The Tanzania Regional Meeting and GBV

By Rose Haji Mwalimu, Head of Tanzania Chapter

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a grave reality in the lives of many women and children in Tanzania. It results from gender norms and social and economic inequities that give privilege to men over women. It is not a sin to say that there is a mounting recognition in Tanzania of gender discrimination and gender equity in different facets of life. However, Gender-based violence is a relatively new topic of public discussion and intervention in Tanzania.

IAWRT Tanzania Chapter, in collaboration with the IAWRT International, hosted the Regional Conference on Gender-Based Violence against women and children to assess trends, challenges and opportunities to address the issue. The conference brought together around 70 participants comprising of the IAWRT Members, civil society organizations, development partners, the media and the community.

In the official opening, the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children Hon. Sophia Simba (MP), mentioned that women and children need strong laws, backed by implementation and services for protection and prevention in fighting violence. Existing laws like Marriage and Inheritance Act of 1971 undermine the women and girls’ rights as well as Marriage and Inheritance Acts, which is gender-based. She said that the Media has an important role to play in terms of advocating, educating and mobilizing. But unfortunately the exposure to inappropriate media - media that is sexually explicit or contains violent images and bad language; and a lack of guidelines around access like access to community - based video halls, also added to the GBV in society, especially for girls.

She believes that the conference was for women working in media specifically radio and television, a forum for IAWRT to reaffirm their commitment to women’s and child’s rights and that appropriate measures are taken to enable media to become gender sensitive and cover gender based violence properly without bias. “Let us defend human rights, the inherent dignity and worth of the human person, and the equal rights of men and women”.

Hon. Simba reiterated Tanzanian government's support to end violence against women and children by amending legal and change policy environment, improve services for survivors and support awareness-raising and community mobilization/mass media campaigns.

During the conference, human right activists, legal experts, media and non- governmental organizations in related field made various presentations, testimonials, case studies and discussions on GBV.

The lack of programs and protocols on how to respond to GBV shows that there is much work to be done to address the problem. One of the conference recommendations to IAWRT is to establish a Communication Strategy and develop guidelines to campaign against GBV especially in rural areas where the issue is relatively high.

In order to curb GBV in Tanzania the government should revisit the separation from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, the Department of Social Welfare that is currently lodged in another Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. It is also recommended that GBV Fund be established to support survivors in the shelters.

Court environment and procedures for handling GBV are inadequate and intimidating to survivors. The civil society groups are advised to focus on research, advocacy and lobbying for the change while engaging the government to establish the fund for the survivors.

Indeed, there’s a lot of work in order to address the issue of GBV. Hopefully, it does not end here.
Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from a chilly Nairobi where I sit, curled in my shawl with a few layers of extra clothing under the jersey—reminiscent of the winter I experienced in Maryland in 2010. I can’t help but imagine that weather extremes are catching up with tropical Africa. I know friends on the flip side are melting under the heat—Interesting!

The regional workshop held in Dar es Salaam in May 2012 was a resounding success. Thumbs up to Rose Haji Mwalimu and the Tanzania Chapter for hosting phenomenal workshops and arranging memorable tours to police stations and shelter homes, around the theme of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The deliberations gave insights into the various levels and perspectives that GBV has taken in the different countries. Thus, starting a path that will contribute to the tracking of government and civil society interventions on GBV, in line with the projected theme for The 57th Commission on the Status of Women meeting that will be held in February / March 2013.

The regional workshop gave the IAWRT family an opportunity to reflect on the professional journey made so far and to start laying strategies for the way forward in addressing global women’s concerns. I hope that all of you have found time to put in proposals for new projects and activities that will move the organization to the next level as we apply for funding for 2013/14 activities. I was particularly impressed by the turn out and participation of our young members from the region. The workshops we began on web training will be continued in our proposed regional meeting in Tunisia later in the year.

The Olya led workshop on Gender mainstreaming took off in earnest. We encourage members to be part of this exciting exercise that will give insights into the gaps on the practicability of mainstreaming gender in our media organizations. I’m also happy to report that the work initiated by Statutes Committee is almost complete.

IAWRT continues to tap into members’ expertise as part of building linkages and enhancing our skills. We urge you all to update your profiles in our members’ pages so that we can utilize our unexplored human resources. I’m grateful to the communications committee that is working on reloading and restructuring our website to reflect a true electronic media outfit. We have introduced a new feature, which profiles our members every month. I encourage you to share your stories and achievements with the secretariat for inclusion on this new facet. It is envisaged that we will be able to share all regional workshops and biennial conference activities with the entire membership on our website.

The board has found the use of Skype for board meetings an enriching experience besides the financial savings made. I must register my deep appreciation for working with a selfless and vibrant team on the board who juggle around their hours—some staying up so late while others waking up so early because of the different time zones to attend the meetings.

Let me take this opportunity on my behalf the entire membership to congratulate Bandana Rana, Nepal Chapter Head, on the wedding of her daughter. Our congratulations also go to our new member from Rwanda, Bibio, on her upcoming wedding. We wish the new couples happy and fulfilling married lives.

In the same spirit, we wish Jai Chandiram, immediate former trustee of the India chapter and former President of IAWRT, a speedy recovery. Let us remember her in our prayers.

Best wishes in all your good work and I wish our Muslim sisters a blessed Ramadan!

Sincerely,

Racheal
Case Studies in Gender Equality in the Media
By Olya Booyar

During the IAWRT Regional Meeting in Tanzania, a workshop was organized with all participants and IAWRT Chapter representatives to progress the latest initiative by the organization, which is gathering materials for Case Studies in Gender Equality in the Media in the 10 countries represented by IAWRT Chapters. The project is being led by the immediate past President of IAWRT, Olya Booyar, who co-authored the Broadcasting For All: Focus on Gender guidelines for the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD). The project aims to produce a resource citing 10 case studies of Gender Representation in the public broadcasting and private media in 10 countries represented by IAWRT Chapters.

This will provide:
• Gender Profiles of Public Service Broadcasters (PSBs) in the countries with IAWRT Chapters;
• A base line against which we can compare improvement or regression;
• An evidence base IAWRT and its partners can use for lobbying and advocacy for Gender Mainstreaming in our country media houses.

The Tanzania workshop identified work teams, priority areas of research and confirmed a work plan, which includes the final work to be made available by the end of 2012. All Chapters committed to carrying out the research projects and the project leader provided materials to start the research and information gathering stage of the initiative.

Half Widows: Enforced Disappearances in Kashmir
By Iffat Fatima

While the short film, “Where Have You Hidden My New Moon Crescent”, made in course of the project is being widely screened and distributed all over India and internationally, it was announced that the long documentary, “On a Trail of Vanished Blood” has just been completed. Made out of the testimonies and accounts of the Kashmir events in the past five years, this film, which highlights the struggle of women, is rated as the most important film coming out of Kashmir in recent times. However, due to sensitivity of the contents and issues tackled in the film, strategies for its screening and distribution are carefully devised with the human rights, lawyers and other organizations.

The audio-visual literacy manual on enforced disappearances is still in progress while the content and script and design for the manual are finalized. Completion of this output is expected in August 2012.

Anti-Trafficking
By Ananya Chakraborti

The main part of this year’s work comprised of the long documentary on Kajal—the survivor who has been working in, and has been rehabilitated because of this project. With the help of the police, the shoot and search for Kajal’s parents including the allegedly mother and uncle who abducted her started early part of this year. The search result for Kajal’s parents turned out negative but the situation brings positive inspiration as she met the man of her life and got married.

Three Anti trafficking workshops were organized this year in the village and educational institutions to provide information and awareness on how trafficking takes place, protection of oneself from such a crime, among others, to these vulnerable groups.

As a way of giving back and showing appreciation of the Anti-Trafficking to the Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), one of the stakeholders in the anti-trafficking work, a 16-minute film has been developed for them in celebration of their 20th year celebration.

The project is also in close coordination with the India and South Africa Chapters in pursuing the “Football for Freedom”—a fund raising initiative that hopes to support and continue the work in anti-trafficking.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
By Madeleine Memb

In March 2012, after the completion of DVD and CD production on FGM, the Cameroon Chapter has started with its TV, Radio and Community Campaigns. Members of the community are being gathered in a hall to watch the DVD, then a focus discussion on the issue follows.

On the policy level, a draft bill on FGM is being prepared for presentation in Kousséri.
### 2012 IAWRT-FOKUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Kamwiri (Kenya)</td>
<td>BA in Communication &amp; Sociology</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecila Maundu (Kenya)</td>
<td>MA in Communication Studies</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toepista Nabusoba (Kenya)</td>
<td>Masters of Communication in Development</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy Obare (Kenya)</td>
<td>Bachelor in Journalism</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Onyango (Kenya)</td>
<td>MA in Mass Communication Studies</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alina Radu (Moldova)</td>
<td>Short Course on Investigative Journalism in Poland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Inspirational Quotes By Women

*You can write me down in history with hateful, twisted lies, you can tread me in this very dirt, but still, like dust, I’ll rise.*  
- Maya Angelou, poet, educator

*When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others.*  
- Peace Pilgrim, spiritual leader

*I know God will not give me anything I can’t handle. I just wish that He didn’t trust me so much.*  
- Mother Theresa, social activist

*A woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself.*  
- Susan B. Anthony, women’s activist

*If you haven’t forgiven yourself something, how can you forgive others?*  
- Dolores Huerta, activist

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### Nepal-Africa Film Festival 2012: Second Time in Nepal

Africa harbors a lot more than what people learn everyday about this beautiful and rich continent. Its diverse cultures and natural heritages have many untold beautiful stories. The time has come to tell their true stories to the world. It is time to bring in the information from that part of the world to inform and educate the people here. What better way to tell the story of the biggest continent in the world than through Film? The Eight films presented during this festival give us a glimpse of the rich African culture. The Film were collected from partner organizations, the Egyptian embassy as well as South African Consulate and the assistance of the Francophone Society in Nepal.

Dr. Manju Mishra, IAWRT Nepal Chapter and Director of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication organized another success of having the sequel for the Nepal-Africa Film Festival in June. This is in partnership with Association of Media Women in Kenya, Ethiopian Media Women Association, Tanzania Media Women Association, Uganda Media Women Association, Zambia Media Woman Association with support from FK Norway, Francophonie Népal, Russian Cultural Centre and Universal Peace Federation.
IAWRT Production presents . . .

THE CHANGEMAKERS

Women who are taking a stand on local, regional and international issues and are taking risks, asking difficult questions, and finding new solutions to the problems of our times.

Hester Stephens was a domestic worker at the age of 15 and was exploited, underpaid and treated as a slave by her employers. Eventually, she found the courage to form SA Union of Domestic Workers in order to help women like her voice against exploitation and horrific abuse in the workplace.
- Linda Daniels (South Africa)

Polina Turta saved lives of over 1,000 people for voluntarily donating blood. She founded the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors in Moldova, which now constitutes over 2,000 donors saving lives in extreme conditions.
- Aneta Grosu (Moldova)

Tatiana Pavliuc, the director of a prosperous agricultural company from the village Bîrladeni, Ocniţa. Her company has over 67 ha of orchard, equipped with irrigation systems, and modern storage rooms which cannot be found anywhere else in Northern Moldova and employs about 400 employees.
- Stella Jemma (Moldova)

Dr. Jennifer Riria founded Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT) in 1982 when women were not allowed to have any property. Hence, no access to loan facilities, hold bank accounts or invest in large businesses. Dr. Riria’s intervention to close gender disparities is empowering women economically which ultimately hopes to eradicate poverty and strengthen families.
- Josephine Karani (Kenya)

Theresa Balangia is a peasant leader in Misamis Oriental, Philippines whose determination to fight for her justice and land rights was triggered after her house demolition, which violence resulted to loosing her baby. Later, she organized other women in their community and led a Peasant March in October 2011.
- Jola Diones-Mamangun (Philippines)

Dayamani Barla is the Jharkhand’s first adivasi journalist. She fought with India’s largest steel plant with a mass movement and a tireless stride. Barla had already been part of several local people’s movements — against dams on the Koel and Kari rivers, against delimitation that would reduce the number of seats for scheduled tribes, against corrupt NREGA dalals.
- Leena Manimekalai (India)

Molgeri Chandramma, a Dalit woman and widow at the age of 40 turned trials into success through her undying hardwork tilling a small piece of land. Considered as one of the inspiration among women farmers in her community, she also shares her knowledge on ecological farming in Europe, Africa and Asia.
- Narsama Masanagari (India)

Rebecca Kadaga is the First Woman Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament who was elected for her competence, knowledge in the issues and maturity to steer the House in the right direction. This serves as a huge indicator of the increasing importance of women in Uganda’s political domain.
- Proscovia Nandudu (Uganda)

Kavita Kumar shed light to parents of mentally challenged children to shy away from fears and ridicule around them and transform the situation to teaching self-reliance and confidence and helping discover talents of their children.
- Geeta Sahai (India)

Danica Anderson is an international trauma and crisis/disaster responder who has spent 13 years in Bosnia with female war and war crimes survivors where she learned a simple and innate wisdom of “community of women healing themselves.” Danica also worked as a psycho-social gender victims’ expert for the International Criminal Court.
- Angela Soper (USA)

Youth Koeu sacrificed almost all of her life working as a midwife and trainer to save thousands of Cambodian women in the remote province of Preah Vihear, located in Northern part of the country, from suffering during delivery and after giving birth.
- Kim Thidakillianey (Cambodia)

Djessi Ndine Aleine of Cameroon Association of Female Jurists and her significant role in ending violence against women in Cameroon and Africa will be featured along the lines of pushing for a national law that supports the local implementation of CEDAW.
- Olivia Chi Tumanjong (Cameroon)

This is a personal story of a woman’s journey from a lower dir to international forum and how she has become change maker for her community. The US First Lady Michelle Obama and the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has awarded this woman with the International Women of Courage Award in March 2012.
- Qudsia Mahtab Ulfat (Pakistan)

From the state of misery and helplessness, seeing too many children die of sickness in the tent city and deprived of education, Bai Celia Rajah helped to organize Mothers of Peace.
- Amalia Cabusao (Philippines)

This showcases the interventions of Rachel Muthoga in Kenya to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in conflict. Rachel is a daring young lady who has stuck her neck out to speak for survivors.
- Florence Dzame Daku (Kenya)

Produced by fifteen members of IAWRT awarded with the 2012 IAWRT Short Documentary Production Grants
With support from Fokus
Catherine White has been a member of IAWRT for ten years. She is an active participant in the creation of the new United States chapter, presently serving as the vice-president. Catherine has recently been elected 2nd VP of the Department of Public Information/NGOs Executive Committee (UNDPI/NGO). UNDPI was established in 1946 from the very beginning of the establishment of the United Nations to work with and through NGOs as part of the UN information activities. Since then, UNDPI has provided a forum to coordinate activities between the UN and NGOs. This is not only a great honor for Catherine, but provides an opportunity for IAWRT to introduce its mandate of women’s full participation within the voice of the media, along with other issues of women and gender, to the forefront of the international setting of agenda and priorities.

I had the opportunity of sitting down with Catherine and discussed her election to the Executive Committee of UNDPI.

CW: IAWRT means a great deal to me because I believe we are working to improve the lives and careers of journalists, media executives and filmmakers. Women are still behind in all areas and we need to continue to work to change that. Women in the United States have made enormous strides but we are still lagging behind, although I was encouraged to read that the New York Times appointed a woman to be managing editor. Engaging women in this vast country is a challenge, but I do believe that in time, IAWRT, and the new US chapter, will be a visible and powerful voice of women in media in this country.

After I joined IAWRT, I became the alternative UN Representative based upon my experience working with the United Nations. About seven years ago, I became the UN Representative. I think I was nominated to the UNDPI Executive Committee based on my resume and the work I had done as president of the United Nations Association (UNA) Southern New York State Division. During my tenure, the Division established the first Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference where I was the chair.

After two years on the Executive Board of UNDPI, I was appointed to Chair the Communications Committee. This committee mounts two of the regular DPI briefings each year. Our most recent panel was called “NGOs Navigating the UN” along with an afternoon workshop that was a hands on demonstration on how NGOs could use social media to enhance their work. Over 60 people attended the workshop and we have been requested to present an even more comprehensive session. Our next briefing will be in November where I hope to have IAWRT conduct a workshop for NGOs.

As 2nd vice-president, I feel I can raise awareness of issues of women’s participation in the media and issues of women and gender to other NGOs, the United Nations, and as a result to raise awareness in countries around the world. I hope to also raise the recognition of IAWRT and its work on these issues.

BANDANA RANA: Appointed Member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group

UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet announced on May 17, 2012 the members of its Global Civil Society Advisory Group, which includes IAWRT’s very own Bandana Rana (Head of IAWRT Nepal Chapter), who will facilitate regular consultations and dialogue between civil society and UN Women.

The Global Group appointed by the Executive Director is based on wide consultation with civil society networks and nominations from civil society organizations. All members have proven track records of work in areas related to gender equality and women’s empowerment, and bring diverse experience and expertise to the group. Members include grassroots, rural and community-based leaders, leaders of indigenous people’s groups, feminist scholars, human rights lawyers, and male leaders working on gender and women’s rights issues.

Bandana’s specific role will be that of a catalyst in taking the voices and concerns of the women and civil society of the Asian region and call for stronger engagement and partnerships with civil society at all levels of planning and implementation of UN Women’s work.

Media can play a vital role in promoting gender equality. IAWRT in particular has a vision of promoting gender equality and should invest in enhancing the capacity of media women to report, monitor and advocate for the global advancement of women. As UN Women is the key architecture that sets the mandate for gender equality, IAWRT should plan programs in the coming year in line with the strategic plan and thematic area of UN Women and also closely monitor the implementation of UN Women’s programs globally and regionally.

Ananya Chairs the Women’s Empowerment Cell

IAWRT would like to extend its congratulations and support to Ananya Chakrabarti, Treasurer and a member of IAWRT India Chapter, for having been appointed as the Chairperson of the Women’s Empowerment Cell under the State Mission Authority of the government of West Bengal.

The Women’s Empowerment Cell works toward the holistic empowerment of women, which covers economic empowerment, elimination of violence against women, gender mainstreaming/ budgeting, social empowerment, literacy among others.
India Chapter has a New and Vibrant Leadership

Towards building its own niche in the society, expanding membership and providing training and education for young and emerging media practitioners...

Reena Mohan (Managing Trustee and Chapter Head) is an independent documentary filmmaker and editor who has worked in Dubai, India, Kathmandu and London. She graduated from the Film & Television Institute of India in 1982 and since then has edited features, television serials and over 50 documentaries.

Anupama Srinivasan (Secretary) is a freelance filmmaker based in Delhi, India. She did her BA in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University where she also got an opportunity to take courses in still photography and non fiction filmmaking. She has been making documentaries and short films for over a decade on diverse themes like gender, music and education.

Umadevi Tanuku (Treasurer) has been in the business for over 18 years then later found her potential in filmmaking after doing a 3-year course at The Film and Television Institute of India. She has worked on many documentary projects as a line producer and has been involved in the IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival for the last 3 years and curated a package of films from Hong Kong for its 8th edition.

Padmaja Shaw (Trustee) graduated with a Masters degree in Journalism; MA Telecommunications; and completed PhD in Development Studies. She began as a television producer and made programs for children and young adults, later produced several educational programs for “Countrywide Classroom”.

Paromita Vohra (Trustee) is a filmmaker and writer whose work focuses on feminism, urban life, desire and popular culture. She teaches writing and filmmaking as visiting faculty in many universities around the world and has occasionally dabbled in being an actor, agony aunt, columnist and installation artist.

Ratnabali Mitra (Trustee) produces short News features on Science, Technology and Environment for All India Radio, the public service broadcaster. Mitra is a science broadcaster, a trainer and have been active in establishing the IAWRT Women’s Documentary Film Festival on the cultural map of Delhi during its first three years.

Nupur Basu (Trustee) is an independent journalist, award – winning documentary filmmaker and media educator from India. In 2010, Nupur was visiting faculty for the spring term at the Graduate School of Journalism at University of California Berkeley teaching a course on "International Reporting: India”.

Samina Mishra (Trustee) is a documentary filmmaker, writer and teacher based in New Delhi, with a special interest in media for children. She was awarded the Sea Change Residency by the Gaea Foundation, USA, in recognition of her work across disciplines.
**CHAPTER UPDATES**

**Cameroon Chapter** is now partnering with local NGOs on the Yellow Ribbon Campaign encouraging more women to join in politics.

**India Chapter** has a new set of Board with Reena Mohan serving as the Managing Trustee and Chapter Head. They are underway in their preparations for the 9th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival in March 2013.

**Kenya Chapter** members actively responded to the 2012 Call for IAWRT Scholarship and Short Documentary Production and a number of their deserving members were selected/granted—5 scholars and 2 short production grantees.

**Moldova Chapter** availed of a scholarship and 2 short documentary production grants. Chapter members are also doing a weekly TV show exposing issue on gender equality and women empowerment.

**Nepal Chapter** collaborated with All Nepal Football Association in mounting a campaign in time of the International Women’s Day—Our Goal: Stop Violence Against Women.

**Norway Chapter** organized a forum on Media and Trafficking in March and invited Alina Radu to share her experience on investigative journalism on trafficking.

**Philippine Chapter** has been instrumental in assisting the Gender Mainstreaming Project in the country and is now collaborating with the government on revisiting and improving gender guidelines and policies in media.

**South Africa Chapter** carries on new leadership with Nawaal Deane as the Head. The chapter is establishing linkages with other organizations that would help in pursuing their goals.

**Tanzania Chapter** hosted the recently concluded IAWRT Regional Meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and is now working on mobilizing resources and establishing partnerships for the chapter.

**USA Chapter** was represented at the Tanzania Regional Meeting in May. It is now working on increasing membership participation in IAWRT activities and how to proceed with the case study research on Gender Equality in Media.

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**9th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival**

IAWRT India Chapter is pleased to announce that the 9th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival will be held from 5-7 March, 2013 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

The festival will showcase the works of Asian women directors in a range of genres - animation, documentary, experimental, short fiction and television reportage. The director could be living in any part of the world but should be of Asian origin.

The 2013 edition of the festival will have an exciting selection of films that truly reflect the concerns of Asian women filmmakers. Everyone is invited to submit works that show courage in the choice of both content and form.

Deadline for submission is on **30 September 2012**.

Please download entry form and rules and regulations at http://www.iawrt.org/node/2422

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**FEEDBACK**

I feel that the Newsletters are getting more interesting, well written and professionally relevant.

- Gundel Krauss Dahl, Norway

Phenomenal work by phonemenal women!

- Subi Chaturvedi, India

Congratulations! We have improved newsletter with rich stories.

- Flora Nzema, Tanzania

Good source of information to know how active are IAWRT Chapters around the world.

- Mandira Raut, Nepal

Great features on women and grassroots media.

- Olive Villafuerte, Philippines