



Women's

Federation for World Peace International

United Nations Office Newsletter

Fall 2011

Noncommunicable Disease Prevention Civil Society Helps Prepare for UN's High-Level Meeting June 16, 2011 ~ UN General Assembly Hall UNHQ, New York City



By Dr. Karen Judd Smith

The United Nations invited NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to attend the Civil Society informal interactive hearing in the General Assembly Hall. This was part of the process to prepare for the upcoming high-level meeting on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) currently scheduled for September 19-20, 2011.

At that time, global leaders will meet in New York to address efforts that deal with the number one killer that accounts for over 63% of deaths in the world today: noncommunicable diseases like heart attacks and strokes, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease. All of these NCDs have a preventive element which if addressed can affect the lives of an enormous number of people alive today, and yet such efforts are often overlooked and given little attention as the dramas of urgent political issues take center stage.

This is only the second time in the history of the United Nations that the General Assembly

will meet with the participation of Heads of State and Government on an emerging health issue with a major socio-economic impact. Countries are expected to adopt a concise action-oriented outcome document that will shape the international agenda for generations to come.

This is only the second time in the history of the United Nations that the General Assembly will meet with the participation of Heads of State and Government on an emerging health issue with a major socio-economic impact.

In December 2010, the UN General Assembly decided a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases would be held September 19-20, 2011 in New York. This decision was articulated in a resolution that requested the President of the General Assembly

Contents

Civil Society Helps Prepare-----	1
At the UN in New York	
NGO Briefings-----	2
Reports from Special Events-----	3
At the UN in Geneva -----	4
ECOSOC High Level Segment-----	4
17th Human Rights Council-----	4
UN Special Events	
64th DPI/NGO Conference-----	5
Commemoration of 10th Anniversary of 9/11 at UN-----	11
Activities Around the World	
Japan-----	6-7
WFWP Conferences	
15th Middle East Peace Conference-----	8
Europe Annual Conference-----	9
Upcoming Events-----	12

to organize an informal interactive hearing with NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. The intention is to enable input in discussions in preparation for the high-level meeting.

The civil society interactive hearings created an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to identify challenges, priority outcomes and actions needed to accelerate control and prevention of NCDs by Member States. Because the civil society interactive hearing took place shortly before the negotiations on the outcome document for the high-level segment started, it was well placed to influence the preparatory process.

The interactive hearing aimed to identify and report on:

- * The specific contribution of civil society in NCD prevention and control and how this can be most effective.
- * Lessons learned from success of civil society and previous social mobilization efforts to address health and development challenges.
- * Specific outcomes that could be recommended for inclusion in the outcome document being developed for the September high-level meeting on NCDs.

Disease Prevention, contd. on pg. 12



Statement of Purpose

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) supports a network of National WFWPI Chapters worldwide.

WFWPI Chapters adhere to the principle that women, working together, taking initiative and empowering one another across traditional lines of race, culture and religion to create healthy families, are resolving the complex problems of our societies and world.

Ultimately "solutions" come as *true* partnerships between men and women are established in all levels of society. The beginning point is within society's most elemental level—the family.

Peace then expands into our communities, nation and world. Therefore, WFWPI works to provide women worldwide with:

the knowledge, tools and support needed to create peace at home, peace in our communities, our nations and our world.

WFWPI International is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization in General Consultative Status of ECOSOC and DPI Associates with the United Nations

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At the UN in New York...

Reports of NGO Briefings

Reach Them Teach Them

The Role of Psychology in Achieving Universal Access to Education
April 14, 2011 - North Lawn Building, New York

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Speakers:

H.E. Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations;

Dr. Barbara Reynolds, Senior Education Advisor with UNICEF;

Dr. Maria Regina Maluf, Prof. of Psychology at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil;

Dr. Pamela Ebert Flattau, Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analysis in the Science and Technology Policy Institute in Washington, DC;

Mr. Foday Sakor, Graduate of University of Maryland and MA candidate in International

Affairs at Columbia University a Liberian refugee camp survivor;

Maria Chavez, moderator opened the briefing stating that progress towards achieving MDG #2 Universal primary education is insufficient. UNESCO recently reported that one hundred million primary school-aged children were out of school in 2008, only 64% of eligible children from the poorest households were attending primary school. Psychologists concerned with the large number of children out of school have been applying behavioral science to design relevant educational interventions and child care policies in diverse settings to meet the needs of these children.

Reach Them, continued on pg. 10

Achieving the MDGs:

MDG 2 - Education and MDG 3 - Gender Equality

May 12, 2011 - North Lawn Building UNHQ, New York

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Speakers:

Dr. Rene Ekpini, Senior Health Advisor and Chief of HIV/AIDS-PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child HIV/AIDS).;

Dr. Mary A. Papazian, Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs at Lehman College;

Dr. Viiaya Melnick, Professor Emeritus of Biological & Environmental Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C.;

Dr. Sorosh Roshan: Founder and President of International Health Awareness Network (IHAN);

Progress in achieving all MDGs is dependent on achievement of the other MDGs – in particular, MDG 2 and MDG 3.

Dr. Ekpini, spoke of the great disparity in women's health between developed countries and the least developed countries. Countries in Africa and South Africa suffer the worst. HIV/AIDS and lack of access to obstetric care causes many cases of maternal mortality particularly in the Sub Sahara Africa. Other causes include social and cultural barriers, lack of education, governments' lack of commitment in resource-limited countries, lack of proper data and poor coordination, limited involvement of communities. Growing government commitment to improving women's health and implementation of global strategies are hopeful signs. Improved coordination between government and civil society and communities

MDGs, contd. on pg. 10

"Our Year, Our Voice: Young People Building Partnerships and Promoting Dialogue"

In Observance of the International Year of Youth

June 9, 2011 - Salvation Army Auditorium, New York City

By *Cynthia Shibuya*

Moderator: Maria Chavez, Chief NGO Relations, DPI;

Speakers:

Flavia Pansieri: Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) program;

Leonore de Roquefeuil: Consultant for the UN Program on Youth;

Daniel Coviello: Student, Lehigh University working with Engineers Without Borders;

Sara Cott: Student, Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, Social Media and Politics. Working with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation;

On December 18, 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/64/134) proclaiming the year, beginning August 12, 2010, as the "International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding" to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first "International Year of Youth" in 1985.

Ms. Chavez, moderator gave remarks celebrating the International Year of Youth. She quoted a DESA report, "Young people ages 15-24 constitute approximately 18 percent of the world's population. In many African countries they comprise over seventy percent

Our Voice, contd. on pg. 10

NGO Committee on the Status of Women

New York Members Meeting - May 19, 2011 - Salvation Army HQ, NY

By Jeanne Carroll

A warm spring day brought women from various NGOs to review recent activities of CSW and to finalize nominations to the Executive Committee. The impressive gathering of women included many who have dedicated their lives to support the rights of all women throughout the world.

Concern was expressed about the need to inform the public about the work of CSW which is not easily or consistently conveyed to the population as a whole. The multiplicity of topics CSW addresses places it on the cutting edge of many issues. Representatives of CSW attended and reported on the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 4th Implementation Policy Session which was held May 2 - 13, 2011 and focused on the thematic issues of; Transportation, Chemicals, Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste), Mining and a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns. While the issue of reproductive health was pertinent to the discourse, there was general disappointment with some outcomes. The sheer volume of work to do dwarfs the substantial progress causing it to seem small and inconsequential. Hopes remain for more progress from subsequent efforts.

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was next on the agenda. CEDAW is an international treaty which offers countries a practical blueprint to achieve progress for women and girls. Each ratifying country makes effort to overcome barriers of all forms

of discrimination towards women and girls. Although the United States was active in drafting CEDAW and signed the treaty on July 17, 1980 the Senate did not ratify it. 186 countries, out of 193 countries, have ratified the treaty. Countries that have NOT ratified CEDAW include the United States, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and three small Pacific Island nations (Nauru, Palau, and Tonga). The United States is the only industrialized country that has not ratified the treaty. In order for the U.S. to ratify CEDAW, 67 votes in favor are needed by the U.S. Senate. More than one hundred fifty U.S. based organizations, representing millions of Americans, support U.S. ratification of CEDAW. CSW members suggest NGOs work with American organizations to support ratification by the U.S. Suggestions were made to speak to corporations, senators and others.

CSW makes every effort to be relevant and effective in women's issues internationally. Programs and events that empower women to be educated, live healthy and prosperous lives and raise the next generation in a safe and nurturing environment are supported by CSW.

An NGO-CSW Meeting on Indigenous Issues Affecting Women followed the members meeting. Three Indigenous women were invited to speak of the plights of their indigenous groups.

Naomi Lletto lives and works with women in the Rift Valley area of Kenya. She works with 85 members of the Masai and Ogie tribes. In order for Indigenous people to fight for their rights they must be educated about abuses pervasive in their society. Lletto educates women about HIV/AIDS and Female Genital Mutilation

(FGM). The recent Kenya AIDS Indicators Survey (2009) estimates 1.4 million adults in Kenya are infected with HIV. The Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces account for more than half of infected adults in Kenya. Female Genital Mutilated infants, girls and women face irreversible lifelong health risks. An estimated 70 million girls and women living today have been subjected to FGM, a fundamental violation girls' rights. It is discriminatory and violates the rights to equal opportunities, health, freedom from violence, injury, abuse, torture and cruel or inhuman and degrading treatment, protection from harmful traditional practices, and to make decisions concerning reproduction. These rights are protected in international law. Education and increased medical services are needed to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and conviction to stand against the practice of FGM.

Indigenous women hope to fight for their rights but powerlessness comes from lack of financial resources. Local women are excellent in bead work and could make a business with this skill. The market for their craft is currently limited to tourists that come for safaris at the nearby game park. The women make about \$1.20 a day which is enough to buy more beads. Rift Valley women also have a tree nursery which supports children with HIV/AIDS. Lletto is teaching bookkeeping and various financial skills.

CSW women offered Lletto many suggestions ranging from contact info of friends to places to sell beadwork. Lletto believes more networking will benefit Kenyan women. She wants Kenyan women to use their skills to build a

CSW, contd. on pg. 10

World Drug Report 2011:

Drug Markets Stable, Consumption of Synthetic and Prescription Drugs Rises

June 23, 2011 - Conference Room 4 UNHQ, New York City

By Dr. Karen Judd Smith

The launch of UNODC's 2011 World Drug Report took place 23 June 2011, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at UNHQ, NY.

Speakers included: H.E. Joseph Deiss, President of the 65th General Assembly; H.E. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General; Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director; Mr. Gil Kerlikowske, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; Mr. Viktor Ivanov, Director, Russian Federal Service for the Control of Narcotics; Mr. Christopher Kennedy Lawford, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador; Ms. Mackenzie Phillips, Actress and Author of *High on Arrival*.

Many illicit drug markets have reached global dimensions and require control strategies on a comparable scale. In that context, there is a need to better understand these transnational

markets and the manner in which they operate. The yearly World Drug Report is a contribution towards that objective. This year's edition starts with an overview of the illicit drug situation worldwide and regionally, followed by more comprehensive discussions and statistical trends for the key transnational drug markets, namely opium/heroin, coca/cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and cannabis.

FWFPI UN representative, Dr. Karen Judd Smith attended the opening along with other colleagues of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Alliance is a CONGO committee focusing on the work of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC.) Dr. Smith serves as Vice Chair of the Alliance.

The 2011 World Drug Report is available at: <http://goo.gl/eWiOg>.

A webcast of the launch is available at: <http://goo.gl/nDv7o>

This report is adapted from UN documents and online reports.



At the UN in Geneva ...

ECOSOC High Level Segment

July 4-8, 2011 - Geneva, Switzerland

By Carolyn Handschin

Geneva's lovely Palais des Nations hosted the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) annual meeting throughout the month of July 2011, beginning, as is traditionally done with the High Level Segment. This year's theme, "Implementing the internationally agreed upon goals and commitments in regard to education", was of special interest and frequented by many international NGOs based in Geneva. The segment opened with poignant and heartwarming messages from local school children about the importance of education. Joseph Deiss, General Assembly (GA) President and former Swiss President and Lazarous Kapambwe, ECOSOC President addressed the overflowing room.

This cross-cutting issue, education, prioritized by many UN bodies, governments and civil society organizations was well summarized in one of the segment's outcome documents, the Ministerial Declaration, stating, "Reaffirming the right to education and the need for its full realization, education is essential for human development, sustainable development, world peace, just and democratic societies and the promotion of all human rights". The breadth of the issue was noted by diverse speakers delivering keynote addresses including, UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova to CISCO VP, Simon Wills and former UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

Following the address of Swiss President, Micheline Calmy-Rey, a most interesting "Special Face to Face Debate" on Education,

Human Rights (HR) and Conflict was moderated by BBC correspondent, Imogen Foulkes. High level dialogues featured names such as the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the SG of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the VP for the World Bank's poverty Reduction Management Department in a dialogue on current developments of the global economy. Another forum on Education for Sustainable Development included Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

The Report of the SG to the AMR and thematic discussion was central to the debates. It contained descriptions of UNESCO's six Education for All goals and their linkage with the 2 MDGs on education. Discussions reinforced the positive, reinforcing links between education, health, gender, and poverty and hunger reduction". Policy messages, gleaned from preparatory meetings of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) were presented by region.

Daily ministerial roundtables provided an additional space for discussion on special issues. In particular, the gender dimension of education in post conflict countries in Africa and LDC's was hosted by the newly established UN Agency, UN Women.


Another very informative panel discussion was on Promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable growth for accelerating poverty eradication and achievement of the MDG's. Speakers included Noleen Heyzer of the ECOSOC regional office for Asia Pacific,

Frances Stewart, Director of the Center for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity at Oxford University and Ester Dufflo of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Juan Somavia, DG of the International Labor Organization moderated.

The third morning roundtable targeted youth through the theme, Increasing access, enhancing quality and promoting equity in education through innovation: young people and social media: shaping the future of education. Bright youth, covering diverse sectors fueled the discussion. That day's policy dialogue focused on "Education challenges in Africa and LDC's" with the Ministers of Education from Senegal, Mauritius, Kenya and Togo. SG Ban Ki Moon and Jeffrey Sachs addressed the afternoon session.

Interspersed among the 4 full days were many National Voluntary Presentations, a regular feature of ECOSOC meetings. These were candid, serious snapshots of a country's progress and challenges as they seek to implement education commitments. The final thematic roundtable on Education for the future- changing needs was moderated by the Director of UNESCO's Education for All Monitoring Report and included case studies from Germany and Peru.

In the Closing Session of the HL Segment, the Ministerial Declaration, a recommitment to the MDGs, a people centered holistic approach to education, quality, inclusive and equitable education systems, was adopted by consensus. A call for more international cooperation was included.

(WFWPI submitted a written statement to ECOSOC High Level Segment: E/2011/NGO/36, complete text can be viewed at www.wfwpi.org. 

Afghanistan Women & Girls Today - Realities & Challenges

February 20, 2011

By Kirsten A. Williams, University Student and Intern for WFWPI

The 17th Human Rights Council hosted the NGO side event, Afghanistan Women & Girls Today - Realities & Challenges; The Council, that operates under the definition: an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe, has set the stage for significant progress on women's rights.

The event was a collaboration of several international NGOs: WFWPI, WOW, WUNRN, IFUW, and the Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Following a report from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on the situation of Afghan women, these Geneva based NGOs and others submitted a statement to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and decided to invite the author of that report to speak at the side event while the matter was debated in the HRC.

Speakers at the side event included: Georgette Gagnon, Director Human Rights Unit & Representative OHCHR Kabul, Afghanistan and author of the UNAMA report; Sima Samar, Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Selay Ghaffar, Director Humanitarian Assistance for Women & Children in Afghanistan; Shoukria Haifar, President of NEGAR - Support of Women of Afghanistan; Chantal Véron, Director of Humanitarian Projects for Women & Children in Afghanistan; Elizabeth Mason Nash, World Health Organization's Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child, & Adolescent Health; Jessica Mosbahi, Medica Mondiale, Officer for Women's Rights & Policy; and Lois A. Herman of the Women's UN Report Network. Laurence Deonna, reporter, author and specialist on Middle East Affairs, moderated the event.

Panelists used this high profile forum to voice insight acquired from on the ground work spanning from maternal mortality to harmful traditional practices. The assortment

of issues explored brought an accurate picture of the gritty, daily Afghan reality frequently unexplored or misunderstood by media outlets.

The report, Harmful Traditional Practices and Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan, a joint project of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was central to much of the day's debate. As the phenomenon of enforced child marriage, honour killings, maternal mortality and violence against women were being explored, concrete guidelines on how to tackle these issues responsible for Afghanistan's label as the most dangerous country for women in the world were proposed.

Particulars like ethnicity, lineage, residence or social strata create parallel realities. Everyday life for a Pashtun family in Kabul is a far cry from the reality endured by a tribal clan.

Afghanistan Women, contd. on pg. 12

Sustainable Societies - Responsive Citizens

64th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

September 3-5, 2011 ~ Bonn, Germany

The annual DPI/NGO Conference was attended by over 1,500 representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations from seventy nations including two WFWPI Representatives: Elisabeth Riedl and youth representative, Kyung In Van de Ven. The conference was held at Bonn's Maritim Hotel.

Mr. Kiyo Akasaka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information was the first speaker at the opening session. "The challenges of food, energy, finance, water, and climate are many, and complex", noted Mr. Akasaka. He went on to say that climate change negotiations are at a crucial stage, with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increasing and "too many words and broken promises.

Also during the conference's opening session, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon offered a message via video. "We are exhausting the capacity of our planet to guarantee our sustainable future. The solution lies in a fundamental transformation of our consumption patterns and lifestyles", Ban insisted. He went on to say, "Next year's Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, and this year's upcoming General Assembly commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers are critically important opportunities. You, the dynamic forces of civil society, are wonderfully well placed to spread the word about the transition ahead and about the need for civic engagement in making it happen. The sustainable development agenda is the agenda for the 21st century. Both science and economics tell us that we need to change course, and soon. We need to lift people out of poverty, create jobs, and provide a dignified life for all while preserving the planet that sustains us".

Mayor of Bonn, Jurgen Nimptsch welcomed the delegates. "This Conference is tailor-made for Bonn: men and women who are actively engaging in civil society processes, contributing with their own commitment, meet in the international City of Bonn. We are very excited to meet active citizens and to promote a platform for new initiatives and innovative networks. May the delegates of the UN DPI/NGO Conference 2011 be inspired by the "Bonn Spirit"!"

Flavia Pansieri, UN Volunteers Executive Director and Chair of German Agencies Consultative Forum informed participants, "Bonn is a committed city, promoting sustainable societies." She emphasized a people centered approach with access to resources.

Opening session keynote speakers included, Vandana Shiva, Navdanya International: "Poverty removal has not been a success. Free trade is not free, it was pushed on the world. Corporate freedom is not citizen freedom. Our world is not for sale. What would the money used for the U.S. bank bail out have done for the earth? Let us take the rights of Mother Earth to Rio. Volunteerism is freedom. Democracy for the people, not for the corporations."

Grace H. Aguilin-Dalisay, Chairperson of the Voluntary Service Overseas Bahaginan and a psychologist from the Philippines specializing in children's rehabilitation emphasized, "The volunteer is a catalyst for change." Children should be encouraged to volunteer because it promotes empathy and sets the stage for a lifetime of service and activism in the global community, she said. In addition, volunteering promotes "healthy, socially responsible adults," with good social skills, said Aguilin-Dalisay.

In his opening remarks, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner said, "We live in an increasingly unequal world; the environmental services upon which we all depend—and especially the poor—are also fast hitting limits as a result of decades of pollution, damage and degradation. Economy has been used to divide and rule. We live on a planet where climate change and the loss of productive ecosystems can and will increasingly disrupt global supply chains. For some the Green Economy represents the logical evolution of sustainable development, a path to making economies more responsive to the needs and aspirations of all peoples; a way of making globalization a servant rather than a master. It has been UNEP's intention to provide both a rethink and the supporting analysis of how to shape the global economy in a way that provides growth but also transformative social and environmental outcomes. The other key

theme of Rio+20, is an institutional framework for sustainable development and to address the International Environment Governance (IEG) dimension. The over 500 Multilateral Environment Agreements, many with their own assemblies and governing bodies, have become an administrative burden for developing countries, stretching limited financial and human resources. A comprehensive science-policy interface spanning the full range of environmental challenges and sectors and capable of building scientific capacity in developing countries, is another key link in this forward-looking age. The institutional framework for sustainable development needs to be more than environment. It is for this generation of political leaders to demonstrate that they are up to the task and equal to the previous generation of leaders."

Felix Dodds, Chair of the 64th NGO/DPI Conference and Executive Director for Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future requested those present to participate in Rio + 20 (The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 4-6, 2012). He asked, "What role is your government taking? Five points of concern expressed by Mr. Dodds: The necessity of human society to be involved in finding solutions, climate change, lack of fulfillment of previous agreements, governments' lack of enforcement of the international agreements, and the increased inequality of consumption. He called for a convention on corporate responsibility, in light of the economic crisis and the failure of the banks.

The conference highlighted effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to fostering sustainability and encouraging civic involvement through

64th DPI/NGO, contd. on pg. 11



64th DPI/NGO Side Event - Association of World Citizens

Activities Around the World in 2011

Annual Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Women Students

WFWP Japan started this contest in 1997 to promote understanding among foreign students and the Japanese people. We are able to learn about what foreign students think about their lives in Japan, their dreams for the future, love and hope for their mother nations.

The National Contest was held in Tokyo on November 21, 2010. Eight finalists of regional contests competed in eloquence of Japanese speech.



All Finalists



First Prize Winner - Student from China



President Kuboki giving 2nd Prize to Kirghiz Student



Student from Sri Lanka



Student from China



Student from Ghana



Student from Korea



Student from Indonesia



Student from China

Charity Concerts for International Service Projects



July 23, 2011. Charity Concert for Mauritania held by WFWP Hokkaido 3rd district federation, performance of ocarina and piano



July 23, 2011. Charity Concert for Mongolia, Ethiopia, and orphans in disaster areas of East Japan held by WFWP Kanagawa 4th district federation, performance of accordion and violin



July 28, 2011. Charity Concert for Niger held by WFWP Kanagawa 1st district federation, performance by a professional violinist

Japan

Relief Aid for Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake



Members of WFWP Miyagi chapter visited Mrs. Matsumoto (second from right in photo), a member of WFWP Miyagi chapter, at an evacuation center in a junior high school. Her house was fully destroyed by Tsunami. WFWP Miyagi members presented goods donated from WFWP Aichi and Aomori chapters.



Members of WFWP Ibaraki have collected picture books for children in disaster places. A part of them was donated to WFWP Fukushima 3rd chapter and Fukushima 3rd chapter donated them to the Association of Kindergarten of Fukushima.



WFWP Japan presented donation to a WFWP member whose house was totally destroyed by the tsunami. Photo showing her standing in front of her house.



Many WFWP chapters donated foods, snacks, and basic goods for the disaster areas.



WFWP members delivered and collected goods in the parking lot of a temporary housing project in Miyagi.

Assessed Loss as of August 20, 2011

- Number of lives lost: 15,711
- Number of missing: 4,616
- Number of destroyed homes: 264,000
- Number of partially destroyed homes: 533,000

As of June 28th, no WFWP members were missing after the earthquake and tsunami and no WFWP members perished. Forty one members whose homes were either partially or completely destroyed received donations from WFWP Japan.

The Second WFWP Music Festival: "Harmony Connects Hearts"

On July 28, 2011, the second WFWP Music Festival was held in Takaishi-city, Osaka.

Seven chorus groups organized by WFWP members from Osaka, Hyogo, Mie, Kyoto and Aichi participated in the festival. Each performed two songs related to the theme, "Harmony Connects Hearts". In addition to the chorus performance, a famous Japanese picture book was read, "The Mountain of Flowers" accompanied by piano and recorder.



"Mother Goose" from WFWP Osaka



"Liederkreis" from WFWP Aichi



"Harmony Grace" from WFWP Hyogo



Story Reading Accompanied by Music



Professional Solo Singer

Women in War and Reconstruction

15th Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East

May 24-27, 2011 - Thessaloniki, Greece

By Carolyn Handschin

Women's Federation for World Peace dedicated its 15th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East to the commitment of women to peace and development in times of conflict and in times of community or national reconstruction- within a framework of strategies, tools, alliances and best practices. This theme was also conceived to examine the first decade's achievements of Security Council Resolution 1325 which recognizes that not only are the needs of women different than men's in times of war and conflict, but so is their contribution to resolution. As agents of peace, the engagement, expertise and ingenuity of women is fundamental to success - as the first 14 conferences of this series and history has proven.

As agents of peace, the engagement, expertise and ingenuity of women is fundamental to success - as the first 14 conferences of this series and history has proven.

The conference was cosponsored by WFWPI and WFWP Japan. Nearly 70 women leaders from 20 countries of the Middle East/ North Africa, Europe and the Far East, as well as from 5 UN agencies (UNHCR, UNRC, UNRWA, IOM, UNICEF) gathered in serious discussion.

Nearly all the presenters, the majority of whom are working in the region, as well as other participants, testified over and over about the critical and courageous role that women of all ages have been playing in these processes of mobilization, transformation and nation building. Yet, (excerpt from the outcome document "Appeal and Recommendations" of the conference) "despite their sacrifices, these women, who could have been valuable agents of conflict resolution and peace building, in compliance with Security Council Resolution

1325 on Women, Peace and Security, often find themselves marginalized and excluded from reconstruction processes. The crosscutting issue of gender which acknowledges the valuable contribution of women cannot be bypassed without the dire consequences of undermining efforts of post conflict reconstruction."

Acknowledgement of the importance of the issues at hand began with the welcoming remarks from the Mayor of Thessaloniki. The conference was divided into four key areas:

- 1) Women's best practices in conflict prevention and resolution,
- 2) Women's best practices promoting social cohesion and nation building,
- 3) Government / UN / NGO cooperation: using the tools and strategies provided to empower women and protect their rights, and
- 4) The influence of media.

Essential elements of the discussions were summarized in the Recommendations drawn up during the conference by a small team of participants and accepted in consensus by all.

They are as follows:

1. Calling for the participation of women in peace negotiation and peace building at all decision making levels.
2. Enhancing the knowledge and education at the family and formal levels through giving equal opportunities for both girls/women and boys/men, in accordance with international legal framework on gender.
3. Targeting governmental bodies and urging them to change repressive legislation against women and women's rights, in order to help overcome gender discrimination.
4. Ending impunity for gender based crimes and creating accountability.
5. Actively engaging women in reconciliation processes as facilitators and not only as victims or beneficiaries.

6. Acknowledging and encouraging support for the preeminent role that women have in times of crises as providers of security and stability- not only as victims of the lack of it.

7. Appreciating that women have a unique position within families and communities to detect early warning signs of unrest and if empowered could pilot preventive measures.

8. Adopting appropriate laws promoting and protecting equal rights for men and women.

Middle East Conference, contd. on pg. 12



With City Council Member & Representative of Thessaloniki's Mayor



Session on Best Practices, Women & Reconstruction



Discussion: NGO, Academic, Youth, UN, Government



Debate



Education for a Culture of Peace: Investing in Partnerships and Transforming Our Society

5th Annual Conference of WFWP Europe

May 27 - 29, 2011 - Madrid, Spain

By Elisabeth Riedl

Eighty seven women delegates from fourteen countries in Europe gathered for the conference to discuss the theme, "Education for a Culture of Peace: Investing in Partnerships and Transforming our Society".

A very inspiring Bridge of Peace ceremony with forty two international couples was held the opening night of the conference at San Lorenzo del Escorial, a UNESCO Heritage site near Madrid.

In opening the conference, Maria Riehl, WFWPI UN Representative Vienna, informed the delegates that this conference is in celebration of the UN Day of the Family. Esperanza Bautista, a Catholic Theologian and Lawyer, expressed that, "in the same way that the feminization of poverty has been recognized, women have to work with the aim of creating a process of feminization of peace". WFWP International President, Professor Lan Young Moon Park, conveyed her thanks to the WFWP Europe chapter presidents and representatives gathered. Lois Herman, coordinator for Women's UN Report Network, articulated her personal and thorough commitment to peace, an inspiring talk. Carolyn Handschin, WFWPI Vice-President of Europe delivered words of encouragement. Then Marcia de Abreu, WFWP Spain President, welcomed everyone, and requested structural, effective collaboration and partnership both within WFWP as well as with other organizations to activate concrete social projects.

Session 1: Dignity in human relationships as a cornerstone for a culture of peace -

Ms. Ingrid Lindemann explained the

importance of first granting dignity to ourselves as women. "It's time to cherish ourselves", she said, and realize that we possess special values, capabilities and talents which our society desperately needs. Raising awareness about and living our dignity are the first steps, the cornerstone for the creation of a "culture of peace". She continued by saying a culture of peace can only come about when both aspects, masculine and feminine, work with each other on an equal value basis.

Dr. Isabel Costa began, "Where does dignity start? It starts within ME. And how does it start? By knowing who AM I". As a doctor of alternative therapies she explained how our thoughts and emotions, if negative, all kinds of diseases can appear in our bodies. She continued, that whatever we give to the world will come back, like a boomerang and reminded us gratitude is the key that opens up the doors and gives us power.

"Where does dignity start? It starts within ME. And how does it start? By knowing who AM I"

Session 2: Understanding Gender Differences for Mutually Enhancing Cooperative Relationships -

One of the biggest mistakes, presenter Mrs. Christine Sato mentioned, is to expect that someone of the other gender will react or behave in the same way that we do. She pointed out the differences between man and woman explained in John Gray's book, Men are from Mars - Women are from Venus. She explained that studies have confirmed that companies

with mixed gender management achieve better results than those which have only male executives. She believes that the desired gender equality will occur automatically as soon as we women discover the unique qualities of our female nature and learn how to live them out to their fullest potential.

Session 3: Acquiring the skills, attitude and perspective within the couple to build a culture of peace around us -

Mr. and Mrs. Sattlberger spoke about the importance of non-violent communication and explained about the CHIP-Program (Constellation of Heart centered Inner Processes). We always have two ways to cope with problems, either we blame ourselves or we blame our partner. What we need is an alternative. We have to get in contact with our feelings, needs and longings. Frustration always comes up when a certain desire in our heart is not met.

Mother-Daughter-Relationships and Women's Power Circles

Mrs. Rosjke Hasseldine spoke on the vital nature of the mother-daughter relationship. "Half of the world's population is a daughter, every female is part of three generations of women, a daughters first image of what it means to be female is her mother." Furthermore she said that every woman and girl deserves to be surrounded by a loving circle of females. Every woman and girl deserves to be heard, valued and respected, and to know that anything less is just not okay. Women learn best about themselves and each other when sharing openly and freely in mutually supportive groups.

Participants visited the UNESCO World Heritage site, EL ESCORIAL between Sessions 3 and 4.

Session 4: Women in the process of creating peace, Societal transformation towards a Culture of Peace -

Carolyn Handschin told us about her work on human rights and women's rights at the UN in Geneva. Mrs. Lois Herman, WUNRUN, Women and the Human Right to Peace spoke about many ongoing conflicts and expressed concern that though many are on our doorstep, a shocking level of disinterest exists among the public.

Session 5: A panel moderated by Ann Schaffner reported outcomes from the Working Groups on the following themes:

- Developing caring partnerships through bridges of peace: Dr. Maria Riehl
- War and Women in Congo: Aline Afazali
- Partnership Skills: Kurt and Bernadette Sattlberger

Europe, contd. on pg. 12



Reach Them, contd from pg. 2

The first speaker, H. E. Dunlop, discussed education in Brazil, now at the forefront in advancing primary education. Brazil's government has prioritized education as part of the national strategy for better living conditions, attributing education to economic growth and poverty reduction. Brazil initiated the Family Allowance Program, a national cash transfer program for families to reduce poverty and promote education. Families must have child vaccinations, pre and post-natal care and school attendance to receive the family allowance. Now Brazil has 95% enrollment in primary education, as well as a sharp decrease in child malnutrition. Infant mortality has declined by 50% between 1999 and 2008.

Dr. Barbara Reynolds cited the statistic, sixty seven million children worldwide lack access to education. 55% are girls, 42% live in conflict situations. Many children in developed countries also don't have access to education. In addition, psycho/social support for children affected by conflict, loss, aggression and trauma are needed.

Dr. Maluf spoke passionately about the necessity of all children learning to read and write, especially those in poverty. "Illiteracy is social inequality. The brain changes when literacy is mastered. Democracy is the by-product of education."

Dr. Flattau spoke of the power of global broadband technology in access to education and creating a national technology plan for education. Education via the internet can be safer and less expensive and allows for quality control.

The briefing concluded with a moving testimony from Foday Sackor on how education has allowed him to make a substantial contribution to the world, the opportunity made possible by his parents' brave move to the United States from Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana in 1999.



MDGs, contd from pg. 2

and women as partners to make sure resources reach communities are promising practices.

Dr. Papazian spoke about the impact of primary education for girls. It empowers girls to make their own decisions. Educated girls have more respect for themselves, their bodies and their children. Women need to be leaders because women leaders are more likely to promote girls education. Men also need to be taught the benefits of educating girls.

Dr. Melnich asserted that almost no country can say women have complete equal rights. Denying women rights retards a nation's development. It is the task of governments to secure women's rights and provide access to education and healthcare

Dr. Roshan focused on the situation of women and health care in developing countries.

The lack of government participation, existence of traditional practices, lack of education, all contribute to a deplorable lack of sufficient obstetric care for women in developing countries. Several suggestions for governments and civil society include: train local people in nursing care; establish OBGYN nursing care programs and broadcast the training; create partnership initiatives with NGOs.



Our Voice, contd from pg. 2

of the population. These youth are among the most valuable, yet under-utilized, resources of any country. The UN sees the International Year of Youth (IYY) as an opportunity to mobilize young people to make a commitment to causes that they feel passionately about, and to contribute their talent and energy to reaching the Millennium Development Goals. They can take part in shaping the development of their communities and countries, particularly through information and communication technologies to act as bridge-builders and agents of change."

Ms. Panieri reflected on the culture of service in U.S. high schools that require service work by students in order to graduate. She offered the wisdom, "A well-adjusted society has a vibrant volunteer sector." New technology and social media networks can be a tool to spread hope, engagement and volunteerism. "Without youth action and engagement, change cannot come."

Ms. Roquefeuil praised youth and their contributions. Because of many inquiries for information on how to help, UNICEF has created information kits for young people who want to make a difference.

Mr. Covello has been involved in service since he pursued his Eagle Scout award. He volunteers with Engineers without Borders. He described the power of communication through technology (Skype), to expand impact.

Ms. Cott spoke about the positive impact of social media. She uses Facebook, Twitter and You Tube in her "Take a Stand" campaign. "Twitter and Facebook communication is very powerful. One tweet or Facebook message and the news spreads like wildfire." Ms. Cott founded the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a new method to connect youth and their activities with each other and the UN. She brings youth to the UN to visit the missions and learn about situations in various countries and offer help.

Discussion focused on best practices in use of social media and how older people learn to use social media. The briefing gave hope and inspiration for the power of youth to facilitate greater effectiveness and growth for NGOs.



CSW, contd from pg. 3

stable financial future for their families. As Naomi Lletto said, "When help is offered in a women's voice and other women hear it, they can change."

Meenakshi Munda, Chair of the Asian-Pacific Indigenous Youth Network sponsors leadership and training workshops in the small city of Chartan, India begins with the burning issue of migration. When people leave their home towns in search of work, it is difficult not to lose some of their culture and livelihood. In the past, indigenous people were self-sufficient but now with encroachment of the dominant culture, unique aspects of the indigenous cultures are disappearing. In the past local people made beautiful artifacts but now no one is learning the old ways so traditional skills are lost. Children as young as 12 and 14 move to cities to make money for their families but end up exploited. Once indigenous people leave their village and return, they are shunned. Local customs do not allow older women to marry. Since inheritance goes through the male, if an unmarried woman has land, local men accuse her of being a witch, murder her and steal her land.

Munda is working to educate local children in the traditional ways. She founded an orphanage where children can stay in touch with their culture. Mobile health services run by outside organizations visit and offer services to the indigenous people. The education system is suffering. Government reports high literacy rates but in reality the levels are low. Munda is dedicated to sustainability of indigenous peoples of India.

Laura Calm Wind of Kitchenuhmaykoosib, Inninuwig (KI) Canada is a member of the Bear Clan. As a coordinator for youth leadership and training she helped establish the Oshki-As-yaa'aag Mino Bimaadziwin Foundation, dedicated to fulfilling the dreams and potential of youth leaders. Calm Wind has been an activist for indigenous peoples rights since the early 1980s. Calm Wind believes in the importance of indigenous people staying close to their roots. She has remained connected to her culture and traditions and is a fluent speaker of her indigenous language, Anishnabamowin. She values the insight and wisdom of the Elders and traditional knowledge practitioners. Calm Wind also encourages participation of tribe members, particularly the younger generation in cultural ceremonies and events. The Bear Clan practices ancient traditions, supporting matrilineal leadership. Women make laws, men enforce them.

Calm Wind is dedicated to the right to sovereignty and self-determination for indigenous people. When the Platinex mining company entered the KI territory without the free, prior and informed consent of the KI people, she led her community to stop the Ontario government from proceeding. Her efforts kept the land free from staking and mining.



64th DPI/NGO, contd from pg. 5

volunteerism. The title reflects the power of citizen engagement to bring about societal change in various aspects of our lives: economical, cultural and environmental. The conference was about connecting the dots between sustainable development and voluntary organizations empowering responsive citizens to act together and build real, sustainable communities.

Participants took part in four round table discussions, and more than 30 workshops and side events including youth focused activities, to share their experiences on the ground and present ideas on how to advance sustainable development around the world. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, including the role that volunteerism could play in building sustainable communities; the role of education in fostering change; training a new generation of activists; and the importance of changing consumer behavior.



Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, UN Under Secretary General for Communication and Public Information with Elisabeth Riedl, WFWPI Representative from Vienna.

Themes for Roundtable discussions were: Shaping Sustainable Lifestyles and Livelihoods; Sustainable Consumption and Production Aspects of a Globalizing World; Green Economy and Poverty Eradication: Climate justice as a bridge to a new global Economic Paradigm; Role of Civil Society in a Fast-changing World: Civic Engagement and Voluntary Action for Achieving Sustainability; and Sustainable Development Governance Issues from Local to Global: The Role of Citizen Participation.

The workshops were an opportunity for in-depth, provocative discussions. Participants used them to raise important questions about governance and corporate accountability, viewing sustainable development not only as an environmental issue but also as an economic and social justice issue. They also examined the issue of changing public perceptions of what was important in society and recasting the public discourse on the environment so that environmental concerns were not seen as being in opposition to economic growth.

Workshop options included a tour of sustainable Bonn, a city renowned as a green city, with cutting edge solar technology and home to the leaders of the organic and fair trade movements; a youth tour of an organic farm; a town hall meeting, presentation of a game related to climate change; a tree planting; an award ceremony for reconciliation best practices and more.



64th DPI/NGO Side Event - Federation of World Peace & Love

WFWPI UN Representative Elisabeth Riedl presented at a side event on the 4th September. She spoke on the value of human dignity with regard to sustainability at this evening panel organized by the Association of World Citizens and Federation of World Peace and Love.

(Contributions to this article by Elisabeth Riedl and Bonnie Berry. Additional information accessed from 64th DPI/NGO Conference media toolkit.)



The United Nations General Assembly Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks

September 9, 2011 ~ General Assembly Hall, UNHQ, New York

Speakers included:



The President of the General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss



Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro



Permanent Representative of the United States, Ambassador Susan E. Rice



Interfaith Leaders Participated



Special Performance included: New York City Symphony With Mr. David Eaton, Music Director Soloist Mzuri Moyo Soloist David D'Or

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For more information about projects, see Biennial Reports at www.wfwp.org


Europe Conference, contd from pg. 9

- Circles of Empowerment: R. Hasseldine
 - Social projects as caring partnerships: Patricia Earle
 - Dignity of beauty, caring education for our youth: Christine Sato
 - Alliances for peace as caring partnerships among NGOs: Carolyn Handschin
- Conclusions were summarized by Lilly Gundacker.

On Saturday evening a memorial ceremony for **Ester Calovkova**, the late WFWP Slovakia President was held to commemorate her life and service to WFWP. She had passed away in February 2011.



Session 6: WFWPI President Lan Young Moon Park shared the story of her family's escape from North Korea to South Korea when she was a child. In recent years, she has travelled many times to North Korea to unite with her relatives, and is a member of the Korean North South Dialogue process, as well as the initiator of the WFWPI 1% Love sharing charity action to support needy people in North Korea.

A special thanks to Mrs. Marcia de Abreu, who worked intensively for 6 months to organize the conference. 

Middle East Conference, contd from pg. 8


9. Involving national NGOs and other stakeholders to work with their respective governments on the creation of national action plans on the implementation of security council resolution 1325, with reporting mechanisms as is required.

10. Building the capacity of national NGOs to respond to the needs of their local communities in conflict and post conflict situation.

11. Launching awareness campaigns on Security Council resolution 1325 and human rights education with the support of UN agencies.

12. Guaranteeing the full participation of women in all fields of the labor market and their involvement in the national economy with special focus on the female headed household.

13. Working on the creation of an independent structure to monitor the situation of women in their countries through the collection of research, media, statistics, testimonies, school curricula and all available data in order to "map" women NGOs and entities for lessons learned and best practices. Creating a database/ website to serve this purpose.

With these guidelines, the participants at the 15th Conference for Peace in the Middle East, call upon their respective governments, NGOs and Civil Society, beginning with themselves, to consider and implement the above recommendations, to enhance efforts to achieve peace and development in their nations. 

Disease Prevention, contd from pg. 1

Four WFWP Representatives attended:

Ms. Motoko Suygiyama, Director of WFWP International's UN Office;

Dr. Karen Judd Smith, Representative to the UN;


Ms. Cynthia Shibuya, WFWPI DPI Representative and

Ms. Jeanne Carroll, Representative to the UN;


While WFWP did not contribute directly to the proceedings, WFWP International notes the value of proactive efforts such as these by the UN. After all, the UN's task is to take up more than the "hot" political issues. The UN is mandated to address all highly relevant and urgent issues often overlooked by today's sensational and/or politically oriented media.

WFWP International is interested in following through on the outcomes of this forum and the developments initiated by the Member States that will emerge during the High Level Segment in September, and hope to have more to report on the outcomes of that meeting.

More information on status of preparations leading to the High Level meeting are available

on the UN website at: http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/en/index.html. This report is adapted from UN documents and online reports. 

Afghanistan Women, contd from pg. 4

A complex nexus of UN, national government, NGOs, working in close proximity, are bringing about the change Afghanistan desperately needs. It remains blatant and clear that signing international conventions is of little consequence unless the 1) impunity of perpetrators is dealt with, 2) an underlying understanding of the important role played by women in society is recognized, and 3) war torn Afghanistan derives its own definition of the terms predominately featured in Western legal framework. Settling for a cosmetic inclusion, rather than an action plan to work women into the political, economic and social mechanisms would be disastrous. 

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct. 16 World Food Day
- ❖ Oct. 17 Int'l Day of Eradication of Poverty
- ❖ Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- ❖ Oct. 29- Nov. 1 WFWP 12th Int'l Leaders Workshop in South Korea
- ❖ Nov. 20 Universal Children's Day
- ❖ Nov. 25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- ❖ Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- ❖ Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
- ❖ Feb. 27- Mar. 9 56th Commission on the Status of Women 2012