

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

IAW NEWSLETTER January 2011, no. 1



Equal Rights

Dear members,

Good news! In this first newsletter of 2011 we can announce the start of UN Women on January the 1st, with a new website too. More good news is the nomination of the Women of Distinction Award for Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Bangladesh!

IAW is preparing for CSW - with two Parallel Events. There will be at least 17 IAW members attending CSW including those in delegations from several countries. The new IAW Executive team has been busy finalising the minutes of Congress and updating the IAW website.

The many natural disasters during the last year is very worrying. There should be more preventative measures, good governance and scientific research on climate change, yes, but where are the women? Women of South Sudan are dreaming of independence. We found an interesting NGO on the internet, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD). Highly recommended! And the number of women in leading positions in the world is slowly but steadily rising; we even have more women on stamps!

**Director of Health Programme, BRAC, Bangladesh, NGO/CSW/NY
Woman of Distinction Award recipient**

Dr. Kaosar Afsana, who has been chosen as this year's NGO/CSW/NY Woman of Distinction, will be the keynote speaker at the NGO/CSW/NY Consultation Day, (February 21) along with Michelle Bachelet, UN Under Secretary and head of UN Women.

The formal presentation of the NGO/CSW/NY Woman of Distinction award will take place at the NGO/CSW/NY evening reception, February 23.

The IAW will host a luncheon for her that features a "Conversation with Dr. Afsana" on February 24. Dr. Afsana is the Associate Director of Health Programme working at BRAC for over 18 years. She is an MD with a MPH from Harvard University and PhD from Edith Cowan University in Australia. Currently, she heads two projects for BRAC on maternal, newborn and child health in urban slums and rural districts of Bangladesh and assists BRAC with strategic directions, policy-making and programmatic decisions.

BRAC projects combine the magic formula--education and training of poor women in science and technology with employment and micro-enterprises. BRAC is a member of a mHealth alliance supported by the UN Foundation and Vodofone Foundation on the use of mobile technologies for disaster relief, adaptation to climate change as well as health.

She has been granted many awards including the Asian Studies Association of Australia's Presidents' Prize for the best thesis on an Asian topic and the 2003 University Research Medal and the 2003 Faculty Research Medal for her PhD thesis.

She is a Board member of the WHO Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Advisor to Maternal Health Task Force. She also teaches reproductive health at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University in Bangladesh.

Dr. Afsana has been involved in many national and international research projects, including mobile health, post-partum package development, prolonged labour and birth asphyxia, maternal depression, and sexual and reproductive health rights.

For more information on Dr Afsana see <http://mhealthsummit.org/conference/speakers-moderators>

Sent to us by IAW representative at the UN, Soon-Young Yoon

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Commission on the Status of Women, 22 February - 4 March 2011

Priority theme: Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

Agenda and programme on <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm>

US S-G report on: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/671/37/PDF/N1067137.pdf?>

Review theme: The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, from the [fifty-first session](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm) on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm>

Agreed conclusions on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/agreedconclusions.html>

Two IAW Parallel Events

Physical barriers to education - Friday February 25, 10th floor Church Centre, 2-3pm .

Access to education, science, technology, decent jobs, and civil rights - Monday 28 February, 2nd floor Church Centre, 6-7.30 pm.

Who is going?

At least 17 IAW members will be attending IAW at CSW, including several Board members and 6 members from the IAW New York team in the USA. Members from Austria, Denmark, Greece, France, the Netherlands, Pakistan/UK and South Africa will be there, some representing other NGOs, and we wish them all lots of success during the negotiations! If any of you is keeping a blog, please think of <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>

International Women's News

Regrettably we have been having problems with printing and mailing the last edition of IWNews. Some of you have received it, very late, and others have not. It has already been sent online to some members and this is going to be extended to all our members on line. If you know of any member who is not online perhaps you would be kind enough to offer them the opportunity to come and read it on your computer, or you might be even more generous and print it out for them.

Your editors send their sincere apologies and we are hoping these difficulties and delays will be overcome very soon.

Priscilla Todd iaw.iwnews@womenalliance.org

The IAW website and the IAW Social Network on Ning

The IAW website has been recently up-dated. Click on: <http://www.womenalliance.org> and click on Commissions. There you will find most of the IAW Board members, representatives and volunteers that are forming IAW's working force, with their pictures. Also the names of the Affiliates and Associates, with their websites. Listed as well are IAW Commissions, the UN and the International Status of IAW, and you can find all the newsletters from 1998 till 2010.

Well done, website Content Manager Alison Brown and webmaster Trevor Bennett! And well done, Secretary General Lene Pind!

Ning: If you like to join Ning, go to <http://iawomen.ning.com>

You will need to register online to join on <<mailto:emailhfkist@gmail.com>>

Welcome to our new IAW Individual members

At our recent Congress in South Africa, thirty-three new individual members joined the IAW...either in person, or given to me by their Collectors.

I have by now sent all of them the most recent copy of 'The International Women's News' and a Welcome letter... They come from places as far afield as Cameroon, Sweden, Greece, Switzerland, France, South Africa, The Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, India and Kazakhstan.

Subscription

I would also like to remind all other individual members that their annual subscription is now due ...our financial year runs from January to December...and the new amount **for an individual member is Euro 20**...the subs are now worked out in Euro.

Collectors

Those individual members who live in countries where there is a National Collector, will be contacted by their Collector in the next few weeks for their annual subscription, which will be worked out in your own currency...We have Collectors in Australia, Egypt, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, UK, United States of America, The Netherlands and India.

If you live outside these countries, we would appreciate it if you could pay your subs into one of our two bank accounts, the Barclays account in London and the IAW Account in Vienna. It is often easier to pay for three years in advance. The details of our Bank accounts are on the back of our journal and on our web site. When paying please let me know you have done so...

Pat is happy to be of service

While at Congress, we had a casual evening in the bar area of our Congress hotel for the individual members...this was very enjoyable and enabled individual members to meet each other and discuss items of interest in a jolly setting.

Anyone wishing for more information about IAW, please contact me at anytime...I am online all the time and am happy to be of service..

Cheers, Pat Richardson, IAW membership Secretary, Australia, iaw.membership@womenalliance.org

CSW - women and girls in education, training, science and technology

from three articles collected by IAW member Anjana Basu

A Survey - India took another step towards universal elementary education last year, with 96.5% of all children aged 6-14 years being enrolled in schools, an extensive private audit has revealed.

NGO Pratham's Annual Survey of Education Report says the proportion of girls in the age group of 11-14 years also increased to 94.1% although quality of education remained a big concern ...

NEW DELHI: The Times of India

Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior:

By Amy Chua: A lot of people wonder how Chinese parents raise such stereotypically successful kids. They wonder what these parents do to produce so many math whizzes and music prodigies, what it's like inside the family, and whether they could do it too. Well, I can tell them, because I've done it.

Here are some things my daughters, Sophia and Louisa, were never allowed to do ... On:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704111504576059713528698754.html?mod=rss_most_viewed_week

A village school

Deep in Rohtas district in Bihar, not far from the Sone barrage, is the village of Shivpur. The village has a school. From a distance it looks as though it must be a private school. The building is well-painted. The low structure has many classrooms, the premises are well kept. Attendance is high in the school on a daily basis. As the school day begins, everyone can see hundreds of children line up for prayers.

The story of this school is an interesting one. Over 10 years ago, it was a small one-room school. Over time, village people have donated time and money to make it one of the finest schools in the district. Even today, there are very few teachers on the government payroll. Most teachers are local people who give time in a structured way to ensure that their village children get the best education possible.

More on: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1101215/jsp/opinion/story_13302487.jsp

UNITED NATIONS

UN Women began its work on the 1st day of January 2011

The UN Women Executive Board is made up of representatives from 41 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis. The 41 board members are selected on the following basis: 10 from Africa, 10 from Asia, 4 from Eastern Europe, 6 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 from Western Europe and 6 from contributing countries.

The first Regular Session of the UN Women Executive Board is scheduled 24–26 January 2011

Ban Ki-Moon on Group of 77 - or is it a Group of 130?

12 January 2011 – The bloc of developing nations known as the “Group of 77 and China” must make its voice heard in achieving a full spectrum of United Nations goals, from global anti-poverty targets to tackling climate change to empowering women, [Secretary-General](#) Ban Ki-moon said at a ceremony at UN Headquarters in New York, marking the handover from Yemen to Argentina of the chairmanship of the G77.

Set up in 1964 by 77 states – but now representing more than 130 countries, usually including China – the group provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the UN system.

“In particular, I count on the Group of 77 to strongly support the Fourth Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in May in Istanbul.

Indeed, the most vulnerable have a special claim on our attention – not just because they face the greatest need, but because by investing in them, by ensuring jobs and food security and opportunity, we can make the greatest inroads against extreme poverty.”

Women empowerment

He stressed that women’s empowerment must be at the core of such an approach.

He noted that the past year saw political milestones with the election of Brazil’s first female president and the first female prime ministers of Australia and Trinidad and Tobago.

More on: <http://www.un.org/sg/>

UN Women was already in Cancun, on Climate Change

The move to include gender dimensions in the Agreements has implications for women worldwide, and lays a critical foundation for the next round of climate negotiations in *Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 11 December 2011*.

Women in many parts of the world continue to [face barriers](#) — ranging from food security to lack of access to land and decision-making processes — that place them at higher risk and simultaneously hinder their potential contributions to mitigate or adapt to impacts of climate change.

For instance, shortages of firewood and biomass due to floods or drought, expected to increase with higher temperatures, add to women’s workload where they are responsible for their collection. Currently, 2.4 billion people rely on biomass for cooking and heating, negatively impacting health and simultaneously exacerbating global warming.

Eight references to gender equality

The Cancun Agreements include eight references to gender equality issues. They focus on issues that affect people’s daily lives, including adaptation, climate finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and policy approaches.

Read more on the website of UN Women : <http://www.unwomen.org/>

And look, as an IAW member, in particular at: <http://www.iknowpolitics.org/>

Rio+20 - Women's Major Group

May 14-16 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Women’s organizations can participate in the Women’s Major Group preparations.

March 7-8 2011 in New York at the UN, second preparatory committee meeting.

The January 10/11 meeting identified gaps in implementation of sustainable development noting slow progress on gender equality and empowerment of women in relation to the MDGs.

Co-Chair Ashe stressed that participation of stakeholders, especially women, is important in the new institutional arrangements for sustainable development framework. Guatemala noted the importance of gender equality in the green economy.

The Women’s Major Group emphasized the need for financial investments in building the capacity of women to participate in the green economy and enable women’s green business entrepreneurship.

For more information browse through <http://www.uncsd2012.org>

Sent to us by Natalia Kostus, IAW member of the New York team.

DISASTERS

The devastation from floods in many countries is horrifying to all who see the sad loss of life and the extent of the damage. On behalf of IAW members we express our sorrow and concern to all those who have suffered and continue to suffer.

Pakistan: The floods in [Pakistan in 2010](#) were massive. The rains affected the length of Pakistan, maximally impacting the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab, and Sindh as well as parts of Baluchistan. Flooding displaced more than 20 million people and covered about one fifth of Pakistan's arable lands -- an area roughly equal to the U.S. eastern seaboard.

[This flood affected more people than](#)

the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, Hurricane Katrina (2005), Hurricane Nargis (2005), the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.

Irrigation systems were destroyed, crops ruined, and seed stockpiles devastated. More than six million heads of livestock (including poultry) were killed. Yet, amazingly, only 1,985 people perished while another 2,946 were injured. Why?

Read more in an article on 'the science of flooding' on:

http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/18/what_pakistan_did_right

Bashan Rafique, Executive Vice President of IAW and Chair of the All Pakistan Women's Association, UK. (Editors apology: this is the correct spelling of Bashan; it was spelt incorrectly in the December newsletter).

Sri Lanka: January 10, 2011 - Flooding has left at least 40 people dead and more than 1 million people displaced in the north, east and central parts of the country in recent days. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in addition to the Chinese government's \$1.52 million relief package, the Red Cross Society of China would provide cash assistance of \$30,000. On Monday, India's second consignment of \$1 million reached the island nation, which included 21 tonnes of relief material, containing pulses, milk powder, sugar and water-purifying tablets. *More on:* <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article1100019.ece>

Australia: January 18, 2011 - Up to 50 towns have been affected by flooding and more than 3,500 people have evacuated their homes. More than 20 people were killed in flash flooding across Queensland. The bill from devastating floods across the states of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western [Australia](#) over the past three weeks is expected to reach \$20bn (£12bn). *More on:* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/>

Brazil: Relief efforts continued as the skies finally cleared over the grief-stricken region, where state officials confirmed 677 deaths and more than 14,000 homeless from last week's rain-triggered floods and landslides.

Brazil's government responded to stinging criticism that it was unprepared for last week's disaster, with the administration of new President Dilma Rousseff pledging to beef up the country's response to natural disasters.

The government will create a national alert system and install weather radar throughout the country to better warn residents of stormy weather, especially those in areas at risk for landslides and flooding. The system, however, will not be completed until 2015, officials said.

About 5 million Brazilians live in 500 areas deemed at risk for landslides and 300 areas at risk for flooding, Science and Technology Minister Aloizio Mercadante said.

More on: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110118-709933.html>

Note: Brazil's top environmental regulator resigned recently in refusal to licence a project that experts say would be an ecological disaster: the Belo Monte Dam Complex, which would carve a scar bigger than the Panama Canal into the heart of the Amazon. The mega-dam would flood huge tracts of rainforest and displace thousands of indigenous people. The companies that would profit from the dam have been trying to bulldoze past environmental laws -- and want to break ground within weeks. The Amazon is a global treasure, and a worldwide outcry is needed now.

from Priscilla Todd quoting from http://www.avaaz.org/en/amazon_under_threat/97.php

On visible climate change and invisible water

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international scientific body for the assessment of climate change.

November 26, 2010 - 'Climate change is most often associated with global warming. However, its most severe impact is on the natural water cycle.

As stated by the IPCC, water is the primary medium through which the impact of climate change will be felt by both people and the environment. Climate change affects precipitation patterns: it prolongs drought periods and decrease soil moisture, leading to irreversible land degradation and desertification.

It also increases the frequency of extreme meteorological events and water-related natural disasters, such as floods and landslides.

Effects of climate change on the world's oceans are also a cause for great concern. Briefly, water changes are climate change in a nutshell'.

Editor's note: The IPCC has a wonderful website on: <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm> Browsing through the content, there is the usual question: Where are the women?

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD)

APWLD is an independent, non-government, non-profit organization. It is committed to enabling women to use law as an instrument of social change for equality, justice and development.

It has a consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Their website is <http://www.apwld.org/> and they have a very interesting e-newsletter, from which we quote the definition of Intersectionality:

the experience and impact of sexism and patriarchy, which is experienced differently across the world, across nations, within communities. Like for women moving to another country, the implementation CEDAW, of resolution 1325, etc.

There also articles on India and the Battle for the Women's Bill; Malaysia moving forward in matters of Islam and Women; Baguio City; Kyrgyzstan; Pregnancy and Childbirth as a basic Human Right; the Labour Force and home-based Women Workers; and many more, on:

<http://www.apwld.org/forumnewsvol322/APWLD%20Forum%20News%20Vol32No2%20Web.pdf>

It's time we understood Intersectionality

The Women's movement, lead by women from the Global South, began to interrogate their assumption of shared oppression.

Women experience oppressive practices based on race, nationality, religion, class, (dis)ability, caste, sexual orientation, parental status, marital status, political beliefs and practices, appearance, geographical location

The intersectional approach to activism and rights recognises that each individual has multiple facets of identity, that intersect with each other and as a result an individual cannot simply be defined in one different component of their identity.

*Please read more on: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, <http://www.apwld.org/>
Sent to us by: IAW Board member Sheila Deaves.*

South Sudan - Women Dream of Independence

Kampala, Jan. 13, 2011- John Garang, the revered late leader of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement, once said that women are the "the poorest of the poor and the marginalised of the marginalised". As the reality of an independent South Sudan approaches, the region's women have vowed they will not remain second class citizens.

Margaret Michael Modi, the head of women's affairs in Central Equatorial State, cast her vote on the first day.

"The first day (of the vote) we did not sleep. I went to the polling station and women were crying as they cast their vote," she said over the phone from the southern capital, Juba.

"For us the separation will be liberation. For so long, we were subjected to Islamic laws which limited our freedom in most ways, and coupled with the traditional values of the south, [women] remained at the bottom of society."

Like many others, Modi expects that in an independent South Sudan, women will be in a better position to challenge limits on their freedom rights.

Enforcing rights

Mary Nawai Martin, a member of South Sudan's Legislative Assembly from Ibba County in Western Equatorial State, is optimistic that separation will bring in a new era of respect for women's rights. Analysis by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) highlights the fact that women in South Sudan lack access to justice on matters of sexual violations and reproductive rights, divorce and child custody.

"Over 90 percent of day-to-day criminal and civil cases are executed under customary law, which is largely not only inconsistent with international human rights laws, but also favours men," the report reads.

New interim constitution

South Sudan has already developed a new interim constitution which spells out a Bill of Rights and acknowledges the right to equal treatment for both men and women. However putting such laws into practice in a country whose justice system is almost non-existent is a huge challenge.

By Rosebell Kagumire, more on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54116>

Dilma Rousseff Brazil's first female president

1 January 2011 Ms Rousseff, 63, joined President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government in 2003 as energy minister. In 2005, after a corruption scandal brought down key government figures, Mr Lula made her his chief of staff, a post she held until March 2010, when she launched her campaign for the presidency as the Workers Party (PT) candidate.

More on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-11446466>

Australia, Women on Stamps

Eva Cox, A leading member of IAW Affiliate WEL, Women's Electoral Lobby, has been honoured by being put on a 60 cent stamp, along with Germaine Greer, Justice Elizabeth Evatt and Anne Summers, all famous Australian living feminists. Justice Evatt was on the UN Committee on CEDAW years ago.

Mailed to us by IAW member Pat Richardson

EVENTS - CONFERENCES - USEFUL LINKS

UN Women: Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP, 4 and 7 February 2011. On: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

Saudi Arabia - A group of Saudi activists have launched a campaign to allow women to run in the upcoming municipal election, scheduled this spring. The group, named My Country, will start with letters sent to local governments and then posted on social networking websites. *On Associated Press.*

Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

Istanbul, Turkey - 9-13 May 2011 [Registration and Accreditation to LDC IV Civil Society Interactive Hearings and LDC IV conference is now open!](#)

More on: <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home/news>

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97. Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash :	Joke Sebus	<iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News :	Priscilla Todd (English)	<iaw.iwnews@womenallince.org>
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