Conference Theme: Broadcasting and Social Justice: Women in the Media on Conflict and Crisis
9 – 11 November 2017
Venue: Microtel by Wyndham, Commonwealth, Quezon City, Philippines
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More than 90 women participants from radio, TV and print journalism besides documentary filmmakers from Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, India, Kenya, Nepal, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, UK and the US participated in the 37th Biennial, that was held in Quezon City, the Philippines from 9-11 November 2017.

The IAWRT Biennial Conference highlighted the core issues that women in media face while covering the war on terrorism, drugs and how they brave disasters. Various plenary sessions discussed, explored and brought forward the narratives of how women media professionals rise to these challenges through individual initiatives, organizations and use of new media. The Safety Training Handbook – What If…?, written by internationally known safety training instructor and IAWRT Board member, Abeer Saady, was also launched during the conference.

The participants were from Norway (8), Sweden (1), UK (2), USA (3), Canada (1), Kenya (6), Cameroon (1), Philippines (35), Tunisia (1), South Africa (1), Egypt (1), Nepal (1), Tanzania (1), Malaysia (1) Australia (2), Cambodia (1), India (4), Uganda (1) and Bangladesh (1).
Welcome & Opening Remarks

Host:
Lynda Garcia, Philippines, Vice President, IAWRT Philippines

Welcome Remarks:
Jola Diones-Mamangun, Philippines, President, IAWRT Philippines

Opening Remarks:
Gunilla Ivarsson, Sweden, President, IAWRT International

Jola Diones-Mamangun, President, IAWRT Philippines, thanked IAWRT International Board for trusting her and giving her the opportunity to organize such a big event. Welcoming the participants, she said, “I am honoured and I welcome you all in anticipation of three days of solidarity, friendship, fun, understanding and unity for greater victories for our association in the years ahead.”

Gunilla Ivarsson, President IAWRT gave opening remarks and introduced the theme of the conference – Broadcasting and Social Justice: Women in the Media on Conflict and Crises. She said, “There is no peace in the world today, and access to social justice is becoming increasingly unequal among countries and among the different social strata within countries. We hope to encourage new insights; new ideas and new networks, which together can act as a tool for women in the media.” She concluded, “For us, in IAWRT it is about engaging along different tracks – to fight for, and stand behind women’s rights, women journalists’ rights and fight for acceptable working conditions and women’s representation in the workforce. We also concentrate on the media content. If we don’t include women as experts and resource persons, we do not hear their voices and let them be heard. The full truth can never be reported without including their perspective.” She called upon ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) head of states to stop attacks on the journalists and made an appeal for a free press.
**INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH & SOLIDARITY SPEECH**

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH:**
Judy Taguiwalo, Alliance of Concerned Teachers

**SOLIDARITY SPEECH:**
Liza Maza, Secretary, National Anti-Poverty Commission

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**Inspirational Speech:**
Former DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) Secretary Judy Taguiwalo underscored the role of media as reporter and critic. Judy Taguiwalo shared snippets from her life. Being an activist she once served as a “staff of an underground paper in the countryside.” She said, “Though I am not a media professional, I do understand the important role of media in creating awareness. Media should always side with the truth.” About human rights and reforms, she said, “We need to implement true reforms. Voices need to be heard.”

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**Solidarity Speech:**
Liza Maza has been fighting for the rights of women in different sectors. Committed to building a world where there is freedom in the media and where equality is closer to reality, she said, “True power lies in the strength of the majority. The media plays a very important role as a watchdog to those who abuse power in the government and as about speaking truth to power, now even media has to compete with the fake news – the rightist propaganda machinery.”
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AGAINST ALL ODDS: WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN THE FRONTLINE

Keynote Speaker:
Kathleen T. Okubo, Philippines, Editor-in-Chief, Northern Dispatch

Keynote Speaker Kathleen Okubo, an Ibaloi and staunch defender of the indigenous people’s human rights, recalled how the days of the Marcos regime made life miserable for the Igorot people and for women journalists like her. “I made a decision to write for the indigenous people because our stories were not being covered by the established media,” she said. She was arrested several times for her activism.

About the impact of globalization, Kathleen said, “Women and children are the first victims of globalization. Women are considered weaklings and are subjected to discrimination. The macho world tries to oppress women.” She blamed globalization for creating class inequality. “The poor became poorer and the rich, richer. And, Marcos was the force behind rapid globalization in the Philippines.” She narrated how in the 1980s, the Philippines was the first country in Asia and the second nation in the world to be a recipient of a World Bank loan. “Coinciding with the loan was a package of incentives for investments in the extractive industry. The resulting rush of mining companies affected mountain communities in the Cordilleras.”

She further added, “Writers are still harassed by the government. The goal of the media is to unravel the truth. Media is born to raise truth among people. But since the restoration of the democratic constitution (after the martial law) 178 journalists have been killed, including 12 women. Most of the journalists who got killed were on duty, reporting on corruption in the local government. Up to this day, in President Rodrigo Duterte’s administration, journalists are killed and women are publicly harassed.”

She concluded on a hopeful note. “Despite all odds, let us continue to unite on the basic values for the good of the majority; organize and unite and let us be united to uplift the standards of the communities.”

Kathleen T. Okubo’s address ended with a standing ovation from the participants.
Covering Duterte’s War on Drugs:

Moderator Ronalyn V. Olea outlined the importance of the session. “Purpose is to let the delegates, especially the foreign delegates, know the realities of what is happening in the Philippines.” Jhoanna Ballaran, multimedia reporter, (Inquirer.net) described the perils while covering President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs. She said, “At the beginning of the war on drugs, 6,140 suspected drug criminals were killed by the government. From July 2016 to September 2017, nearly...
3850 people were killed in police operations. Nearly 2290 people died during the police investigation. It is believed that the true figures could be much more than these statistics. It will be somewhere near 13000 as the police had given inconsistent data to the media.

Highlighting the challenges and issues in reporting about the drug war, she said, "The PNP (Philippines National Police) Chief, Ronald Dela Rosa criticizes the way media reports the war on drugs. He has often complained that the media twists facts and data. In fact, there are a number of issues while covering the war on drugs."

Some of the challenges mentioned in the session were:
- Access to information, safety, security and trauma.
- Lack of safety training.
- Improper safety gear to protect journalists.
- Storytelling - it fails to go beyond the police report.
- Sometimes the reports don't go beyond the numbers.
- To explore ways of reporting the same issue in a different way.
- Giving a face to the victims and those left behind.
- How to challenge the policy?

However, according to her, there is a silver lining too in covering stories on the Philippine Drug War, also known locally as the War on Drugs. "There has been an increase in a number of human interest and investigative stories. People are interested in reading about such incidents. The outcome is – increase in circulation."

COVERING KIDAPAWAN MASSACRE AND LAND-RELATED CONFLICTS:
Kathyrine Xerxis M. Cortez, News Editor, One Radio News FM and an award-winning journalist covered Kidapawan protest. She has been getting death threats for her criticism of the Duterte’s administration. She narrated her ordeal: "The Kidapawan protest was supposed to be an ordinary day of covering a protest, till I heard a gun fire. Ironically, the farmers who produce food are the ones who are asking for rice grains on their table from the government." At first, she faced difficulty in reporting on the farmers coming from different provinces because many were held by the police. Most were able to go to the NFA (National Food Authority) office where they began their protest. The farmers barricaded the main road of North Cotabato (a landlocked province in the Philippines located in the SOCCSKSARGEN region in Mindanao. Its capital is Kidapawan City). She said, "The most difficult part was interviewing the parents of the killed individuals. It was also saddening to interview those who were detained by the government. I was emotionally traumatized. As a woman journalist, it became extremely difficult to maintain composure and be objective. But as a journalist, it was my duty to tell the story. And, that’s what I did."

To report on the issue of Kidapawan massacre, attacks on the communities, "was a constant challenge. Sometimes journalists were denied interviews, data and information," she said. Even the radio station she worked for was harassed during the coverage of the massacre. On the personal front, she was subjected to harassment by the paramilitary leaders because of the attacks on the Lumad (meaning 'indigenous people', the autonym officially adopted by the delegates of the Lumad Mindanao Peoples Federation – LMPF - founding assembly on 26 June 1986 at the Guadalupe Formation Center, Balindog, Kidapawan, Cotabato, Philippines) schools she reported. The funding to her radio station was stopped. "Radio broadcasting is a daily challenge it needs patience and passion to fully understand the medium and to grasp its impact on the listeners. Radio service plays a very significant role at the grassroots level for development. It is said that journalism is a man's job, but being a woman and working as a journalist means confronting gender issues and cultural norms, constantly," Kathyrine concluded.

COVERING MINING AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:
Kimberlie Ngabit-Quitasol is associated with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and with an ethnolinguistic group of Ifugao province. She writes

"Journalists should endeavour to bring about social change. Dissemination of information is crucial in empowering the marginalized. Press freedom is for the masses. Genuine press freedom can only happen when media is owned by the people. It is therefore imperative that journalists should bring about social change. My Pen is my weapon and I choose to speak the truth."

Kimberlie Ngabit-Quitasol
and shares stories about destructive projects, people’s rights and about people who are arrested for standing against the oppressors. She champions the cause for lasting peace in the Philippines.

“I am biased but my stories are objective,” she said. “The truth,” she remarked, “is bitter. Let’s face it, the big business houses, known for exploiting these people are the biggest advertisers and are close to the media. This explains the reason for roadblocks. The fact is, writing stories that disturb the status quo, is a difficult feat. Such stories are often buried and never broadcast.”

According to Kimberlie dissemination of information is crucial in empowering the marginalised. “Press freedom is for the masses. Genuine press freedom can only happen when media is owned by the people. It is therefore imperative that journalists should attempt to bring about a change in society. My Pen is my weapon and I choose to speak the truth.”

This was followed by Open Discussion. Some of the important questions raised were:

Q: The story about the Kidapawan massacre never hit the international news. The international arena never heard about the Kidapawan massacre. Why and how?

Answers by the panelists:

**Jhoanna Ballaran:** International support is really important for local journalists covering the war on drugs because it amplifies what is happening in the country (Philippines). The truth is if the international press does not report against it, international organizations wouldn’t push the government to stop the killings.

**Kimberlie Quitasol:** Mining companies are multinational companies and their activities in our country, especially in the marginalized areas, are not even reported in the national press, forget about international media writing about it. So is the game of power politics! To meet this challenge we can create an avenue of information and data sharing and help each other amplify the issues from different perspective and countries and also to provide support to all journalists.

**Kathyrine Cortez:** This is not just to highlight a specific issue. We would like to inform the gathering that conflicts happening in rural areas are a reality. It needs attention. More so now as the government has begun to suppress press freedom. It is really important that the international media share these stories.

Q: What exactly is meant by the war on drugs and objective reporting?

Answers by the panelists:

**Jhoanna Ballaran:** Personally, the war on drugs is a misnomer. The usage of the word ‘war’ is wrong. War means that there are two parties in a conflict but what now is happening, is nothing less than genocide – mass murder of the poor.

**Kimberlie Quitasol:** The war on drugs launched by the Presidents failed to look on the other side of the picture – the social side of this malaise. Government’s response – killing – is not the answer to the problem. We do want to end the problem of drug abuse but we certainly do not believe in killing. On the question about objective reporting – I firmly believe that journalism is truth-telling and it is biased in its very essence. Objective reporting is to tell the truth based on facts. Objective reporting is not just presenting both sides of the stories; it is not neutral reporting. Actually, being neutral means taking the side of the oppressor.

**Moderator Ronaly V. Olea** thanked the panelists and concluded, “Stories from the ground need to be widely circulated and ought to be internationally published.”
Raman Tuazon began the session stating startling facts. “The theme of the conference relates very well to what Director-General Irina Bokova said – ‘Justice is a cornerstone of a free society. It dissuades those who threaten freedom of expression and emboldens those who stand to defend it.’ This is why injustice against journalists is so costly to society. 102 journalists were killed in 2016. And more serious than this is the fact that in 9 out of 10 cases, the perpetrators are never brought to justice.”

Elaborating on war reporting Gunilla Ivarsson said, “More and more journalists are turning freelancers. They do not have access to safety manuals when it comes to war reporting. Years ago, safety training began for journalists. Some time back we discussed that like local journalists, citizen journalists should also be given safety training. This prompted us to think about publishing a book. Since there was no funding, it was first decided that a brochure would suffice but with the financial support of the UNESCO communication and
the Union of Norwegian journalists, we finally came out with this book.”

Initiated by IAWRT International Board, the book - What If...? Safety Handbook For Women Journalists has been written by IAWRT Board member Abeer Saady and edited by IAWRT Web Journalist Nonée Walsh. Safety Trainer and author of the book, Abeer Saady said, “The book is a collective experience of very prominent members and is not just one women’s experience. As the range of situations faced by women journalists around the globe is vast, it is crucial that every women journalist should be ready for it. From common harassments faced by women in the office up to those who put themselves at risk by exposing military atrocities and corruptions - this book will serve as a guide.”

Abeer had been taking safety training workshops in different countries – Nepal, Syria, Libya, Uganda, India, etc. “The handbook is an open source book and is encouraging other women journalists to add their stories in the book as each person has a unique experience,” she said.

While explaining the necessity of undertaking safety training, she said, “The world is infested with terrorism and conflicts, it has become imperative for journalists, particularly women journalists, to protect themselves in conflict zones.” To make the book available worldwide, she concluded, “It would be nice to have it translated into different languages.”

EXTRACTS FROM THE BOOK

“...A journalist should realize how armed groups or forces see journalists in general and female journalists in particular. Many don’t understand journalists’ job requirements and goals. Journalists need information and armed groups often depend on confidentiality. This is a clash of objectives. Approach them with patience to gain their understanding and trust. Negotiation and communications skills are essential here. Being a woman is a challenge too. (Page 58)

“This handbook is not about one woman’s experience, but about the collective experience of many women journalists. If you have your grab bag of preparation techniques – risk assessment, profile management, situational and digital awareness and a safety plan along with your grab bag – your ability to survive dangerous situations is enhanced. (Page 86)

In 2014 a study conducted by the think tank Demos in the UK found that on Twitter, female journalists receive nearly three times as much abuse as male journalists. (Page 33)
WOMEN COVERING WAR ON TERRORISM

Local Journalists Covering Conflict:
Jamela Alindogan, Philippines, Correspondent, Al Jazeera & Activist

Challenges for Women Journalists in Afghanistan:
Najiba Ayubi, Afghanistan, Director General – Killid Media Group & Chapter Head, IAWRT Afghanistan (On Skype)

Palestine and Online Harassment:
Martha Hobi, Norway, Journalist, IAWRT Member
Hannah Storm, UK, Author and Manager of International News Safety Institute, London (On Skype)

Moderator:
Abeer Saady, Egypt, IAWRT Board Member

(L-R) Panelists- Jamela Alindogan, Martha Hobi and moderator Abeer Saady
Jamela Alindogan writes for Al Jazeera and was one of the first few journalists to report Typhoon Haiyan (also called Typhoon Yolanda). “The past few years have been very difficult for the Philippines, particularly for journalists,” she said. (Her report on Marawi conflict can be read on her blog - http://www.aljazeera.com/blogs/asia/2017/07/scarred-city-Philippines-170709132309776.html)

“Marawi (the capital of Mindanao’s Lanao del Sur province) is under Martial Law. There are several instances of human-rights abuses against the residents. Survival has become a daily struggle. Though the struggle towards peace and healing is evident on the faces of the Marawi residents, the scenario is grim. This war means nothing but a lifetime of grief,” Jamela said.

CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN AFGHANISTAN:

Najiba Ayubi, owner of a media house in Afghanistan – Killid – joined the conference via Skype call. While remembering her initial days as head of the organization, she said, “Male colleagues were hesitant in accepting me as their boss. But with time, they (men) began to respect my skills and abilities.” She has dedicated her life to media and politics. “I refused to submit to the patriarchal ways of the society. I continue to challenge the authorities.”

Within a span of 16 years, the strength of women journalists in Afghanistan has risen from 0 to 2000. Commenting on the political scenario in Afghanistan, Najiba said, “Insurgency has increased in Afghanistan and the rebel groups, i.e. the Taliban and the ISIS are now redefining the role of the media. They are trying to force the media to highlight what they want to be highlighted. But journalists are conscientious and are reporting the real news and not the fake news.”

Najiba is optimistic about the role of the media in Afghanistan. According to her, the bad times have passed. “We, journalists in Afghanistan have experienced the hard times but for the future generations, the foundation stone has been laid. Presently, the media in Afghanistan is really strong. People have begun to trust us.”

PALESTINE AND ONLINE HARASSMENT:

Martha Hobi from Norway talked about how women journalists not only risk their lives but are constantly swimming against the current. “Not only do they (women journalists) face dangers as journalists but also as women. This does not mean that women must not be given the same kind of opportunities. The fight is against gender stereotyping and gender discrimination,” she said. To Martha, kidnapping is one of the most dangerous situations that a woman journalist faces. “The challenge of journalists’ safety must include impunity from the perpetrators and...
the gender issues that lies within it. Sexual harassment against women is an efficient way to stop a woman journalist from further pursuing her job commitments and the irony is that perpetrators often go scot-free."

Hannah Storm, author and manager of International News Safety Institute in London said, "The society dictates that to be a field journalist is not suitable for women journalists. The important thing to consider is the individual’s background and ability and not gender. Women journalists should experience and should be given the opportunities to become field journalists – if they want."

She has authored - No Woman’s Land: On the Frontlines with Female Reporters.

This does not mean that women must not be given the same kind of opportunities. The fight is against gender stereotyping and gender discrimination,”

Martha Hobi

Moderator Abeer Saady concluded the session by throwing some insight into the growing strength of citizen journalists. "Citizen Journalists can see the reality from close quarters. A woman journalist can see the reality in a way that no male journalist can see. This is why safety training handbooks and workshops are crucial for women and citizen journalists to remain safe and face obstacles bravely." Abeer narrated the incident of Noora, a citizen journalist, who reported the Egyptian revolution - "She had to fight an emotional battle as her family members were present in the protest march. She had the urge to go down and look for them but she looked at the bigger picture and thought that instead of adding one more voice in the rally, she would rather hold her camera and capture the scene. This incident defies the notion that women are too emotional to become field journalists."
WOMEN IN THE MEDIA
BRAVING DISASTERS

Panelists:
Loretta S. Salarda, Philippines, Journalist and Typhoon Yolanda Survivor
Dean Lacandazo, Philippines, Journalist who covered Typhoon Yolanda
Anupa Shrestha, Nepal, Journalist and IAWRT Board Member

Moderator:
Janet Buelo, Philippines, Journalist, IAWRT Member

Janet Buelo, the journalist from the Philippines, began the session by narrating how women in media brave disasters and invited Lottie Salarda to share her experience during the Yolanda typhoon.

LOTTIE SALARDA:
Typhoon Yolanda (also known as Typhoon Haiyan) killed more than 6000 people in the Philippines. It caused widespread devastation and damaged the agricultural and the fisheries sector of the economy. When the disaster struck, Lottie Salarda was working as a radio reporter. She was the only female reporter stationed at the typhoon site. The radio station management had demanded that all reporters should be on a 24-hour
duty to monitor the typhoon. “As the typhoon began, radio transmitter exploded and the glass panes of the office building broke. Death stared at our faces. We were scared and this situation lasted for 6 hours. We had to stay in the office for 4 days without food. The survivors – journalists wanted to write about it but the government instructed us not to report negative stories,” she recounted.

DEAN LACANDAZO:  
Dean Lacandazo was sent to cover the story four days after the typhoon. The scenes he saw emotionally shook him. “When I reached there I saw piles of bodies all around.” According to him, the media plays a big role in helping the people. “As I was taking photographs, people followed me, everywhere. They wanted to be photographed, hoping that photographs would assure their relatives and family about their being alive. The government should be accountable for the things that they did and didn’t do. The government’s response before, during and after the typhoon was extremely poor. Relief goods reached too late and many survivors died due to starvation. Corruption was prevalent on a large scale,” he said.

ANUPA SHRESTHA:  
When the earthquake with the magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal, it killed 9000 people and more than 30000 people disappeared. Journalists covering tragedy needed strength and professional honesty to report. Most of the journalists were sincere towards the profession but were unaware of the risk factor. “Journalists lacked knowledge about reporting during the disasters; they had never attended any safety training workshop,” said Anupa. Hence, she emphasized that safety training workshops “are necessary for journalists.”

This was followed by Open Discussion, in which questions were raised about the safety of the journalists, responsibility of the authorities, the role of citizen journalists, and whether female journalists’ reporting is more humane and sensitive than male journalists. ■

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY 1

» A journalists job is to bring truth to the people.  
» To push the publication of the real stories happening on the ground.  
» Often journalists submit themselves to dangerous situations. It is more dangerous for women journalists because of their gender. Given these sentiments, it is important to brief women journalists, before and after the incidents.  
» Safety and security training for the journalists should be a must.  

» Therapies after every job should be available to ease trauma.  
» Citizen Journalists should also undertake safety training.  
» Women journalists cover stories in a much more sensitive manner.  
» Journalists, particularly women journalists, should unite and have a source of information which they can disseminate, internationally. This way international support from the media is also guaranteed for sensitive stories.
SCREENING OF VELVET REVOLUTION

LESSONS LEARNT: PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION & CHALLENGES

**Panelists:**
Ilang-Ilang Quijano, Philippines, Journalist-Filmmaker, IAWRT Member
Sidonie Pongomi, Cameroon, Journalist, Chapter Head, IAWRT Cameroon

**Moderator:**
Nupur Basu, India, Executive Producer, Velvet Revolution, Journalist, IAWRT Member

Velvet Revolution is a unique collaborative venture supported by IAWRT where the Executive Producer, Nupur Basu worked with women directors from four countries who produced films in five countries. They are - Ilang Illang Quijano - The Philippines; Deepika Sharma - India; Pochi Tamba Nsoh and Sidonie Pongmoni - Cameroon and Eva Brownstein - USA / Bangladesh. “As a woman journalist for three and a half decades in print and television, it has been a very meaningful journey for me to make Velvet Revolution along with four other great women directors. The documentary showcases the courage, determination and talent of some..."
women journalists who are put against both, state and non-state players that try to curb press freedom,” said Nupur Basu.

The screening was followed by an open discussion with the audience. Questions about the distribution and marketing of the film were also tackled. Nupur informed the audience about the number of screenings done in 2017:-

1. Asian’s Women Film Festival, New Delhi
3. Amnesty’s in-house showing in all the countries
4. Kathmandu, Nepal – Film Festival
6. Several screenings in the UN
7. Multiple cities in India
8. Shown in all IAWRT chapters

About film distribution, Nupur said, “Shortly we will have a distribution agreement with two distributors in Canada - Baltimore Cinema and Cinema Politica. This will generate money. This money will be used to subtitle the film in French.” Illang added, “The distribution aspect is very important. Here, in the Philippines, Velvet Revolution has been shown in a few universities. The QC cinema, located in the QC circle, has also expressed its interest in showing the documentary to the public.”

Since Velvet Revolution is a success story it was proposed that long documentary committee should consider organizing a workshop and share their expertise and knowledge with IAWRT members. The session concluded with the announcement for 2018 long documentary.
TWO FILMS ON MOBILE DISASTER RADIO PROJECT

**Panelists:**
Frenchie Mae Cumpio, Philippines, Typhoon Haiyan Survivor, IAWRT Member
Marvie Matura, Philippines, Radio Journalist, IAWRT Philippines Board Member
**Moderator:**
Sonia Capio, Philippines, Journalist, Secretary IAWRT Philippines

Sonia Capio began the session by emphasizing the importance of community radio. “The essence of the community radio is for the community to hear and receive the stories of the victims. The Philippines chapter of IAWRT initiated an activity wherein survivors of the typhoon Yolanda could report the stories of their fellow typhoon Yolanda survivors. This was broadcast to the entire community by using loudspeakers. This established an immediate connection between the community representatives and the audience.”

Typhoon Haiyan Survivor Frenchie Mae Cumpio said, “It would be nice if this kind of activity is explored and initiated in other countries as well.” She further added, “The mobile communication radio station project is now fully installed. This has been possible because of the overwhelming response from the community. They are always in full participation even though they don’t have the skills for it. The programmes are broadcast within the community. Social media – live streaming and podcast – is also used for radio broadcast.”

Marvie Matura talked about the community radio established in Patao Bantayan Cebu that airs out the issues and struggles of the marginalized sectors especially the survivors of typhoon Yolanda. The community radio is the very first community-managed radio in the province.

She said, “The mobile disaster radio project can also be used as a tool in giving voice to the marginalized sectors, often neglected by the government.”

On challenges in implementing the mobile disaster radio project, the panelists shared the following points:
» Lack of fund.
» Skills of volunteers – as people from the community participate and join the initiative, it is always a challenge to enhance their skills.

**Lessons Learnt**
» To be able to conduct a successful project, the strength and cooperation of the community are very important.
Truth-Telling in the Time of Fake News, and Post-Truths - Workshop in progress

Panelists:
Inday Espina-Varona, Philippines, ABS-CBN, Veteran Filipino Journalist
Luz Rimban, Philippines, Journalist, IAWRT Member
Sheila Katzman, USA, Development Communication Professional, Chapter Head IAWRT USA
Moderator:
Estrella Catarta, Philippines, Activist & Head Executive Assistant, National Anti-Poverty Commission, IAWRT Member

Panelists and participants shared their experiences - the hazards of telling the truth in the time of fake news and how at times the truth is manoeuvred by the power that is.

Highlights:
» That Social media has broken down the brakes of journalism.
» Fake news deliberately hit emotions.
» Fake news is promoted for personal or political gain.
» The reality and planted news on social media are often opposite.
» In the scenario of Fake News, journalists have to tell the truth.
» News should be properly verified. Journalists must learn how to separate truth from fake news.

Truth Telling in the Time of Fake News and Post-Truths - Workshop in progress
ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY RADIO

**Panelists:**
Mary Carling, Philippines, Broadcast Journalist, IAWRT Member
Evelyn Agato, Philippines, Broadcast Journalist, IAWRT Member
Archana Kapoor, India, Filmmaker, Activist, Publisher, Chapter Head IAWRT India

**Moderator:**
Tatiana Etco, Moldova, Videographer & Radio Journalist, Chapter Head IAWRT Moldova

**Highlights:**
Things to consider when establishing a community radio:
- Critical analysis of the sustainability of the project in the area.
- Finances and how to go about fundraising?
- How to sustain content and listeners?
- How to compete with FM stations?
- Should Community Radio be just information-centric? The challenge is how to use available information and package it in a way that attracts community.
- Community radio stations sometimes forget their objective. The objective of community radio stations should always be kept in mind - i.e. to encourage and facilitate the development of the community and be their mouthpiece.
- Community radio is a means of communication within the community which also asserts the right to democracy of the people.
- Community radio stations are for the development of the community. It tackles different concerns of the village life by the community.
- There is no such thing as ‘voiceless’ but only voices that are suppressed.
- The importance of having a manual for establishing community radio was also discussed and panelists agreed on its necessity.
- The proposal outlining the need for establishing community radio station in an area should clearly spell out the objective. It helps in raising funds.
- Social media - plays a very big role in monitoring the radio. The best way to do it is to reinvent radio in a way that it follows the current trend.
During the Viewing Session members could see films or listen to the audio programmes made by the IAWRT members, over the years.

Iphigénie Marcoux-Fortier, Member IAWRT International Board, conceived and initiated Viewing Session workshop

COUNTERING GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE MASS MEDIA:
Sonia Capio, Philippines, Broadcast Journalist, Secretary IAWRT Philippines

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES AND APPROACHES TO NON-SEXIST USE OF LANGUAGE:
Lynda Garcia, Philippines, Expert-Gender & Media, Vice-President, IAWRT Philippines

MAGISTRATE:
Solita Virtudazo, Philippines, Educationist, IAWRT Member

HIGHLIGHTS:
» All journalists should understand the importance of gender sensitivity when it comes to reporting.

SEXISM IN THE MEDIA OFTEN PORTRAYS THE FOLLOWING:
» Stereotyping.
» Association – a woman is always linked to her husband or male family members.
» Body shaming – advertisements always use the idea of slim bodies.
as the epitome of sexiness and use other body shapes in comparison.

THE MASS MEDIA: INFLUENTIAL OR INFLUENCED?
» Mass Media – regardless of form, reaches a large audience.
» Whoever controls the media, controls the culture.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?
» Laws to be passed that can prohibit sexist kinds of advertisements.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING:
» More women should be used as resources but this doesn’t mean that the males should be excluded completely.

LANGUAGE:
» A language is an essential tool for communication.
» Sexism: coined in 1960, analogical with the term racism; it is the “discriminations within a social system on the basis of sexual membership.” (WODAK, 1997)
» Sexism is historically hierarchical.
» Problematic use of pronouns: generic use of ‘he’ ‘him’ ‘his’ that refers to both men and women – makes women invisible; perpetuates men’s dominance.
» Semantic Derogation: describing a woman with initially a neutral connotation but gradually acquires negative connotations and becomes abusive or ends up as a sexual slur. (Schulz, 1975)
» Connotations of Language Items: Girl connotes immaturity, dependence; lady/woman used euphemistically for decorum or to portray negative associations with sexuality and reproduction.
» Women are in a ‘double bind’. If they use the direct language they are accused of being unfeminine and if they ‘talk like a lady’ they are ignored and not seriously considered.

GUIDELINES FOR THE NON-SEXIST USE OF LANGUAGE AS OPTIONS:
» Eliminate the generic use of he, his, or him unless the antecedent is obviously male.
» Use plural nouns.
» Delete he, his and him altogether; reword if necessary.
» Minimize the use of indefinite pronouns (everybody, someone) use the third person point of view as a substitute.
» All organizations, companies and their employees should undergo gender training.
» Media should promote sexual harassment laws.
» Journalists should attend legal workshops so that they can help others. One can’t teach what one does not understand.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY 2

» It is important to remember that in using tools of information dissemination, journalists should never deviate from their original objective.
» To bring truth to the public and to give the people an opportunity to speak.
» To be the voice of the suppressed.
» There should be the usage of gender-sensitive language.
» Journalists to be conscious of what they write or say.
» Gender-sensitivity is a must when it comes to reporting.
The session began with the most awaited announcement of Lifetime Achievement awards. This year two Lifetime Achievement Awardees were announced, acknowledging their dedication and contribution to IAWRT – Gerd Inger Polden from Norway and Racheal Nakitare from Kenya. IAWRT Lifetime achievement awards were presented by Gunilla Ivarsson, President IAWRT international.

Gunilla Ivarsson said it would take too long to describe all the responsibilities which Gerd Inger Polden took up for IAWRT. “Through her never-ending dedication and zeal, Gerd Inger Polden carried on the work began by the late Mette Janson. It was Mette Jansson who initiated the IAWRT Awards of Excellence, and Gerd Inger expanded it. I personally admire and highly appreciate her knowledge, experience and perseverance, when it comes to organizational development.”

The second member to be given the IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award was Racheal Nakitare. Before inviting her on stage Gunilla Ivarsson said, “Racheal Nakitare has been IAWRT member for many years. She has been climbing the stairs of her IAWRT career at the same time as she has been doing at her workplace. Whenever we met, she told me about her latest professional achievement. Racheal Nakitare is a very strong and impressive woman.”
The IAWRT Documentary Awards competition, organized every second year at the Biennial conference, announced awards to the outstanding documentaries made by women producers, directors and journalists working with radio, television, web and film documentaries anywhere in the world. This year, the new awards categories, honouring some of our late veteran members were – Leila Doss Social Impact Award, Mette Janson Innovation Award and the Jai Chandiram Emerging Talent Award.

Awards’ coordinator, Arshiya Ahsan with the jury members – Khedija Lemkecher (Egypt-TV), Luz Rimban (Philippines-TV), Sonia Capio (Philippines-Radio), Mirembe Nkuubi (Kenya-Radio), Olya Booyar (Australia-Radio) and with the awards’ supervising committee – Ananya Chakraborti (Chair), Liz Miller, Iphigenie Marcoux-Fortier selected the winners. The participants were for the first time asked to submit their productions on a digital platform – filmfreeway (URL: https://filmfreeway.com/). The changeover became a grand success.

LEILA DOSS SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD
Winner: Strike A Rock Director - Aliki Saragas. Country: South Africa

METTE JANSON INNOVATION AWARD
Winner: The Quipu Project Producer - Sandra Tabares-Dupue, co-directors Rosemarie Lerner and Maria Ignacia Court. Country: Peru

JAI CHANDIRAM EMERGING TALENT AWARD
Winner: Rasheed Director - Samia Badih. Country: Lebanon

HONORABLE MENTIONS LEILA DOSS SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD
Women of the Forest Director - Shallah Montero. Country: Philippines

JAI CHANDIRAM EMERGING TALENT AWARD
Bahava Director - Koel Sen. Country: India 

Honourable Mention Awardee - Shallah Montero with IAWRT President Gunilla Ivarsson

Awards Coordinator- Arshiya Ahsan with jury members and moderator
T

wo minutes silence was observed and participants paid tribute to IAWRT deceased members - Leila Doss and Marili Fernandez-Ilagan.

**Leila Doss:**
One of IAWRT’s longest-serving members, Leila Doss, a board member of the USA chapter, died aged 95, on 10 July 2016 in New York, USA. Leila Doss was a champion of women’s and children’s rights. Born in Assiut in Upper Egypt in 1921, she was the first female broadcaster in Egypt. She joined UN radio at its inception and after a long career in the communications department, UN, Leila Doss became the first female to work as a United Nations Assistant Secretary-General.

**Marili Fernandez-Ilagan:**
Heartfelt moving tribute was paid to IAWRT Philippines Chapter member Marili Fernandez-Ilagan. Her family members – Bonifacio Ilagan (husband) and Desa Ilagan (daughter) were present at the tribute meeting. Desa Ilagan shared memories about her late mother, Marili Fernandez-Ilagan, and paid tribute to her by singing one of her mother’s favourite song, too.
MEMBERS’ MEETING: IAWRT held an all-day Members’ meeting on the last day of the conference. President and Treasurer’s Reports were presented by Gunilla Ivarsson and Violet Gonda, respectively. They highlighted various projects and financial reports during their term in office. Chapter Heads also presented their reports. Details of all these reports are available on the website - https://www.iawrt.org

INTRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL CHAPTERS: IAWRT introduced two potential Chapters - Afghanistan and Iraq. They are in the final stages of completing their chapter formation formalities. The two chapters – Afghanistan and Iraq would be formally installed at the Regional Conference, 2018.

STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT/ FOKUS FUNDING: Members got an opportunity to have a representative (Marianne Holden) from FOKUS, our major funder, for a discussion on key issues related to funding and the available opportunities. The discussion highlighted the financial constraints and emphasized on the need to explore other external funders to complement the FOKUS contribution. FOKUS representative Marianne Holden remarked: “The organization (IAWRT) is in a very vulnerable financial situation. It is not certain that after the end of the present contract (2018) between FOKUS and IAWRT the funding will continue.”

GENDER MAINSTREAMING REPORTS: Reports were presented on the implementation of the Gender Project by the three pilot countries – Kenya, Tanzania.

Elected IAWRT International Board 2017-19

President - Violet Gonda, UK/Zimbabwe
Vice President - Abeer Saady, Egypt
Treasurer - Jola Diones-Mamangun, Philippines
Secretary - Sarah Nakibuuka Bakehena, Uganda
Board Members - Greta Gober, Poland
Archana Kapoor, India
Yasmine Ryan, New Zealand (Deceased. She passed away on 30 November 2017).

Elected Members of the Election Committee for IAWRT 2019 Elections

Gunilla Ivarsson, Sweden
Racheal Nakitare, Kenya
Nupur Basu, India
Valerie Lew, Malaysia
Sonia Capio, Philippines
and South Africa. Uganda was also given an opportunity to highlight the key development on the Gender Mainstreaming.

**ELECTION REFORMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The outgoing Board had earlier sent a proposal to the members regarding election reforms. This was presented during the Members’ meeting. The outgoing President Gunilla Ivarsson said, “The proposal about modernizing the election process should be taken to the next step by a new committee with the responsibility to prepare the practical guidelines and instructions for the next Board elections (2019).” The earlier standing committee - Nomination Committee, was transformed to an Election Committee with a somewhat broader field of responsibilities concerning the next elections. The outgoing International Board had also put together a draft Code of Conduct which was shared with the members before the Biennial meeting. Gunilla Ivarsson said, “Until this document is analyzed and formally decided, it will serve as a preliminary part of the Guiding Documents. The Code of Conduct document is very useful for fundraising and is often demanded by FOKUS. Hence, it cannot be buried in a committee.”

**ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD:** IAWRT elects new Board every two years. The new Board Members include: President - Violet Gonda (UK/Zimbabwe); Vice President - Abeer Saady (Egypt); Treasurer - Jola Diones-Mamangun (Philippines); Secretary - Sarah Nakibuuka Bakehena (Uganda); Board Members - Greta Gober (Poland), Archana Kapoor (India), Yasmine Ryan (New Zealand) – deceased – she passed away on 30 November 2017. [For detailed Members’ Meeting Report kindly visit IAWRT website - https://www.iawrt.org]

Charting the roadmap ahead, Violet Gonda said: “We, at IAWRT, have to look at strengthening our structures and get members more actively involved; explore new funding opportunities to bring about more diverse programmes that benefit both individual members and the Chapters; plus lead a board transparent and accountable to its members.”

**Vote Count of the Elected Board 2017**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sarah Nakibuuka Bakehena</td>
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<td>Board Members</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yasmine Ryan</td>
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<td>(Deceased. she passed away on 30 November 2017).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archana Kapoor</td>
<td>44</td>
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AT CEBU CITY- MOBILE DISASTER RADIO PROJECT
FREEZE
CAMERA
CELEBRATION TIME
# Participants’ List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td><strong>Board (7)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Gunilla Ivarsson</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gunilla.ivarsson@outlook.com">gunilla.ivarsson@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ananya Chakraborti</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Violet Gonda</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Abeer Saady</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>6. Anupa Shrestha</td>
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<td>7. Kristine Ramm</td>
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<td><strong>Secretariat (3)</strong></td>
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<td>8. Geeta Sahai</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>9. Nonee Walsh</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>10. Solveig Helvik</td>
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<td><strong>Chapter Heads (12)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Kim Thida Kallianey (Representative)</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kallianey.e@gmail.com">kallianey.e@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mme Sidonie Pongomi</td>
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<td>16. Anupa Shrestha (mentioned earlier)</td>
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<td>17. Kristine Ramm (mentioned earlier)</td>
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<td>Linnea Endorson</td>
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IAWRT

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