IAWRT Philippines Showcasing the Magna Carta of Women

MANILA, Philippines—The IAWRT Philippines Chapter had a great opportunity of showcasing the Magna Carta of Women, a landmark law for women ever legislated in the Philippines to thirteen (13) other IAWRT Member countries during its Regional Meeting in Asia held last 30th of August 2010 at Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

The Magna Carta of Women is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing and protecting women's rights at home, at work and in all spheres of society. Among its salient features are increasing the number of women personnel in the government until half of the third level positions; setting-up of the violence against women’s desk in every barangay (village); providing incentives to local government units which would have women’s agenda; and prohibiting of the derogatory portrayal of women in media and film.

It took over a decade of struggle for women groups in the Philippines to finally get the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710) enacted. Congresswoman Josefinas Joson, the principal author of the law delivered her keynote address by highlighting the process and struggles they went through in the legislative body. Discussions became more exhilarating when Rep. Joson was later joined in the panel by Ms. Emmeline Verzosa, Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women, Ms. Irene Santiago, Chairperson and CEO of the Mindanao Commission on Women, Ms. Grace Padaca, former governor of Isabela Province and Ms. Aurora De Dios, Convenor of the CEDAW Watch. The panelists shared the idea that Magna Carta of Women is really a milestone for women in the Philippines as it sees a wider lens of looking at the needs and welfare of every Filipina. The greater challenge now is its full implementation and making sure that it benefits its own target beneficiaries.

This concern was tackled in succeeding sessions on what media (and new media) groups including the academe and women NGOs can do to make this law work and become more meaningful for the Filipino women while the rest of the world are still busy advocating for a similar law to be legislated in their respective countries.

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Notes from the President

Hello to all our Members!

Since I last wrote to you, we have been quite busy planning and carrying out our activities for the remainder of the calendar year. First of all, I should tell you about our Regional Meeting and training workshop in Manila - it was truly wonderful! Our hostess, Head of the Philippine Chapter and International Treasurer Elizabeth Roxas, one who wears many hats, did a splendid job in organizing a very successful series of events, in a short period of time. It is a tribute to Elizabeth, her Chapter and the new Secretariat, that they pulled off a number of events seamlessly and with such success. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Elizabeth and her team(s) for making our members and Board feel so welcome and for making the workshop and regional meeting a valuable learning opportunity for all. I know you will read all about it in this edition of the newsletter, but I just wanted to add my voice to the chorus of appreciation, which resonated throughout the events.

And speaking of hats, during the cultural dinner, our lady of the hats Elizabeth donned yet another one with the rest of the secretariat and entertained us with traditional Filipino dance! And if that wasn’t enough, the rest of us joined in our own cultural songs and/or dances to showcase the diversity of our
Gender-Based Violence Media Advocacy Training  By Racheal Nakitare

The anticipated training on Gender-Based Violence Media Advocacy Training for IAWRT’s five-minute documentary series took place in Manila Philippines from 27th to 29th August 2010.

The ten member team from Cameroon, Canada, India, Kenya, Moldova, New Zealand, Philippines, Tanzania and Uganda “shared ideas and experiences on methodology to take journalistic pieces for advocacy” according to Kelly Matheson of WITNESS. The winners of the IAWRT’s grant to produce five-minute pieces on Violence Against Women from their respective countries were taken through creative brainstorming sessions where they all narrowed down their program ideas to achievable levels. “It is very important for journalists to recognize the difference between decision makers and pressure makers when determining their target audiences”, said Liz Miller, a New Media trainer from Canada. Kelly Matheson used the WITNESS video advocacy model of strategic use of video to propel and support human rights campaigns across the world that has been used for the last 17 years. “A story should have smart objectives which are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound,” said Kelly.

The participants were unanimous on the new perspective the training brought to their day to day work and more specifically to the projects where each had better understanding and focus on the way forward to ensure that the documentaries provoke the “right people to think and act”. Fatuma Matulanga of Tanzania and Tatiana Etco of Moldova confessed that this was their first involvement in advocacy as journalists. “The workshop was very useful because they all shared their experiences with me. This will be my first video documentary because my background has been newspaper. I have lots of subject and material to think through when I get back home. I’m a little scared but optimistic that I will produce a great piece— the real work begins now”, said Tatiana.

The workshop was co-facilitated by Kelly Matheson, Program Manager for the Americas of WITNESS and Liz Miller, Media Trainer in Canada and an IAWRT Board Member. Other members of the Board and Head of Communication Unit of FOKUS, Trine Tandberg also attended the workshop. Carolina Rugeldal, the youthful member of the Norway Chapter delegation on induction said she was “touched by the story plots and that the meeting provided an opportunity for individual contacts which will make her future work easier.” Individual experiences and testimonies of the seasoned producers who have worked in media for numerous years enriched the training.

Let’s hear it from the Short Production Grantees

Sarah Nakibuuka, Uganda

It helped me a lot to understand how to effectively use the media for advocacy. I will use the skills acquired to develop a number of advocacy pieces in my country to support the women.

Josephine Wareta, Kenya

The fast major thing I learnt is that it is not enough to do an advocacy documentary and disseminate it without having a strategic plan to bring about the solution that is desired. It is important to know whom you are doing the program for.

Toepista Nabusoba, Kenya

The guidance on issues of gender based violence by Kelly and Liz provided insights for compilation of the documentaries and dissemination strategies other than the obvious one we are used to; broadcasts on radio or television.

Fatuma Abdurahman Matulanga, Tanzania

Distressing - to be reminded of how multidimensional violence against women is, and how the long the road ahead before we can see its end.

Pochi Matina Tamba, Cameroon

It was so great to gain a lot in the training, which before I didn’t know about. I wish the training could have more days because I felt like we need a lot more to learn and the days were very few.

Vani Subramanian, India

Amalia Cabusao, Philippines

All around us, women get beaten, tortured, cheated out of their dues and refused basic services necessary to all human beings. The meeting in Manila made me realize how happy I was to have some concern for and want to change these issues.
Four IAWRT Norway Members present at the Regional Meeting in Manila?

By Kirsten Brathen

Are you wondering why four Norwegian members, Gerd Inger, Solveig, Caroline and Kirsten came to the Regional Meeting in Manila?

Norwegian Chapter is responsible towards FOKUS being the IAWRT’s main funder. We have to ensure that the money is spent according to the budget approved by FOKUS and NORAD, the Norwegian Development Assistance, MFA. That is why Gerd Inger is co-opted to the International Board.

Thanks to Gundel Krauss Dahl, former IAWRT President for contacting NORAD. She was advised to approach FOKUS, an umbrella network for women organizations. Even before chapters were approved at the Biennial Conference in 2005, the Norwegian members were organized in a chapter to become a member of FOKUS. Since then, IAWRT has had FOKUS support for our activities. The Project Meeting that we had with the International Board was a way for FOKUS to keep track of what the organization is doing. Unfortunately, only Elizabeth, the Treasurer and Head of the Secretariat was present from the International Board. It should have been a wider representation, and it will be next time.

This year, FOKUS has introduced a new way of organizing the budget and the funding of the earlier projects. The Half widows, Anti-Trafficking and FGM used to be projects under the Norwegian Chapter are now considered activities under the International Board. The Project meetings for the said projects in India were held with one person from the International board and one from the Norwegian Chapter together with those working with the issues.

Thanks to FOKUS’ interest and support to our network that helps us in implementing our activities. For the first time we have a Secretariat to assist the International Board, Chapters and individual members. They were present at the Project Meeting and had their thoughts and input.

The International Board decided that the Norwegian Chapter should be present at the Regional meeting to have the Project Meeting with IAWRT and the Secretariat. The members of the Norwegian Delegation were the new Treasurer, Solveig Helvik, new Board member Caroline Rugeldal, and Kirsten Brathen, Board Member and former Chapter Head and Gerd Inger Polden, Chapter Head and Co-Opted IAWRT Board Member.

Project Meetings in India

By Liz Miller & Gerd Inger Polden

Board Members Gerd Inger Polden and Liz Miller along with India Chapter Head Jai Chandiram had the pleasure of visiting two of the IAWRT funded projects in August and September.

The evaluation team spent five days in Kolkata visiting Ananya Chatterjee to discuss the progress of her anti-trafficking project and to meet her staff. During the stay the group visited a remote village on the border of Bangladesh to observe Ananya’s partner organizations, Hizlia Jnanakalyan Samity, as they conducted a workshop. This group holds workshops in remote villages to train community leaders how to identify the signs of trafficking and to take preventative measures. Ananya has helped facilitate the ten workshops and created a compelling short film documenting the process. For her future films, Ananya will address the theme of re-integration and represent how groups are working through dance therapy and other innovative models to help re-integrate women involved in the sex trade back into their communities. During the visit, Ananya organized a Gender Sensitization Seminar at the St. Xavier University - where she teaches full time - to coincide with the consultation. In addition to powerful presentations, Gerd Inger, Liz and Jai each had the opportunity to address the two hundred and fifty students attending the workshop. On the second day of the workshop, the IAWRT contingent discussed diverse forms of documentary, the work of IAWRT, the ethics of difficult stories, and upcoming challenges in the field.

Following Kolkata, Gerd Inger, Liz and Jai headed to Delhi to meet with Ifat Fatima to discuss the Half Widows Project in Kashmir that she is working on in coordination with APDP, Association of Parents of Disappeared People. The team was unable to visit the region because of the tense situation, but was able to spend time discussing the goals and form of the project, meeting partners, and learning more about the enduring conflict.

Ifat’s major project this year is to make a visualized/animated legal manual together with the lawyer, Vrinda Grover, who works with APDP. This manual is planned to help illiterate people to go through the legal proceedings to be able to file reports on their missing relatives, and to take cases to court to demand that the military and the police are held accountable for the disappearance of their relatives. We met with Vrinda and Ifat had a brainstorm on how to visualize such a manual. The plan is to start cooperating with lawyers in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan to work against forced disappearances in the whole region. Ifat’s project is an important long-term project to document the human right abuses in Kashmir and to train APDP in getting through to the media. The result of this work is already seen both nationally and internationally.

Lawyer Vrinda Grover (left) and project leader Ifat Fatima are discussing the audio/video legal manual.
organization and the strength of women in our cultures - the African delegates danced and sang, the American/Canadian contingent tried their hand at Karaoke, Alina explained to us how women are in "her country", followed by a traditional Moldovan dance which got everyone involved and the Norwegians demonstrated their skills in dancing and singing to a typical farmer song. And that is just a taste of what went on during the evening. This was a fun and enjoyable release for the many activities in a jam-packed three days. The first two days were taken up with the Video Advocacy Workshop, which brought together our members from around the world who were successful in gaining a grant for the short documentary this year. Our member Kelly Matheson from Witness and Board Member Liz Miller from Canada took the "students" through their paces for two very full days, covering all aspects of video production and advocacy goals. This was a very intensive forum, which will produce results in a very short period of time - the documentaries will be launched in November at our next Regional Meeting in Cameroon! A huge thanks also goes out to Kelly and Liz for their amazing efforts in putting together our very first IAWRT Video Advocacy Training Institute - you will definitely hear more about that in the coming months. Day three was devoted to our Regional Meeting, which brought together a very impressive collection of powerful Filipinas from the media, political, academic and social arenas. Together with our Board and members, they debated the topical issues of women’s rights and the newly passed legislation in the Philippines - the Magna Carta of Women, which enshrines the rights of women in Federal legislation. This gathering was as inspirational as it was powerful and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the media women of the Philippines. I would like to extend a special thank you to Trine Tanberg, the Communications Director of FOKUS who was with us for all the events in the Philippines and who contributed her vast energy, thought and many ideas to our work during this Regional Meeting and workshop. We are very fortunate to enjoy the support of a strong and influential network such as FOKUS whose members world wide turn out for our events where ever we stage them. They supported us strongly in New York during our CSW 54 side event and they were in Manila with us, participating fully and contributing to the debates. Your Board worked tirelessly on your behalf, setting in train our plans and activities for the next 12 months. I will stop now so that you can enjoy the rest of this Newsletter and see for yourself what I’ve been saying all along - IAWRT is an amazing organization, which brings professional media women together to share their experience, support and learn from each other. Our next Regional meeting is in Cameroon, at the end of November - the details are in the Newsletter and I know it will be a tremendous success. We can’t wait to get back to Africa and I am extending a personal invitation to all our African members and others who are able to - come and join us in Cameroon!

Olya Booyar, IAWRT President

The Cameroon Chapter

By Madeleine Memb

Before the year 1997, IAWRT as an association was not known in Cameroon. As some kind of coincidence (should we say divine coincidence with Von Inge Boninghausen as the angel?) Madeleine Memb, who was attending a refresher course in Radio Duetsche Welle signed in as the very first Cameroonian member of the association. The next to join Madeleine in Cameroon was Olivia Tumanjong in 1999. In a bid to render the association a little more visible, these two members opted to host a regional meeting in the year 2000 in Douala, the country’s economic capital. Gundel Krauss Dahl was the International President that time. The meeting was organized on the eve of the liberalization of the media landscape in the country, which saw the birth of several private radios, and some television stations.

This first activity by IAWRT members in Cameroon, thanks to the invaluable support of Gundel who attended the meeting in Cameroon reinforced our commitment to the vision of this worldwide association. By the end of the meeting, which also included capacity building for female broadcasters of rural radio stations, about 15 new members joined the ranks of IAWRT. Between the years 2000 and 2005, activities slowed down relatively as members became inactive. However, the chapter picked up steam soon after with the launch of the FGM project in 2006. This project offered further visibility for the association in the country.

In 2007, during the biennial conference in Kenya, Cameroon gained the status of a chapter and this has been a source of further inspiration to members, pushing them to carry out more activities. One of such activity was a meeting that brought together female broadcasters from the Central African sub region. The focus was on what role media women in the sub region can play to bring about peace and stability in a context of war and other conflict situations. This was of course another opportunity to take on board more members.

Even though we have been experiencing lots of ups and downs in terms of membership, we have succeeded in keeping a membership of 10 today. We recently organized elections and our current bureau is made up as follows: Olivia Tumanjong (Chapter Head); Pochi Matina Tamba (Secretary General); Sidonie Pongmonie (Treasurer); Madeleine Memb (International Board Member). With the upcoming regional meeting to be held in Yaoundé – the Nation Capital, we are looking forward, among other achievements, to beef up our membership.
**Profile of Cameroon Members**

**Olivia Tumanjong** has a BA in English Language and Literature and a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Journalism and Communication. She has been working with the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) as a journalist for 21 years and is interested in environment and development, gender and peace. She is an IAWRT member since 1999.

**Pochi Matina Tamba** holds a BSC in Journalism and Mass Communication. She has worked as a journalist since 2003 starting with the print media then moved to the Cameroon Radio Television – Television. Today, she is working as a journalist with the CRTV- Radio. She has interest on gender, youth and development issues. She loves reading and writing stories, singing and dancing and swimming. She joined IAWRT in 2009.

**Sidonie Sikoua** holds a BA in Literature and Journalism respectively. She has been serving as a journalist with Cameroon Radio Television. Her areas of interests are peace, security and environment. She enjoys sports, reading, dancing.

**Madeleine Memb** holds a BSC in Journalism and is Head of Radio Production Unit at the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV). During her 19 years of service she has served as a radio and TV producer. She also actively takes part in gender, conflicts and Peace issues. Away from work, she enjoys reading, cooking and crosswords. She joined the IAWRT family in 1997.

**Florence Ndeng** a journalist with an MSC in Political Communication. She is presently working as a journalist and TV producer at the Cameroon Radio Television. Meanwhile, her interests are on politics, gender and sciences. She became a member of IAWRT in 2009.

**Becky Bissong** holds a BSC in Journalism and has served the state-run Cameroon Radio Television in that capacity since June 1998. Her areas of interest are gender, women issues, peace building and the environment. Her membership in IAWRT dates back to 2006.

**Irene Ngong** has a BA in English and French and a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Journalism and Animation. She is presently serving as a budding journalist at the Cameroon Radio Television where she is passionate about gender and women issues, environmental development and peace. She just joined IAWRT in 2010.

**Patience Wirngo** has a Higher National Diploma in Journalism and Animation. She is a budding journalist at the Cameroon Radio Television and her interests are gender, women issues and peace-building. She became an IAWRT member in 2010.

**Margaret Fombe** holds a BA in Modern Letters and a Diploma in Production. She presently works at the CRTV Production House in Yaounde where she has been for 23 years. Her area of interest is women promotion. She enjoys reading, traveling and cinema. She is an IAWRT member since 2006.

**Leocadi Mangwi Wanka** holds a Higher National Diploma in Directing. She has served in that capacity for two years at the Cameroon Radio Television. Her interests are in magazines and documentaries production. She loves traveling and reading. She just joined IAWRT 2010.
The FGM project is an initiative of the Cameroonian members of IAWRT. The idea was born in 2005, at the start of the violence against women media campaign. This campaign was initiated by FOKUS TV CAMPAIGN ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, aiming to support and cooperate with women’s organizations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Eastern and Southeastern Europe in their work on violence against women.

The Cameroon chapter decided to focus on FGM, an issue shrouded by silence in this country. The long term of this project is geared towards the eradication of female circumcision in this country. In the short run, the objectives of this project are to build a national consensus against this practice that affects many Cameroonian women, but also to actively and effectively contribute to the education and sensitization of communities within which female circumcision is practiced. In Cameroon, female excision is largely practiced in two rural communities situated in the Far North (the Arab choa people) and the extreme South-West regions (the Ejaghama people).

In partnership with grassroots NGOs, activities related to the first phase of our project which started in 2006 consisted of organizing training seminars, education of these communities on the negative effects of FGM on women, as well as the production of TV and radio programs for a larger public, on the issue of FGM.

This first phase covered a period of one year. In passing, the Cameroonian public in general warmly welcomed the project and it awakened their consciousness on the practice. Following a request for a second phase funding made to FOKUS, our main funder, we are glad to say we have launched a multi-year phase of what we have titled "Media Women against FGM in Cameroon". For this second phase, we have decided to focus on the Arab choa community—a tribal group that systematically carries out excision on girls aged between 7 and 11.

During a 3-year period, we would be making use of folk media, a strategy that includes theatre, popular songs, storytelling and other alternative media sources to reinforce our sensitization campaign against FGM. We hope that by the end of the 3-year period, we would have succeeded in reducing the prevalence of the practice to less than 30% from the almost 100% recorded in recent times.

FGM is classified as one of the harmful traditional practices covered by CEDAW. The phenomenon also seems to be a form of violence against women, which the media in Cameroon treat with a lot of inconsistency.

All along the implementation of this phase of the FGM project in Cameroon, we are looking forward to see a reawakening of interest by the media, on this form of violence, which continues to affect a good number of women in the world.
Call for Proposals to Host the 34th IAWRT Biennial Conference in 2011

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 15 November 2010

Send your proposal to IAWRT Secretariat at secretariat@iawrt.org who in turn will forward each proposal to the Board. The Board will instruct/advise the Secretariat to conduct further enquiries as needed and then will also notify you of the final decision of the Board within a month of the deadline set for submission.

IAWRT Nepal’s Work on UNSCR 1325

By Bandana Rana

The armed conflict in Nepal between 1996 and 2006 had far-reaching impact on women, irrespective of whether it is women who joined as combatants, were related to men taking part in it, due to their residing in particular conflict affected areas, their own or their family members’ political beliefs or their ethnic and economic backgrounds. Socially and economically, girls and women became overburdened with responsibilities. Women became heads of households and solely responsible for their families as men and young people were compelled to leave their villages for fear of being caught in the conflict between state security forces and the Maoists. Women began taking up work traditionally restricted to men – such as ploughing and performing funeral rites. With increasing insecurity of food supply, women and girls’ health were threatened by inequitable food distribution resulting in malnutrition and severe anemia. Educational opportunities for girls further diminished due to displacement and fears of kidnapping, forced induction and being caught in cross fires. With little education and no skills girls were often forced into exploitative jobs. Incidents of sexual violence on women by both armed forces the state and the rebels have also been reported by various media. However women have been negligibly absent in all peace committees, task forces, negotiation teams and all other peace-building structures that have been put in place after the cessation of armed conflict in 2006. Against the backdrop the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325), ensuring women’s participation at all levels of peace building and their protection during and after conflict has been very instrumental to lobby and advocate with government authorities and political parties to promote women’s participation in all peace building processes. In this context, IAWRT Nepal has been able to organize and develop several programs related to UNSCR 1325.

Review of IAWRT Governing Documents

By Gunilla Ivarsson

IAWRT Statutes and Procedures need to be reviewed as the existing documents do not suit our present situation, with a growing number of chapters worldwide and the newly established Secretariat in Manila, Philippines.

We need steering documents that reflect this, and can take us into the future and help us in building a sustainable global organization. This work started by a Board workshop during the regional meeting in Manila recently, led by Gunilla Ivarsson, former IAWRT Secretary, and will now continue in a working group, appointed by the Board, headed by Gunilla. The challenging task is to present a proposal for renewed statutes to the members meeting at the 34th Biennial Conference 2011, followed by a set of guiding documents with the practical interpretations of the Statutes.

The working group cannot succeed without feedback and input from chapters and members worldwide to secure that the new steering documents will cover all necessary areas and situations.

The working group consists of Gunilla Ivarsson (Sweden), Rose Haji (Tanzania), Mary Onyango (Kenya), Gundel Krauss Dahl (Norway) and for confirmation with Kavita Joshi (India).

Please contact Gunilla (igmivarsson@hotmail.com)

Rana and Batrawi @ Fokus Networking Conference

Bandana Rana (Nepal) and Benaz Batrawi (Palestine) will represent IAWRT at the FOKUS Networking Conference in Colombia 7th-12th November. The conference is taking place during the week that marks the 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. The networking conference will be a meeting place where FOKUS partners from many countries can exchange experiences and will have workshops for transfer of knowledge. All the organizations that have been invited have projects in countries or areas where conflicts and/or wars are having an impact on people’s life.
From discussion over the years to recent research, developing a set of ‘broadcasting for all’ guidelines for one of the largest global networks of broadcast organizations is in full swing. Helped along by program officers at the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), with funding and resource support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) as a key partner, gender guidelines for broadcast organizations will help Asia-Pacific broadcast organizations deal with a key challenge facing media work: the gender gap. Gender equality and equity continue to be an elusive factor in broadcast standards, robbing professional balance and quality standards from content producers; ensuring women are still outnumbered in the top jobs and at most broadcast conferences, and leaving audiences with only ‘half’ an information plate because the views and stories properly informed by half the population are missing, or misrepresented. But how to become more ‘gender-aware’ without using the overused, much maligned, and rather dreary ‘gender’ word?

This was the challenge confronting a special pre-session working group formed for the Asia Media Summit in May 2010, followed by a smaller gender working group session at the AIBD headquarters in September 2010. Global media women from the Asia-Pacific media regions, proposed that a way around the jargon-ridden minefield of gender guidelines lies with keeping the language simple and relevant to media content producers and bosses.

It’s been two years now since AIBD conducted a study on gender mainstreaming in broadcasting organizations. One of the key ideas revealed from the study was the need to develop guidelines or a code or ethics addressing three main gaps:

1. Where are the women?
Lack of women at management levels means decision making and technical processes tend to be led by men in broadcasting, making for skewed representation.

2. Where are the spaces?
Scheduling tends to marginalize women and other sectors of the population and focus on ‘popular’ issues dictated by male editorial, male advertisers, etc.

3. Where are the standards?
Lack of impartial, gender sensitive language in reporting and production processes opens up questions on professional standards and media ethics

Putting a team of women in media at the helm of the guidelines, and having the input of the most marginalized into a process that has the ears and attention of the most powerful leaders in Asia-Pacific broadcasting, is surely a positive sign.