IAWRT on the Eve of its 34th Biennial Conference

We are only a few weeks away from our Biennial Conference and things have really heated up!

The awards entries are flowing in, the registrations are coming thick and fast and the Secretariat is making a valiant effort keeping up with it all. And I hope that you are planning to attend or at least to follow the proceedings on our website. The Biennial Conference promises to be very exciting and we already have a good number of our members who have registered and indications of many more to come. The draft program is now on our website and I encourage you to have a look and see where you can contribute your thoughts and experiences. If you can't be with us, let us know what you think on the subjects so that your views can be reflected and debated during the plenary sessions.

For IAWRT, the Biennial Conferences are the premier events for not only maintaining contact with each other but to keep up with trends in our professions, to hear from our members and other experts in the fields of media and most importantly to continue the dialogue on why now, more than ever, it is critical to have women engaged meaningfully and represented realistically, in the world’s media. It is also a time when all our chapters come together and talk about their wins and challenges, and when new chapters are added to our growing IAWRT family. This is the best time to meet friends you haven't seen for a while, make new acquaintances and add to our collective knowledge base. This is what makes IAWRT such a special organization.

I won't go on as this is a very full issue of the newsletter but I wanted to end by thanking you for your support over the last 6 years while I've been on the Board and the last four years of my Presidency. I have been very privileged to work with a whole lot of highly skilled, talented and committed women and I am all the better for it. This is an amazing organization, one that doesn’t exist anywhere else and we, as members must do everything we can to support it and each other so that our work can continue and thrive. As I leave the Board at the end of my term, I am grateful for the opportunities I have had, the people I have met and worked with, on the Board and in the wider membership and I leave a very tired, but highly satisfied and a much more skilled person.

Thank you and keep in touch,

Olya
IAWRT: 60 Years Old but Far from Retired


In the family of international media organizations, sixty years is quite a respectable age. Born in 1951, in the aftermath of the Second World War, IAWRT still seems to arouse interest and respect both for its background and history and for its aims and vision. Although there is a considerable number of international media organizations, also specifically for women, there seems to be a need of an organization of hands-on practitioners – women who actually work journalistically in the electronic media. That gives IAWRT a rather unique status and position and influence in terms of membership and geographical representation. Are we making the most of this position? Have we kept up with the times?

Looking back, I would say that IAWRT has seen an impressive development—opening up for a wider perception of “radio and TV” to include “electronic media”, in tune with the new technologies; professionalizing both the organization and members by providing a variety of training opportunities, scholarships and production projects; and decentralizing the structure with a growing number of chapters to face the realities and needs of members in their own areas and everyday work situations.

But let us face it, in addition to the hard work and commitment of competent presidents, board members and chapter heads at all levels, much of these positive developments would not have been possible without the sustained support of FOKUS, the Norwegian umbrella organization for women and development. And if there is one thing I am glad of from my own time as president, it is that this link was established, and that we managed to convince FOKUS that IAWRT is worth supporting. Succeeding presidents, and not least Norwegian chapter heads, have kept FOKUS “warm” and developed the relationship further so that IAWRT today has a high standing in the family of FOKUS organizations.

So yes, we have developed and made use of our position. But we should not lean back and be satisfied! There is, in my mind, still an unexplored potential for IAWRT to make a difference and to work towards our vision: “To advance the impact of women working in the electronic media...and ensure that that women’s views and values are an integral part of electronic programming”, as it says in our statutes. Let me try to be more specific:

- Link up more directly and actively with relevant international organizations
- Explore new needs, new ways and methods of offering members professional and personal development
- The name and status of IAWRT visualized in the membership card, should give the holder a measure of protection and a feeling of having the support of a respected international organization

I may not be in the position to set forward such ideas and ambitions for IAWRT at this point but my long attachment and my lasting belief in its potentials give me the courage to set them forth.

Good Luck to the ongoing Board!
New Challenge for IAWRT

By Elisabeth Kirkby
President, 1976-1980

I have been a member of IAWRT since 1963 and have attended conferences since 1970 in Brussels.

Our emphasis then was to ensure that women were represented in all fields of radio and television and that our views and aspirations were respected. Initially, IAWRT was Eurocentric. I can remember how exciting it was in 1979 to go to Jamaica for our conference, the first time away from familiar European surroundings. So much has changed since then. Now we are truly ‘international’ with 10 chapters around the globe.

IAWRT has achieved much as women wherever there is an IAWRT chapter have the chance to promote the ideas and values that are important to them and to their country. We share in seconds the tragedies that others experience whether through hurricanes, droughts or earthquakes. Natural disasters in one country are no longer a local event, they are known to us all. So, much that has changed in the lifetime of IAWRT is good and we can be proud of our achievements.

But, although we have made giant strides with technology, we have also paid a price for that progress. Television has become increasingly commercialized, and television advertising has compromised professional standards of presentation; in the west, it has damaged the health of our children by promoting junk food, and influenced their behavior by presenting violence and brutality as acceptable entertainment. The true values of western civilization in art, music, literature and poetry are regarded as ‘minority interests’ and given little exposure. The advertising revenue is so important that programs are tailored to include the ten or twelve minutes of advertising now the norm in every thirty minute slot. Many advertisements are repetitious and presented at the highest volume possible, to ensure that viewers get the message.

So, if we are asked to consider what IAWRT members should do next, maybe we might like to consider assisting women in addressing the growing incidence of violence against women in line with the incidence of violence on TV as exposed by the Women in Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN) in 2011. IAWRT supports many United Nations conventions, including the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), as well as UN resolutions on the rights of the child, the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, and the need to shield women from mental and physical abuse.

It would not be difficult for us to reveal, in our own work, the problems that women face, even in wealthy countries such as Australia. In 2011, such problems are faced by women everywhere. The needs exposed by WIPAN are not unique and should be discussed more widely. We have the opportunity to do that, not only in documentaries, but in drama, news bulletins and in the ‘real life’ programs that are currently a staple feature of commercial television in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

I make this as a suggestion, because I believe it should be one of the many things that IAWRT might consider for the future, using all the new technology that future members will enjoy.

Dowager

By Jai Chandiram
President, 2001-2005

IAWRT at 60 is a wealthy dowager with a young heart!

Her wealth is her member’s vision and talent that reaches out to millions through her work in media. Her heart remains young through its young membership that grows with the new technologies and its exploration for new applications.

As I look through our reports so expertly and thoroughly written by Oona as she itemized Urvashi’s evaluation points for development of IAWRT and the steps taken we can with a smile have a sense of accomplishment. The Presidents columns also reveal and direct us on the events, views and personalities that we integrated and networked to make us visible and meaningful in our communities. We were concerned to reach out and be the voice of silence.

This connects me to Anna Leah Sarabia, my entry to bond with IAWRT. Anna came to Delhi last week .We had not been in touch for 15 years and it was like we’ve always been in touch. Anna , Gundel and Mette were my introduction to IAWRT .Anna and I walked through the memories of the Manila Conference and its momentous happenings. In our enthusiasm we got Sally Cloninger on the skype and Margaret Gallagher on the mail! New projects just bubbled up and we will see some actions in many directions.

The India Chapter grows and we look forward next year to new trustees on the board!

What Does It Mean to be a Member of Something?

By Christina Ruhnbro
President, 1992-1997

It is a kind of responsibility.
It makes you a link of a chain,
a part of its past and future.
It means joy and friendship.
It gives you – in the case of IAWRT
– a worldwide professional network.
It enhances you privately and jobwise.
Anti-Trafficking

By Ananya Chakraborti

The anti-trafficking project, which is in its fourth year now is gradually consolidating its presence in Bengal. This year, the focus is on working on the long film, working on the post production of the shorts, holding a seminar, and conducting three gender sensitization workshops for students.

The **work on the long film** has started since last year. After some rigorous research last year, we started the shooting this year. Four characters have been identified for this film, which will focus on the challenges of rehabilitation, repatriation and re-integration into society of the rescued girls. One of the characters is Kajal, the girl who is working with me. Another girl is from Nepal, while the third one is from Bangladesh. We plan to follow them on their return to Nepal and Bangladesh through their repatriation and dwell on their rehabilitation process.

**Four of the short films are almost ready**, and at least some of them can be ready to be screened at the Biennial Conference. The **student workshops**, like previous years, will start from September in three colleges. The seminar will be held probably in November or December.

Meanwhile I have spoken to the Chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for Women about the necessity of **forming an anti-trafficking cell** consisting of the police, the judiciary, the media, NGOs and members of the civil society. She seemed keen on the idea. Perhaps the seminar can be the starting point for such a cell.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

By Olivia Tumanjong

The **formation of the reflection committee** is an activity that we decided to spread through the project. Therefore, it is an ongoing activity. There already exists a cluster group in the communities concerned. This group is made up of former practitioners, administrative officers, some traditional and religious leaders who are working towards the putting in place of the reflection committee to go operational by the end of 2011.

The **practice sessions** started at the beginning of the year. So far we have been able to make the members of the **theatre troupe** to appropriate the messages and get used to performing. This has not been without problems because we are dealing with amateurs for the most part who are basically not exposed to this kind of activity. Again, we seem to have overestimated their capacity assimilate the vision of the performance which means we had to go in for more sessions than we originally planned to. We also had some hitches with regard to practice times, which sometimes coincided with the other activities like farming. Consequently, there has been a lot of rescheduling to suit these needs. However, we are on track to start pre testing in the month of August 2011.

The **production of the posters** is ongoing. We have already had consultations with some religious and traditional leaders and some former practitioners on the kind of messages to use.

---

**34th Biennial Conference**
**PROGRAMME**

**Theme**

**New Paradigms: Media Women Responding to Change**

**20 Nov – Pre-Conference Activities**

- 17:30 Welcome, Dinner & Opening of Exhibit
- Screenings of a Selection of Award Entries

**21 Nov – Day 1**

- Registration
- Opening Ceremony
- Keynote Address
- Session 1 – Women in the Line of Fire: Reporting from War/Conflict
- Session 2 – Social Media: Women Reclaiming the Space
- Session 3 – Using Media to Engage Women in Governance
- The Great Debate - Feminism is Finished Business. Move On?

**22 Nov – Day 2**

Session 4 - Documentary Master Class
- Anti-Trafficking
- FGM
- Enforced Disappearances

Session 5 - IAWRT Short Documentaries
- Violence Against Women: Breaking the Silence

Session 6 - Broadcasting for All – Focus on Gender

Screening of Award Entries

**23 Nov – Day 3**

- Session 7 - Investigative Journalism
- Session 8 - Using Advocacy Tools to Create Social Movements
- Session 9 - Training Women in Broadcast Technology
- Visit to Local Media Houses
- Gala Dinner & IAWRT Awards of Excellence

**24 Nov – Day 4**

- Members' Meeting and Elections
- Workshop on Statutes and Procedures
- Members’ Meeting
- Board Elections
- Optional Activities

For more information, please contact secretariat@iaurt.org
IAWRT at 60 is younger and sprightly than ever. Over the 60 years, it has changed its mission only to conform to the spirit of its original mandate, which is to promote friendship and exchange of ideas among women journalists who would otherwise not meet. The divides we have overcome include medium (radio vs. TV vs. film vs. internet media), nationalities, distances, the enmities between our governments, hemispheric rivalries (originally seen as East-West, and now also as North-South) - and today also the "digital divide." I feel immensely privileged to have attended every IAWRT conference from 1999 to 2007, to have served the organization for two terms, and especially to have met and gotten to admire so many of you. I’ll be eternally grateful to the late Mal Johnson for practically dragging me to that first amazing conference in India, where she and Jai and Indu and Ida and Ana Leah and others worked with me to produce the memorable IAWRT video. And later the grand time with Memb on the radio jury and becoming friends with Violet in Berlin... Visiting IAWRT leaders in Norway... And touring Radio Koch with Leah and Victoria in Kenya... The WINGS 20th anniversary and honoring of Mal in Washington DC when I was so proud to hear everyone speak... So many memories, I can’t possibly name or thank everyone enough for what you’ve meant to me. My apologies for not attending this year, but don’t give up on me - I keep you in my heart and I expect to be back one day. Carry on!

**Half-Widows**

By Ifat Fatima

The work on the Half-Widows project since 2006 in collaboration with the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) from Kashmir remained in progress. With the support of the ongoing project, APDP has emerged as a frontline Human Rights Organization. It goes to the credit of the networking and media management that their work is being recognized in national and international fora.

In January 2011, APDP in collaboration with the Working Group on Human Rights co-organized the official visit of Margaret Sekagya, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders to Kashmir. During her visit to Srinagar she held consultation with human rights activists, victims and civil society organizations. Her visit to Kashmir was very significant in the context of the widespread and systematic violations of human rights in Kashmir, particularly by security forces. Parveena Ahanger, Chairperson of APDP, submitted before her cases of ‘enforced disappearances’ by security forces and the role of her organization in supporting families and seeking accountability and justice from the State. Her Srinagar consultation received wide coverage in the media. The media reports also highlighted that Parveena Ahanger and APDP had assisted in arranging for her interaction with civil society actors including lawyers, journalists and academe.

The other positive development has been the nomination of Parveena Ahanger for the frontline human rights defenders award 2011. Gerd Inger Polden from IAWRT Norway had co-nominated her for the prestigious award. Parveena is amongst the ten special people who have been awarded in Dublin in September and participated in high-level media briefings. This has gone a long way in highlighting the cause of Enforced Disappearances in Kashmir.

The short film “Where Have You Hidden My New Moon Crescent” made in course of the project by Ifat Fatima has been widely screened and has contributed to the advocacy of the issue of disappearances in several cities and venues in India. It was screened at the IAWRT film festival in Delhi on March 8. It is also uploaded on the APDP web site www.disappearancesinkashmir.com. A facebook page campaigning against Disappearances has also been set up by APDP.

Work on the production of the audio video manual is continuing. Research, documentation and collection of materials for the product are completed. The writing and scripting is underway. Although there are some inputs from other countries in South Asia, but due to constraints of budget and time, the materials for the manual is generated largely from work in Kashmir.

Editing on the larger documentary film on Disappearances is also in full swing since May 2011. The film is being edited from almost 200 hours of materials collected over the last five years of the project. These are precious archive of testimonies and record of events that have occurred during these years in Kashmir.

**Carry On!**

By Frieda Werden

President, 2005-2007
Summary of the **2011 Mid-Year Reports** of the current IAWRT Chapters

**Cameroon, Chapter Head: Olivia Tumanjong**
- Took part in a restitution exercise initiated by SERVITAS Cameroon held in Douala which steered consultation in support of the UN Women
- Madeleine took active part in the CSW55 conference in New York together with other board and members and one of the IAWRT panellists at its side event “Engendering technologies: Women take Charge.”

**India, Chapter Head: Jai Chandiram**
- Successfully organized the Asian Women Film Festival at the India International Center, New Delhi in March coinciding with the celebration of the International Women’s Day after which the festival travels in various cities and colleges of India.
- The travelling festival provided a venue for engaged and informed discussions between filmmakers and activists, students, academe, fellow IAWRT members, etc.

**Kenya, Chapter Head: Racheal Nakitare**
- Some members started integrating in their radio and TV programs women issues in light of the new constitution
- Participated in the celebration of World Press Freedom Day organized by UNESCO and Media Council where its Chapter Head Racheal Nakitare presented a paper on “Positioning Radio and TV in the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities for Women”. This has been a great opportunity to share and promote IAWRT ideals and goals to its captured audience i.e., media practitioners and owners, academe, students, and civil society in the East and Horn of Africa region. This resulted in a follow-up event that brought together consulates and embassies in five locations across African continent (Nairobi, Kenya; Cape Town and Pretoria, South Africa; Harare, Zimbabwe and Dar es salaam, Tanzania) on May 9, 2011 and discussed through a panel the “Barriers that Women in Media Face in Africa.”
- Started developing proposals to support their planned activities for the year.

**Moldova, Chapter Head: Alina Radu**
- Organized activities that promote women’s rights in Moldovan broadcasting institutions:
  - screenings of documentaries about women trafficking, making women more visible in politics, rights of Moldovan Roma populations
  - debate at the Moldovan parliament on situation of women in politics
  - press exhibition of Moldovan media emphasizing on the situation of women and children in the society
  - production of programs promoting women in local elections key positions
  - participation in local TV festivals about women trafficking
- All the above activities have created impact to make the society more sensitive on various women’s issues like domestic violence, trafficking, labor exploitation, women’s visibility in politics that would somehow lead toward women empowerment

**Norway, Chapter Head: Gerd Inger Polden**
- The Norwegian Chapter celebrated Women’s Day, 8th of March with an Open meeting in NRK addressing the results of the Global Media Monitoring Project, showing that 81% of the experts used by the media in Norway are men. IAWRT member, Kristin Orgeret lecturer at the Journalist education in Oslo, presented the Norwegian results. Media researcher in NRK, Hilde Thoresen, presented results from NRK’s own monitoring. A panel with the Programme Director in NRK, and three women lecturers/researchers, discussed how to augment the participation of women experts in the media. As a result of the meeting, we recruited two new members.
- On March 7th the Chapter was invited by NORAD to open their new venue for The Development House in Oslo, with one day of screening IAWRT films. We presented the Trafficking project and screened one of the 30 min. documentaries, and the documentation
of the workshop, together with the anti-trafficking spots. NORAD is interested in further cooperation.

- In March, we also held our annual meeting, with election of new members to the board.
- We have negotiated cooperation with The Film from South International Festival in Oslo. This autumn Ananya Chakraborti, will present her FOKUS/IWRT project film Understanding Trafficking during the Festival. This is funded with an extra information funding from FOKUS. The Norwegian Chapter also applied to FOKUS for travel scholarship for international board member, Madeleine Memb, to attend CSW in New York.
- We have assisted the Secretariat and the President in writing and delivering the 2010 written and financial report to FOKUS, as well as revising the application for 2011, and sending the first part of the 2011 grant to the Secretariat.
- One of our members has been in the committee working with new Statutes for IAWRT.

**Philippines, Chapter Head: Elizabeth Roxas**

- The Philippine Chapter has designated one of its members to develop guidelines and procedures in conducting the evaluation of IAWRT production series. Several levels or review will be conducted and results will be consolidated and submitted to the IAWRT International as the Chapter’s contribution to the Biennial Conference in November 2011.
- Two program directions are being worked out by the Chapter, one is on building capacities of its members and the other one is on how chapter would be able to help other groups, particularly women in media.

**South Africa, Chapter Head: Linda Daniels**

- As part of the 2011 World Press Freedom Day Celebration, the African Regional Media Hub collaborated with the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) and US Embassies in three (3) African countries—Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe to discuss on the barriers facing women in media with the following media icons on the panel: **Judith McHale** - Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; **Dr. Pippa Green** – Associate Professor and Head of the Journalism Program at the University of Pretoria; **Khadija Patel** – Founder of Makutano Publications; **Jennifer Mufune** - CEO, Gender and Media Southern Africa.
- As a result of the dialogue, women noted that women continue to face discrimination and lack of opportunity, e.g., women do not hold senior editorial positions in media. The success that the panelists have shown in the industry serves as an inspiration to other women in media.
- The Chapter is currently having discussions with the critically acclaimed film director and investigative journalist, Liz Fish on conducting a training for the members of the IAWRT South Africa Chapter.

**Tanzania, Chapter Head: Rose Haji-Mwalimu**

- Active participation in the International Women’s Day demonstration held at Dar es Salaam from Karimjee Hall (former Parliament Hall) to Mnazi Mmoja Park where the Minister for Community Development, Children and Gender, Sophia Simba addressed the rally.
- Successfully conducted content and skills training in three (3) locations that benefited a total of 98 community media practitioners
- On-going participation in the Election/Nomination Committee tasked by the International Board.

**USA, Chapter Head: Arshiya Ahsan**

- Chapter promotion and networking with UN agencies and other international women’s media groups
- Co-organizing of the IAWRT side event in New York on 24 February 2011—“Engendering Technologies: Women Take Charge”. This has been a successful staging activity both for IAWRT as an international organization in establishing global visibility and to IAWRT USA chapter in building new partnerships and alliances with local media groups and civil society organizations.
“Understanding Trafficking” gains another distinction

Ananya Chakraborti, an IAWRT India Chapter member and a renowned filmmaker based in Kolkata, got another prominent distinction for her film, “Understanding Trafficking”. The film was awarded best film for social issues under the President’s Silver Lotus category of the 58th National Film Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi on September 9, 2011 with President Pratibha Patil who handed over the award. The National Film Awards is considered the most prominent film award ceremony in India established in 1954 and is administered, along with the International Film Festival of India and the Indian Panorama by the Indian Government’s Directorate of Film Festivals since 1973.

“Understanding Trafficking” has garnered numerous prestigious citations and continues to receive invitations for screenings at various film festivals worldwide.

Festival of Emerging Cinemas

In August 2011, the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) though the untiring energy of Jai Chandiram, Head of India Chapter, organized a unique film festival called the Festival of Emerging Cinemas at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The festival was a celebration of the diversity in creative expression of the cinemas that are emerging in the towns and villages of India. It is intended to showcase films that are made by people living in the communities they are speaking to and about. Likewise, films that have something to say, speak in a local idiom, and are rooted in the region.

WITNESS’ TOOLKIT

WITNESS is taking another revolutionary step in making their video advocacy technology accessible to all. WITNESS is excited to share a new resource that incorporates 20 years of experience on strategic advocacy, storytelling, videomaking and distribution that have been developed through partnering with over 250 groups in 80 countries, and training thousands of advocates and groups on how to use video to create change.

WITNESS’ new Video Advocacy Planning Toolkit, is a free, interactive, step-by-step training resource that has 35 instructional videos, a wide range of video advocacy examples and essential questions to help develop a strategic plan. The Toolkit is for anyone who wants to strategically plan how to effectively use video for advocacy, following the same methodology that WITNESS has used with thousands of activists around the world. Participate in this virtual training and have a chance to get a free flip cam. For more details, please read WITNESS blog. Get started now, by visiting http://videoplan.witness.org/

Welcome to the IAWRT Family!

Sokuntheary Kim (Cambodia); Mageswary Ramakrishnan, Munira Murad (Malaysia); Amie Joof (Senegal); Soneni Gwizi (Zimbabwe).

FEEDBACK

I enjoyed reading IAWRT newsletter because of the excellent editorial job that makes it a wonderful newspaper. It is informative, compact and good looking, too.
- Deepa Gautam, Nepal

Thank you very much for the Newsletter. You girls are doing a great job!
- Renuka Sharma, India

Excellent job! Well done IAWRT Secretariat!
- Rose Haji-Mwalimu, Tanzania

34th IAWRT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

New Paradigms: Media Women Responding to Change

21-24 November 2011
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Registration Deadline: Nov 10

For more details, please visit www.iawrt.org