



HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

March 2022

Publication of the International Federation for Home Economics



Food literacy project:
Learning about food
(page 2)

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HOME ECONOMICS CONTRIBUTES TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

The year has started well for IFHE, and while we haven't let 2020/2021 get us down, it feels like an energetic reboot. The contributions in this newsletter show it: home economics is and remains globally visible and contributes to a resilient future.

The UN 2022 thematic focus on “resilient recovery from COVID-19” offered us with an opportunity to present our discipline's perspective. The officially accepted IFHE statement highlights how **food & nutrition education** and a low-technology approach help **building resilience** (page 2).

Two other activities take also up the theme: An IFHE expert talks series on **resilient housing**, priority theme of this year's World Home Economics Day (page 3). And the Food Literacy Partnership supports **learning about food that enables socially just and sustainable futures** (page 4).

Finally, the Newsletter contains a preview on hybrid opportunities at **World Congress 2022** and an overview on what has been going on in 2021 in our **member regions** (page 5). Enjoy reading.

RESILIENCE THROUGH FOOD & NUTRITION EDUCATION

It came as a nice surprise when the UN announced the priority theme for its 2022 session of the Commission on Social Development World. Their focus on “inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19” relates to this year’s World Home Economics Day theme on resilient homes & families, and we took the opportunity to present our perspective on this important topic to the UN (see excerpts from the official IFHE statement).

COVID was a universal experience. Regardless of the economic or technological status of a region, the entire human family was impacted. Households played an essential role during the unfolding health, policy and economic crisis, seeking to feed and care for their members through the lockdowns that disturbed supply chains and institutional efficiency.

Food and nutrition education is core to the home economics discipline. It builds resilience in food selection and preparation that can assure prevention of malnutrition and relevant morbidity. However, the increasing rise of for-profit opportunities for “on-demand” food, often with low nutritional value, has resulted in individuals that do not know how to cook and the off-siting of food production from households. This leaves people vulnerable in the case of an emergency, when off-site production of food is snarled by supply chain issues or broken by “lock-downs”.

Home economics education provides a variety of technical skills for safeguarding good nutrition and can focus on low technology solutions. IFHE therefore calls societies to embed home economics literacy into educational programs so they are better positioned to achieve SDGs related to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

(Picture: UN)



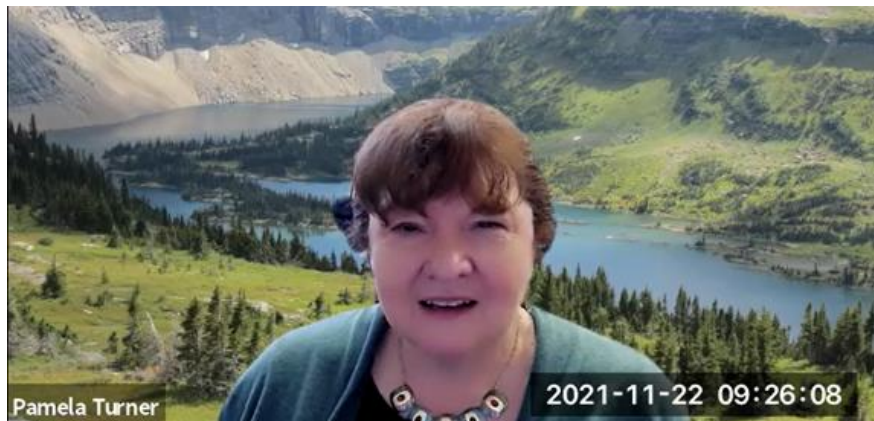
RESILIENT HOUSING (WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY 2022)

Watch expert talks at the IFHE [youtube channel](#):



Every year on March 21st, since 1982, IFHE celebrates World Home Economics Day. This international event is intended to highlight a specific theme and publicize home economics and consumer issues, promote the profession, and celebrate the contribution that home economists make to the quality of everyday for people around the globe.

This year's World Home Economics Day (WHED) focus is on what it takes to make homes safer and more resilient. Homes are the most important haven and asset in peoples' lives, and are more affected by climate change and the pandemic. Housing and indoor environment is a home economics discipline spearheading education & research on building resilient households. A series of expert talks highlights our profession's important contribution to building a resilient future.



Personal & environmental health

Dr Pamela Turner, Extension Housing & Indoor Environment Specialist at the University of Georgia offers an introduction to the topic. The kick-off webinar touches on various topics, covering personal and environmental health aspects such as air pollution, waste management or sanitation, safe child care environments, mental health, and more.

Sustainability, Housing and Consumer Choice

Expert talk with Sue Ballard de Ruiz, Associate Professor, Department of Art & Design, Tennessee State University and Randy Cantrell, Associate Professor and Housing & Community Development Specialist, University of Florida

Resiliency, Homelessness and Housing Insecure Populations

Expert talk with Faye Griffiths-Smith, Family Economics and Resource Management Associate Extension Educator, and Mary Ellen Welch, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator, both University of Connecticut.

FOOD LITERACY SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

IFHE is partner to the Food Literacy International Partnership (FLIP), a global collaboration to support educators and researchers in their work, understanding the world through food. The Canadian funded research project offers an interesting website and webinar series.

The work around food literacy education connects to a range of global issues including: social inequity that causes both hunger and overconsumption; loss of biodiversity and impacts on the well-being of citizens.

The Partnership's aim is to create opportunities for learning about food and to develop people's capacity to act in ways that support sustainable consumption and equitable access to food.

Webinar series

FLIP is offering a series of webinars, No. 1 took place on 28 February under the theme "What is food literacy". The term is being used by professionals such as educators, home economists, dietitians, and public health workers, each profession brings their own nuanced interpretation. During the webinar, food literacy scholars and practitioners discussed ideas of what food literacy is and what it looks like in practice. Check the FLIP website for upcoming webinars.

For more information, visit the [FLIP website](#)



ADVOCACY AT THE UN FOR WIDOWS' RIGHTS

IFHE and Women Widows' Rights International, a UK based nonprofit, working in the field of human rights for widows, submitted a joint statement to the March 2022 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). It calls on Member States to make robust provision for widows.

Climate change and conflict, disproportionately affect widows as they are most often the most vulnerable, often being disinherited of any land, goods or chattels as a result of their husband dying. Yet their resilience is a lesson in how to survive and thrive, given the smallest assistance. The COVID 19 pandemic provided ample examples of how the world of work can change and become more flexible. In light of this learning, surely it is timely to consider different ways of engaging women and girls in decent work, including widows.



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR HYBRID WORLD CONGRESS



Click here for details & registration ([Congress website](#))

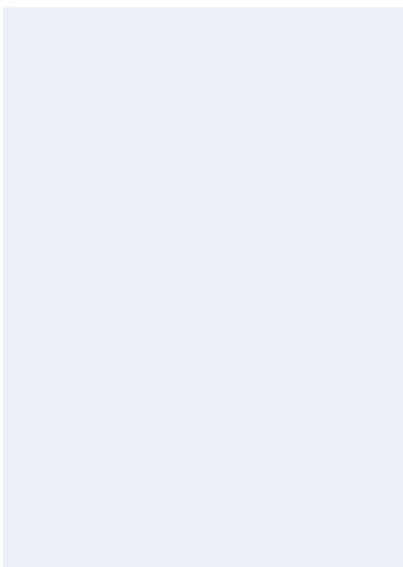
More [on professional certification](#)

We are thrilled to announce that registration is open for the IFHE World Congress 2022! You can participate by gathering on an international stage in Atlanta or joining virtually – both ways offer an excellent opportunity share expertise, learn and connect with colleagues from across the globe.

The Congress will be available on demand through the Congress app for all registered attendees. It will include opening and closing Ceremonies, plenary speakers, 48 recorded concurrent sessions and much more. In addition, the in-person Congress will include welcome dinner and closing banquet, an all-day excursion, three concurrent sessions that will not be recorded and most important space for impromptu conversations and opportunities to network.

After the Congress, registered members will have access to the Congress app until December 10, 2022 with a total of recorded 52 sessions. And don't forget that Congress 2022 will provide so many opportunities for professional development and to earn hours toward the International Professional Home Economist (IPHE) certificate.

LAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES IN IFHE MEMBER REGIONS AMERICAS, ASIA AND EUROPE



In the last Newsletter, we published highlights from reports on activities in IFHE member regions Africa and Pacific. In our other member regions, there has been quite a lot going on, too, despite the challenging circumstances. All activities will find their way into the IFHE Annual Report 2021, but below, we already offer a preview on some interesting events.

Region Americas

The Caribbean Association of Home Economists organized its 24th Biennial Conference, which attracted almost 500 participants. It offered a keynote on consumer moral leadership during COVID-19, a concept that combines the imperatives of sustainability, ethics, simplicity and environmental integrity. Highlight in the Americas region was a networking event for undergraduates. 60 participants from 11 countries attended this online inauguration event for a regional young professionals network.

Region Asia

The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) published three issues of its Journal, promoting academic research. The Malaysian and Thai national home economics associations offered webinars on challenges to teaching and capacity development respectively. The latter attracted over 300 participants from 12 countries. The Philippine Home Economics Association held its 72nd National Conference.

Region Europe

The European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) continued to connect members in the region through regular brown bag sessions on the latest trends in the discipline. The inauguration of a National Center of Excellence for Home Economics in Ireland and a competition featuring education for resilience by IFHE Germany drew public attention at national level. The Norwegian association held a conference on food and health attracting 170 participants.

Thai Home Economics Association webinar 2021 (picture: THEA)



Launch of the Irish National Center of Excellence for Home Economics at IFHE member St. Angela's College 2021 (picture: St. Angela's College)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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President:
Gwendolyn HUSTVEDT, USA

IFHE Office:
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 13
53113 Bonn, Germany

+49 (0) 228 – 921 25 90
office@ifhe.org

Website:
www.ifhe.org

Next issue:
JUNE 2022

Please submit information and
articles by 15 May 2022.

7th–16th February

60. Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development: *Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all.* IFHE participation through official statement (New York, USA)

14th–25nd March

66. Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women: *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.* IFHE participation through joint official statement (New York, USA)

10th–12nd May

South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Science (SAAFECs), 15. International Conference: *Consumer Sciences at a Distance: Creating Social and Economic Value* (virtual)

24th–25th May

16. International Conference on Home Economics and Technology (Barcelona, Spain)

25th–27th June

American Association of Family and Consumer Science (AAFCS), 113. Annual Conference (Orlando, Florida)

4th–10th September

International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), XXIV World Congress: *Home Economics: Soaring towards Sustainable Development* (Atlanta, USA)