



Pacific women work together... see stories page 4 and 5

One Just World – think>talk>act!

Jo Crawford, IWDA Advisor

Bob McMullan launches One Just World series

On 30 July 2008, on a cold, rainy Melbourne winter night, 260 people came to the first forum in the **One Just World** series, *Can the world survive climate change? Opportunities and challenges for developing countries. What can we do?* This national series of free after-work forums is a partnership between the Australian Government Agency for International Development (AusAID), International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), World Vision Australia (WVA) and a tertiary partner in each capital city.

Parliamentary Secretary for International Development, the Hon. Bob McMullan MP, spoke about the intent of the series – to explore big issues and challenges in development, provide an opportunity to hear interesting speakers, stimulate discussion, and encourage all of us to think about what we can do to help build a more just and equitable future. Enthusiastic about the initiative, he spoke of the importance of space for such discussions in a democracy. He reiterated the Government's commitment to substantially increase the aid budget and underlined the need for broad understanding of why this matters, for Australia and its developing country partners. IWDA welcomed the particular emphasis on investing in women and girls.

Dr Graeme Pearman, award-winning scientist, committed environmentalist and consultant on the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, spoke first. His overview and update on the science of adverse climatic change was powerful, particularly his slides demonstrating shrinking polar ice and the colour maps showing differential impacts of climate change on various parts of the globe. Robyn Eckersley, Professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne and an expert in environmental philosophy and global politics, provided a snapshot of recent international negotiations and the equity issues at the heart of the idea of differentiated responsibility. Dr Brett Parris, Chief Economist and Team Leader of the Economics, Climate & Natural Resources Team at World Vision spoke about the



moral and economic imperatives for this generation to mobilise on climate change, much as a previous generation mobilised to counter the threat of facism.

Peter Mares, presenter of *The National Interest* on ABC Radio National, did a great job as moderator, with the facilitated exchange between panel members drawing out some of the best comments of the night

On 6 August the focus moved to Sydney for *What needs to change for women to get a fair go? Gender inequality and development*. IWDA ED Jane Sloane, Pacific gender expert Emele Duituturanga, and Clare Seddon, Manager of the West and East Africa Regional Team at World Vision, outlined why tackling gender inequality is central to ending global poverty. The questions and contributions from the big audience at the Great Hall at UTS, moderated by Jenny Brockie of SBS *Insight* fame, could have run on well beyond closing time.

Videos of presentations will be at onejustworld.com.au 10 days or so after each event so you can catch up on forums around the country even if you can't be there.

Letter from the Executive Director

When Robyn Archer, Artistic Director for the 2008 Deakin Lectures series, asked me to speak on a panel titled 'The New Philanthropy', it was an opportunity to think about IWDA and the changes we are trying to effect in our work and the development sector.

In addition to supporting what we consider to be best practice models with our partners, we are advocating for change in the way organisations and institutions design and deliver policies, programs and philanthropy. This is reflected in some of our newest initiatives including the establishment of IWDA's Gender Training and Consultancy arm, the development of a leadership program for girls in schools and our partnering with AusAID and World Vision for a series of public seminars across Australia titled 'One Just World.'

So what is the 'old philanthropy' and how would we define 'the new philanthropy'?

The **old** philanthropy is where the needs of women and girls are not purposefully taken into account which results in a lack of access to resources for women's initiatives.

In the US in 1985 women's initiatives and projects attracted less than 3% of philanthropic grants. This became the catalyst for the formation of the International Women's Funding Network. In the same year, organisations such as IWDA formed to address the absence of prioritising women in development.

The **new** philanthropy recognises that in order for women to have a voice, women need to be engaged in the design and delivery of programs and funding. In the words of Geeta Rao Gupta, President of the International Centre for Research on Women "women need to be able to draw upon resources, to control these resources and make decisions that affect important life outcomes....they need to be agents of change in their own life."

As supporters of IWDA, you are contributing to a world where women and girls have the power, resources and support to improve the quality of their lives and thus improve the lives of their families and communities. It's through simple acts – a stone cast into water, a dollar donated – that the ripple effect is felt.

My speech from the Deakin lectures, and the radio interview on the ABC that preceded it is available on our website. www.iwda.org.au.



Jane Sloane,
Executive Director

her culture

IWDA is excited to be able to include some beautiful images and words from our project partners, supporters, staff, volunteers and the many people who make IWDA a vibrant, living organisation....



Wasana Weeraratne & Nilusha Hemasiri,
Kantha Shakthi volunteers.

"Women unite to keep alive the light of humanity and carry it in to the future"

Women's Organisations United to Celebrate International Women's Day – Sri Lanka

If you would like to make a contribution please email iwda@iwda.org.au with Newsletter – herculture as the subject heading.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IWDA)

IWDA is an Australian non-profit organisation that supports positive change for women. Our practical and rights-based projects directly address poverty and inequality in developing countries.

Our projects focus on five key areas of well-being: economic empowerment, freedom from violence, participation in

decision-making, reproductive health, and environmental management.

We work in the Asia-Pacific region, in direct partnership with women who work and live in the communities themselves.

*When women benefit,
the whole community benefits*

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Karen Young Women's Leadership School – Graduate Refresher Course

Jose Mott, IWDA Overseas Program Manager – Thai-Burma Border

The Graduate Refresher Course is a four week program run by IWDA's long term partner, the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO) in one of the four Karen refugee camps situated along the Thai-Burma border. It is an opportunity for approximately 20 women leaders who have graduated from the year long course at the Karen Women's Leadership School (run by KWO and supported by IWDA) to come together after graduation. Here they can share their ideas and experiences about community leadership. It also provides the women with skills development opportunities in certain areas that are identified as important for leadership. This year those areas were gender, advocacy, research analysis, program and financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.

While on my recent field trip in March, I had the privilege of working with the KWO Leadership School Coordinator, giving a three-day training on monitoring and evaluation as part of the course. About 15,000 people live in the camp, where the course was held. It takes approximately three hours of driving along a winding and hilly dirt road from the Northern Thai town of Mae Sariang to get there. While I felt quite exhausted from the drive, I realised that this was nothing compared to the trip many of the women made to attend the course. While half of the women came from the camp where the school is based, some had spent four days trekking through the jungle to be there!

At the end of the workshop, we asked the young women to pick one of the natural objects that were collected on a tray, to sum up how they felt about what they had learned. As the photo shows, one young woman who had travelled from the internally displaced people (IDP) camp within Burma picked a stone, **"this training makes me feel strong like a rock"**. Another who was born in the camp just down from the school picked a herb she called 'kloodol' and said **"just looking at it you can't tell, but if you put it in a curry it is wonderful - that's how I feel I have changed inside from this training"**. A third girl chose a leaf: **"its flexible – you can use it in cooking and for making things, just like I can do many different things"**.

Just before leaving the camp, I experienced the beautiful singing voices of the women participants. While I was not able to understand the words, I felt overawed by the powerful message of hope that was conveyed through their singing. Once again, I was struck by how much I had learned from these courageous women, and how much more we have to learn. It left me with a strong sense of how fortunate IWDA is to have a partnership with KWO, so that we can continue to support such valuable and inspiring work in creating positive change for women in particularly difficult situations.



Students from the Karen Women's Organisation Graduate Refresher Course choose an object that represents their learning.



PHOTO: CATH RUTTEN

Participants Partners at the Workshop.

There are many words to describe partnership

Kalene Cafarella, IWDA Special Projects Officer

***Cakacaka vata* – working together** ***Veivuke* – helping each other (Fijian)**

In Nadi, Fiji, from 23 to 25 April, the 2008 IWDA Pacific Partners Workshop brought together representatives from our current project partners in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. The workshop was organised to be an effective “sister” event to the workshop held with our Asian partners in October last year in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Many months of emails and phone calls began the process of a dialogue with our partners to ensure that this workshop was effective, relevant and dealt with the most pressing issues for each partner organisation.

Twelve women from our Pacific partner organisations attended. This was an amazing and dedicated commitment from our partners. For them, this isn't just three days out of the office. Due to the nature of travel within the Pacific, those travelling from outside Fiji needed to either arrive earlier or depart later than the workshop. This meant significant time away from their families and pressing work loads to go back home to.

The workshop provided an opportunity for IWDA's partners to share experiences and learnings in best practice while building better networks through face to face contact. They also expanded skills and knowledge around specific areas of organisational development including

- ☀ strategic planning
- ☀ understanding of one another's work
- ☀ recognition of cross-cutting regional issues and
- ☀ the use of Information Communication Technology's (ICT's).

One of the main themes at the workshop was 'What does organisational success look like?' As a group we identified the key principles and elements of a successful organisation and the key challenges to a successful organisation. This led to a session on 'Structures for effective practice - enhancing organisational capacity'.

A second theme was building better partnerships. Claire Rowland and Gabrielle Halcrow, IWDA's newest Pacific Program managers led an in-depth discussion on what it means to be in partnership. This included how to strengthen our relationships and identify clear ways in which partnership can improve an organisation's capacity. Everyone was able to share and learn from this powerful session.

The cultural presentations from the partner organisations were fantastic. We are continually amazed by the creative power and depth that our partners have.

This project was a great learning experience for IWDA and we appreciate the commitment and wonderful work of our partners in the Pacific.

IWDA received the assistance of many individuals to make the workshop possible. In particular we are grateful to Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Eta Rabuatoka and Peter Sipeli who provided support for many aspects of the Workshop. The project could not have happened without the support of Carole Poussard, IWDA intern.

BOOK REVIEW

Caitlin Reilly, IWDA Strategic Partnerships Officer

Title:

Listen to the Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking

Author:

Kungun Ngarrindjeri Mininar Yunnan, Edited by Diane Bell

Containing first hand stories from people of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, *Listen to the Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking* is a beautifully compiled work of shared histories. Each tale is written in the oral tradition of indigenous storytelling, allowing readers to share in the knowledge that is passed down from one generation of women to the next.

Based around the Adelaide area, the Ngarrindjeri people interviewed in the book tell stories relating to culture, food, safety, modern legal battles and reconciliation. Each story also contributes to a greater understanding of lineage and family lines, painting a vivid picture of the interactions between families and historical events in the area.

The stories range from personal accounts to broader shared experiences, with much emphasis placed on the importance of reconciliation. Kevin Rudd's apology to Australia's Indigenous People's sits on the inside back cover of the publication and serves to end the book with a continuation of the spirit of optimism and strength which resonates throughout.

An intimate look at one of the aspects of this rich and diverse culture, *Listen to the Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking* is an engaging example of the way preserving and sharing knowledge can benefit future generations.





Gabrielle Halcrow with volunteer Margaret (l) and staff member Judy (r) from EHFV

“Partnership is built on Relationship” ... a quote from Eastern Highlands Family Voice in Papua New Guinea.

By Deb Chapman , IWDA Gender Advisor

There are many lessons that have been learnt over the last 50 years in regard to development activities; a key one is that those who are affected by the activities have a right to be involved in all aspects of their design and implementation. This is summed up by the maxim ‘nothing about us without us’

So when Eastern Highlands Family Voice (EHFV) approached us with a request for partnership around the community education part of their organisation’s work, which focuses on legal literacy, we were very pleased to be able to say yes.

This small and dynamic non government organisation based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG) has as its mandate a commitment to working towards ‘**violence free communities where all family members have a voice and live in peace and harmony**’.

We are fortunate to be able to build together a new partnership based on mutual respect, network building, information sharing, trust and resource sharing.

Gabrielle Halcrow, one of IWDA’s Overseas Program Managers, and I had the pleasure of spending some time with many of the staff and volunteers of this organisation during a recent field trip to the Highlands of PNG.

EHFV have recognised that explaining women’s and children’s human rights under the law and constitution has a very important role to play in alleviating violence against women, which is widespread in the Highlands.

EHFV has grown under the watchful and wise eyes of many people including their founder and Executive Director, Naomi Yupae, and a competent and capable Board of Management, staff and volunteers. There are now five main components of their work, including:

- ☀ awareness and legal literacy work,
- ☀ counselling and referral services,
- ☀ family support centres established at the two major hospitals in the province,
- ☀ a comprehensive volunteer programme and
- ☀ partnerships with many players in order to achieve its work.

It’s a tough job and EHFV have risen to the challenge to address the critical issue of family violence. **IWDA is pleased and privileged to be able to stand alongside many Eastern Highlands women and men in their efforts to reduce gender based violence in their communities.**

THE WORK OF OUR PACIFIC PARTNERS

Fem’LINK PACIFIC - FIJI

Peace Talks Initiative

Fem’LINK Pacific are developing a pilot project around the promotion of the United Nations Security Council’s Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security to key women’s NGOs and government policy makers in the Pacific.

Generation Next

The Fem’LINK Pacific ‘Generation Next’ project is training young women as radio producers and broadcasters in an innovative approach to reaching out to younger women and men in the urban and peri urban areas of Suva, Fiji.

PACIFIC CENTRE for PEACEBUILDERS – FIJI

Creating peace of mind for the peacekeepers and their families

Pacific Centre for Peacebuilders is working with local organisations and the military to reduce violence in the families of peacekeepers.

WOMEN’S ACTION FOR CHANGE (WAC) – FIJI

Elimination of Violence Against Women – Youth Project

In this program WAC works with both young women and men separately and together on information sharing, empowerment and skill building in mediation and restorative justice.

EASTERN HIGHLANDS FAMILY VOICE – PNG

See story left

Freedom from Family and Sexual Violence

Funding from IWDA will provide those who have experienced violence with medical and legal support. In addition, the program raises awareness of PNG’s domestic violence and violence against women laws through education and training on the rights and responsibilities of family members.

CLAN – SOLOMON ISLANDS

Community Learning for Action (CLAN) Project

This project is strengthening the capacity of formal and non-formal educational institutions and community groups to provide effective support to women, men and young people in the areas of peace and environmental education, community problem solving and vocational training. The focus of IWDA’s component of this project is around women’s leadership and well-being.

ONE NEWS LIMITED– SOLOMON ISLANDS

Stop Violence TV Campaign

This project is pioneering creative stop violence television segments to reach Solomon Islanders.

LIVE AND LEARN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - VANUATU

Strengthening the Capacity of Women to Safeguard Rainforest Resources in Vanuatu

In a time where the environment is critical, this project is working towards giving women the knowledge and skills needed to participate in decision making processes to promote and change practice and behaviour so that forest activities are high value both ecologically and economically.



herstory

Dr. Suzanne Kindervatter

Dr. Suzanne Kindervatter, Vice President of Strategic Impact, is spearheading a new global network to reduce poverty and empower women worldwide. The network – the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance (WFDA) – is reaching out to Australia to bring together many diverse groups and organizations to advance the rights of women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the past 25 years Suzanne has worked in 20 countries, focusing on areas including education, gender and development, and micro-enterprise development. As the Director of the Commission on the Advancement of Women, and head of the Strategic Impact Team for InterAction (the US coalition of 165 international NGOs) Suzanne has played a large part in furthering commitments to gender equity and women's empowerment worldwide.

As part of the WFDA, Suzanne was an organiser of Breakthrough, the Women, Faith, and Development Summit to End Global Poverty. The Summit was held in April 2008 in the United States and brought together Non Government Development Organisations, Faith Based Organisations and Women's Organisations who together pledged to commit \$1.4 Billion towards women's and girl's empowerment and gender equity globally. The event was an amazing success

and will serve to integrate gender perspectives into the operations and programs of many US and international organisations.

On a recent visit to Australia Suzanne, together with IWDA's Executive Director Jane Sloane, addressed a gathering of representatives from Australian organisations, and began initial talks about implementing a Breakthrough event here in Australia in 2009.

Suzanne's enthusiasm and dedication to advancing women's rights globally is an inspiration, and the staff at IWDA look forward to working with her in the future.

IWDA will keep you updated on the progress of this exciting initiative through our website www.iwda.org.au and newsletters. For more information on Breakthrough and the WFDA, visit www.wfd-alliance.org

IWDA Feast 2009

On the back of the great success of IWDA Feast 2008, plans for IWDA Feast 2009 are underway. It's like a progressive dinner that visits Melbourne's best restaurants, but all under the one roof! The IWDA Feast will see Melbourne's top female chefs return in March 2009 to cook up a storm for 400 guests at the Grand Hyatt. Excellent food, great entertainment and a fun live auction will ensure tickets sell out just as quickly in 2009! Watch this space!

Tackle Environmental Issues. Take Action. Trek Kokoda

In early May 2009 IWDA is heading to Papua New Guinea to trek the Kokoda Track! On an all women small group trip we will trek the tough 90 km of the Kokoda Track jungle. On trek we'll stay with local communities in their villages. The trip includes a visit in Port Moresby from an IWDA project partner. Joining the journey is easy. Simply register and then fundraise for IWDA and your trip. Supported by Intrepid, we will do the rest! For more information visit www.iwda.org.au/challenge.

A few words from our president

I'm delighted to be able to inform our supporters of the launch of a five year Strategic Plan for IWDA. This plan seeks to set out a strategic framework for our work until 2013. It outlines our vision, mission and values, giving a context to the work we do. This vision will guide us as we build our capacity to provide a greater number of women in the Asia Pacific with support towards more fulfilling and sustainable lives. It identifies six specific goals in our program initiatives and outlines our organisational development goals. It aims to explain why we have chosen these goals and how we will go about achieving them. I encourage all interested supporters to download a copy of the plan from our website, www.iwda.org.au

Coleen Clare



International Women's Development Agency is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct which defines minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for non-government development organisations. Adherence to the Code is monitored by an independent Code of Conduct Committee elected from the NGO community. Our voluntary adherence to the Code of Conduct demonstrates our commitment to ethical practice and public accountability. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be accessed at www.acfid.asn.au

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