

IAWRT

NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN RADIO AND TELEVISION

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April 2011

Engendering Technologies: Women Take Charge

By Elizabeth Roxas



LtoR: Kelly, Devi, Madeleine, Yiping & Jamia

The IAWRT Delegation with its Side Event Panelists

The audience during the IAWRT Side Event

As the only women media-based organization at the CSW, it seems that an IAWRT side event is becoming an anticipated gathering among women who now recognized the power of media and the technologies associated with it. On 24th of February 2011, at the 10th Floor of the Church Center, our powerful cast of empowered women filled the room with their specialized skills, valuable knowledge and experiences as they tackled different and real aspects of engendering technologies complementing the theme on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology.

Kelly Matheson, Programme Manager for the Americas of Witness, New York, USA shared how women used video and film to express both their disappointment at the Ugandan government's inability to implement its Peace Recovery and Development Plan, as well as their immediate response to address this issue. She stressed, "We need to strive to empower women to raise their voice and ensure that when they do, they can do so safely so their personal security, dignity and privacy are all respected.

Despite the significant improvement on the section dedicated to women and the media on the Beijing Plan of Action, Madeleine observed that there is still a non-satisfactory access to mass media by women. Reports show gaps, one of which is between the larger expressions of women where a bigger challenge goes with the technical component during production process. "...if we want to enhance women's participation through media, technical autonomy for female media professionals favors creativity...," Madeleine Memb, IAWRT Board Member, Head of Radio Production Unit, Cameroon Radio Television.

Though phones and emails can be easily tapped and hacked and technology is being used to tear down feminists, harass them, and make their lives and work risky, technology according to Devi, our youngest panelist, is also becoming a prominent element of activism and movement building. Access to technology is increasingly seen as a basic human right and having an email address and connecting to other women through the internet can be so empowering. "However, the most successful feminist activists using media technology know that online activism must be sustained by good old-fashioned organizing and face to face communication..." Devi Leiper, Program Associate, Asia and Oceania, Global Fund for Women, San Francisco, California, USA.

"Women and only women alone can do the engendering process themselves first before the rest."

Social media allows more intimate and reciprocal conversations between communities providing a platform to build and strengthen relationships and reputations. But authentic storytelling is very important when promoting thought-leadership and social justice through social media. "I covered the effectiveness of concise, meaningful, and credible messaging in the new media landscape and explored best practices, strategies and considerations related to levels of engagement in relation to time, privacy and security concerns," Jamia Wilson, Vice President of Programs, Women's Media Center, New York, USA.



Notes from the President



Across Generations: LtoR Supattra, Catherine, Elizabeth, Leila and Arshiya

Greetings to our members and supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and full of energy for the rest of the year. During the most recent Board teleconference I heard about some of your activities carried out and being planned, from events around International Women's Day to plans for the upcoming Press Freedom Day. Our chapters and members continue to fly the IAWRT flag, push out positive messages about women in the media and win some impressive awards for their work as a result.

You will read about some of those activities in this newsletter. You may have read our website posts on the CSW55 activities and if you thought things were hectic, you're not wrong! Aside from the usual confusion in trying to navigate the UN bureaucracy, this year was especially difficult given the continuing refurbishment of the UN premises in New York, the rising numbers of delegates (I won't even mention the length of the cues), the ever shrinking numbers of passes given out for the official sessions and the ever increasing number of side events on offer. Needless to say, we employed the divide and conquer strategy once again and were able to attend and report on, quite a few events. I wanted to particularly thank Elizabeth Roxas, Madeleine Memb and Supattra Limpanbandhu for their help and support throughout the CSW week. We attended events, met with our US Chapter members, met with several UN entities and firmed up partnership agreements and staged a very successful event of our own. Again, we were the only women's media organization present at CSW and a couple of things stood out for me - our own side event on women mastering technology, which was very well attended and provided a lot of food for thought and lively discussions during and after the session, and the official launch of UNWomen. The launch, which was an outstanding event, supported by political, educational, media and society leaders. The new Undersecretary General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (and head of UN Women), Michelle Bachelet had a powerful and inspirational message for the women of the world - and that is that they now have a firm place in the UN

hierarchy and are no longer seen as an add-on to other programs. In other words, we have finally been mainstreamed into the UN! During the launch, our member, past Vice President and head of the Nepal Chapter, Bandana Rana also spoke, on behalf of the GEAR campaign, about the advocacy and lobbying along the way and about what it meant to finally have UN Women operational. It was wonderful to see all the 'stars' there but equally, it was humbling to hear from many of the past and present elite in politics and civil society speaks about the hopes and aspirations of 50% of the world's population being finally recognized and represented at the highest level and how long overdue UN Women has been. More details about all our activities are in this newsletter.

Another good news just before Easter is that we have been accepted as an affiliate member to the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU). This is indeed a very good opportunity for IAWRT members to broaden their contact base, be invited to and to attend many of the ABU conferences, training sessions and take part in joint initiatives. The ABU is also very pleased to have us on board and would benefit from our work and experience, particularly in the area of Gender mainstreaming in broadcasting and in having the opportunity to use our members work throughout the ABU's vast networks.

And last but not least, I am particularly pleased to tell you that a member of our India Chapter and producer of one of our major projects on trafficking, Ananya Chakraborti has won the Best Humanitarian Documentary award at the Tiburon International Film Festival in California. The award is for her documentary Understanding Trafficking. I am very proud of Ananya's achievement and join my Board colleagues in congratulating her on a tremendous documentary and on her dedication to this project, which we have funded, with the help of our partners FOKUS for more than four years now. To Ananya - CONGRATULATIONS! To all of our members - keep up the great work, we want to see more of such achievements and on a regular basis!

Best wishes to all,


Olya

Engendering Technologies

Fear of using and lack of user-friendly technology, bridging the gap between traditional media and new ICTs and effective communication strategies for women's rights are among the challenges noted by Isis while training women in the Asia Pacific region. "As one of the Isis Activist School participant says: the best way to overcome the fear of using technologies is - to learn it." Cai Yiping, Executive Director, Isis International, Quezon City, Philippines

Maureen Nappi, professor of Media Artis. Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus talked about women in media and how they have been absent or behind the scenes in the creation and production of media products and underscored the idea of collective consciousness of representing women.

The interaction between panelists and those who attended was very productive and promising. They vowed for support and cooperation and continued partnership. They realized that indeed the time has come. Women take charge as they discover more and learn more about technologies. They believe, as Olya wrapped up, women and only women alone can do the engendering process themselves first before the rest. This brought to an end another humble contribution of IAWRT to the CSW.

Sharing and Learning at CSW-55

By Supattra Limpabandhu



Supattra on the leftmost with 10 other Yvonne Hebert Fellows

It was my first time to participate the annual CSW conference. The UN Women and IAWRT have given me a chance to share and learn at CSW 55 in New York. There were 10 recipients from every continent who were supported by Yvonne Hebert Fellowship.

During 21-25 February 2011, I found that there were many parallel events, which were very interesting. Sometimes, it's hard to decide which one should I participate, because women's rights and technology (CSW55 theme) issues are both of my interest. However, I could manage to participate all sessions I had selected from the schedule.

My Impressions on the CSW-55

By Madeleine Memb

Though in a freezing weather over here in New York, it is a privilege to attend this 55th CSW at the United Nations headquarters. This gathering of women NGOs and female activists is impressive. I sneaked into the NGO consultation Day session and I could listen to Michelle Bachelet as the keynote speaker; it was one of the most inspiring speeches for the lower level activist like me.

I've been trying to attend as much parallel events per day as possible. I must confess that I'm not getting my way. From the messages on the flyers, you feel attracted by most of these sessions, but you easily end up with one or two.



Madeleine attending Fokus Side Event in NY



UN Multimedia Sharing the World's Stories

GOOD NEWS to all journalists covering international beat but can't go to New York!

UN Multimedia offers a free downloadable raw materials and completed productions in broadcast quality for radio, television and online news outlets worldwide.

Available materials include radio productions, weekly magazines, raw recordings of the General Assembly, short feature stories, daily feed of broadcast quality video stories, historical footages and a lot more. All these are found at **UN Multimedia website** (www.unmultimedia.org).

If your station is interested in becoming a UN broadcast partner, please contact:

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Source: <http://www.unmultimedia.org>



Understanding Trafficking Won Humanitarian Award at the 2011 Tiburon Film Festival

Understanding Trafficking, a documentary film by Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti won the Humanitarian Award at the recently concluded Tiburon International Film Festival 2011.

"*Understanding Trafficking* stresses the difference between women who migrate and join the sex trade and women who are trafficked into the sex trade", as stated on the official website of the festival, "Ananya, through this film, seeks to convey that it is wrong to classify all women who make it to the world's oldest profession as victims of trafficking.

Ananya Chatterjee-Chakraborti is a filmmaker and television journalist. She heads the Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and has made several documentaries on women's issues before like *Dwitiya Paksha*, *Gandhari* and *Half Way Home*.

Ananya is also a member of IAWRT India Chapter and manages the Anti-Trafficking project of IAWRT in India.

Source: <http://dearcinema.com/news/indian-docu-wins-humanitarian-award-at-tiburon-film-festival/4224>

ways of seeing: rhetoric & reality

By Jai Chandiram

The 7th IAWRT Asian Women's Festival "**Ways of Seeing: Rhetoric and Reality**" attracted 130 entries from Asian women filmmakers. 42 films from 14 countries were screened; 34 filmmakers were present to share their experiences and interact with the audience. This year, we associated with South Asian Visual Arts Center (SAVAC), Birds Eye View Film Festival (UK) and Thai Film Foundation. Entries also came from Netpak (represented by Aruna Vasudev) and national and international media institutions like NID, FTII and AFTS.

Birds Eye View Film Festival, London, selected some IAWRT festival films for screening in their own festival during the same period. AFTS supported their student entry Sosefina. P.V Satheesh from Deccan Development Society supported the travel and accommodation for our youngest film maker, 10 year old Mayuri. The Director of Indian Council for Cultural Affairs (ICCR) gave unstinted support for the seminar and hospitality which helped to make the event successful. From the corporate sector, support for hospitality came from the company, RAL/ Nippo. The full support of the IIC Director and program staff made the event memorable.

Introducing the 7th IAWRT Asian Women's festival Jai Chandiram, Managing Trustee, IAWRT India Chapter and Festival Director reiterated that this is the only festival in Asia that focuses on Asian women filmmakers. She said "There is a need to increase access to resources, question power equations and raise consciousness by focusing on women's voices and the work they produce to understand that gender is a continuing factor in human rights across the world". The festival was inaugurated by Justice Leila Seth who has relentlessly fought for human rights and gender justice.

The theme of the festival '**Ways of Seeing: Rhetoric and Reality**' was that films will articulate through multiple lenses the lives, events and concerns of our layered society and reflect how women (as filmmakers and/or as protagonists) go beyond manifestation to question and express through new forms and contents. The festival included documentaries, short fiction, experimental films and animation. In many films, we see women's engagement in public life and home undergoing change. Public space and home merge and developments and politics impacts homes. These films explore what women think and how they respond to events, how women interpret events and their visions. In this festival we see how women are at the forefront of the struggle for land rights, gender justice and many other issues.

The stories are told as personal journeys in search for dreams, visions with remarkable perseverance to find the truth and the self. Many stories are told with a touch of lightness interpreting the self. There is a consistent fierce expression for freedom that the home must also change if the world is to change. We also look at the rich inheritance of older women and their influence on the young. These documentaries and features contemporise the issues and puts the "other frames" on "identities and struggle" which was also the subject of our seminar. The last few festivals have given us insights into conflicts, violence, inequalities, identities and gender justice. Many of the films sensitively explored ideas that action is required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life. This festival provides us an opportunity to connect and energise us to face the challenges of sustainability and paths for survival. It is a carefully curated festival and brings the best work of our filmmakers.

This is a unique festival where members volunteer in various capacities from curating to moderating, from airport pick ups to projection assistance. The Festival was widely covered in the local press, radio and television.

IAWRT Members & their World Premiere Films



Iffat

Mahuya

Anupama

Vani

Jola

Shazia

'This is Delhi my Love'

Vani Subramaniam

'P.O.418 Siyast Kanpur'

Shazia Ilmi

'Why?'

Anupama Srinivasan

'Colours of Ability' & 'Hope in the Wall'

Mahuya Bandyopadhyay

'The Real Gold'

Jola Diones Mamangun

Launch of UN Women

By Bandana Rana



Bringing global commitment on gender equality and women's empowerment to a new height.



The launch of UN Women brings an unprecedented opportunity for the UN, national governments and civil society to take the global commitment of gender equality and women's empowerment to a new height. I was extremely overwhelmed with the opportunity provided to me by UN Women to speak on behalf of the civil society at the UN Women Launch on 24th Feb. Before a packed General Assembly Hall that day I felt truly honoured as the fourth speaker to take the floor after the Chair of the General Assembly, the Secretary General and Michele Bachelet the Under Secretary General of UN Women. During the three minutes that I was given to speak I reiterated the strong hope of the civil society that UN Women would:

- Be able to deliver results and make a real impact on the ground
- Change women's status on a worldwide scale, and support grassroots movement
- Take leadership in addressing the situation of women in armed conflict, and in post conflict situations, in terms of participation in peace building, and access to security
- Have adequate funding to take up its role effectively
- Institutionalize meaningful systematic engagement, with women's groups and Civil Society Organizations
- Be a supporter and convener of the women's agenda.

I ended my remarks by saying that if this would happen, I strongly believed, that UN Women, would be the medium that would fulfill the long awaited dreams, of millions of women, from around the world.

Photo by: McIlwaine - UN Women
Full write-up is available at: www.iawrt.org

International Women's Day -A Salute to the Century Celebration

By Elizabeth Roxas

2011 marks the 100th year of the International Women's Day celebrated every 8th of March in most countries all over the world. Others would even opt for a month-long celebration. Events took place in more than 100 countries where some of our chapters are based to which they share—

IAWRT Cameroon took part in a restitution exercise initiated by SERVITAS Cameroon held in Douala, which steered consultation in support of the UN Women. It also serves as an opportunity to present the vision of IAWRT and its activities.

The 7th IAWRT Asian Women's Festival dubbed "Ways of Seeing: Rhetoric and Reality" held last March 5,7 and 8 in Delhi was also the Chapter's way of celebrating the International Women's Day. Organized by the India Chapter with other partners, is the only festival in Asia that focuses on women.

Kenya Chapter, for one whole week, broadcasted the 5-minute documentaries taken from the 2nd production series of IAWRT, "Breaking the Silence".

Moldova Chapter participated in a women rights debate live on public TV and did a screening of the IAWRT documentary production series, "Breaking the Silence", at the parliament with another conference on women rights.

Norwegian Chapter had a very interesting meeting and a debate on women's participation in media, and presented results from the latest international monitoring an avenue of interest to IAWRT.

IAWRT Philippines continued with its commitment to support the information and education components of the Magna Carta of Women through the electronic media (radio programs of members more details on the IAWRT website).

Tanzania Chapter members took part in the demonstration held in Dar es Salaam from Karimjee Hall (former parliament hall) to Mnazi Mmoja Park wearing T-shirts with a slogan "Stop Gender Violence, it's a Criminal Offense", where women from all walks of life marched, gathered and listened to testimonies of victims to pressure support from the government.

THIS FAR WE HAVE COME . . . *By Racheal Nakitare*

A baby girl born in Kenya today has every reason to broaden her smile compared to our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers. Not only will she have been born after the promulgation of the Kenyan constitution on August 4th, 2010 and so open to all the opportunities the new constitution accords women, but she will be happy to only read the discrimination and deprivation those before them experienced if the present generation takes it in their stride, to allow them to do that.

The establishment of the Kenya national human rights and Equality Commission as a constitutional office, the establishment of the gender commission as a standalone and the provision for 30 % representation of women at all leadership levels in the new constitution is evident of the government's commitment towards gender equity and women empowerment. The constitution dedicates a whole chapter to land and environment (chapter 5) where article six seeks to address previous injustices and specifically issues of gender and property rights where girls had been denied rights to inherit family property which includes land. Apart from owning property, women will now seek to confer citizenship to foreign husbands and children under dual citizenship.

Furthermore, in her efforts to reduce incidence of Gender Based Violence and retrogressive cultural practices, the family protection bill, marriage and matrimonial property bill of 2009 and the Female genital mutilation bill are all before parliament for debate. It should not be lost to observers that the FGM bill was tabled by Mr. Fred Kapondi, MP for the Mount Elgon, clear indication of changed mindsets and partnership with male counterparts on accelerating momentum on women's concerns and empowerment. The chapter on the bill of rights elaborately guarantees all forms of freedom to all citizens thus addresses issues of equality and all forms of discrimination. As the government struggles to ensure that the constitution is implemented within the stipulated framework, women must remain vigilant on these gains and ensure that they are respected.

The executive recently recalled appointments it had made to four top government positions of the Chief Justice, Director of Public Prosecution, Attorney General and Controller of Budget for reasons every side interpreted to suit itself. With haggling of whether "adequate consultations" were made, "constitutionality" of the process, respect for the power sharing deal signed in 2008 National accord and Reconciliation Act and lack of involvement of the Judicial Service Commission, the only principle that stood undisputed by both sides was the oversight over gender representation. While ruling following the application made by women's organizations under the G10 movement Justice Musinga said "There is no reasonable explanation given why none of the four appointees was a woman. Even without considering other relevant provisions of the Constitution, I am satisfied the petitioners have demonstrated they have a prima facie (on the face of it) case."



CJMC

By Dr. Manju Mishra

College of Journalism and Mass Communication in Kathmandu has been running for the last ten years, solely devoted to catering to the needs of the students aspiring to be competent and ethically sound media professionals. It is the pioneer college in Nepal to offer Master's Degree in Mass Communication. It is the first college established on sole initiatives and efforts and has been headed by a woman, no other than Dr. Manju Mishra, a member of the IAWRT Nepal Chapter

So far it has produced 350 students and currently around 115 students are pursuing their studies in mass communication. Since the college is exclusively imparting education in mass communication, only the students wishing to hone their skills in journalism get enrolled in the college. Students from India, Kenya, Bhutan and France have also been enrolled in to the college, thus making it an international college.

The ultimate goal of the college is to transform it into a vibrant university so that it can extend its service to all the needy who want pursue their studies in mass communication. IAWRT members are welcome to CJMC.

The Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media unveiled at the Women in Media Conference

By Farida Nekzad



More than 100 women professional in Media from all over the world participated in the 4-day conference organized by International Women Media Foundation (IWWMF) at George Washington University. The Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media, which provides a comprehensive view of where women stand in the hierarchy of the international news media, was unveiled during the conference.

The global report provides the first international baseline study of women's status in news companies using a systematic methodology and including nations from all regions of the world.

According to the findings of this report, men hold the vast majority of the seats on governing boards across 7 regions at 74.1 percent. The research found that the challenges and problems faced by women journalists across the world are more or less similar. At the end of the conference, a Global Plan of Action was produced. This will try to address the challenges faced by female media professionals.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

By Gunilla Ivarsson

The Comitée working with the overview of IAWRT governing documents is looking for input from IAWRT members. The main task per instruction from the International Board is to review the Statutes and propose revisions that will reflect the current state of IAWRT and of the future. The proposal will be presented and decided upon by the General Assembly during the Biennial Conference in Malaysia. Initial work has been done at the Regional Meeting in Manila, Philippines in August 2010. As a take off point, the Board has identified specific provisions that the Committee should look into.

A follow-up workshop was conducted with the Chapter Heads and members attending the Regional Meeting in Cameroon in November 2010. Since then the members of the working group has been working mainly with the statutes, although the goal is to also to address the other existing governing documents – Policies and Procedures, and Procedures for Establishing Chapters.

To ensure transparency and to help us fulfil the task, **we need to have input and opinions from as many members as possible worldwide.** We are also anxious to cover all the different perspectives, backgrounds and cultures that exist in the global family of IAWRT.

The workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon dealt with a couple of questions, see below, and now we hope for more input/reactions. If you don't have a copy of the existing Statutes, please turn to your Chapter, or if you are in a country without chapter, you can surely find the documents on the IAWRT web, in the members room. Another alternative is to ask Gunilla Ivarsson, Head of the working group or any other of the Comitée members to email you the documents. So these are the issues discussed at the Cameroon workshop, and the questions we want you to react upon:

- *Mission and Goals – updating needed?*
- *The balance between statutes and other steering documents to secure organizational democracy but also give stability and sustainability? What areas should be covered in the Statutes (decided by the Members Meeting) and what areas should be covered by other guiding documents (decided by the International Board, confirmed by the Members Meeting)*
- *Membership Criteria – member groups, voting rights, etc.*
- *Relations between Chapters and International Board - reporting, financial, co-ordination*
- *Any other area you want to address?*

We are looking forward to hear from IAWRT members!

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TIME TO PREPARE FOR IAWRT ELECTIONS

By Gunilla Ivarsson

This is just to highlight that 2011 is not only a conference year, but also time to elect members to the IAWRT International Board. Elections are always important for an organisation, but this time we will really need members to be prepared to nominate candidates. Following the IAWRT Statutes (article 4 and 5) and Policies and Procedures (P 2) the positions as President and as Treasurer are among the board positions to be elected at the Members Meeting. Nomination forms will be sent out to members in good time before the conference, to give the Nominating Comitée a basis for the work, which is to come up with a well grounded list of names to put forward to the Members Meeting for decision. What competences are needed in the new board?

The members in the Nominating Comitée with the task to prepare the 2011 IAWRT elections are:

Gunilla Ivarsson, Sweden
 Bandana Rana, Nepal
 Rose Haji, Tanzania

Don't hesitate to contact us on any matter connected with the IAWRT elections!



COVERING CRIMES: How Pakistani Media Reports on Rape Cases

The report attempts to view how women of Pakistan, who confront rampant injustice in the face of brutal crimes committed against them, are treated by the “omnipresent” eyes of our society- the media.

Our very own IAWRT member from Pakistan, Tasneem Ahmar is pleased to share her research team's latest publication and some of the media response on it that includes a TV talk show.

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWn8nV-adNo>

Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whfdcV1_dJw

Part 3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2Y66JuG_ys

2011 IAWRT International Awards of Excellence

MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD . . . SEE THEIR LIVES!

Invitations are now open for the 2011 IAWRT International Awards for Excellence in Documentary Making.

The IAWRT Awards celebrate outstanding documentaries made by women and are open to all female producers, directors and journalists working with radio, television and film documentaries anywhere in the world.

Documentaries must be about women who are making a difference to their own lives or to the lives of other women. Entries must be between 20 - 90 minutes long for Film and 15 - 60 minutes for Radio and have been broadcast, or shown at a competitive festival from October 2009 - September 2011.

An international jury of professionals will assess entries and the winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner during the IAWRT 34th Biennial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 21-24 November 2011.

The Award for the most outstanding documentary in each medium is US \$1,000.

Further information, entry forms and full details of the Entry Rules and Regulations will be posted on the IAWRT website at <http://www.iawrt.org/advisory-2-call-entries> and enquiries should be directed to gerd.inger.polden@nrk.no. Program makers have until **Thursday, 15 September 2011** to submit an entry.



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The 34th Biennial Conference is ON!

It's a DATE!

21st to the 24th of November 2011

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Be prepared...Book early...Get ready with your luggage...

Check on the complete details very, very soon at www.iawrt.org



FEEDBACK

The IAWRT newsletter is looking great and appealing. Congratulations for the great work.

- J. Wareta, Kenya

Believe it or not ...It looks great, well designed, and very informative.

- Benaz Batrawi, Palestine

The lay out looks good.

- Geetha Skarner, Nepal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Access codes to website have been issued to members. For those having problems, please email info@iawrt.org

Some of the IAWRT Production Series have been uploaded on the web and more will be put up soon
<http://www.iawrt.org/themes/film>

Latest IAWRT Membership Application Form is downloadable at
<http://www.iawrt.org/node/1548>