

WID *Information*

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BEIJING -- THE UN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE -- ONE YEAR LATER

A repeated theme at the Beijing Conference was the need for the world's women to monitor the implementation of the Platform for Action -- to hold governments and international institutions accountable for implementing the policies agreed upon. Women also committed themselves to action and to sharing their strategies with one another. A number of activities were planned for the first anniversary of the Conference, to assess progress.

Three major international activities occurred in the United States, and UIUC/WID was represented at all three: 1) The United Nations had a day-long report on their activities on September 9 in New York, when UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali and the heads of five UN agencies engaged in dialogue with the representatives of 200 women's organizations; 2) The Association for Women and Development (AWID) held its biennial Forum for 1200 members in Washington with the theme Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action; 3) A group of 500+ AWID participants representing Women's Eyes on the World Bank met with the president of the Bank, James Wolfensohn, and regional program directors for a discussion of progress on the four commitments that the Bank had made in Beijing.

Twelve UIUC students and four faculty attended the AWID Forum, and several went to the World Bank sessions as well. Two personal accounts follow:

Violence Against Women by Suja George, Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Human and Community Development.

The plenary sessions featured four important issues from the Beijing Conference: Women's Human Rights, Powersharing and Political Participation, Global Economic Empowerment of Women, and Health and Reproductive Rights. Under the topic of human rights is the issue of violence against women. Emotional, physical and sexual violence against women is a pervasive, international problem that affects millions of women. For instance, in the United States, domestic violence is the single most common injury to women, more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.

Violence against women violates their rights as humans, their powersharing abilities, their participation in the work force, their health, and the well-being of their children and their country. Previous AWID conferences have devoted significant amounts of time to discussions around violence against women in the home. However, the latest four-day conference agenda presented only a handful of sessions to address the problem of violence. These sessions included: "Instituting Measures to Address Violence Against Women

in South Asia", "Strategies to *Combat Domestic Violence*" with presenters all from the United States; "Culture, Violence and Human Rights: The South Asian Experience"; and "Violence Against Women in Conflict Situations". Addressing violence in the home, a location where much of the violence against women occur, did not receive sufficient attention at the latest conference.

The sessions that addressed violence in the home echoed the following messages: providing safety for victims is essential, laws must be implemented at the local level, police officers and health care professionals need to be trained, and advocacy for this issue must not end. Similarly, the Beijing Platform for Action calls for "allocating adequate resources within the governmental budget and mobilization of community resources for activities relating to the elimination of violence against women." Strategies for the Platform include, "providing well-funded shelters and relief for women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counseling services and free or low-cost legal aid, and appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence." The conference and the participants must advocate for these actions in every community. As one adage states, "a burden shared becomes lighter." Let us not neglect our responsibility to our sisters and brothers around the world to share this burden.

Reproductive Rights and Economic Empowerment of Women by Grace Malindi, Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Human and Community Development.

In reviewing my participation at AWID's Beyond Beijing Forum, I will examine my panel presentation on "The Use of Focus Groups as a Way of Including Voices of Grassroots Women in Public Policy" in relation to plenary and other concurrent sessions I attended. As I went through plenary and concurrent sessions, I found my professional efforts in synchrony with the following Plenaries: - Health and Reproductive Rights and the Economic Empowerment of Women. Some of the highlights from sessions that I'm interested, committed and motivated to participate in are as follows:

I. The Platform for Action to:

- (i) Encourage both women and men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behavior;
- (ii) Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health issues.

II. The USAID Reproductive Health Programs: Challenges and Directions For The Future; Elizabeth Maguire emphasized: access and quality of family planning and other reproductive health services; integrated reproductive health programs; involvement of women in the design and management of programs; and integrated education and empowerment for women.

Other speakers emphasized to consider and work towards **three economies within the global economy**, not just one seen by the traditional economist - the "profit economy" but there is also the "nature's economy" and "sustenance economy". The nature's economy or natural resources, and the sustenance economy or the caring for people's health education, and food resources are neglected by motives and dominance of profit-driven economic and trade policies (Shiva). Yet such neglect has a large impact on women who are responsible for natural resources and the taking care of people. Shiva argued that " women's work in non-industrialized sectors is not recognized until it is put in a factory. The "caring economy" was also ably discussed by Diane Elson who emphasized " the unaccounted-for- caring functions for the sick, for the young and elderly and the household are not only ignored as economic forces but treated as though they miraculously come from bottomless well."

Related to focus on relevant policies, Noeleen Heyzer urged women not only to look at multilateral development banks, like IMF and World bank but learn to understand the structure and strategies of the world trade organizations in relation to who "gains or loses", especially at grassroots level. I was touched by our panel's respondent - Perdita Houston, by her encouraging and empowering voice to maximize on grassroot's voices in order to advocate for women's rights. I was also encouraged by our panel audience's positive response and appreciation for our interest in understanding and advocating for the grassroots women.

Overall, I was impressed by: (i) the Forum's agenda that was not only highly diverse but action oriented. The principle, "From Words to Action" was significantly prevalent in all deliberations and almost all sessions I attended; (ii) the intergenerational composition of plenary sessions presenters -- from 18 year old to vigorous, powerful elderly speakers; and (iii) As usual the great variety in Fora which was overwhelming- ranging from numerous concurrent session, breakfast-round-table discussions, ad-hoc meetings, the market place and visit to the World Bank.

OTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES. Source: International Women's Tribune Centre.

Around the world follow-up activities of the Beijing meetings and commemoration of the "One Year After Beijing" have taken place, and monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action continues. The following are a few examples:

Women, Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) held a three-day workshop in September 1996 on "Holding Governments and International Agencies Accountable To Their Promises: Monitoring and Advocacy Strategies for Advancing Women's Agendas. WEDO also released a "one year after" progress report on government implementation of the Platform for Action. For more information contact: WEDO 355 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017. Fax: (212) 973-0335. E-mail: <wedo@igc.apc.org>.

USA

The U.S. President's Interagency Council on Women held a national satellite conference in more than 450 sites nationwide on September 28, to discuss the U.S. plan to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. For two hours the 450 sites watched the discussion in Washington DC where some of the speakers included First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ambassador Madeline Albright, Geraldine Ferraro, Connie Evans and Donna Shalala. Then the sites discussed the implementation of the Platform for Action in their local areas. The Office of Women in International Development at UIUC participated in conferences at both Springfield and Parkland College.

USA

The Second International Conference on Health and Human Rights was held from October 3-5, 1996, at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. USA. The Conference was sponsored by Francois Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, and Harvard School of Public Health. This International Forum was intended for people working in Human Rights and Health. For more information contact: Beth Falk, Tel. (617) 496-4392. Fax: (617)496-4380. E-mail: <fxbcenter@igc.apc.org>.

Asia

Philippine NGO Beijing Score Board (PBSB) organized three events in August/September, 1996: 1) An exhibit of banners and posters entitled "Images of Filipino Women in Hawaii, in Beijing... and in the Philippines today." 2) A photo and document/book exhibit on the Beijing meetings and the record of Philippine Congress since Beijing entitled "One Year After Beijing in the Philippine Congress" and 3) Launching of a book of the Philippine NGO preparations for and participation in the UN FWCW and NGO Forum on Women.

Bangkok, Thailand

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) held a Regional Forum entitled "Looking Beyond Beijing" from July 28 through August 1, 1996. For more information contact: APWLD.Fax:(60-3)651-1371.E-mail: <apwld@pactok.peg.apc.org>

Middle East

Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen held "One Year After Beijing" meetings in Amman, Jordan in September 1996 to develop regional plans for action. Additionally each country is working to implement the Platform for Action at national level.

Latin America

Political coalition of Women from the Andes: Women from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela met in Quito, Ecuador in June 1996 to form a coalition that will monitor the implementation of the Platform for Action in their countries. For more information contact: Rosario Gomez, CEPAM. Fax: (593) 254-6155. E-mail: <mujeres@alai.ecx.ec>

United Nations

The Economic and Social Council, New York, USA, held their meeting June/July, 1996.

The Commission on Human Rights, Working group communications, Geneva, Switzerland, met in July, 1996. September, 1996 ---The UN celebrated "One Year After Beijing" with a Film Forum about the Beijing meetings and a seminar, New York, USA. The following were some of the speakers at the seminar: the US Delegation to Beijing, UN leaders from various world regions, representatives from AWID Forum "Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action". The meeting was organized by the UN/DPI in collaboration with Non-government Organizations.

People's Decade of Human Rights Education (PDHRE), organized a 3-day Resource and Training Institute on Human Rights Education in June, 1996. For more information contact: PDHRE, Fax: (212) 666-6325. E-mail: <peopledechre@igc.apc.org>

Africa

The Organization for African Unity (OAU) pledged for full rights for African women. At a meeting of Yaounde, Cameroon, African Foreign Ministers called on member states of OAU to reform their laws and practices to give women full and equal access to economic resources including the rights to inheritance and ownership of land and other property. In a draft resolution, the OAU Council Ministers called on African governments to promote the participation of woman at all levels of decision-making, and asked that gender perspectives be integrated in all programs and policies of OAU. The resolution urges that African Governments fulfill, preferably by the end of 1996, their commitment to their African Platform for Action endorsed by the Heads of State at the OAU Assembly in June, 1995, and the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the UN Member States at the Beijing Conference.

ACTIVITIES STILL IN PLANNING**Europe**

In Hamburg, Germany, the 5th International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA) will be held in July 1997. The conference is being organized by UNESCO in collaboration with other UN agencies and the International Council on Adult Education (ICE). The conference will bring together representatives from government, NGOs, and private sector to identify priorities and strategies for the coming century. Regional consultations will take place in Thailand for Asia, Brazil for Latin America, Ethiopia for Africa and Spain for Europe and America. For more information on Women's Empowerment theme - one of the 10 priority themes contact: Carol Anonuevo, Institute of Education, Hamburg, Germany. Tel. (49-40) 44-80--41-0. Fax: (49-40) 410-77-23. E-mail: <uhmac@unesco.org>

Romania

In Bisrita, Romania, the International Women Judges Foundation (IWJF) will meet to discuss "Towards the Jurisprudence of Equality" in November 1996. For more information contact: IWJF, Washington, DC., USA. Tel. (202) 393-0125. E-mail: <IWJF@aol.com>.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT UIUC**1996-97 WID EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, (* denotes newly elected Members)****Faculty**

Bernice McNair Barnett, Educational Policy Studies*

John Cheeseman, Plant Biology

Donald Crummey, African Studies Center

Jacqueta Hill, Anthropology/Educational Psychology

Lucy Kehinde, International Scholarship Programs

Joe McGrath, Psychology

Jean Peterson, Human and Community Development*

Ann Reisner, Agricultural Communications and Extension Education

Laurian Unnevehr, Agricultural and Consumer Economics*

Students

Ofafa Goretty Awuor, Vocational and Technical Education*

Dora Mwalwenje, Vocational and Technical Education*

Ex-Officio

Director, Women's Studies

Beth Stafford-Vaughan, WS/WID Librarian

Office Members

Kathleen Cloud, WID

Brenda K. Eheart, WID

Secretary

Consolata Kabonesa, Human and Community Development

Aida Orgocka, Human and Community Development

Results of the 1996 Fourteenth Annual WID Paper Competition**Congratulations to:**

Nicki Negrau, winner of the 1996 WID Annual Student Competition for the best graduate paper: "Listening to Women's Voices: A Look at Politics in Romania". Nicki's paper will be published in the Connecticut Journal of International Law and will also be published in Europe in 10 different languages.

Lauren McGrath, winner of the 1996 WID Annual Student Competition for the best undergraduate paper: An Examination of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women". Lauren will be attending graduate school on Campus.

Becoming an Associate of the WID Office.

We are actively recruiting applicants to become Associates of the Office of Women in International Development, which serves as a center of communication and common effort for people at UIUC interested in issues of gender and development. The Office also serves as a point of outreach to national and international institutions.

The Office serves the entire University community, but its most direct ongoing contact is with Associates. Upon application, faculty and students with interest and/or expertise on women's roles in an international context are eligible to become Associates, subject to confirmation by the WID Executive Committee. Becoming an Associate entails no obligation but offers useful information and networks of contact. For more information on becoming an Associate, contact the WID Office at 333-1994.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, STUDY AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**GRANTS**

- **East-West Center** announces the following fellowship opportunities:

Graduate fellowships are available to individuals interested in participating in the educational research programs at the East-West Center while pursuing graduate study at the University of Hawaii. Preference will be given to Master's applicants, but outstanding doctoral applicants will be considered. Eligibility: non-U.S. applicants, application must be made through the Center's in-country program representative. Application deadline is usually earlier than the East-West Center deadline. **Deadline: November 1, 1996.**

For more information contact: Award Services Officer, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96848. Tel: (808) 944-7735. Fax: (808) 944-7730.

- **International Programs and Studies** announces the following grants:

MUCIA Travel Fund of up to \$1000 to faculty and staff to enable them to work abroad on projects that are likely to result in institutional development or enhancement of international programs. **Deadline: November 1, 1996.** For more information contact: MUCIA Liaison Office at (217) 333-1993.

- **American Council of Learned Societies ACLS and Social Sciences Research Council announces the International Postdoctoral Fellowships** which provides approximately 15 postdoctoral fellowships of \$20,000 each to support scholars doing humanistic research on the societies and cultures of Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and others who have resided in the U.S. for three consecutive years at the time of application are eligible to apply. All applicants should have their Ph.D. or its equivalent by the application deadline. **Deadline December 1, 1996.** To request application forms send in the following information to ACLS: 1. Highest degree held and date received; 2. Academic or other position; 3. Geographic areas of research; 4. Brief, descriptive title of the proposed research; 5. Country of citizenship or permanent residence; 6. Proposed date for beginning tenure of the award and duration requested; 7. Specific award program for which application is requested; 8. Full name and mailing address. For more information contact: Office of Fellowships and grants; ACLS, 228 East 45th Street, New York 10017-3398. Fax: (212) 949-8058. E-mail: grants@acsls.org

- **The Social Science Research Council International Predissertation Fellowships.** The fellowships are designed for full-time students at early stages of a PhD program in the social sciences who are considering a career in research and teaching in the developing world. Fellowships provide 12 months of full-time support for a program of study on Africa, Central Asia and Caucasus, China, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Near and Middle East, South Asia or Southeast Asia. **Deadline: December 12, 1996.** Application forms are available from Julia Goldberg, 306 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820. Tel. 333-6104.

- **International Peace Scholarship Fund (P.E.O.)** is a program which provides grant-in-aid for selected women from other countries for graduate study in the USA and Canada. The grant covers all academic or personal expenses. Eligibility: applicant must be qualified for admission toward a full-time graduate study, promise to return to home country, evidence of return travel expense to home country, have a sponsor who is a citizen of the US or Canada, and who will act as her non-academic adviser. Request application materials before December 15, 1996 from P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, P.E.O. Executive Office, 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

CONFERENCES AND CALL FOR PAPERS

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (SEME) announces their Xth International Conference on **The Role of SEMEs in Promoting Economic Development in the New Millennium** to be held April 6-9, 1997 at Hotel Inter-Continental, Miami, Florida, USA. Topics to be discussed include: financing, international trade, innovative programs, and technology. The Conference is open to entrepreneurs interested in expanding trade opportunities through networking and education; individuals who establish and implement local, regional, national and international programs and policies for small business development; those who provide assistance and guidance to entrepreneurs and small businesses; and academicians and researchers interested in entrepreneurship and small business development. **Deadline for submission of proposals is October 31, 1996.** Contact Address: 777 Glades Road, P.O. Box 3091, Boca Raton, FL 33431, USA. Tel. (561) 362-5620. Fax: (561) 362-5623. e-mail: <http://www.fau.edu/divdept/sbdc/>, sbdc@fau.edu

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) invites papers for their conference entitled *CURRENTS and CROSSCURRENTS: Women Generating Creativity and Change* to be held June 18-22, 1997 in St. Louis, Missouri. Plenary session topics include: Creativity; Technology; The Future of Feminist Education/Women's Studies/Feminism; and Politics/Organizations/Coalitions: Past and Future. NWSA has planned an embedded conference on P(ART)IPATE: **Celebrating Women in the Arts.** **Deadline for proposals is November 1, 1996.** Send proposals for sessions or individual presentations to: NWS '97, Institute of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121. E-mail: IWGS@UMSLVMA.UMSL.EDU Fax: (314)516-6414.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

International Center for Research on Women has come up with a Global Fact Sheet entitled **Where Credit is Due: Poor Women and Financial Credit**. Sub-heading includes: A Decade of Success in Investing in Women; Women are Disproportionately the Working Poor; Why do Women need Credit? Don't Banks Help? Who Gives Women Credit? How Much Money Does it Take? What good does Credit Do? Challenges Ahead; and Myths about Women and Credit. For more information contact: ICRW, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 302, Washington DC 20063, USA. Tel. (202) 797-0007. Fax: (202) 797-0020. E-mail: icrw@igc.apc.org

ECOGEN Case Studies Series presents: *Adapting to Resource Constraints in Gikarangu: New Livelihood Strategies for Women and Men* by Leah Wanjama, Barbara Thomas-Slayter and Njoki Mbuti. The Case demonstrates the ways in which gender analysis is crucial to understanding community organization and planning effective development policy. "Gikarangu is situated in the Kenya highlands ... offers insights into a community with high levels of social mobilization and organization, linked in numerous ways to economic, social and political systems well beyond its borders" Barbara Thomas-Slayter's letter dated May 31, 1996. For copies of the book contact: Barbara Thomas-Slayter, Director Program International Development, Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610-1477. Tel. (508)793-7201, Fax: (508)793-8820.

The Role of Women in United Nations Peace-Keeping, 1995. Published by the United Nations to promote the goals of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. For more information contact Division for the Advancement of Women, Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel. (212) 963-8385. Fax (212)963-3463. E-MAIL - Internet: fwcw@undp.org or daw@undp.org

The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1996.

United Nations Blue Books Series, Volume VI. This edition is revised and updated to include the outcome of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the largest conference in the history of the United Nations. Complementing the documents are an extensive introduction by the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and detailed chronologies. Included in the documents are: The landmark of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; International Conventions and declarations on political rights of women and the nationality of married women; Action plans, declarations and resolutions adopted at the cycle of world conferences on women beginning in Mexico City in 1975 and including the 1995 Beijing Conference; Resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council; and United Nations survey and statistics on the status of women worldwide. Price: \$49.95. Available from: The United Nations Publication, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017. Tel. (800)253-9646, (212) 963-8302; Fax: (212) 963-3489; E-mail: publications@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org>

Women and Political Participation in Northern Ireland by Robert Lee Miller, Rick Wilford and Freda Donoghue. The first major study, employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques, of political activists of women in Northern Ireland. It identifies and explores gender gaps in forms of political participation, discusses perceptions of feminism, political violence, attitudes towards politicians and explores the question of 'difference': would more women in public realm of politics make a difference in Northern Ireland? Price: Pounds 35.00/\$59.95. Available from: Ashgate Publishing Company, Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036-9704 USA. Tel. (800)535-9544, (802) 276-3162. Fax: (802) 276-3837.

Gender, Family and Households in Tanzania edited by Colin Creighton and C. K. Omari. The essays in this volume examine the changing nature of family and gender relations in contemporary Tanzania, focusing both on the internal dynamics of family and household and on their relation to wider social processes. Some of the topics include: gender relations in rural Tanzania; gender and the households: 'in my office we don't have closing hours'; the economic organization of the household in contemporary Tanzania; household resource management and patriarchal relationships; conceptualizing gender relations and the household in urban Tanzania; decision-making and household; fertility rates and the status of women in Tanzania; and the family and social policy in Tanzania. Price: \$67.95. Available from: Ashgate Publishing Company, Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036-9704 USA. Tel. (800)535-9544, (802) 276-3162. Fax: (802) 276-3837.

ME 04951, USA. Tel. (207) 525-0900. Fax: (207) 525-3068. Or The Institute of Health and Social Justice, Partners in health, 113 River Street, Cambridge, MA 04139. Tel. (617) 4416288. Fax: (617) 661-2669.

Canadian Woman Studies invites papers for their Spring 1997 Journal on *Bridging North South: Patterns of Transformation*. Possible topics include constructive, critical and visionary examinations of:

- process of global consensus building among feminists.
- potentials and challenges offered by existing and emerging local, regional, national, and international women's networks...
- relationships between UN processes and developing global feminist processes.
- funding processes and constraints.
- alternatives to existing North-South relationship.
- impact of international perspectives on local priorities and vice versa.
- tensions between the demands of local activism and international organizing.
- local and national governments' movements and action on commitments made in international agreements and conferences.

Ideas for more topics are welcome. If you intend to submit an article call as soon as possible to let them know of your intention. Articles should be typed and double spaced, and a maximum of 12 pages long (2500). A short 50 word abstract of the article and a brief biographical note must accompany each submission. **Deadline for submission is December 31, 1996.** For more information contact: Canadian Woman Studies, 212 Founders, York University, 4700 Keele St. North York, ON 3J 1P3. Tel. (416)736-5356. Fax: (416) 736-5765. E-mail: lucwsf@yorku.ca

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