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NEWSFLASH



Volume 7 Issue 1 Newsletter Date: 8th June 2009



From the APRC President

Warmest greetings to all APRC member national councils as we continue the lead up to the ICW General Assembly in Johannesburg. By now you will have received the draft programme and registration details. Please make sure you register very soon to take advantage of the early bird fee. Early registration will allow us to do our planning for the General Assembly more effectively.

A further call for the ICW affiliation fees went out to all councils recently. We warmly thank those councils who have already paid the fee and urge those who have not yet paid to do so immediately. Being financial allows you to participate fully at the General Assembly with the right to vote, nominate candidates for the ICW Board and Standing Committees and propose draft resolutions. We rely on all of our councils to be able to give their wholehearted support as financial members so that we are truly an international organization.

During the General Assembly, councils will be reporting on their work to promote and implement gender equality. As part of that reporting, we are eager to know how you have used the ICW Toolkit on Climate Change to promote sustainable protection of the local and national environment in your country.

Next year at the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York the review and appraisal for the 15th Anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will be made. In preparation for the review, you will receive very soon a questionnaire to be completed on how women are faring in their everyday lives compared to five years ago. We ask all councils to gather as many responses as possible from women of all ages and cultures, to collate them and send in the results to the ICW Secretariat in the suggested reporting format. The ICW will then have valuable data to use in advocacy and statements at the review and appraisal thus continuing our proud record as a foremost international organization leading the campaign to achieve gender equality.

With best wishes to you all in your programmes to further the objectives of the ICW
Jane Prichard Q.S.O.
President

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Glimpses from The Bihar Council Of Women

The Bihar Council of Women (BCW) is an affiliate state council of the National Council of Women in India. It is located in Patna, the capital city of Bihar.

The BCW does various charity works. It has a Balwadi (children's welfare), health care clinic, craft centre etc

The Balwadi run by the BCW for children of the slums adjoining Lady Stephenson Hall. Children are given mid day snacks, uniforms, stationery etc. Health check ups are conducted and vitamins and tonics given to the children.

A Family Planning centre is run by BCW. The excellent care and support of doctors and staff of this centre have been responsible for an ever-increasing number of tubectomy operations.

The Council runs a free dispensary. Patients with minor ailments are attended to and if required, the serious patients are referred to the State Hospital. Free medicines are given to the patients

The Council runs a Craft school, where tailoring, machine embroidery, toy making etc. are taught.

A project for providing artificial limbs to limbless persons was organized twice, between 2006 and 2008. ICW provided grant for this project.

300 limbless persons received artificial limbs.

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School run by Bihar Council of Women



Tailoring class run by Bihar Council of Women

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Distribution of Artificial Limbs and tri-cycles by Bihar Council of Women
Seen in the picture are members of the Executive Committee of Bihar Council of Women

Important Message : -

All APRC National Councils are requested to send articles or report for the next issue of APRC Newsflash for August – 2009

Bhaswati Sarkar
Secretary APRC – ICW.

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ICW-CIF Regional Councils

The ICW-CIF Regional Councils continue to develop as we work together to strengthen their membership and input to our work at the international level. The ECICW, by virtue of its compact geography and high level of development of a number of its members, continues to be by far the most robust of our regional councils. It maintains a calendar, which includes two General Assemblies each year. It has representation on many European bodies with links to a wide variety of networks. A close liaison is maintained with United Nations work in both Geneva and Vienna.

The Council of the Americas, while established for a number of years, initially through an initiative of the National Council of Women of USA, struggles to participate consistently in our work. Thanks to the effort of Cosima Schenk, the regional council of the Americas has been able to coordinate two recent workshops.

Because of political turmoil, climate change and declining economic development in some of its member countries the regional council of Africa has found it hard to come together for meetings. Cost and difficulty of travel is just one of the factors impeding its participation. Hopefully the General Assembly in Johannesburg will encourage a good number of our members from the African continent to gather together.

The regional council of Asia-Pacific, while now formally constituted and registered, is still in the "fledgling" stage of development. Pacific nations have sustained difficulties due to political conflict and the global financial crisis. Their economies have experienced a severe downturn in recent months. Climate change has caused coastlines to alter, food prices to rise and the already scarce supplies of safe water to put further at risk.

The current ICW-CIF Board has worked hard to ensure all four regional council are functioning well. The effort will need to continue to consolidate the regional councils of the Americas, Africa and the Asia-Pacific. I am confident that we can enable this to happen.

Jane Prichard
Vice-President and
Coordinator of Regional Councils

15 April 2009

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Report from Regional Councils ECICW and RCA

The European Council of ICW's annual report made by Grace Wedekind, President, The next General Assembly will be held in Valletta, hosted by the National Council of Malta from 23 - 25 April 2009.

The actual Board consists of a President, Grace Wedekind, 3 Vice-Presidents, Eleni Adam, Doreen Micallef and myself, a Secretary General, Brigitte Le Gouis and a Treasurer, Annelies Pierrot is running for election for a second term.

Due to an unfortunate collusion of dates, the next ECICW meeting will be held at the same time as the Board meeting in Paris. Exceptionally Anamah agreed to let me go to Malta from Paris and attend the meeting on 24 and 25 April. I am expected to produce a report on JCW being the link person to ECICW. It is also a good opportunity to give the delegates the necessary information about the GA in Johannesburg and to encourage them to participate in the GA. Besides, Doris Bingley and I will report on the outcomes of the CSW. The ECICW Board should at this stage decide about the issues the regional Council of Europe wants to address at the GA.

Regional Council of the Americas

Good news: the President of the Regional Council Americas, Ana Maria de Goyzueta is going to organize a regional meeting in Guatemala City in July, as a follow-up of the Bogota meeting, which was held in October 2007. It will be the 13th meeting of the RCA. The invitations have been sent out. I plan to attend the meeting on behalf of the ICW Board. I shall try to involve the NCW of Spain. The meeting will be in Spanish and I hope that some Spanish-speaking members from the NCW Canada and from NCW USA will also attend. Karen Dempsey and Mary Scott, President and Vice-President of the Canadian Council whom I met in New York are certainly going to give us a support.

Details about further arrangements on the theme, seminar, and guest speakers will be sent later on. In spite of the economical crisis, the National Council of Guatemala was able to raise the reduced fee of 500 US \$ agreed by the Board in April 2008 upon request of Colombia, Santo Domingo and Guatemala as expressed in Bogota.

It is not much, but this gesture has to be encouraged, after the total absence of the South American Councils since the Executive Committee Meeting in Santo Domingo in 2002. On 1 April, Karen Dempsey sent to Anamah and to the ICW Board an interesting report about women's right in Afghanistan asking us to support a protest against the new law legalizing rape within marriage.

I think we should imperatively take action on this matter.

**Cosima Schenk Vice – President ICW
Responsible for Regional Council for Americas**

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