

Seminar of the Women's Federation for World Peace Bonn, Germany, 3rd March 2012

On Saturday March 3th 2012 the Bonn chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace held a one day seminar on the occasion of the International Women's Day. We were happy to welcome Ingrid Lindemann, the president of the German Women's Federation, and Christine Sato, the vice president, as guest speakers. Christina Partuschke, head of the local chapter, led through the program.



Beautifully handcrafted seminar programs had been prepared and were given to each guest. They all carried different poems. Each participant briefly introduced herself, read out the poem which was written on her program and commented on it. The comments showed that these poems were apparently very fitting and meaningful for each woman – and also for the few men that were among the more than 30 participants. Thus open sharing created a very warm atmosphere from the outset.



Christine Sato made everyone familiar with the Women's Federation by presenting some fundamental information of its history and its activities.

Then Ingrid Lindemann gave the principal lecture about womanhood and the many roles and tasks that a woman faces in the course of her life. She showed that the contributions of women are vital not only in their families but also in the different fields of society including economy and politics.

Ingrid pointed out: Each and every woman is first of all a daughter. This is the one attribute that all women share. Thus the relationship which she has as a daughter to her mother deserves special attention. Bad experiences and resentments as a daughter can have very serious impacts on life. Ingrid asked everyone to write down how much they knew about the life of their mothers and grandmothers and their hopes and dreams, and if those hopes were fulfilled. The reflections and the sharing helped everyone to understand better what had happened in the past. This was a very relieving experience for many participants of the seminar.

After a break, Christine Sato gave some interesting insights on “Women in history”. History books don’t mention women too often. All over the world they were often deprived of basic rights and suffered greatly in society and even in their families. Christine pointed to some examples in history where women enjoyed respect and appreciation.

Today, the Women’s Federation for World Peace is working globally to improve the situation of women – and thus also of men – e.g. through educational projects, building schools, providing small funds for starting businesses, teaching about the dignity of women, aids prevention, actions against human trafficking and sex exploitation as well as collecting funds for disaster victims like those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.



Besides the lectures there was much time for sharing. We enjoyed some delicious food and also some entertainment. At the end, the guest speakers were given gifts as signs of appreciation and were invited to come again soon.

