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DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING WOMEN

In an effort to keep Pacific women informed of opportunities and resources available to them, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB) has compiled this information circular listing some of the latest developments regarding women in the region.

CHARTER OF VALUES FOR POLICIES AND LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN

Participants in the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development Regional Conference held from 11-14 December, 1988 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia drafted the following Charter of Values for Policies and Laws Affecting Women:

PREAMBLE

We, the women of the Asia-Pacific region

acknowledge the diversity and richness of our cultures and religions;

recognise that a woman is a full human being with her individual identity in her own right;

believe that patriarchal structures and existing socio-economic, political forces continue to subordinate women and impede the exercise of their right to development and,

THEREFORE, assert that changes in values are necessary for social transformation towards equality and justice for women. Based on the Asia-Pacific experience and arising out of our needs and vision, we declare the following principles:

- 1) Women have a primary obligation to realise their full potential;
- 2) Women assert their right to autonomy and self-determination;
- 3) Women affirm the freedom from all forms of domination;
- 4) Women believe in and promote the vision of a new society and family in terms of egalitarian relationships;
- 5) Women view life as a continuum and therefore shall not submit to stereotyped demarcations of life;
- 6) Women, acknowledging their inner strength, shall act with courage and self-confidence;
- 7) Women shall resist social condemnation and overcome shame or guilt feelings for being victims of sexual abuse or for non-conformity to society's role models;
- 8) Women believe that sexuality is human-centered and therefore denounce the prevailing double standards of sexuality which treat women as sex objects;
- 9) Women assert their right of control over their own body;

- 10) Women affirm their solidarity and support for each other;
- 11) Women shall desist from denigrating and exploiting others;
- 12) Women shall be fair and just to all persons;
- 13) Women assert their rights of equal access to and control over resources and opportunities in order to be self-reliant and self-sufficient;
- 14) Women envision development to be the creation of a system that enables women to participate fully in the process of people-orientated advancement, considering ecologically sound and sustainable economic growth with equitable distribution of benefits;
- 15) Women reject a consumer culture that debases women;
- 16) Women censure the existing sexist orientation of mass media and shall insist that all media forms communicate the reality of women's oppression and project the positive image of women;
- 17) Women affirm their freedom and right to organise;
- 18) Women reject aggression and violence in all forms and at all levels and shall work towards peaceful settlement of conflicts;
- 19) Women support only those policies which promote justice and peace in our region;
- 20) Women reject the values and practices derived from the interpretation of religion which oppress women and deny their independence and equality; instead, women will strive to reformulate the interpretations in the true spirit of justice, equality, and human dignity.
- 21) Women accept only those traditions which promote the right to development.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we the participants in the APWLD Regional Conference on Values for Policies and Laws Affecting Women, declare and adopt the foregoing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 14th day of December 1988.

WOMEN'S EXCHANGE PROGRAMME INTERNATIONAL

This foundation acts as an 'intermediary to offer services such as advice, fund-raising, training and organisation for international cross-cultural exchange programmes'.

The foundation produced its first issue of the *WEP Newsbulletin* recently. The bulletin provides information on women's issues to women's groups, organisations, networks, companies, private funds and government bodies throughout the world. The focus of the first issue is the history of five years of international women's networking.

For further information, contact: *Flora van Houwelingen, Managing Director, Women's Exchange Programme International, P.O. Box 25096, 3001 HB Rotterdam, The Netherlands.*

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

This institute is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit corporation, begun as a project of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. The purpose of the IIWPL is to advance the political participation of women in the world's established and emerging democracies.

Goals for this year include a gathering of Pacific island women to discuss common problems of women's political participation throughout the region, and to achieve political training and networking for women leaders of the new states of the region and the established states of New Zealand and Australia, and the establishment of a core group of women to serve as the Asia/Pacific Regional Council of the IIWPL.

For further information, contact: *Geraldine Ferraro, President, International Institute for Women's Political Leadership, 1101 14th St. N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005, United States of America.*

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH RESEARCH NETWORKING

This is a report of a conference held in the Philippines in September, 1989 aimed at beginning a process of dialogue and sharing between Philippina researchers in academic settings and organisers in communities, so that the knowledge generated in both settings can be better shared. Women academics shared their different experiences, and the organisers validated them and raised questions of their own. Through a series of articles authored by the participants, the report discusses different dimensions of research, such as the research process and funding, and several alternative approaches to research, including feminist, participatory, and historical research.

The report is available from: *Center for Women's Resources, 43 Roces Avenue, 2nd floor, Mar Santos Bldg., Quezon City, Philippines.*

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN KIT

This kit is produced for women, concerned groups and trainers and examines the key issues of violence against women. It addresses the issues of wife battering, women and work, family law, and sexual assault. The kit is divided into two sections. One section deals with the preceding issues, the second section, 'Tools for Action', teaches how to use the kit to lead discussions and take action on these issues.

Developed by the All Women's Action Society, this kit was produced to develop analytical skills of women's groups so that they can strengthen their campaign on legal reforms for women.

The kit is available from: *All Women's Action Society, 37, Jalan 20/2, Paramount Garden, 46300 Petaing Jaya, Malaysia.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**World Association for Educational Research
10th World Congress
Charles University
Prague
Czechoslovakia**

21-25 August, 1989

The theme of this Congress will be *Scientific and Technological Innovations for Education for the World of Tomorrow*. Plenary sessions and discussions in the mornings will be followed by working groups according to the theme of the day (by language) in the afternoon. Official languages will be French and English, with Czech and Slovak, Spanish, Russian and German also available.

The organisers are calling for papers from researchers and university professors responsible for educational sciences. Participants are invited to present the results of their research and theoretical analyses regarding the changes in organisation, content and methods in educational sciences as a consequence of scientific and technological progress.

For further information, contact: *Congress Office, World Association for Educational Research, Katedra pedagogiky FF UK, Celetna 20, 116 42 Praha 1, Czechoslovakia.*

Fourth Women in Development Conference
Association for Women in Development
Loews L'Enfant Plaza
Washington D.C.
United States of America

17-19 November

The theme of this Conference is *Development Challenge for the 1990s: Global Empowerment of Women*. The Conference will focus on women's empowerment for sustainable development in political and economic life, educational access and cultural expression. It is hoped that the Conference will link practitioners, policy makers and researchers who will relate experiences of women from industrialised and developing countries.

The Conference committee has issued a call for papers. Contact the *National Conference Office, 21 College Court Bldg. Manhattan, KS, 66506.*

Produced by Jillette Leon-Guerrero, Communications Officer

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