The 57 UN Commission on Status of Women

By Sheila Dallas-Katzman and Violet Gonda

The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) held a parallel event at the 2013 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which took place at the United Nation Headquarters in New York in early March. The theme of this year’s CSW was ‘Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls’. It is estimated that every second a woman or a girl somewhere in the world experiences some form of gender-based violence. This event was the fifth event IAWRT held since its first side event in 2007, titled, Media Partners: Sharing Technology, Information and Communications for Effective Outreach. The 2013 theme for this event was: Media as Strategic Partners in addressing violence against women and girls – hazards facing female journalists. Despite bad weather, including snow and high winds, over 100 people showed up for the event, an indication of the appeal of this subject.

Every year thousands of women and some men globally, converge at the United Nations CSW to discuss ways and means to prevent gender-based violence.
Dear Colleagues,

The year started on a fairly busy note with the board overseeing the setting up the new secretariat in Nairobi Kenya. We are thankful that the secretariat is now up and running. Feel free to contact Venter Nkatha, the programmes and Communications officer and Regina Gathoni, the accountant at any time.

Those who attended the regional conference in Tunisia last year will agree with me that our penetration of the Northern Africa region and by extension the Arab world was long overdue. The findings from the regional conference guided the theme we explored during our CSW 57 side event as we strive to make linkages and strategic partnerships to combat all forms of Violence against Women. The side event was a huge success.

It has not been lost to us that while we may focus on the injustices and violence meted against women in general, women in the media face an even more complex challenge as they deal with violence that is primarily professional, and secondly gender biased.

We have chosen to have our biennial conference in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt from 17th to 20th October 2013 for several reasons. We want to follow up on the discussions we started in Tunisia on portrayal of women in the media after the revolution but most importantly take stock of the gains made and collaborate with colleagues in laying strategies for the future.

I have read about the hostilities towards media and other civil societies working to promote human rights and gender equality. Women in Egypt are in the middle of a fierce battle against the resurgence of extremism. They should not let the hopes and aspirations raised during the 2011 revolution die. IAWRT must stand to be counted when dealing with Safety and Security of women in the media.

The biennial conference is a significant event on the IAWRT calendar and though we may not be able to sponsor everyone to the conference, we encourage members to seek travel grants widely and attend. This year is particularly important as we celebrate the life of our former President - Jai Chtrandiram who passed on 11th May after battling cancer. Jai will be remembered for her exemplary leadership of the India and international board but also for her mentorship and guidance and particularly her personalized relationship with all members at the individual level. Jai’s legacy lives on forever.

We welcome your ideas and contributions towards the biennial conference.

Be Blessed
According to UN Women, over 6,000 women participated in this year’s two week long CSW and the motive for attending is to lobby member states to commit towards an end to elimination of gender-based violence. The major goal of this event, coordinated by the USA Chapter and led by a member of the IAWRT board, was to discuss the role of the media as a major tool in the protection of women and girls and prevention of gender-based violence.

Another part of the goal was to gather information from the panel discussions and audience input to produce a White Paper encouraging UN Women, CSW, and the broader United Nations, to make media inclusive at all level of the campaign against gender-based violence. This would rekindle the seemingly forgotten “Section ‘J’” of the Beijing Declaration, “Women and the Media”

The section provides all the guidelines to ensure media women are given equal treatment not only by the media institutions but also that governments implement the declaration to ensure the protection of female journalist and remove any impediment preventing them from doing their work. Also, to be included in this paper is UN Security Council Resolution/1325 on women’s equal rights at all levels of society.

The panelists were carefully selected and included representatives from a range of media: television, radio, print and social media who are veterans in their field and have tried and tested the media in their quest to highlight violence against women and girls. Some of them were victims of the violence they were reporting or still fighting for liberation and are facing daily threats to their lives.

IAWRT President, Rachael Nakitare, opened the side event by welcoming everyone and briefing them about IAWRT, the vision and mission. Afore to the discussion, panelist, Abeer Saady, Vice Chair of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate, received a very disturbing text message which revealed that a female journalist was finger raped and raped by new crowding techniques being used against female journalists in Egypt.
During the discussion, the participants learnt that entities in Egypt were actively training men and boys how to entrap the female journalists in the street. (Click here for Saady). Ms. Abeer said that although women are the majority in the society, they are still marginalized each day. “It has taken the actions of a few brave victims to speak out about abuses to raise awareness,” Saady added.

One such survivor agreed to be interviewed on television to talk about abusive and virginity testing, although she was castigated for attacking a traditional practice.

Some gender activists have also taken to showing television programmes that highlight violence against women such as a TV series called “Fatima”, which talks about women raped by rich men and then forced to marry their rapists.

Saady added that radio television drama is an effective way to educate the population, including government about violence and it is now being used in Egypt effectively.

The panelist from India, Ananya Chakraborti, who is also IAWRT treasurer, stressed that the medium of film has attracted her own government through her activism and documentary on trafficking in India, an IAWRT project funded by Forum for Women in Development (FOKUS). (Click here for Chakraborti).

She said the use of film is an effective tool to end trafficking of girls, because not only does film draw attention to the practice, but it also motivates action to save these girls from their captors and prevent others from falling victims.

The anti-trafficking campaign in West Bengal, India is an example where awareness of trafficking is highlighted through different kinds of media such as songs/music that are used in villages, and the social media such as Facebook.
An elegant film debut in Asian

By Katherine Muhatia

Asia witnessed the largest ever-documentary event with more than 500 delegates from 45 countries in attendance. There was much enthusiasm! We saw Asian stations jointly in new schemes at Asia's first alliance of Indies in a planned Asian Documentary Association (ASD) of over 15 National Indie Associations! This year’s forum was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 19th to 22nd of March 2013. ASD is the regional sister organization to the Sunny Side of the Doc (SSD), considered to have a large number of elite in global documentary forums which is held in La Rochelle, France every year.

In Asia, veteran documentary pioneer, Bang Singapore, primarily organizes ASD, which is a special forum. It not only incorporates decision makers from Asia and around the World but also policymakers as well as stakeholders.

Born Free and Equal

At the last members meeting during the conference in Kuala Lumpur 2011 the question came up, how journalists can directly help colleagues in difficult or even dangerous situations. I then reported on how the German League of Women Journalists encouraged and supported a young lesbian journalist and activist from Uganda applying for political asylum in Germany because of severe death threats in her country. Members not only collected money and hosted her but also accompanied her in every step of the bureaucratic procedure. I drew attention of IAWRT members to heights of human rights violation on people of different sexual orientation. When lesbians and gays’ freedom from fear and want are discriminated upon; persecuted and that they as journalists should in such Countries or from outside show solidarity with the oppressed, give them a voice and promote change through information.

Who else?

The reaction was a dampening silence. But, the issue is too important to leave it at that. IAWRT has members in 26 Countries that criminalize lesbians, gays, bi- and transsexuals (LGBT) and members in 28 countries that at least do not persecute by law.

On different backgrounds they all can get active. In order to defend human rights, there is need for political will and relevant information. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: “When individuals are attacked, abused or imprisoned because of their sexual orientation, we must speak out. Where there is tension between cultural attitudes and universal human rights; universal human rights must come first. Personal disapproval, even society’s disapproval is no excuse to arrest, detain, imprison, harass or torture to anyone – ever.”

The UN Human Rights Council in June 2011 passed the first resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (resolution 17/19). The main point is that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights without distinction of any kind.

One year later UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nawi Pillay, presented the Report (A/HCR/19/41) on discrimination in employment, health care, and education and on physical attacks, rape and killings. The findings of this report and the Human Rights Council released in September 2012, “Born Free and Equal – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law”.

The 60 pages booklet focuses on five core obligations where national action is needed - from protection against violence to preventing torture (like “educational rape”), decriminalizing, prohibiting discrimination and safeguarding freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all LGBT people.

For each, the basis of the State obligation in international human rights law is explained with reference to the substantial body of decisions, recommendations and guidance issued by UN mechanisms. The booklet also addresses civil society and gives examples of best practice.

Also for journalists who understand their profession as an obligation to inform and through information contribute to promoting equal rights and freedom for all. This booklet is resourceful. Though for each individual, the first step towards breaking the silence over injustices is to look at one’s own homophobia.

It was the breakthrough for women worldwide because for the first time in history this conference enacted “Women’s Rights are Human Rights”. It was a good time for IAWRT to focus on all human rights of women including sexual orientation.

This year, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UN Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.
This intervention played an important role in the recent high profile case of the 21-year paramedic girl Damini (not her real name) who was gang raped in Delhi, India. This heinous act sparked a national and international outcry about violence against women in the Country.

The government of West Bengal has responded to her anti-trafficking campaign and the police have begun using her spots, films and other media materials to end the endemic problem of trafficking plaguing women and girls in the country.

WBAI/Pacifica Radio’s co-host of the popular Rape Forum, Rebecca Myles, emphasized the gap between media coverage and the real live experience of women, girls and sexual violence.” A radio programme such as “The Rape Declaration Forum” provides a meeting place on the radio where survivors of rape and other gender-based violence can call in and speak out about what happened to them.

But it also gives them the opportunity to raise their voices, and help to educate others while healing begins – valuing survivor’s voice. Radio allows survivors to speak to the many without fear of repercussions. It is the platform for women who are afraid to come out and talk and get strength from listening to others who have endured similar abuses. (Click here for Myles) Although the general mantra and practice of mass media is “if it bleeds it leads”, Pamela Falk, President of the United Nations Correspondence Association, and reporter for CBS News Radio and Television, underscores that a story doesn’t have to bleed to lead.

Mass media, need to take on the task of education and prevention of violence against women and girls, by not only reporting violence, but by reporting state’s attitudes toward the violence. She shared her own experience of being shot at while reporting in conflict zones, just because she was a woman. (Click here for Falk)

The audience made meaningful contribution using their own experience with media to help in fight to end violence against women and girls.

Moderator Michele Montas, former spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, a journalist herself, highlighted profound and thought-provoking story (click here for Montas). Montas lives the violence when her radio station, which was owned by her and her husband were attacked with guns and mortars to silence them. She was exiled in the US along with her husband and returned home only for her
Norwegian Chapter selects a new Head

Bibiana Piene is the newly elected chapter head for IAWRT Norway Chapter. She is a foreign reporter with The Norwegian News Agency, where she has worked for more than ten years. Previously, Bibiana worked with The Norwegian Broadcasting Corp. (NRK) and has also produced a documentary on corruption Worldwide.

Currently, she is writing a book about the relationship between Norway and Sudan.

Bibiana joined IAWRT in 2008, and later was elected in the board for Norwegian chapter.

As the new chapter head, she will focus on recruitment of members at national and international level. She is passionate about IAWRT’s growth hence she is strategizing on how to achieve her goal for the association.

An elegant film debut in Asian	Cont’d from pg 5

The industry ‘s stakeholders are in support of the development of a single Asian factual content market.

Thousands of attendants were all proud to see the overwhelming enthusiasm of the Malaysian documentary eco-system from the highest levels of government to every single major broadcast player to the independent filmmakers present.

During this forum, I happened to wear three hats, that of a producer, lecturer and IWART member. It was indeed exciting to introduce IWART to one of the key panelists hence opening doors for future partnerships in documentary co-productions.

I also met two of our members, Hadija from Tunisia and Olya Booyer. Rest assured that IWART was truly well represented in this event.

The film festival event offers a platform to build strong professional and international networks, to promote deals and presales for programs in production and to initiate new coproduction projects. It was a real eye opener and an adventure too.

AT that, Malaysia is truly a beautiful Country!
IAWRT India celebrated International Women's Day in the first week of March 2013 with a film festival, a seminar on community radio, exhibitions and installations—all representing myriad faces of Asian women's self expression.

9th IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2013

The 9th IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival held from 5-8 March 2013 in New Delhi was a tremendous success. It is a unique, one of its kind festival in the world that showcases works of Asian women directors in a range of genres—animation, documentary, experimental, short fiction and fiction feature.

The 2013 edition of the festival had a focus on films from Iran and South Korea, and a package of outstanding student films from India. 44 films were shown, most of them for the first time in Delhi. We have 3 World premieres, 19 South Asian premieres, and 11 Delhi premieres. The films dealt with diverse subjects such as gender, sexuality, parenthood, nationality, migration, urbanization and art—strong and innovative works that were honest journeys of personal and political interrogation. 24 filmmakers including filmmakers from Iran, South Korea, Hong Kong and Pakistan attended the festival.

The screenings were held across three venues: India International Centre, Korean Cultural Centre and SACAC. Curtain raiser events were held in January and February in colleges and media/film schools to encourage student participation.

The selection of films was greatly appreciated and we had a sizeable audience for all the screenings. The presence of so many filmmakers led to many interesting and invigorating conversations between the filmmakers, curators and the audience.

IAWRT Seminar on Community Radio & Democracy in South Asia

On 5 March, a daylong seminar on Community Radio & Democracy in South Asia was held at IIC Conference Room I. The seminar looked at the journeys of the people of South Asia for self-expression through Community radio.

Community radio practitioners, activists, and legal experts from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan spoke about their respective country's experiences and the obstacles they are facing even today both from governments and commercial interests.

Representatives from AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) and UNESCO spoke on how networking has helped, and also highlighted the challenges that lie ahead for making ‘democratization of radio’ a possibility. The seminar offered a platform for grassroots level programmers and those involved in campaigning for policy level changes to come together and understand whether communities really have a say in running their radio stations.
Women, an oasis of fortunes in Cameroon

By Olivia Tumanjong

In a bid to contribute to efforts aimed at ensuring the right to food, Cameroon chapter has been working with women in small communities in Douala in the Littoral Region and in Bamenda in the North West Region.

Agnes Senge Akwo, Chapter’s new member, has been working with women who labour tirelessly to make the region food sufficient. ‘buyam-selams’ is a local nick name these women farmers have been branded by the people for their industrious nature.

These women also play a pivotal role. They buy farm produce from other farmers sell to middle business people who later keep in the warehouses.

Later, the crops are sold to other buyers and consumers.

According to Senge, “These women work from dawn to dusk. They wake up as early as 4 am and retiring after 7pm. They are sole breadwinners for their families. They multi-task since they are producers, mothers, and care-givers.” With Senge chortle, she adds, “These women play their dutiful roles stoically and with a smile.”

In Bamenda, IAWRT educates women farmer’s groups on improved produce preservation, transformation and packaging before distribution and marketing.

The association has continuously been sensitizing farmers on the values of cassava as a food security crop besides poverty alleviation. “Cassava is a crop that is draught resistance and yields well with the soil type in the area. It may be preserved by making at least 20 different products.” She stated.

By working with these women, IAWRT Cameroon chapter intends to boost their efforts and encourage them to continue working tirelessly to feed communities with financial empowerment and independence as their returns.

IAWRT in Cameroon would like to continue working with Douala and Bamenda women groups to empower them with new farming, preservation and marketing skills to reap more benefits from their hard earned bumper harvest. “We will put more effort in capacity building and continuous sensitization on the need to contribute towards food security and the fight against poverty through agriculture.” Ms. Senge observed.

More than 100 women farmers from 4 villages in Cameroon recently gathered to showcase their cassava produce in a Cassava Festival, which was a plinth of the activity.
**By Sara Chitambo**

Johannesburg based IAWRT member Sarah Chitambo hosted a workshop and debut of her latest documentary “The Capacity of Cap city” on April 27th a day.

Aptitude of the film which runs for 45 minutes is a movie that histories the rise, decline and resurgence of the hip-hop scene in Pretoria, South Africa.

The filmmaker was surprised to find scarce action in a scene that had once been the topic of discussion concerning ‘hip hop’, a flick that is considered an outsiders’ perspective. It envisages providing answers to questions people struggle to comprehend.

Through interviews and performances and use of achieve footage; the film awakes emotions and controversy as well as acmes the artistes’ hopes for the future. The film will be premiered at the local festivals in South Africa.

More than 35 people varying from journalists, filmmakers, producers, and actresses to musicians attended the colourful function, which was funded by IAWRT South Africa; who were part of the documentary.

The workshop set off by an interactive presentations steered by Tebogo Phalane of Soot Productions among others was not only informative but also informative.

A question and answer session followed after which a wistful exercise followed to pave way for future marketing strategy for individual pieces of art.

In the afternoon there was the screening of “The Capacity of Cap city” which generated debates concerning the film making process, timelines, impetuses and the possible choices. The musicians who featured in the documentary were also put on the questioned on whether the film was a true reflection of the covered era.

Sarah Chitambo the filmmaker had been working on the film since September 2011. The process was rigorous because she had to identity key artists and stakeholders who are conversant with street art in South Africa.

Collections of achieve footage from previous years and documenting current performances by artes was also a major issue.

The postproduction commenced in March 2013. The documentary was produced and directed by Sara Chitambo and producing editor Ts'eliso Monaheng.

It was commemorated during freedom day in South Africa.

The preview can also be viewed on the following link: [http://vimeo.com/63806754](http://vimeo.com/63806754)
Tributes to Jai Chandidrium by various IAWRT Members

The IAWRT Kenya Chapter, now in its eleventh year of existence, owes its growth to Jai Chandiram. We the Kenya Chapter shall always remain grateful to the encouragement and inspiration that Jai bestowed on the chapter members. We remain indebted to Jai for finding time while on official duty in South Africa, but had to make a stopover in Nairobi in 2003 to encourage us to forge on by sharing the IAWRT India experience and also seek institutional support on behalf of the chapter members then.

“Fifty-two years ago, a young woman strode through the portals of Doordarshan. Her trail blazing career and iconic personality touched the lives of many and inspired hundreds of media students, colleagues and friends. We are here to pay tribute to that extraordinary woman, Jai Chandiram. I would like to thank Jai for cajoling, pushing and guiding many of us women working in film and television to discover our true potential.” Reena Mohan, Managing Trustee of IAWRT India said.
Rachel Nakitare, IAWRT President, said, “You are a pillar and icon to many of us. You inspire me with your grasp of issues and exceptional networking skills. Sometimes I wonder how you manage to have an ear for everyone despite the crowded schedules. You are the true definition of leadership and an embodiment of genuine love. We honor you with the IAWRT award of dedication and service because you deserve it.”

Jai Chandiram was a legend in broadcast journalism and wore many hats. In India where she was born 76 years ago, her career was as well born. Throughout her life, Jai was highly passionate about women’s rights, the arts, and education. She served as a: part time actress, Producer, lead player, Institute Director, Deputy Director General first Asian President of IAWRT International, a teacher, mentor, friend and an inspiration to a whole generation of professional media women.
On 26 April 2013, Jai was awarded the IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award

Gerd Inger Polden, the Vice President of the International Board, via Skype during the award ceremony said: "We honour you for your great contribution to IAWRT both as the founder of the India Chapter and its longtime Managing Trustee and for your period as President of IAWRT International from the year 2001-2005. In your period as President, you were able to give IAWRT a new direction as a truly global network".

The IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award was instituted this year to honour individuals who have made exceptional contributions towards the growth and development of IAWRT. Jai Chandiram is the second recipient of the award.
The March 4, 2013 General Election in Kenya was momentous in the Country’s political arena. This is because it was an election where Kenyans were voting in six candidates for the first time under the devolved system brought forth by the new constitution, promulgated in August 2010. It was a break from norm where in the past, electorate voted in only three candidates.

Many Kenyans especially those who voted for change in the Country’s Constitution in 2009 did so because they wanted a change. Change was imperative in Country’s leadership, governance and gender representation to promote equity and equality.

Under the new Constitution, and in particular Article 27 on Equality and freedom from discrimination, Kenyan women were given a chance to be heard for the first time in the Country’s history.

Article 27 articulates that women can equally compete with their male counterparts without any discrimination. To promote gender equity and equality, the new Constitution created

“There is a lot of dishonor poured to families whose daughters contend for an elective position...clans where leadership is believed to originate from; like the Nabongo kingdom of Mumias, it is sheer disapproval to convince men to vote for a woman in any seat.” She stated

But even with this provision under the Constitution, women were expected to come out in large numbers and vie for all the seats available. Namely: the Presidency, gubernatorial, senatorial, Member of the National Assembly, women representative and County representative.

However, notwithstanding much civic education to both gender, only one woman (Ms. Martha Karua) offered her candidature for the presidency none for gubernatorial and few for senatorial seats. In areas where women gave their names for other top seats, their names were either short changed with their male competitors or just denied nomination by their political parties.

Nevertheless, patriarchy system gave male gender a relative advantage over female gender, which contributed to dismal performance for women in elective seats. That patriarchy has eaten up the Kenyan society so much to an extent that most members of the society especially the elders’ still view women as the weaker sex and not able to lead men in spite of their education.

Nyeri Town MP Esther Murugi asserts that the Kenyan society has not accepted women as political leaders and men look for ways to put women down at all costs. ‘It’s from name-calling to physical abuse that women have to withstand if they want to vie for any elective seat.” She quips.
By Racheal Nakitare

The movement and official opening of the new IAWRT secretariat office in Nairobi’s south B was graced by rare but very important guests representing the Norwegian chapter of IAWRT and the international board.

Bibiana – Norwegian chapter head, Solveig – Treasurer of Norwegian board and Ananya- treasurer of the international board carried out the routine project visit to the secretariat as partial fulfillment of the monitoring and evaluation requirement which is a key component of Fokus and by extension NORAD funding. The project visit aimed at appraising the new office and evaluating the relevance of the projects selected to run for the next funding phase. It also included visits and discussions with service providers who included the organizations auditors from EKV Associates. Though such visits primarily assess the suitability of the organization, this project travel was unique in that it provided time for bonding for the treasury teams, enhanced friendship between the Kenya chapter and the Norwegian Embassy, initiated partnership with, "Health by Motorbikes" operating in Lungalunga Kenya, which will enrich the change makers series and most importantly gave unique insights and understanding of the organizations operations to both the guests and the hosts. In Bibiana’s words, “It did put a lot of the things in perspective” and answered some of the questions she had in the past to do with designs and formats. The four days seemed like four hours. All the same, a visit to the famous Nairobi National Park crowned the visit!

From Left: Regina Wanyoike, IAWRT Admin & Finance Officer, Ananya Chakraborti – IAWRT Board treasurer
14 panelists and 16 observer participants other than students and media practitioners participated. Some of the representatives from CR initiatives shared the innovative strategies that they use for more effective communication. There were also discussions and debates about the short term and long term concerns and challenges including developing Rights based approach to Community Radio.

Exhibitions
IAWRT India also organized exhibitions by talented women photographers and artists during the week of the Asian Women’s Film Festival. *Fragments* were an exhibition by Monica Bhasin and Uma Tanuku that revealed the residual, the transient and the intricate in everyday life. *Shame was a Place Inside my Heart*, an installation by Priyanka Chhabra, Manmeet Kaur and Sohini Dasgupta tried to explore the psychology of ‘shame’, where it stems from and how it comes to make home in women’s bodies and minds. There were many write-ups and features in the print and electronic media on the film festival, seminar and exhibitions.

Festival team

Seminar Coordinators: Ratnabali Mitra, Nupur Basu, Fund Raising: Reena Mohan, Anupama Srinivasan, Uma Tanuku

Volunteers:
1. Aaradhana Kapur,
2. Anupama Chandra,
3. Iram Ghafar,
4. Kaushik Ray,
5. Mahuya Bandypadhyay,
6. Priya Goswami,
7. Radhika Khanna,
8. Samina Mishra,
9. Sania Farooqui,
10. Subasri Krishnan

Festival & Seminar partners:
India International Centre, Korean Cultural Centre, Goethe Institut (Delhi & Tehran), Action Aid, Sangat South Asia, UNESCO, Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts & Communication (SACAC) and Public Service Broadcasting Trust
For instance, what was seen on television news and at campaign rallies were women supporters who were presumably paid sing, dance and adore men during political campaigns – but not for women candidates.

While men candidates’ commanded huge caravans,

“...those who overwhelmingly vied for various elective positions across the country and never made it: you have tested the waters, so don't give up. Your effort and political ambition left a permanent mark in your political career.”

women on the other hand evidently lacked the caravans and motorcades. They just didn’t have financial might their male counterparts enjoyed. Women candidates were also at the receiving end of the worst insults and demeaning comments from male folks.

For instance, many women political aspirants were branded names like prostitutes to an extent that even getting the right people to spearhead a woman candidate’s campaign was almost impossible. In some cases married men withdrew their support for being accused of sleeping with the unmarried women candidates.

Despite the shortcomings, National Gender and Equality Commission congratulated communities that voted in 16 women members of National government and 88 Women members of the County Assemblies. The electorate in these communities demonstrated a high level of maturity in decision-making. And to communities that are yet to embrace equality, let’s learn some lessons from the communities who have embraced the change.

The elected Women members of the National Assembly should however embark on serious business and with the realization that the National Assembly still remains dominated by male members, start articulating and under all means showcase the best abilities women can offer in national leadership. The ball is in your cot.

Our hope is that the women will closely work with other members of parliament in ensuring parliament facilitates the realization of the two-thirds gender principle in accordance with Article 27 (8) of the Constitution ensuing a ruling by the Supreme Court on December 11th 2012.

For the three women who were recently elected as speakers of the County Assemblies, you deserve a pat on your shoulder too. To those who overwhelmingly vied for various elective positions across the country and never made it: you have tested the waters, so don’t give up. Your effort and political ambition left a permanent mark in your political career. You also made history in the struggle for equality and freedom from discrimination.
2013 IAWRT DOCUMENTARY AWARDS of Excellence

Make Women’s voices heard ... see their lives!
Deadline for submissions is September 2nd 2013.

Submission is now open for the 2013 IAWRT International Documentary Awards of Excellence. The IAWRT Awards celebrate outstanding documentaries made by women and are open to all female producers, directors and journalists working with radio, television, web and film documentaries anywhere in the world.

Documentaries must be about women who are making a difference, on their own lives or on the lives of other women. Entries must be between 20 and 90 minutes long for Film/TV, 15 – 60 minutes for Radio and 15 – 30 min for Webcast documentaries, and must have been aired, shown at a competitive festival or uploaded on the web November 1, 2011 and September 1, 2013

An IAWRT international jury of professionals will assess entries and the winners will be announced at the Annual Gala Dinner at this year’s IAWRT 35th Biennial Conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in October 2013. The Award for the most outstanding documentary in each medium is US $1 000.

Enquiries should be sent to gerd.inger.polden@nrk.no

NEW CHAPTERS

IAWRT membership continues to increase the number of its members as well as adding new chapters in different Nations. Bhutan and Afghanistan are underway with Chapter opening process.

NEW MEMBERS: Tunisia

Congratulations to the following members who joined a warm family of women media professionals recently.

1. Bouazzaous Chaimae
2. Trabelsi Hana
3. Yacoubi Nehrez
4. Omheni Mouno
5. Sara

The IAWRT Secretariat

South Gate Bldg, Mezzanine Flr, Rm 14, Mukoma Rd, South B /P.O Box 45533-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
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2013 International AWARDS of Excellence for Documentary Making
Make Their Voices Heard . . . See Their Lives!
Venue: The IAWRT 35th Biennial Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh
Egypt October 17th – 20th 2013
ENTRY FORM

Please read Rules of Entry before completing the form clearly and legibly.

Deadline for Submission: Monday September 2nd 2013.

I wish to enter a documentary in the following category:
☐ Radio ☐ Television ☐ Webcast

Contact Name (Surname, Given Name, Middle):
_____________________________________________________________

Address:
_____________________________________________________________

Telephone including country and area codes: E-mail:
_____________________________________________________________

Documentary Title in English:
_____________________________________________________________

Original Title:
_____________________________________________________________

Name of Producer:
_____________________________________________________________

Telephone including country and area codes: E-mail:
_____________________________________________________________

Name of Director (for radio, Producer.)
_____________________________________________________________

Telephone including country and area codes: E-mail:
_____________________________________________________________

SKYPE address (Director, for radio Producer):
_____________________________________________________________

Synopsis:
_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

Running Time: Production Year:
TV Format: ☐ DVD

Is Original in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Original Language?

NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE TV PROGRAMMES MUST BE PRESENTED WITH EITHER:

Please tick appropriate box
☐ Subtitles ☐ Voice Over

Radio Format: ☐ CD ☐ Submitted online in MP3 format

Is Original in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Original Language?

ENGLISH TRANSLATION MUST ACCOMPANY NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE RADIO ENTRIES

Web format:

Is Original in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Original Language?

NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE TV PROGRAMMES MUST BE PRESENTED WITH EITHER:

Please tick appropriate box
☐ Subtitles ☐ Voice Over

Director's Brief Profile or Attach a Curriculum Vitae:

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

Director's Recent Photo

No Entry Fees Required

Send Entry Form and DVD/CD to:

Gerd Inger Polden
NRK, RC11, 0340 Oslo, Norway
Tel.(+47) 41 46 92 77

Send entry form also by e-mail to:

gerd.inger.polden@nrk.no

All DVDs/CDs /online format must be received by Gerd Inger Polden no later than Monday September 2nd 2013.
DECLARATION:

I understand that I am responsible for transport of this/these DVDs/CDs and any insurance required and that they will not be returned.

I hereby accept the terms and conditions of the 2013 IAWRT Radio and TV Awards. All matters not covered by the rules of entry will be decided by the Award organizers or left to the discretion of the Award jury. The decision of the jury is final and abiding.

IAWRT is currently trying to set up a media archive of women’s programmes for non-commercial, educational use.

Do you agree to let your programme be included in this archive?

☐ Yes ☐ NO

If your documentary wins the AWARD do you agree to let IAWRT stream 3 min. of it on the IAWRT website.

☐ Yes ☐ NO

Some IAWRT Regional Chapters and individual IAWRT members may arrange film festivals or workshops where they will present the entries for non-commercial cultural and educational purposes. Do you agree to let your documentary be presented at IAWRT arranged non-commercial festivals and workshops?

☐ Yes ☐ NO
Norwegian Chapter Elections

**Chapter Head**
Bibiana Piene: Will serve has the chapter head for 1 year

**Treasurer:** Solveig Helvik (Retired NRK)

**Secretary:**
Wenche Lie Giaever (Retired NRK) will serve up to 2015

**Board members**
Kari Lie, NRK radio, in Oslo: will serve up to 2015
Karen Winther Freelance Film Director will serve till 2014

**Deputy board members**
Sylvi Inez Liljegren, works in NRK TV
Kristina Høyen works in NRK radio

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**US Chapter new office bearers**

**Arshiya Ahsan**
President, US Chapter

**Vice President**
Sheila Dallas-Katzman

**Treasurer**
Dianne Bailey

**Secretary**
Ivy Abraskin

**Members-at-Large**
Leila Doss
Catherine White
Pragya Ghimire

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**USA Chapter founding members**

**USA Chapter members Dinner meeting with the board**

Gro Lindstand, Director, Focus (Centre sited)
Participants give their views during IAWRT side event

IAWRT members honour Leila Doss (Centre sited)
IAWRT MEMBERS PRESENT AT UN 57CSW, NEW YORK

Racheal Nakitare, IAWRT's President addressing

From left: Catherine White & Dallas Katzman both IAWRT &

From Left: Ananya Chakraborti, IAWRT Treasurer, Violet Gonda, IAWRT Secretary

From left: Liz Miller & Valarie Lew both are in

Bandana Rana(Middle) Nepal Chapter Head & other panelists

From Left: Gerd Inger Polden, IAWRT's Vice President & Leila Doss IAWRT UN Representative