

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

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

**IAW NEWS FLASH - October, nr. 1**

*Dear IAW members,*

*We are sending you this time a few short October News Flashes, with attachments of reports to the 32nd IAW Congress in Sri Lanka. Please, if members attending Congress will send us their reports by e-mail, we can try to include those too in our next News Flashes. Depending on its size, your full report or maybe in a reduced form will be attached. There has been such valuable work done for IAW, it should be shared as widely as possible.*

*Both Membership Secretary Pat Richardson <iaw.membership@tsn.cc> and EC member Joke Sebus <joke.sebus@inter.nl.net> will be most happy to receive the e-mails of your reports.*



**Equal  
Rights**

**The 32nd IAW Congress in Colombo**

The welcome of our Sri Lankan sisters from the Sri Lanka Women's Conference was beyond expectation! A wonderful and inspiring venue and a great program including a gracious reception by the President of Sri Lanka, Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga; addresses and receptions by Sri Lankan Ministers of Power and Energy, of Women's Affairs, and of Employment and Labour; a wonderful dinner at the residence of Ms Obeyesekera. As well, meetings were arranged with sister organisations in Colombo. The Congressional Dinner commenced with a splendid cultural show with drummers and dancers. And on the last day, a coach tour up to Kandy, with an overview of towns and landscapes; a visit to the Elephant Orphanage for an enchanting sight of elephants bathing in the river and a visit to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha. The SLWC Kandy Regional Association hosted lunch and provided information about the work of the various organisations in the area.

There was a lot of work to do too. We listened with attention to the excellent addresses of Professor Savitri Goonesekere, member of the UN CEDAW Committee and Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. We worked hard on the IAW Action Programme 2003-2004 in three workshops: a) Human Rights-Women's Rights, b) Globalisation, Economic Development and Social Justice, c) Ecology. A new Board was elected with Patricia Giles continuing as President until 2004. New executive members were selected, regional co-ordinators installed and UN and other intergovernmental representatives confirmed. (details in our next News Flash). Young Women and Individual Members were given direct representation on the Board. Businesswise, financial matters were discussed, a new team was chosen for IWNNews, a decision taken on the venue for 2003 (Kuwait), ideas and plans for centennial celebrations in 2004 highlighted (Berlin and Freiburg) following which the Alliance will be stepping into her second century with a new constitution. As well, the SLWC organised an absorbing all day seminar "Mechanisms for a Shared Gender Leadership in the New Millennium" which will be reported on separately.

**IAW Attachments, URLs**

Attached are: Report from the UN Representative to FAO, Bettina Corke; Rapport d'activité d'AFEM par Jaqueline Nonon, France; Report of the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association by Apamo Basu, IAW Vice-President, India.

URLs on Domestic Violence: 1. <<http://www.americancampaign.com/>> - Announcing the Second World Congress on Family Violence, 231-2003, Prague, Czech Republic, organised by the International Network on Family Violence. 2. <<http://www.familyviolence.org.cy/>> - National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Canada. 3. <<http://www.fvpf.org>> - Family Violence Prevention Fund

Interesting news website, Polen <<http://www.neww.org.pl/>>