IAWRT at 54th CSW

By Racheal Nakitare, Elizabeth Roxas, Alina Radu and Arshiya Ahsan

The commission on the status of women held in New York from 1st to 12th March 2010 was unique in many ways especially for IAWRT as it hosted a side event for the first time. Over 3,500 NGO representatives from 463 NGOs in 138 countries attended the 54th session of the CSW. The session marked 15 years review of the implementation of the Beijing declaration and platform for action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the general assembly.

As its contribution to the CSW 54, IAWRT hosted a side event "Mapping Women’s Empowerment through Targeted Media” on Thursday, the 4th of March 2010 at the Salvation Army on the 52nd street. The session, filled to capacity with more participants sitting on the floor and lined up against the walls, revisited Article J on Role of Media in empowering women as well as showcasing good practices that the members engage in through documentaries produced by women about women’s empowerment.

Apart from profiling and giving the background of the organization, IAWRT’s President, Olya Booyar moderated the formidable panel of: Dr. Carolyn Byerly of Howard University who underscored the need for a shift from women being mere players in the media industry to owning the media entities as a sure means of empowerment; Kelly Matheson of WITNESS explored the advocacy role of electronic media with specific reference to how video has been used effectively as an advocacy tool; UNIFEM’s Nanette Braun shared World Association of Christian Communication’s Global Media Monitoring Project preliminary findings where only 3% progress had been made in women’s participation and visibility in media in the last five years; while the New York media technologist Deanna Zandt electrified the audience with social media blitz/boom.

Continue on page 2...

Dear IAWRT Members,

I am thrilled to (re-)introduce our most valuable initiative - the IAWRT Newsletter - coming to you from our very own newly formed Secretariat!

Those of you who attended the AGM in Phnom Penh last November heard our plans to start up a Secretariat to support our members and activities now that we have nine Country Chapters and more than 350 members world-wide. This is indeed a historic moment for our organization which has always managed to survive (to use one of my favourite Australian-isms) on a smell of an oily rag. With the generous backing of FOKUS and your enthusiasm and support, we have grown our membership and activities far and wide and have truly contributed to creating a more gender-aware and representative media landscape. As is always the case, we are on a journey and we will keep

Notes from the President

Olya Booyar
President
(Australia)
Getting the Way to the Annual CSW Event

Getting the way to attend UN events is a tedious process, Elizabeth expressed. You have to queue in a very long line to validate your identity and registration and to be issued a UN ID for the duration of the event that you are attending. But this is not that easy. Prior to this registration, you should either be part of your official country delegation or NGOs already accredited with the UN System. It was good that IAWRT has a consultative status with UN ECOSOC. It was just a matter of pre-registration prior to the event. Our member in New York, Catherine White is liaising for IAWRT. And with the formation of IAWRT USA Chapter, it is envisioned that this particular tie with UN will be strengthened. Otherwise, you will end up attending events outside of the UN building and the UN system located in different buildings of New York. Wearing heels is not advisable 😊

Once registered, you will be overwhelmed by so many activities and events that would put you in a very difficult situation of selecting and deciding where to go. Events start as early as 9am and end as late as 9pm. At the end of the day, you will find yourself not being able to eat properly but would rather start climbing helplessly to your bed. As you feel like closing your eyes, you will end up jumping from your bed realizing it doesn’t end there. If you’re part of a media group like IAWRT, you will need to write something for the website as often as every day to share what’s going on to the rest of the members. The following morning, a breakfast meeting serves as updating-sharing on what happened the previous day and again planning of covering the most of the events for the day. This process has been very enriching and fulfilling. The Head of Fokus (IAWRT donor) joins their official country delegation. Through her, this gives IAWRT opportunity to lobby its concerns which may find its way towards the official negotiation considering that non-official ID holders have limited access to official meetings.

As Elizabeth ended her note, she stressed that given the tensions and the pressures, it was worth the CSW experience of building partnerships with government, NGOs, media and other sectors while ensuring women’s rights. Effects may not be realized soon but small initiatives, from IAWRT for instance, may contribute to making a great difference some time, some day.

Discovering CSW

It was Alina’s first visit to New York, first visit to UN and first participation at CSW. It was unforgettable indeed, and very IAWRT-full. She continued with her insights.

UN met the group with a chaos that not only IAWRT team should cope with. Thousands of participants from all across the globe, hundreds of events, not enough places, no clear venues. As a journalist, she was a bit worried and skeptical that IAWRT side event will have appropriate audience. But just at the beginning of the conference, when all chairs were full, with many of the guests on the floor, it was no place for a step, proved her wrong, it was a great success!

Documentary pieces showed at the conference were as a real proof that women in broadcasting are doing great jobs to defend women’s rights, and the great panelist team was there to give professional explanations to all. Afterwards, Elizabeth’s phrase “picture picture!” was so adequate for honoring Olya, Racheal, Gerd Inger and Elizabeth for doing their best.

In the big New York city, as crowded as four Moldovas together, Alina had a strange meeting that could never happen even if she had planned it. She met in the street her Danish friend, Hanne Jensbo, head of Soroptimist Europe. This made her to give a speech at another side event supported by Fokus, Soroptimist Conference on Human Trafficking. It was an opportunity for her to introduce IAWRT anti-trafficking project in India, as well as the five-minuter documentaries produced by IAWRT. She also had an opportunity to tell again about trafficking in Moldova, about children, women and organs sold out, and about the indubitable role of broadcasting women to spread information, to share ideas and to get audience to fight for human rights.

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Viva IAWRT!

Arshiya shared that her journey with IAWRT and participation at CSW this year would not have such a memorable outcome if not of the encouragement and support of several IAWRT members. Even at the last minute, Olya (President) helped her get through with the CSW registration which allowed her to attend the conference. Racheal (Vice President), on the other hand, gave her a chance to recommend panelists for the Side Event that IAWRT organized. This led to getting connections with women working in radio, television and new media in New York and of course talking about IAWRT. The side event was a huge success and one of the panelists, Deanna Zandi’s comments on the use and impact of new media tools on women’s rights issues and Kelly Matheson’s presentation on video for change were quoted at several parallel events. IAWRT participation was also key in several media events at CSW like the portrayal of women in media, role of media in advocating for women’s rights, and access to media to name a few. Likewise, Bandana Rana (Nepal) facilitated her access to the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign during CSW54 who’s strongly pushing for the formation of UN composite gender entity focusing on issues of the structure, composition, accountability and its capability at the country level.

Another ambitious advocacy campaign that Arshiya found interesting was the debate between the United States and the ratification of women’s rights treaty (CEDAW). She witnessed how American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is trying to raise awareness to its domestic audience to lobby the current administration to ratify a treaty that was signed in 1980. Finally, a comment from Bandana Rana aptly sums up the expectations of many advocates of women’s rights in a nutshell: “The success of this new entity will depend in part on utilizing the energy and expertise that women groups can bring to UN’s Programming to advance gender equality at all levels.”

New York will be a hotspot for women’s rights issues in the coming months, Arshiya hopes that IAWRT-USA will soon be ready to participate and advocate for the rights of women in media. Thank you IAWRT, and dream on...
An international body representing women in broadcasting has called on the Al-Jazeera TV news channel to reconsider a controversial ruling after five women presenters walked out after being told to dress more modestly.

The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) says the order from a male manager—who allegedly made “offensive remarks” about their appearance—was an insult to the professionalism of senior women journalists.

“This is the 21st Century. We should be judging women on how well they do their job, not on what they wear,” said IAWRT President Olya Booyar.

While she understood employers had a right to set minimum standards of dress for on-camera presenters, reports coming from the network’s headquarters in Qatar showed some male managers were trying to impose unreasonably conservative personal views.

“These are professional women journalists who know and respect their audiences,” Ms. Booyar said. “They know how to dress properly and they do not need a man insulting their integrity by imposing his personal views.”

She called on women throughout the world to support the five on an important matter of principle.

The five women who quit are Joumana Nammour, Lina Zahr al-Din and Jullinar Mousa, all from Lebanon, Luna al-Shibl from Syria, and Nawfar Afli from Tunisia.

For further information, please contact the IAWRT Secretariat at secretariat@iawrt.org.

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Ananya Chakraborti: UNFPA-Laadli Regional and National Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity 2009-2010 Awardee

The IAWRT Family wishes to congratulate Ananya Chakraborti for successfully winning the UNFPA-Laadli Regional and National Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity 2009-2010 in her production entry, Understanding Trafficking.

Ananya Chakraborti’s documentary “Understanding Trafficking” uses the legend of Sita and the Lakshman Rekha as an analogy to encourage women to violate the line that separates them from their legitimate desires, aspirations and freedoms. It goes on to explain that the right to seek a better life often gets derailed by the trafficking network, the system and the society.

For a well-researched documentary on trafficking spanning three countries – India, Nepal and Bangladesh and two international borders, Ananya Chakraborti is awarded the UNFPA-Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity 2009-10.

Out of 300 entries from the regions, Ananya’s production was first chosen for the regional award (East) by the distinguished jury including Abhilash Khandekar, Annu Anand, Farhat Ehsas, Mike Pandey, N.K. Singh, Nirmala Buch, O.R. Niazi, Pushpendra Pal Singh and Raji P. Shrivastava. The film was also chosen for the National award by a jury comprising Actor Rahul Bose, Journalist Rahul Singh and activist Jaya Jaitley. The awards are for gender sensitivity in the categories of print, TC, radio, OOH, web and advertising.

The awards ceremony and formal recognition was held last May 11, 2010, 6.30 pm at the FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium, Tansen Marg, New Delhi.

Again, congratulations Ananya and carry on to the whole India Chapter!!!
IAWRT joins the World in celebrating Press Freedom Day  
**By Olya Booyar**

The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) joins the world in celebrating Press Freedom Day. This year’s theme, Access to Information and Empowerment of People, is a goal IAWRT upholds deeply, with the principles interwoven in all our programs and activities. At our most recent Biennial Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, media women from around the globe told stories of empowerment and increased participation in the decision-making processes.

Women are increasingly asserting their rights and getting women’s issues on the agenda and as recently as March this year in New York IAWRT organized a forum at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on ‘Mapping Women’s Empowerment through Targeted Media’.

At both events, IAWRT showcased radio and television documentaries produced by women about women as both entries to the IAWRT Awards for Excellence and as part of a production grant scheme funded by the Norwegian women’s organization FOKUS. Documentaries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe showed how women from all over the world can bring about change in their respective communities.

The principles defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights upholding everyone’s right to freedom of opinion and expression has been the core values for IAWRT since its inception in 1951. The challenge continues today in empowering women – especially in the Global South - by providing means to access information and making their voices heard through international conferences, capacity building and skills enhancement. IAWRT also pays tribute today (3 May) to those people who paved the way in achieving freedom of expression and democracy and those many journalists who have lost their lives in the struggle to maintain integrity in their reporting while providing vital information to the public.

**Emerging Leaders in Asian Journalism**  

**By Elizabeth Roxas**

Elizabeth Roxas, Head of the Secretariat, attended the 5th Forum of Emerging Leaders in Asian Journalism held last June 7 to 8, 2010 at the Asian Center for Journalism of Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City Metro Manila through the invitation of Dr. Violet Valdez, the Executive Director, whom Beth met at the Asia Media Summit in Beijing last May 2010. They were introduced by a common friend from Sri Lanka, Kalinga Seneviratne the Head of Research of the Asian Media Information and Communication Center (AMIC) in Singapore.

There were about 150 journalists from 15 Asian countries who came and willingly exchanged knowledge and experiences and actively participated in various discussions and sharing on multimedia and social media, citizens journalism, use of mobile phones in reporting breaking news and other innovations to journalism that would help in meeting its present work demands and technology and in preparing for the future. The forum also coincided with the 10th year anniversary celebration of the center.

The Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism offers Master of Arts in Journalism and Diploma in Photojournalism. For more information, please visit [http://acfj.ateneo.edu](http://acfj.ateneo.edu)
FGM  
*By Madeleine Memb*

The Cameroon chapter has begun implementing phase 2 of the **FGM project** in the month of June 2010. Upon reception of the first installment of funds for the project, we held a meeting with local partners from Kousséri, the project area. This working session enabled both IAWRT members and partners to understand and appropriate the vision and mission of the project.

Specific goals and activities for the project year 2010 were explained and outlined. The first set of activities shall be finalized by the month of August 2010. These include writing a drama piece, putting together a theatre troop, mobilizing and sensitizing the target population and other stakeholders on the project and preparing for the first seminar.

We already have a researcher on the field to carry out a study that will enable us evaluate the impact of the 2006 FGM project. We shall forward her report as soon as it is ready.

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**Anti-Trafficking**  
*By Ananya Chakraborti*

The anti-trafficking project has started with planning out the short films on good practices on rehabilitation and re-integration of survivors of trafficking throughout South Asia. The planning so far includes films in West Bengal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in collaboration with IAWRT members in those countries.

In West Bengal, the films being planned are one on an NGO which uses football as therapy and a tool for empowerment for survivors of trafficking. The second film will be on an NGO which uses dance movement therapy as a tool for empowerment and rehabilitation for survivors.

The other part of the project includes a gender sensitization workshop for media students. This workshop will be held at St Xavier’s college Kolkata in the first week of September with students from five colleges. The resource persons include members of the press, the police, the women’s commission and the judiciary.
The Board formed the 5-minute Documentary Production Committee from among themselves to take charge of the screening and making decision on the production entries submitted.

Entries:
Received a total of 19 entries, 16 for TV, 2 for radio and 1 for both radio and TV from chapters and individual members.

Evaluation Criteria:
Accuracy
Originality and Creativity
Focalization
Importance of theme in the country
Plan for broadcast/ advocacy
Subject identified and agreed
Number of good projects per country
Geographical representation

Scholarship

Committee Members:
The Board designated 3 members who reviewed the credentials and eligibilities of the scholarship applicants and also made their recommendations.

Applications:
The committee received a total of 12 applications, 11 from Africa and 1 from Asia.

Selection Criteria:
Membership, Area of Study and Area of Study in line with geographical representation, pertinence of training area and program, contribution to chapter's activities
Leila Doss -gives inspiration and challenge

Interviewed by Gerd Inger Polden

Leila’s warmth and energy radiates towards me as we meet again in New York at the FOKUS/IAWRT side-event during CSW. It is 5 years since we first met at the IAWRT Biennial Conference in Williamsburg, and spent long nights talking together, finding common interests.

-An excellent side-event, one of the best at this year’s CSW. It was varied, had a broad selection of speakers, and I was astonished that so many people from so many countries attended.

The praise from Leila Doss warmed the hearts of the organizers of the IAWRT side-event at CSW in New York in March. She was especially impressed by a young Palestinian woman who had talked from the floor about the Palestinian women’s situation under the Israeli occupation.

But I had not asked for an interview to talk about the IAWRT side-event. I wanted to know more about IAWRT in the first years and about Leila.

Have you been married, Leila? My first question, forced her to talk about herself.

- No, never married, never had time, was her short answer. A life-long career in the United Nations in several countries, left her little time and space for family planning. She was born in Egypt and educated at the American University of Cairo. Before joining the UN she worked in Egyptian State Broadcasting and as professor of English literature and creative writing at the University of Cairo. She has kept her Egyptian citizenship, her Arab mother tongue, her love of English poetry and her journalistic curiosity combined with a sharp analytic mind.

In 1947, she joined the UN radio as a journalist, and held several leading positions in UN information among them director of the Division of Economic and Social Information, and head of the information campaign for the International Year of the Child. Finally, she was appointed assistant secretary-general for personnel services, a position she took early retirement from in 1982.

She speaks with great enthusiasm about the second UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld.

-I just loved Dag Hammarskjöld, she says with a smile, we shared the love of poetry. The first time they were introduced, they were sitting across each other at a dinner table. He started citing a poem, and she, being former professor in English literature, finished it. They also shared the idea that the UN should not be dominated by the great countries, and she describes it as a great loss for the UN when he died in a plane crash in 1961.

She joined the IARW from the beginning, International Association of Radio Women, as we were called at the time. In 1950, Leila went to work for the UN in Geneva, and did not return to New York until 1956. By then IARW had grown, and the year after, it changed name to IAWRT, International Association of Women in Radio and Television.

-I went through my papers the other day, look what I found. Leila reaches down in her bag, and hauls up a folder of yellow old papers. At the restaurant where she is hosting a lunch for the IAWRT members attending the CSW, our President Olya Booyar and the rest of us look at her in astonishment. She has brought the entire report from the annual meeting of IAWRT in 1959! We look at the well preserved, good quality paper with reverence. Leila, eagerly, leafs through the papers.

-Look, here are the names of all countries where IAWRT had members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belgian Congo, Bermuda, Canada, Celon, Eire (Ireland), France, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Israel, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, (Saar), Sweden, South Africa, United States.

- The US had a large group, we were 15, only in the UN. The total number of IAWRT members in November 1959 was 107, the papers tell us.

- In the early days we were very active, so many people with new ideas. But then we got so busy in our work, and the activity went down. We need to revive IAWRT, use the old documents to learn from, and revive the organization. That is why I am so glad that so many young people came to the workshop today, says Leila, with a youngster’s vivacity and energy, as she hands the precious documents and the challenge over to President Olya and the rest of us.
India Chapter: Alive, Contributing and Growing

By Jai Chandiram

The question of increasing IAWRT membership worldwide was raised in Harare. The discussion raised several issues for potential members in Asia and Africa. Some of the issues were, how can some countries pay membership fees in US$ when there were foreign currency restrictions, payments by cheque and clearances were expensive and above all what activities will the members be engaged in? Though there were similar problems for South America and Middle East there was the additional issue of language. It boiled down to what’s in it for me as a member? As there was limited funding only one or two members would be able to attend the biennial conference and that was not enough attraction to join the organization. I then suggested we could have country chapters with local activities, subscriptions could be collected locally and we could look at co-productions, projects and training. I had enough experience in the Asian region and I came with a country needs perspective, that country chapters could be a feasible proposition if some funding could be organized.

In India, there were too many hassles for women working in the public broadcasting sector to become a member... one need clearances to join an international organization, those who did, did it at enormous risk. A few did with some support from the foreign members who undertook to pay the membership subscription in US$. This silent support is now well established in IAWRT.

The Indian Chapter members came from various fields’ young freelance filmmakers who wanted to make films, teach and screen their films at home and abroad. The others were producers in radio and media academics and managers. It was a small group but highly articulate and motivated to do something! Opportunities came when scholarships were offered to three members in Asia, projects in making programs, media training materials and then the Asian Women’s Film Festival. The idea for the festival came when the filmmakers voiced the need for a platform to screen their work. At the same time I made the suggestion to the Director of the Asia Project at the India International Center for Asian Women’s Documentary Festival. The Asia Project also supported the publication of Asian Women Look through the Lens. The publication has wonderful articles by filmmakers, academics and viewers (The IAWRT web will soon publish this document in full colour). The continuing support from IIC, universities and other organizations, will lead us to our seventh festival in 2011. Many of the film projects that have been funded have won awards and the films have been screened both in-country and abroad.
Kenya

By Mary Onyango

Key Action Plans for 2009-2011:
- Membership Recruitment
- Proposal Development
- Networking and Partnership

New Officers and Members:
Racheal Nakitare has been elected as the new Chapter Chairperson at the July 26, 2010 Annual General Meeting. The new chapter members include: Jane Kariuki (news reporter of Kenya Broadcasting Corp.); Mildred Barasa (Media Consultant on gender studies of Association of Media Women in Kenya; Stella Oigo (TV Producer of KBC); Dolphine Emali (camera person of Internews, Kenya); Pauline Shegh (Newsreporter/casater of KBC)

Proposals Submitted and Activities:
1. Ford Foundation — to undertake a study on radio content development for media organizations
2. Freidrich Ebert Foundation — to undertake a study on portrayal of women in media
3. US Embassy — Journalists Hub which has podcasts on gender based violence
4. IAWRT — radio and TV production
5. Press Briefings

Norway

By Gerd Inger Polden

Annual Meeting and New Board Members:
The Annual Meeting was held in April and new selected Board Members were Solveig Helvik (NRK) as Treasurer; Ida Dahl Nilssen and Caroline Rugeldal (NRK) as Deputy Members and Bibiana Dahle Piene was elected Full Board Member; Wenchie Lie Giaver, Secretary; Kirsten Brathen, Board Member; and Gerd Inger Polden, Chapter Leader.

Activities:
- 4 Board Meetings and 2 Members Meetings
- Plan for an Open Meeting in Oslo in October with the theme, Women Reporters in War and Conflict
- Participation to meetings and workshop conducted by Fokus
- Applied for Information Support from Fokus
- For international participation, Gerd Inger Polden and Kirsten Brathen attended the CSW in New York and co-organized an IAWRT Side Event with other members of the IAWRT Board
Tanzania  
By Rose Haji Mwalimu

Activities:
- Membership Drive
- Reorganization and Chapter Registration
- Solicitations
- Members’ Meeting
- Distribution of IAWRT Books to members
- Raised USD 200 for registration

Good News and Prospect:

Rose H. Mwalimu, Chairperson, was awarded with Nuffic Scholarship by the government of Netherlands to attend a 6-week course on Training for Trainers. A training course for women and radio and televisions was designed as part of her course requirements and some funds will be realized.

South Africa  
By Linda Daniels

Activities:
- Promotion of women in film by actively arranging training for members and by sharing films through screenings
- Educating members in film by hosting screenings and organising training for members to increase their skills base when it comes to filmmaking
- Organised its second screening of films made by members and invited Latin American female filmmakers
- Members, Carmine Bailey and Linda Daniels completed a video making course hosted by CVET and two of IAWRT
- An evening of discussion with a renowned filmmaker Charlene Houston on women in film
- Follow up training with CVET
- Submitted a proposal to IAWRT to make a short film on women drug abuse victims as an advocacy tool
Philippines  

By Elizabeth Roxas

Activites:

- Attended the December 2009 Copenhagen Conference
- Conducted a meeting to announce the call for scholarship and production at the same time the support from the Philippines Chapter with regard to the forthcoming Advocacy Workshop and Regional Meeting in Asia that will be hosted by the Philippines
- Significant participation of Philippine Chapter members to the 33rd IAWRT Biennial Conference: Elizabeth chaired the session on showcasing the IAWRT production series while Tattie and Janet respectively served as one of the radio jurors and Janet as panelist
- Co-organized the CSW 2010 Side Event, "Mapping Women’s Empowerment through Targeted Media"
- Participated the “Forum on Media Ethics and the State of Philippine Journalism” in south of Metro Manila, organized by Quezon Tri-Media Group. Elizabeth was given time talk about IAWRT and possible collaboration with the local media group

New Officers:

Elizabeth Roxas, Chapter Head; Donna Reyes, Deputy Head; Maria Teresita Osalla, Secretary and Janet Buelo, Treasurer

Action Plans:

- Consideration of regional representation in membership recruitment instead of concentrating only in Manila
- Will support in popularizing the Magna Carta for Women
- Will share media feeds and will attend the Mindanao-wide Media Summit at the invitation of a member based in the area

Cameroon  

By Madeleine Memb

Chapter Meeting and Election of Executives:

The meeting was held on March 3, 2010 and elected the following to run IAWRT Chapter affairs for 2 years:

Olivia Tumanjong, President; Sidonie Sikoua epouse Pongmoni, Treasurer; Pochi Tamba Nsoh, Secretary; Memb Madeleine, International Board Representative.

Activities:

- Participation to the 33rd IAWRT Biennial Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Produced documentaries and a TV talk show on FGM
- Sent proposal for the second phase of the FGM project
- Hosting of an IAWRT Regional Meeting in November
- Production of a 52-minute long TV documentary for broadcast and a 10- minutes advocacy tool for the Right to Food project
- Construction of a website of Media Women for Peace in Central Africa
working towards our goal of making women visible in the media through our projects, scholarships and documentary grants, about which you will read more in this issue of the Newsletter. This is a space for all of us to learn and share our experiences, vision, achievements, challenges and even disappointments, as we are – first and foremost - a support network for each other, in good times and the not so good times. You will see in these virtual pages a reflection of our organisation through your work and play - and yes, we will have fun caring and sharing! To start it all off, our Secretariat will run a competition to name our Newsletter and you can be sure that the prize will be something worth getting your creative juices flowing!

In the meantime, and without further delay, let me introduce your Secretariat:

**Head, Secretariat**
Elizabeth Roxas

**Program and Communication Officer**
Mimi Ricamunda

**Administrative and Finance Officer**
Dulce Cuacoyes

**Administrative Assistant**
Jerome Padilla

These wonderful IAWRT members and “friends of IAWRT” are here for you. Apart from supporting our membership and the work of the Board administratively as well as managing our web presence, the Secretariat will be your central contact and sharing point for organising and disseminating information about our activities such as our regional meetings and workshops, international and biennial conferences, our members and projects as well as our current and future work plans. This will also be the place to come to if you would like to share your stories with the rest of your colleagues, or need advice in your work or projects, if you would like to tell us about what is happening to women in the media in your country or if you just want to feel the power of women working for better media. So please take this opportunity to reconnect with us and introduce yourself – you might just find yourself featured in the next edition of the yet-to-be named Newsletter.

In the meantime, please take a few moments to read about our upcoming activities and plans for regional training and meeting opportunities and if you are in the vicinity - we would love to see you or hear from you!

Keep well and keep up the great work,

Olya
IAWRT heads to Beijing

By Jai Chandiram, Elizabeth Roxas & Lisa Williams

Sunday, 23 May 2010, Asia Media Summit, Beijing, CHINA–15 years after Pacific government and civil society leaders joined the global commitment to women and named it after the host city of Beijing, Pacific women in media are back to talk about how far they’ve gone since then. WAVE founding member and long-time media and gender activist, Lisa Williams-Lahari, is one of 20 participants attending a Gender Guidelines workshop leading into the 2010 Asia Media Summit. Beginning 24th May, the team will work with lead facilitator Kristina Tuura of Finland on strategies to mainstream gender in broadcast organizations.

Elizabeth highlighted another important component of the AMS — the pre-summit event this year from which IAWRT played a very significant role at the workshop on gender guidelines for broadcasting organizations which produced a draft code of ethics for gender mainstreaming in the broadcasting organizations. During the workshop there were three sub-groups all of which were led by IAWRT members, Elizabeth Roxas for sub-group one, Jai Chandiram on sub-group 2 and Moneeza Hashmi on sub-group 3. During the presentation of workshop outputs, another member, Lisa Williams reported for subgroup 3. It seems that AIBD will be inviting IAWRT until the guidelines is finalized.

The Gender Guidelines workshop, supported by German non-profit organization, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), takes its cue from commitments to empowering women in and through the media. Women and the media are one of 13 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Platform for Action is a global commitment to women’s equality which followed the UN 4th World Conference on Women in September 1995. “This is my first visit to Beijing, says Lisa, and it’s made even more special by the history that was created here 15 years ago. Just over 15 days ago, Pacific women in media also built on that history, with our inaugural meeting for the WAVE regional network to help monitor and strengthen the actions to back up the promises,” says Williams-Lahari. “It’s relatively easy to commit to making media workplaces better for women, saying we can do a better job as journalists on gender issues, and wanting to help more Pacific women understand and access media tools. But the next question from our Pacific media leaders is exactly how to make this happen.”

Jai was called upon as a panelist to address a session on universities and capacity building of broadcast sector chaired by Professor Drew McDaniel. Are universities capable of dealing with the fast changing media landscape? What linkages are necessary between universities and broadcasters to ensure that the broadcasters needs are met? The session was interesting as many participants favored linkages between broadcasters and the universities. Some journalists claimed they had no training in media and learned on the job, media institutions for them were redundant!

Enforced Disappearances: Project 2010

By Iffat Fatima

Kashmir left no more faith in the system which has denied them of justice in the last two decades. The death of three boys in a false encounter led to public upheaval and angry demonstrations which were ruthlessly dealt with. Till date, more than 20 youths have been killed in the firing by security forces. These include a 24-year old woman who was shot dead in her home and a 9-year old boy. The entire valley has been put on curfew (even at the time of writing this report) and the army has been called out and there was complete silence on the roads.

Members of the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) and a large number of women have been very active in these protests and demonstrations against injustice and demanding their rights for self-determination. In June, Jai Chandiram, head of the India chapter visited Kashmir for a week. Despite the heavy rain, she joined the APDP members together with the media, activists, scholars and lawyers to show support and sympathy to the families of three youth who have been victims of the false encounter in Machil.

Vrinda Grover a human rights advocate and activist has agreed to be the legal consultant for the project and the preparation of an audio video manual on Enforced Disappearances. We have had several preliminary discussions to work out the strategy for the project implementation. The APDP web site www.disappearancesinkashmir.com is redesigned and functional, although the recent turmoil is restricting its usage. APDP has also redesigned the socio-economic forms as well as the forms for registration according to the prescribed UN format. These forms are being used for survey and documentation.
IAWRT’s VP interviews U.S. President

By Raheal Nakitore

“Who on earth would say ‘No’ to an interview with President of the United States of America,” that’s how I responded to a National Security Officer who called me 7:00 am on May 28.

At that point, the calm voice emphasized that he was just checking and could not promise that the interview would take place, but he asked me in the meantime to keep it all quiet. I sent my resume and links to my work but he did not respond. I returned to Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C., on Sunday May 30th and still heard nothing more. At that point I was convinced that it was either a hoax or the request did not go through. I went about my business as usual. Finally, a call evening of the 30th confirmed the interview and inquired what I planned to discuss with the President. I then realized that the interview was set for June 1st, Mabarak day, marking Kenya’s return to internal self rule 47 years ago. I decided that the focus would be on my country, but how could I squander the only chance to throw in a word for Women especially since a leading democracy like the United States has never ratified CEDAW. I only had 15 minutes within which I had to do everything including introductions but I was certain that I had to represent women at this rare opportunity.

I arrived at the white house at 12:30 p.m. and was escorted through a meticulous screening process. At exactly 2:00 p.m., the President strode in. When we took our seat to begin the interview, one question led to another rendering and my prepared notes became useless. President Obama is really an extra ordinary person. I particularly admired his grasp of issues in Kenya and the ease with which he referred to names. He could afford a smile in the midst of the pressure from the oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico. He had just responded to questions on the Israel attack of the Gaza relief boats not to mention the unending economic wars and crisis. But despite all the immediate concerns, President Obama still confirmed that he has the interest of women at heart. I asked him why the United states had not ratified CEDAW- The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women to which he responded, “If it was simply up to me, it would have already been ratified. I’m a strong supporter of it. It is currently pending in the senate. We want the senate to pass it. The senate has had a busy agenda and it moves slowly as it is. But my hope is that we get it done.”

186 member states of the United Nations have ratified CEDAW – the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Only seven, which include United States of America, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Palau, Tonga, and Nauru have not. President Jimmy Carter signed the treaty in 1980; the senate held hearings and voted against it twice. The United States senate requires the bipartisan majority of 67 or more votes to ratify the law. Ratification of CEDAW will hold the government accountable to women’s concerns in the United states which include; injustices in the work force where women still earn 77cents to one dollar earned by the man; Domestic violence which still accounts for the highest number of murders and sex trafficking that stands at 20,000 women trafficked into the United States every year among others.

Now that the United Nations General Assembly unanimously decided to establish UN Women, the UN single Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon “will appoint an Under-Secretary-General to head the new body and is inviting suggestions from Member States and civil society partners.” What chance does the United States of America stand in such appointments despite the fact that they have highly qualified women with enviable credentials?
Moldova  By Alina Radu

On 1st of July 2010, Moldova honored the first independent News TV Program in Moldova. It was 20 years ago, just the same year when Moldova as a country appeared on the map. The first free news program was as much appreciated by people, that after 2 years a street in Moldovan capital was named after the name of this news program: Mesager. Of course, in that great TV team were a few women who were reporting through hush realities: war, unrest, poverty. And some of those women are still active in TV and members of IAWRT Moldova: Viorica Cucereanu, Aneta Grosu, Corina Fusu, Alina Radu.

IAWRT Moldova had few visitors from our IAWRT International family. In January, Gunilla Ivarsson, former secretary visited Moldova to share with the new Moldova secretary all experiences, dedication and patience in doing secretary activities. In April, Inghela Ekblom, of Swedish Radio and the Chapter’s Swedish IAWRT Colleague visited them. Beside the discussion of possible IAWRT Moldova and Swedish Radio common project, an idea of helping women broadcasters from National TV in Moldova was also raised.

The first IAWRT Moldova half of the year passed very quickly. They kept going and encouraging younger colleagues to apply and join the Chapter membership.

Nepal  By Bandana Rana

The Chapter has been very active in production projects, networking, training and partnerships. Although it has yet to provide updates on its latest activities, the Chapter Head, Bandana Rana, has been very visible and in fact was also at the CSW this year and has been one of the panelists in one of the side events on women and peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advocacy Training Workshop
The Linden Suites
Pasig City, Philippines
28-29 August 2010

Regional Meeting in Asia
Edsa Shangri-La
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
30 August 2010

Evaluation of IAWRT Projects in Asia
Starting 31 August 2010

Reminder!
Please settle your Membership dues to your Chapter Heads or to the Treasurer through the Secretariat

Let us Refresh, Revitalize & Reenergize our means of information sharing and updating . . .

BID YOUR NAME
for the IAWRT Newsletter and provide a brief explanation for your entry

Lucky winner gets a free travel and a chance to participate in any one of the IAWRT events this year

Submission Date:
Strictly September 30, 2010

Open to all members, excluding the Board and Chapter Heads. Each member is entitled to one entry only. Please e-mail your entries to secretariat@iawrt.org