

INTRODUCTION

Emma COLLINS, MSc, BSc, MICSc

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Emma Collins is a passionate young home economist. Emma's career in the field began at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff where she gained a first class honours degree in Consumer Science. As part of her degree programme she undertook an industrial work placement working for the Ministry of Health in the Maldives as part of the Youth for Development scheme run by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). This opened up Emma's pursuit of an international career with the vision to highlight how home economics education can act as a tool for development.

Returning from the Maldives, Emma completed her degree and undergraduate thesis detailing a comprehensive study into diet variation among children; specifically reviewing the differences in fish consumption when comparing the British and Maldivian diets, critically considering the impact on longevity and the wider impacts of development on national diets.

Having been involved with the Institute of Consumer Sciences in the UK since the start of her degree in 2000, Emma was a dedicated member of the Institute's quarterly journal writing regularly for the young members page and acting as a representative at conferences, meetings and events. Emma's active involvement was rewarded with a scholarship from the All Saints Educational Trust to attend the IFHE world congress in Kyoto 2004. This opportunity was another distinct turning point!

Emma went on to work at the IFHE office in Bonn in 2005, with the primary aim of initiating services for young professionals, conducting outreach to encourage membership, and producing promotional material.

Whilst maintaining her support for the IFHE office and acting as secretary of the Young Professionals Council Committee, since leaving Germany in August 2005, Emma has completed a Masters degree in Demography and Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, worked for the World Health Organisation's European office in Copenhagen, been guest lecturer and consultant for SUHRS university in Denmark, and most recently moved to Japan "where it all began!" to teach English.

Through her work and travel, Emma persists with energy and enthusiasm as a dynamic advocate for the promotion home economics, with the belief that as we move forward into the next century of international home economics, there has not ever been a greater need to stand up and show the world our worth.



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