



UN-NGO-IRENE UPDATE

Issue no 12 – October 2004

WHAT'S NEW

◆ **UN-NGO-IRENE/Pakistan established in Karachi on 11th October:**

National Coordinator: All Pakistan Women Association “APWA” a leading NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC since 1951: President Mrs. Tazeen Faridi, Executive Vice-President Mrs. Laila Sarfaraz

APWA will serve as national coordinator with the support of the following:

7 Thematic Focal Points:

1. Group 1 **Poverty Alleviation and Hunger (MDG 1):** SEVA in collaboration with Ladies’ Forum, Pakistan Association for Women Entrepreneurs and the First Women’s Bank Limited
2. Group 2 **Education (MDG 2):** BUNYAD in collaboration with BEHBUD
3. Group 3 **Gender Equality/Women Empowerment:** AURAT in collaboration with Tehrik-e-Niswan
4. Group 4 **Health (MDGs 4, 5, and 6):** Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) in collaboration with Geriatrics Care Foundation of Pakistan
5. Group 5 **Environment (MDG 7):** SCOPE in collaboration with Shirkat Gah, Women’s Resource Centre
6. Group 6 **Partnership (MDG 8):** Federation of Business and Professional Women in collaboration with Business, Professional and Agriculture Women Association and First Women Bank Limited
7. Group 7 **Peace, Security and Human Rights:** Karachi Women Peace Committee in collaboration with World Muslim Congress; and Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child.

5 Regional Representations of the Network:

1. Sind Region: Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan
2. North west Frontier Province: Afghan Development Association
3. Islamabad: Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan
4. Punjab: FPAP
5. Balochistan: Rural Support Program

Development of a strategic action plan for UN-NGO-IRENE/Pakistan based on the expressed needs and the proposed solutions of the workshop participants, including the preparatory work for the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The national workshop to launch the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Pakistan took place in SIDCO Center in Karachi Pakistan on 11 October 2004. It was conducted by Ms Najet Karaborni, Senior Interregional Advisor and UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator/UNDESA. It was attended by 33 representatives of 16 dynamic Pakistani NGOs.

◆ **International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs**

With the support of Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director of the Office for ECOSOC

Support and Coordination, and Ms Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section, Ms Karaborni undertook an advisory mission to assist APWA in the preparatory work for the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs that will take place in Islamabad, Pakistan from 28 to 30 March 2005. For more information visit www.pakconference2005.com

◆ **Mission in Brussels 27 September – 1 October**

Seminar on the Contribution of Civil Society Organizations to the Work of the WTO

At the request of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Ms Hanifa Mezoui, Chief NGO Section of DESA, participated in a seminar on the contribution of civil society organizations to the work of the WTO from 27 – 28 September. This highly successful seminar explored the path forward for preparing new multilateral negotiations, the role of representation of organizing society in international trade relations, and the lessons to be learned from the failure of Cancun. It has been recommended that the outcomes of this EESC seminar are used as a starting point to enhance the discussion of the NGO Forum to be held during the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC in Geneva 2005.

International Conference: “The Role of NGOs in the Resolution of International Problems”

In participating in “The role of NGOs in the resolution of international problems”, a conference hosted by the International Society for Military Law from 29 September – 1 October, Ms. Mezoui presented the role of UN-NGO-IRENE and its activities and the terms of reference of the High-Level Panel: Threat, Challenges, and Change. It has been recommended that the outcomes of this conference and the experience and knowledge of the International Society for Military Law in the field of conflict resolution act as an input to the work of the High-Level Panel.

◆ **Gender Declaration for Africa 6-8 July 2004**

A Gender Declaration was approved by the Heads of States of the African Union during the recent African Summit in Addis Ababa. After long and hard work by African woman and civil society organizations, including the Arab International Women’s Forum, the Declaration includes provisions for the establishment of an African Trust Fund for Women, capacity building of women in Africa and the empowerment of women. Please visit this link to learn more about the summit and to view the Declaration:

<http://www.africa-union.org/AU%20summit%202004/Au%20summit%202004.htm>

COMING SOON

- ◆ 6-9 December 2004: “World Family Summit” initiated by The World Family Organization, the UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinator/Latin America, hosted by the Government of China and supported by the United Nations to contribute to the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in Sanya, Province of Hainan, China

- ◆ 28-30 March 2005: International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs in Islamabad, Pakistan– to address Gender and MDG’s implementation; focusing on partnership, transfer of knowledge and awareness. Many prominent global figures will attend the conference, which is supported by several UN partners (UNICEF, UNDP, UNDESA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNIFEM), the US State Department, the Asian Development Bank, and the Corporate Sector. It is coordinated by APWA and hosted by the Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan. Online registration available at www.pakconference2005.com

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

- ◆ **World Council of Credit Unions, Inc** is operating a remittance system through credit unions in the US and Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, Ecuador and Bolivia. Their experience has shown that people who receive remittance flows through credit unions are likely to open savings accounts and to save parts of the funds they receive, accumulating them to use productively rather than for immediate consumption. WOCCU’s model credit union building methodology has been successfully implemented in many developing countries and credit unions (cooperative financial institutions operated by their members) are currently running in 79 countries. Any profits are returned to the members in the form of dividends and lower cost services. The savings that credit unions mobilize from their members are put to work in their communities in the form of loans for housing, small and micro enterprises, education and other members’ needs. Many of the credit union development programs work with national governments and credit union systems to improve legislation and regulation.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- ◆ International Conference on Safe Water and Health: The Impact on Rural and Urban Communities, Johannesburg, South Africa (5 – 7 November 2004). For more information, see <http://www.boreholes.net> or e-mail info@boreholes.net
- ◆ Conference of Femmes Africa Solidarité and launching of the Dakar Centre for Economic Empowerment for Women, in Dakar, Senegal (8-10 December 2004)
- ◆ “Rethinking the Way in which NGOs do Business” Conference hosted by the William Davidson Institute Bratislava, Slovakia (4-6 March 2005) -- focusing on corporate-NGO partnerships and sound business strategies for addressing social issues. Open to policy brief submissions: http://www.wdi.bus.umich.edu/publications/policy_papers_briefs.htm
- ◆ National Integration Youth Camp, Delhi, India (26 November – 3 December) – a youth camp focused on training young people to promote peace, non-violence and harmony in civil society. For more information contact: secretarygeneral@icyo-india.org

- ◆ The Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop, St. Johns University, Manhattan, New York (15-17 November) – an introduction to the process, structure, and skill of professional proposal writing. For more information please visit <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com>

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **Cientia Fall Conferences** – <http://www.cientia.net/Cientia.Conferences.Fall.04.htm>
- ◆ **GALILEO Programme** – http://www.europa.eu/int/comm/external_relations/euromed/news/ip04_1146.htm
- ◆ **Arab International Women's Forum** – <http://www.aiwfonline.com>
- ◆ **World Family Summit** – <http://www.worldfamilyorganization.org/summit>
- ◆ **William Davidson Institute** – http://www.wdi.bus.umich.edu/publications/policy_papers_briefs.htm
- ◆ **The Grant Institute** – <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com>

NGOs' CONTRIBUTION *Submit your contribution*

- ◆ Our friend, Patrick van de Coevering, Senior Training and Communication Expert, EU/TACIS Russia Corporate Governance Facility brought to our attention this recent and interesting initiative. Thank you Patrick
- ◆ The William Davidson Institute (WDI) has initiated a coalition of public interest groups based in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States entitled the NGO Alliance. It is focused on issues central to creating a foundation for successful transition from a controlled to a market-based economy. The goal of the NGO Alliance is to promote information sharing and dissemination of best practices, with the aim of promoting the development of an effective and efficient market. WDI recognizes the instrumental role that NGOs play in the transition process and looks to them for valuable insight.

CONTACT US *Send Your Details To Subscribe!*

For further information on our monthly Update or if you wish to add a friend to our free mailing list, please send an e-mail entitled "Subscribe" to Karaborni@un.org. You can read all Updates at the UN-NGO-IRENE Website at www.unpan.org/NGO-updates.asp. For any further information please contact Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section at mezoui@un.org and Ms. Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator at karaborni@un.org