Dear Friends,

Greetings!

We are happy to announce the establishment of our two new chapters: Cambodia and Uganda. Cambodia and Uganda chapters are implementing gender mainstreaming and campaign against hate speech respectfully. Recently, Uganda chapter partnered with Ethical Journalism Network and other local organizations, to hold a workshop, which emphasised the need for media in Africa exercise gender sensitive reporting besides quality journalism. We call upon all chapters to investigate and address issues affecting women through the media.

Our entry into the Northern African region has bone fruits since our colleagues from the region would like to form a Northern Africa IAWRT chapter. The experiences shared by partners in Tunisia in 2012, and in Casablanca, Morocco in 2013, informed our choice for Turkey, as the first choice for the regional conference this year. The conference was anchored on safety training for journalists facilitated by the International News Safety Institute. The timely training was excellent! The conference venue was within Taksim square, the epicenter of the 2013 anti government rallies. The conference dates coincided with the one-year anniversary of the demonstrations against plans to redevelop the Gezi Park. The participants not only had an opportunity to send reports to their respective countries but also applied the safety skills learnt during the training.

The board proposes to hold a second regional conference in Latin America, the only area without much of IAWRT presence. We hope our members will find time and facilitation to join us and also invite colleagues from the region for an enriching experience. Last year, we set out, for the first time, to bring the individual productions into one composite high quality 45 minutes documentary on Climate Change and Women.

The composite film was premiered in New York City on March 14th as part of the 58th Commission on the Status of Women events. The documentary was lauded as documentary evidence of some of the impediments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The documentary clearly highlighted the role of women from different parts of the world, in mitigating the effects of climate change. This year, we will focus on Women and Health. The member states at the 58th Commission on the status of women meeting stressed, “while MDGs have advanced progress in many areas, they remain unfinished as long as inequalities persist.” This in essence is calling upon us to highlights these inequalities and lobby governments to ensure gender representation especially at decision-making tables.

IAWRT embarked on the baseline survey aimed at establishing the gender representation in the Public Service Broadcasters in the countries where we have Chapters. Work on the organizational structures is ongoing and the next phase will include content analysis and decision-making. Content producers are encouraged to share their experiences to enrich the report. Also, to building our members capabilities to engage in research findings will form the evidence base on which interventions towards gender mainstreaming will be build. As discussion towards the post 2015 sustainable development agenda continue, I call upon our members to ensure women’s access to opportunities and resources. IAWRT is a member of UNESCO’s Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) steering committee, hence the responsibility of each one of us, to embrace gender responsive reporting and ensure gender mainstreaming through the media. I’m sure that together, we will make a difference. We will ensure the visibility of women through the media.

Racheal Nakitare
IAWRT 35th Biennial Conference Casablanca, Morocco

By IAWRT Board Secretary, Violet Gonda

Over 70 media women from 25 countries attended the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT), Biennial conference in Casablanca, Morocco from 24-26th October 2013. The theme of the conference: “Confronting adversity: Women in Media during conflict and crisis”; in Morocco, was developed to address pressing issues around the plight of female journalists in North Africa amidst conflict.

The attendees included documentary filmmakers, radio and television professionals, bloggers, and other electronic media women.

The conference, which was organized in collaboration with the Réseau des Femmes Journalistes du Maroc, was held at the Lido hotel in Casablanca. It consisted of plenary sessions and workshops on themes that included: The Situation for Women Journalists in Morocco; Safety Online and Offline for Female Journalists; Women in Media during Conflict; Crisis to Investigative Journalism and Media Ethics;
iPhone Video Production; Challenges for Independent Producers and Community Radio at the Heart of Leadership and Development.

Two flagship projects entitled, Reporting on Women & Climate Change and Gender-Mainstreaming were also presented in workshops where members had the opportunity to discuss and make contribution to the way forward on them.

All eligible board members were re-elected for a second term. For the first time, IAWRT has a Board member from the Maghreb, Khedija Lemkecher, a Documentary Filmmaker from Tunisia, replacing Professor Liz Miller also a Documentary Filmmaker who reached her term limit on the international board after six years of service to the organization.

Head of the Norwegian Chapter, Bibiana Piene, was co-opted to the board as a non-voting member. The Norwegian Chapter head is IAWRT’s liaison to FOKUS, our main funder.

**Newly elected IAWRT Board Members are:**

- President (2nd term) - Rachael Nakitare (Kenya),
- Vice President (2nd term) - Gerd Inger Polden (Norway),
- Treasurer (2nd term) – Ananya Chakraborti (India),
- Secretary (2nd term) - Violet Gonda (Zimbabwe),
- Board Member (2nd term) - Valerie Lew (Malaysia)
- Board Member (2nd term) - Sheila Dallas-Katzman (United States)
- Board Member (1st term) - Khedija Lemkecher (Tunisia)
- Co-Opt Board Member (1st term) - Bibiane Piene, (Norway - non-voting)

We are also pleased to announce a new look to our website. The minutes from board meetings will be available each month. The full biennial conference report is available on the website.

All Chapters and members are asked to keep fellow members informed of your latest happenings on the members’ page. Members’ profiles and contact information will help us to work together on projects and events.

The board looks forward to working with IAWRT members to strengthen and grow the organization. All queries and feedback may be sent to the Programs Officer, Venter Nkatha, secretariat@iawrt.org.
Comments from Members

“It was the best with seasonal and a significant theme. It demonstrated the struggle, strength and brevity of edifying, passionate, dedicated and responsible women in media.”  
Rebecca Hunde, Ethiopia

“This conference introduced us to the different level of needs and challenges that women journalists are facing in their countries…. they live and work in environs with internal conflict and dictator regime.”  
Benaz Batrawi, Palestine

“It was a great inspiration to meet powerful women in media and of varied ages in a male dominated field. It gave me assurance and confidence to continue with film production, talk about media, work, network across the world and tight links with global IAWRT membership.”  
Dechen Roder, Bhutan

“The conference was very great and the Board was elected democratically. An Award for Excellency in film, radio and television documentaries was a grand idea. The choice of hotel and location was wonderful.”  
Awaz Salim, Iraq

“This conference is one of the best I have attended. It was about past, present and future. Workshops were relevant and good. It was interesting to meet journalists from the Maghreb and meet their problems.”  
Kirsten Bråthen, Norway

“This was my first IAWRT conference of any kind, and it gave me a better sense of the organization and its wide-ranging membership. I was delighted by everyone I met and look forward to not only keeping in touch and following everyone’s progress, but also meeting even more members at the 2014 CSW in New York and attending future conferences. The jury work was satisfying and gave a window to radio and film work not featured in the mainstream.”  
Diane Bailey

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend the conference in Morocco. It is fabulous that the IAWRT has focused on the MENA region at a critical time when journalists in the region are facing many challenges. I enjoyed the rigorous debate and found it enriching.”  
Yasmine Ryan, Tunis

“I would like to congratulate the Secretariat, President and the rest of the Board for making the Biennial Conference a success. Sharing of experiences and ideas gave me more enthusiasm to my work. It was an avenue for me to meet new friends.”  
Ma. Janet Buelo, Philippines

“The organisation and programme of the Biennial Conference in Casablanca, Morocco was a fantastic experience. Not only was it rewarding to meet all these inspiring, intelligent and wonderful women from so many countries as was the sharing and enlightening of common experiences. This is definitely empowering and constructive. Congratulations to all!”  
Martha Prentel, Sweden

“It gave me great pleasure to attend this year’s conference, which in fact was my 17th. The topic was well chosen and differently from some previous conferences the current political situation was taken into account. Thanks to the board for putting our profession and it’s multiple challenges into the centre.”  
Dr. Inge von Bönninghausen, Germany
“I was excited to be apart of such a resourceful group. I learnt from shared experiences by members and I am forever indebted to IAWRT for the opportunity you gave me.”  

Alka Sadat, Afghanistan

“I am delighted to be part of the Radio Jury for IAWRT Documentary Awards competition that took place during the IAWRT 35th Biennial Conference in Casablanca, Morocco from 24 to 26 October 2013. It was my first time to be a juror. I felt truly a honor. Also, I enjoyed hosting IAWRT Conference in Morocco.”  

“I was very excited about the experience, very impressed by the creativity and the power of more than 70 media women coming from 5 continents; from different background, age and culture; all came together to address journalism and its challenges. I am very happy to have conducted this partnership between our Reseau des Femmes Journalistes du Maroc “RFJ” and IAWRT. I look forward to work closely with all IAWRT members.”  

Nezha Mghari, Morocco

“The conference was a timely discussion on safety for, in particular, female journalists who are out in the field. It was a necessary reminder to all who attended the conference that female journalists face unique challenges in investigative journalism or covering political beats in war zones.”  

“The conference also bravely and sensitively dealt with in-house issues that I think, in the way it was resolved, pointed to the maturity of the organization.”  

“It was a robust and informative conference that was well organized and met expectations for many of us who attended.”  

Linda Daniels, South Africa

“I thought the conference went very well. But as there was so much of interest to discuss, do you think the next conference should be three days and not two days? As you will be aware, the sessions ran over time as there were so much people wanted to talk about. I would like also to thank the hosts for their thoughtfulness and hospitality. Congratulations for reorganizing the conference at such short notice. It must have been very hard. I thought it all went very well.”  

Lis Kirkby, Australia

(Left to right) TV jury: Martha Prentell (Sweden) Chandita Mukherjee (India) Najlae Benmbarek (Morocco) Coordinator of AWARDS Gerd Inger Polden (Norway) Radio jury: Nezha Mghari (Morocco) Diane Bailey (US) Awaz Salim Abdula (Iraq)
The Egyptian situation changes daily. A popular people's protest successfully overthrows the authoritarian government of Hosni Mubarak. The Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic religious party, under Mohamed Morsi, wins the resulting democratic election, promising an inclusionary government that includes secular parties, but then writes a constitution that enforces strict Islamic Sharia Law. IAWRT Board Member, Sheila Dallas-Katzman interviewed the Vice-Chair of the Journalists' Syndicate in Egypt, Abeer Saady, during the recent uprising in that country.

“Some 800 people were killed in one massacre. 53 killed in a bomb attack and drive-by shootings across Egypt.”

Sheila: Give us an update on the situation of journalists who are covering these violent clashes that ousted the government of Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Abeer: In all cases the Journalists whom I represent were covering those incidences and it was too dangerous for them and we have faced a lot of hostile treatment from everyone especially through Morsi – during the days this hate speech was from the stages of the two sit-ins. And at the same time there is a culture against journalists. So today we are very sad to receive the death of two journalists and the injury of a number of our journalists who work all over Egypt.

Sheila: Was this a coup-d'état overthrowing a democratically elected government or was this a necessary self-correction to the way to a stable democratic government?
Abeer: We want a stable country. Remember, it was two and a half years since we had a revolution – and we are still in a transition period and the army had led the country for more than one year and it led us to nothing. But, the army had to lead and we had to do elections and this new president came. He was not the best choice, but less bad than the other president. This is what the Egyptians have been saying. Don't measure this to a stable democracy, like your country [USA] for example, where everything is already settled. So you cannot compare it to another country. In our situation it was impossible for us as citizens of this country. When I say us, it was a big lot of people in this country, including some of the people who have now retreated back because they have seen the blood. Because the blood changes everything - They are afraid…. And one of the things I know that America cannot say that this revolution [is a coup] – because it will upset their potential partners now – the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamists…they have with them the historical new relationship that will serve them for the future. We do not want to upset them to say this is a revolution. But at the same time they cannot say that this is a military coup in a clear way because they do not want to upset the army – because, again, it is their supporters. This is kind of confusion. Why the White House cannot say it is not a coup and it is a revolution.

Sheila: How has the role of women changed in this dispensation?

Abeer: Women are fighting back really. They want to keep their places. They have been attacked. And I told you before the idea of the political rape and the political harassment against women who demonstrate and the anti Muslim demonstrations and it always happened in an organized way that makes you think that it is provoked from one place. But women are still there fighting in the Squares. And I mean even the women on the other side, because they are Egyptians as well, that we respect them. The ones who go willingly to support Morsi, - and it is their right by the way. We value their role and we protect their life. And when we say any criticism, we don't want them to be in the front lines or to be sacrificed. But we value all the kinds of women who are here in Egypt.

Sheila: So you are saying the status of women is shaping up– you have some bright vision that it is shaping up in this administration- versus Mubarak or Morsi?

Abeer: There was a lot of violation to the rights of women. A lot of attack was subjected to women during the time of Mubarak and then more during the time of Army Staff. And then during the time of Morsi and even now we are still trying to fight back and trying to get our rights. There is one thing that I told to the women of my nation, no one can give you your rights – you have to take your rights yourself - especially if the culture of the society is changing to be very hostile for the rights of the woman. But at the end of the day, women are strong, they are educated, even the ones who are not educated. We are trying to give them better awareness and better conditions…. I am telling you, there is a large percentage – one third of Egyptian women are supporting families – completely with no men – so we have faith in women in this country– and we have faith that they are going to fight for their rights. The problem always is that whoever comes to rule this country does not prioritize the rights for women and think that it is secondary compared to the political or social economic situation. But actually, we think now it’s time for women of Egypt to fight back for the rights of women and the rights of the children again.

Sheila: Are there any women leaders coming forward? They are taking care of families and homes. Are there any women that you would encourage to come forward and say look we want you to put your hat in the ring to lead this country?
**Abeer:** We have wonderful women. We have judges – we have women in many of the positions. Actually, President Morsi, the whole fight was against a woman – a female judge. Her name is Tahani al-Gebali, who is part of the Constitutional Court [Tahani al-Gebali is the first female judge in Egyptian history and was named to deputy head of the Supreme Constitutional Court by President Hosni Mubarak]. She is a vocal critic of the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Muslim Brotherhood Constitution served to remove her from the bench. The whole battle was against a woman. Because he cannot stand the idea that a woman can have influence. Actually, there are many other women just as Ms Tahani, but in different places. Actually, they are decreasing the numbers of women who are leading in different positions. We had a good feeling at the beginning of the current government, the transition government of Mr. Beblawi, because at the beginning we heard that we are going to have more than five female ministers. The number decreased to three instead of more than five female among the more than 30 ministers. Again, we do not find any governorate who is a woman. So we are fighting. But, now we have a new minister of information, she is a woman. She is responsible for the media – so that’s good. We are winning some of the fights. But we know that we cannot win everything but at least we are fighting.

**Sheila:** Thank you very much.

Ms. Saady states, “Egyptians have confidence the military as the only organized and stable institution in Egypt. Despite that, the people want a civilian government with an inclusive administration that recognizes and respects the role of women.”

The Vice Chair of the Journalist’s Syndicate in Egypt, Abeer Saady is particularly advocating for better policies for the protection of journalists, chiefly female journalists in Egypt who are often openly attacked and sexually molested with impunity. For the full interview, see the IAWRT website.

Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood took to the streets chanted slogans and raised four fingers, the symbol known as “Rabaa”, remembering those killed in the crackdown on the Rabaa Al-Adaweya protest camp in Cairo last year.
Profiles

Two senior and long time serving members of IAWRT were honored for their contributions to the association during 35th IAWRT Biennial Conference-Elizabeth Kirby and Gundel Krauss Dahl

Elisabeth Kirkby, a truly remarkable Woman

By Gundel Krauss Dahl

Elizabeth Kirkby (PhD), IAWRT Member, 93 years old

Elizabeth Kirkby is one of the most amazing, impressive, knowledgeable and warmhearted persons I have ever known. Her life is in itself an adventure – so manifold and rich, so full of challenges met and tasks taken on. Lis (as called by friends) has always fought for what she believes in, and has given generously of her time, energy, heart and mind - politically, socially and within the profession.

Her first career was as an actress in England, but when she moved to Malaysia with her husband she worked with Radio Malaysia and became head of their Talks and Features Unit. I shall never forget when during the IAWRT conference in Kuala Lumpur we were on a bus tour through the former British section of the town. Lis pointed to a balcony and told us that she had stood on that balcony reporting on radio as the British flag was lowered and the British rule in Malaysia ended. History became alive, and a shrill went down my spine.

It was in Malaysia she first came into contact with IAWRT and she became a member in 1963. After moving to Sydney she worked at the Australian Broadcasting Commission and became the first on-air producer of a program for women. But it was as a star in a widely popular TV soap opera Lis became a person and a face everyone recognized.

She kept her attachment and interest in IAWRT and attended her first conference in Brussels in 1970. She was elected to the Board in Stockholm in 1972 and became our President in 1976.

Since then, Lis has attended all IAWRT’s Biennial Conferences, except when the conference dates clashed with her duties as an elected Member of Parliament in Sydney.
For in 1981 Lis became a Member of Parliament in Sydney, the first woman to represent her party as part of the Australian Democrats. For eighteen years she led an intense and active political life, fighting for human rights, for environmental issues, for equal opportunities for all regardless of gender or race, and for social and economic reforms. And since she was often the only representative of her party she had to cover the whole political field. No small task for a woman who cannot bear to be superficial about anything.

In 1981, Lis became a Member of Parliament in Sydney, the first woman to represent her party the Australian Democrats. For eighteen years she led an intense and active political life, fighting for human rights, for environmental issues, for equal opportunities for all regardless of gender or race, and for social and economic reforms.

After she retired from her political career on the parliamentary level, she moved to the countryside and bought and ran a sheep farm, and – of course – became active on the local political scene.

Now she has moved back to Sydney, graduated at the university, and has just completed her PhD, 93 years old, mind you. The theme for her thesis? *Exploring the link between the global financial crisis and the Great Depression in 1929.* No less!

IAWRT is indeed fortunate to have had, and still to have, the heart and mind of Lis Kirkby, generously sharing, and insisting she has a lot to learn.

**Gundel, IAWRT to develop in a democratic, global and international direction**

By Kirsten Bråthen

The years when I lived in Zimbabwe and travelled in Africa, I sometimes listened to Radio Norway International on short wave aimed for Norwegians abroad, “This is Norway” and other programs.

My favourite was the programs presented by a melodic and warm woman’s voice with a perfect English. I had no further knowledge of my favourite presenter and maker of the programs at that time, and later learned that voice was Gundel Krauss Dahl. I was a TV-journalist on leave for another job.

Back in Norway I learned that Gundel Krauss Dahl, Head of the Norwegian Group, former Board member and President of IAWRT had done a tremendous job to develop IAWRT, and made sure that IAWRT would have funding.

However, NORAD does not sponsor international associations directly. Norwegian women’s associations can get funding by membership in FOKUS, an umbrella association of NORAD.

It was in Harare Gundel was elected president. With the knowledge of Fokus, Gundel started a Norwegian IAWRT group to get funding for IAWRT.

Mal Johnson had already in Zimbabwe presented the idea of national or regional chapters for more local activities. The changes were adopted at the biennial Conference in Williamsburg, USA, in 2005 and opened up for regional and national activities.
Up to now, FOKUS has been the main funder for IAWRT’s conferences and activities thanks to Gundel's previous efforts.

As she herself expresses it: "I made it my job to convince the funding agency in Norway that IAWRT was worth supporting and that the core funding was necessary for the association to develop in a democratic, global and professional direction."

IAWRT-members are lucky to have a reliable source for funding the IAWRT’s activities and to keep FOKUS updated and proud of our achievements.

The way Gundel sets the goals for IAWRT through her work in and outside of the association is of great inspiration to us all.

Gundel has been a member of IAWRT since 1970, when she was asked by the president to join the association. She became the first Norwegian member of IAWRT, highly supported by the Director General of NRK. At the Conference in 1972 in Stockholm, Gundel became a Board member. Since then IAWRT has been part of her life.

“It had always been Gundel's interest to recruit young members.” Kirsten Brathen observed

The network of friends and colleagues around the world became important to her, both professionally and on a personal level. She engaged herself in the Nepal Project, a so-called "Network", a register for Media Women, qualified and willing to take on assignments in developing countries.

Women working in radio, television, with film, video and print, signed up to take on training or production. Furthermore, it was undertaken on request and funded by UNESCO.

During the cooperation with Worldview International from 1999, several young Asian IAWRT members received practical training at the TV station, Young Asia Television, in Sri Lanka. It had always been Gundel's interest to recruit young members.

“I learned that Gundel Krauss Dahl, Head of the Norwegian Group, former Board member and President of IAWRT had done a tremendous job to develop IAWRT, and made sure that IAWRT would have funding” stated Kirsten Brathen

In 1997 Gundel managed to get NORAD, the Norwegian Development Agency, to sponsor members from developing countries to participate in the Conference in Harare in Zimbabwe.

However, NORAD does not sponsor international associations directly. Norwegian women’s associations can get funding by membership in FOKUS, an umbrella association of NORAD. It was in Harare Gundel was elected president.
COMMUNITY MEDIA IN TANZANIA BENEFIT FROM UNITED NATIONS GENDER TRAININGS

By Tanzania Chapter Head, Rose H. Mwalimu

Since the last six years, the status of community media in the United Republic of Tanzania has undergone significant improvements, which can be attributed to contributions from various stakeholders in the country, but also, considerably support from UNESCO.

In collaboration with UN WOMEN, UNIC and UNESCO -Delivering as One- gender sensitive trainings to build the capacity for Community Media in Tanzania have been rolled out since 2011.

UN Women conducted three training in 2011 for community media in Tanzania on Constitutional changes, good governance anti-corruption, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. The objective of the training was to raise awareness about these issues through community radio as a long-term strategy that encourages the participation of women in democratic discourse.

Thirty-seven local radios benefitted from the training and 1,000 solar wind radios were distributed to women listeners groups to empower them on democratic discourse as well as khangas (Swahili wrappers) carrying empowerment messages. UNESCO embarked on implementing SIDA project on Empowering Community Radios on ICTs year 2012. Twenty community media professionals were trained on ethics and gender responsive reporting in the media as well as approving the use of the new gender Policy for Community Media in Tanzania.

During the training inputs and recommendations for Media Services Bill 2008 were also solicited for consolidation. The result of this training was Draft of Gender policy to be used by the community media for gender mainstreaming in programmes; task force for gender policy established and message/programme matrices were developed for gender sensitive programming.

UNESCO supports the Community Radio for Micheweni District, which is the first Community Radio in Zanzibar. The Community radio project was delivered by UNESCO through the UN Joint Programme 5 on Capacity Building for Zanzibar. The success of the Radio in promoting Girls education has paved way for more Community Radio Projects in Zanzibar Islands.

Sengerema Tele-centre: one of the most successful community radios in Tanzania
TYHOONy HAIYANI WIPED OUR HOMES AWAY, NOT OUR HOPES

By Marvie Matura

‘I thought we couldn’t make it. I thought it was our time…’ says Dahlia Gallardo, a mother of three, as she bitterly recounted how Typhoon Haiyan mercilessly wiped out their homes and tore their livelihood.

Homeless, Dahlia had to salvage whatever was left of their shattered house and gave it a little fix so it resembles a small tent. This small tent now serves as their humble abode albeit hardly enough to keep her children safe and warm.

Jobless, Dahlia had to line up in barangay halls, basketball courts and even in the streets, anywhere there is news of relief operations happening in their area just to have something to feed their grumbling stomachs.

For days and weeks after Typhoon Haiyan hit Northern Cebu, life has been like this for many of them. For many of us in the Philippines, Nov 8, 2013 will forever mark in our history.

As our elders would say, super Typhoon Haiyan was the fiercest typhoon that had ever hit the Country, as far as their memory can recall. The first few days after the typhoon unraveled dead bodies were lying everywhere, especially, in Tacloban City which, is located in the Eastern part of Central Philippines.

Survivors had to grapple for their lives. There was no food, only hunger, coldness and darkness. Roads are impassable. Death toll increased.

The whereabouts of many people is still not known. The country was caught unprepared for such natural calamities. So frail and vulnerable our country was exposed by those heartbreaking scenarios that followed thereafter. Political bickering is not a solution at all. Poverty is everywhere and corruption is exacerbating the situation. The government ‘s response is at a tortoise pace. Typhoon Haiyan not only hit us in a bad way but also unleashed a sense of nationalism among us.
It brought about the spirit of collectivism. Civil society organizations and ordinary citizens came out pouring all the help they can to our distressed people. Even organizations and institutions from other countries came in to help. They sent donations, distributed relief goods and conducted stress-debriefing activities.

They helped in any way they could. The media didn’t sleep either. Reporters immediately trooped to the hard-hit communities gathering and giving invaluable information globally. People turned to the media to help them find their lost friends and relatives and to get updates on the situation on the ground.

This wide media projection of the storm-battered Philippines may have touched the hearts of so many people from across borders leading to the wave of support, aid and sympathy for the Philippines.

“People turned to the media to help them find their lost friends and relatives and to get updates on the situation on the ground.”

Alternative media outlets like the Central Visayas Farmers Development Center Inc. (FARDEC), a non-profit, non-government organization providing support to the peasants in the Central Visayas region of the Philippines; used its radio programs to aid in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts for typhoon-affected areas. Immediately after the typhoon, FARDEC mobilized all its resources, solicited help from other organizations and joined many others in the series of relief operations around Northern Cebu. Consultations with the affected communities were immediately conducted and relief distribution followed suit.

The people were asked what they needed and how the distribution would be best conducted. They also participated in the relief distribution itself. While relief operations were ongoing, FARDEC’s radio programs served as venues where typhoon survivors discussed their problems, and gave their analysis and viewpoints. Their rights and benefits in times of crises were also discussed. It is in these radio programs that the needs and interests of the poor and the marginalized are prioritized. In turn, their media coverage has helped them gain sympathy and support.
But, more importantly, it helped build their confidence in their capacity to act and do their share in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their lives. It enhanced the understanding that they have the primary role in the rehabilitation process; all assistance from the outside would not prosper and would not serve its purpose. This is the development function of the media. More than giving out information, the media also capacitated, empowered and gave voice to the voiceless.

Indeed, typhoon Haiyan unraveled so many things about the Philippines – its flaws, vulnerabilities and its real politics. But, at the same time, it also opened the floodgates of important realizations that may hopefully guide every Filipino and every country. As typhoon Haiyan wrecked havoc into our lives, it should as well teach us to start nurturing our environment, to adopt sustainable ways of using our resources, promote good governance and perhaps and most importantly, to start caring for others.

More so, the catastrophe must teach us that only through collective and organized action among the vast majority of the people can a Country surpass whatever storm comes its way.

"Media also capacitated, empowered and gave voice to the voiceless."
"Typhoon Haiyan wiped our homes away, not our hopes"

COMMUNITY MEDIA IN TANZANIA BENEFIT FROM UNITED NATIONS GENDER TRAININGS

By Tanzania Chapter

According to the Executive Secretary of the Broadcasting Commission in Zanzibar, described what he has observed as the impact of a community radio station in Zanzibar, in a rural village, Micheveni.

The levels of immunization were the lowest in the region; they were living on food aid from the Government. Most of the houses they were living in were very basic mud houses. With the informational and educational programmes that were broadcast by Micheveni FM, the residents were able to improve their agricultural techniques and the production of cassava and seaweed increased. Two years ago the food aid was discontinued, as the area had become self-sufficient in food production.

The executive secretary also stated that there is a progressive movement towards brick houses showing improvement of quality of life. He attributed all these changes to the impact of community radio, Micheveni FM in particular.

In another development, UNESCO is embarking on a project to empower women, youth and the disabled in peace building for development. The project is expected to engage community radios as an important channel of ordinary people’s participation due to its potential in reaching populations that are to easily served by mainstream media. Peace among other things is a strong and equitable socio-economic foundation in Tanzania for sustainable development to be upheld through this engagement.
As of 2013 more than 27 local radios in Tanzania operating under the flagship of a registered NGO, Community Media Network of Tanzania (COMNETA will benefit from this project.

COMNETA is a network of discussion platform officially registered on 07 February 2013 under the provision of trustees' Incorporation Act CAP. 318 R.E 2002.

COMNETA aims at building the capacity for the Network since it is the only place where community media will come together, identify them, and create dialogue with the government and other stakeholders.

It is the point where support will be guaranteed to all members who may not be able to take action alone; accessing existing resources in the network will be possible.

The pooling of financial and programme resources will help develop leadership and broaden the scope of community media performances. Furthermore, COMNETA will provide a platform for experience and knowledge sharing. Most of all, it will help in decision-making on matters that concern their well-being.

The training held at the Radio Sengerema premises, provided an opportunity to strengthen the capacities of community radio leaders and practitioners for promoting democratic discourse that is inclusive, peaceful, and gender responsive.

UNESCO community media specialists, representatives from Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) and Search for Common Ground engaged with the participants.

Radio practitioners also gained knowledge on editorial policies, and gathered enhanced understanding on how community radios should engage the public when handling election issues, including credible and objective reporting while helping to amplify the voices of those who are often unheard, particularly, women and youth groups. As Adelina Lweramula of FADECO Community Radio reflects, “It was very interesting to hear the participants discuss the challenges in their own words. Hopefully, we will cooperate more in the upcoming elections.”

Looking forward to the project follow up, another manager added, “We can apply what we have learned by involving radio staff, administration, and broadcasters… especially to teach them how to report on election news and the importance of having editorial policies.”

Community media network has been able to attract further support such as the $80,000 UNDP-funded election support Project in 2010 delivered through UNESCO; SIDA funded project on empowerment in ICTS 2011/2013 and UNDP funded Project on democratic empowerment 2012/2014.

COMNETA is a member of East African Community Media Network (EACOMNET) bringing together community media networks from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Burundi is expected to join soon.
WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE IN THE AFTERMATH OF SUPER TYPHOON - YOLANDA?

By Jola Diones-Mamangun

A week after 35th IAWRT Biennial Conference in Morocco, I did a thorough personal soul search. “IAWRT Philippines needs rebirth.” I concluded my soul search. Reviving our local chapter isn’t an easy task. But, determination knows no barrier. As a media practitioner and a loyal IAWRT member, I asked myself many questions; “What is my role in rebirth of Philippine chapter after many theories of what inactivated the chapter?”

With insights from discussions with our comrades and colleagues in the plenary hall, small rooms, at workshops, in the lobby and the secretariat room while in Morocco, I decided to live IAWRT principles as a tool for change and not a badge on my chest. This became personal. Running a chapter needs a personal commitment. Am I the right person to reignite the Philippine chapter and be a leader with the integrity and dignity a leader ought to have?

November 8, 2013, is a day with an indelible mark on my mind. Friday evening, my son had an accident. He slipped in front of our gate in the middle of the Typhoon Yolanda and got injured at the back of his head. My body developed goose bumps when I touched his head, which was bleeding profusely.

We ran to a nearby hospital where he received medical care. It was on the same day when typhoon Yolanda hit the Eastern Visayas where thousands of lives were lost and thousands missing. The typhoon drew worldwide attention due to its vast impact on human lives and the country. Within a twinkle of an eye, Philippines became the center of chaos, pain, displacement, homelessness, and tears all around the country. Typhoon Yolanda revealed poor disaster preparedness by the government and very slow actions to save lives and respond to emergencies in the disaster hit areas. Thanks to ‘sisterliness’ at IAWRT, all was not lost.

A close friend, mentor, a board member, Sheila Dallas-Katzman, whom I personally met in Morocco; not only consoled me but also educated me with her words of wisdom that despite Typhoon Yolanda’s darkness, sunshine will come. Sheila and I are also affiliated with another association, AMARC (World
Association of Community Radio Broadcaster). By use of many networks in AMARC, Sheila embarked upon getting us help from around the world. People are more devastated when there is an information blackout. Hence, a mobile community radio station would be a solution.

Sheila introduced me to a couple of friends in the United States and links to be able to meet more in the United Kingdom for help to meet my desires to have a mobile community radio station to the devastated area in the Eastern Visayas. People struck by calamities are needy. They are exposed to cold weather conditions, fall sick and are almost naked. They wait upon help from well-wishers. How would help come to them? Radio would fill that void. I was determined that radio was the answer. It can give hope when things seem hopeless.

Through Kodao Productions, friends from the Austin Airwaves (AA-USA), Active Radio (UK) and AMARC members helped to set up a mobile community radio station in Eastern Visayas. Plans are underway through a fundraiser lead by AA-USA to have solar radio in Samar, Leyte and Panay Island. They are doing research too on how to avail themselves of a small FM transmitter for the radio station that will serve as a disaster response radio in the community. There is still no electricity in the affected areas.

Rebuilding IAWRT Philippine Chapter

In spite of many assignments in informing the global audiences about Typhoon Yolanda, IAWRT Philippines Chapter was still in my heart. We held a meeting with three new members of the Philippines chapter. Estrella Catarata also joined me. Amid our talks, we learnt all in attendance, wanted to rebuild IAWRT chapter. First meeting of IAWRT Philippine chapter was also done November 30 2013.

So, here are seven women, passionate with advocacies as women journalists, anchor, filmmaker and media workers. We not only share our views and suggestions on how we can rebuild IAWRT Chapter but also give full support to continue our roles in rebuilding the chapter. We decided to seek guidance from the IAWRT international board and IAWRT secretariat to hold an election for the new set of officers as our first step. In this memo, four things are evident – a mother, an IAWRT member, a community radio advocate and a disaster concerned citizen. I didn't even know which one should be the first one to write and which one is a less priority. But I think, this is the reason they called us a woman. At the end of the day there is always a question that needs an answer right away – What else to be done?
The late Agnes Shija passed away in August 2013 after short illness and was buried at her hometown of Shinyanga. Members of media fraternity, government officials, friends and relatives observed the burial ceremony.

The late Agnes Shija a renowned lecturer at Tumaini University Dar es Salaam joined IAWRT Tanzania in 2012. She participated actively at the Regional Gender Based Violence Conference 2012 in Tanzania and presented a very inspiring paper on the role of media in reporting gender-based violence.

Her contribution to the chapter as well as nation and academy will not be forgotten and a gap hard to fill.

We miss you Agnes, RIP Agnes!

The late Agnes Shija, Tanzania IAWRT Chapter Member

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Nangurai, Kenya</td>
<td>Margaret Nyambura, Kenya</td>
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<td>Asha Bikidusä, Kenya</td>
<td>Mahacine Maked, Morocco</td>
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<td>Adeline Milavi, Kenya</td>
<td>Mary Carling, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afaf Saoudi, Qatar</td>
<td>Kristine Hoyer, Norway</td>
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<td>Beate Riiser, Norway</td>
<td>Margaret Hagihara,</td>
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<td>Clemence Mkanyika, Kenya</td>
<td>Naomi Kamau, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Kunzle, Canada</td>
<td>Najlae Benmabrek, Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doreen Magak Akinyi, Kenya</td>
<td>Nezha Mghari, Morocco</td>
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<td>El Hachemy Hanane, Morocco</td>
<td>Rebecca Myles, USA</td>
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<td>Eleanor Montimer, UK</td>
<td>Ruth Keah, Kenya</td>
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<td>Gertrude Muthoni Ngore, Kenya</td>
<td>Sania Farooqui, India</td>
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<td>Greta Gober, Poland</td>
<td>Sabina Pop, Romania</td>
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<td>Iphigenie Marcoux Fortier, Canada</td>
<td>Sheila Nyongesa, Kenya</td>
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<td>Keiko Bang, Singapore/S. Korea</td>
<td>Sylvia Masese, Kenya</td>
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<td>Lilian Juma, Kenya</td>
<td>Sylvia Muta, Kenya</td>
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<td>Lucy Otieno, Kenya</td>
<td>Verah Mugambi, Kenya</td>
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<td>Marie Yambo, Kenya</td>
<td>Wanjage Wairimu, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macapobre Mae, Philippines</td>
<td>Yasmine Ryan, Tunisia</td>
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<td>Marvie Matura, Philippines</td>
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