceptualization and framework of the book, as well as to share the role of writing and compiling it.

Home economics education in Japan started in 1947 after World War II. Since that time, it has had the benefit of a half-century of development. Now it is a compulsory subject for both sexes, from primary school to senior high school, and the contents draw on a wide variety of fields, such as family relations, household economy, diet and nutrition, clothing, housing, and contemporary topics such as social welfare, the elderly, consumer affairs and environmental issues. In addition, home economics education at the senior high school stage became co-educational in 1994; a big step from the gender-equity point of view. Other important characteristics of Japanese home economics education are that many teachers, on an independent basis, and organizations are very active in developing and researching class activities in home economics lessons, and a wealth of reports and writings about them have been accumulated. We, the committee members, thought it would be most meaningful to introduce both the current and historical legacy of our field in Japan to our global colleagues: researchers, teachers of home economics and other educational fields in other countries.

Based on these purposes, the book (2012 revised version) contains the following seven chapters;

- 1 Japanese school education system and home economics
- 2 Home economics education in the 2008 & 2009 course of study
- 3 The advancement of home economics education in post-war era
- 4 Home economics education and issues in contemporary living
- 5 Class practice of home economics
- 6 The survey and research regarding home economics education
- 7 Home economics teacher training in higher education of Japan

It will be a great honor if this book helps to deepen a mutual understanding of our field and contribute to the promotion of the discussion about the curriculum theory and practice of contemporary home economics education at the international level.

Noriko Arai
The Chair of the Editorial Committee
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The Editorial Committee Members (Chapters in charge)

Noriko ARAI Professor, Faculty of education and regional studies, University of Fukui.
*The Chair of the committee (Chapter 3 & 4)

Kahori AOKI Associate professor, Faculty of Education, Aichi University of
Education (Chapter 5)

Midori OTAKE Professor, Faculty of Education, Tokyo Gakugei University.
(Chapter 1 & 6)

Akiko UENO Professor, College of Human Life and Environment, Kinjo Gakuin
University. (Chapter 2 & the Appendix)

Masako YANAGI Professor emeritus at Fukuoka University of Education.
(Chapter 7)