

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

APRIL - JUNE 2012

HELP
SPREAD
THE WORD
TWO EXTRA
MAGAZINES
INCLUDED
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Preparing for the Triennial Conference

APPLICATION FORM INSIDE

Women Walk the World

FORACWWINLESOTHO,SOUTHAFRICA

WI Garden Tea Party

RAISESMONEYFORPENNIESFORFRIENDSHIP





COVER: Photo from Jean Wilson's garden, a member of Llandysul WI, who raised money for ACWW. Full story on page 15

The Countrywoman, distributed to 70 countries worldwide, is the magazine of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

Named in 1933 by Mrs Alfred Watt, MBE, MA First President, ACWW



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DEADLINES

Please note the following deadlines for sending articles and photographs to 'The Countrywoman'.

July- September: May 1st
October-December: August 1st
January-March: November 1st

(colour, glossy- not matt- prints or digital photos, high resolution)

THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL

WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



May Kidd in Lesotho, South Africa Women Walk the World event held during the Southern Africa Area Conference

Dear Friends

How's this for a coincidence? At the recent Southern Africa Area Conference in Lesotho, guest speaker Vanessa Hall from Australia delivered a thought-provoking presentation on 'Trust'.

When Vanessa told her husband that she was on her way to Africa to speak at an ACWW Conference, he mentioned something she had not previously known, that his grandmother, Dame Alice Berry DBE, Australia, served as ACWW World President from 1953 to 1959.

I gave Vanessa the ACWW History Book 'Highlights of 75 years of ACWW', which includes a photograph of Dame Alice. She has since sent more pictures taken during Dame Alice's term of office, and these are now in ACWW Central Office.

One morning during the Conference, the 250 delegates took part in a well-planned one hour 'Women Walk the World' round the streets of the capital, Maseru, escorted by a Lesotho traffic policeman on a noisy motor cycle, which speeded ahead and stopped the traffic for us.

The Walk was led by five Lesotho policewomen in uniform. They quickly joined in the spirit of the event while keeping us safe. It was all great fun, swinging along to the music of the African women, singing as always in that incredible natural harmony.

The idea was to encourage everyone to enjoy Walking the World in their own part of the world, and I am sure it worked.



Dame Alice Berry (centre) ACWW World President from 1953 to 1959

May YOUR walk go with a swing! Please don't forget to take lots of photos, and send the best to ACWW.

As for me, on ACWW Day, 29th April 2012, I shall be at home with my own group, Inverarity WRI, Scotland. We will be joined by hundreds of others in Angus Federation on a walk around Forfar Loch, a local beauty spot, bearing aloft an ACWW banner, while others carry the flags of all the countries in which ACWW is active.

And finally: "There are hundreds of languages in the world, but a smile speaks them all" Do keep smiling!

May Kidd

May Kidd MA JP



May Kidd (right) pictured here with Vanessa Hall, International Ambassador for Trust at the Southern Africa Area Conference, Lesotho. Photo by Vanessa Hall

INSIDE THE COUNTRYWOMAN



CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

ACWW Staff

The new team have been settling in very well and I have had a very interesting couple of months in the Office Manager post, learning about the history of ACWW and being inspired by the many active and dedicated supporters. I look forward to meeting many of you in the future. Keep up the good work!

We said a fond farewell to Projects Administrator, Zoran Ristic, in February as he moves on with his career and we wish him all the best for the future. We have now appointed Mariana Meirelles to the post.

Marketing & Communications

Many of you do excellent work promoting ACWW and raising money for women worldwide. Where possible we ask that you stick to using the standard ACWW logo on your materials, so that the logo can be recognised. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us at Central Office if you would like guidelines on this.

Website

We do encourage you to go to our website and tell your friends about it. It's a very good way to keep up to date with what's happening with ACWW around the world and you'll find lots of project information on the site.

Follow us on Twitter (@acww_news) and join our facebook page (Associated-Country-Women-of-the-World-ACWW) and group.

Lisa Rout, Office Manager

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HELP SPREAD
THE WORD

You will have received 2 extra copies of our April- June 2012 issue of 'The Countrywoman' in the mailing. The reason for the multiple copies is in the hope that members and member societies will distribute the extra copies to those who do not normally see our magazine. So please help to spread the word by passing on your extra copies to your family and friends. This issue contains information and an application form for ACWW's Triennial World Conference being held in Chennai, India in September 2013 (www.acwwindia2013.com).

FINANCE COMMITTEE



Alison Burnett, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chairman

Congratulations- Record Pennies for Friendship Collections in 2011

In 2011 the Finance Committee promoted 'Pennies for Friendship' with articles in 'The Countrywoman' magazine from Area Presidents. Societies and individuals worldwide responded, many for the first time, so the Finance Committee would like to say a 'Big

Thank You' to everyone concerned. In 2012, and especially in this present economic climate, ACWW needs your support now more than ever. The Finance Committee would like to challenge all societies and members to donate to ACWW, the real winners being the women and children worldwide who, with your support ACWW are able to help.

YOUR WALK ON OUR FRONT COVER

THE FIRST WALK for Women Walk the World has already taken place! Members of Highveld Region of Women's Agricultural Union of Mpumalanga in South Africa were first off the mark at the beginning of February 2012. Congratulations to them! (See page 13). This was closely followed by the Walk in the Southern Africa Area Conference in Lesotho, described in the World President's message. However, most walks will take place on or around ACWW Day on 29th April and we look forward to hearing all about them. Very best wishes for your plans.

There are hints to help with leading and organising walks at <http://www.acww.org.uk/womenwalk.htm>

ACWW's Facebook Group members from around the world have already shared information about their plans. It is exciting

and encouraging that so many ACWW members and friends have taken up the challenge of being part of Women Walk the World. Let's hope that ACWW receives some good publicity to raise its image worldwide and that some much needed finance is raised.

We are sure that all the walks will be great and that there will be an enormous variety of destinations, routes, terrain, weather, etc. We are looking forward to receiving many reports of your experiences, accompanied by lots of photographs.

The Promotion & Publications Committee is offering a prize for the best article (with photograph(s) on your experiences of 'Women Walk the World'. The winning entry will not only be featured in the next issue of 'The Countrywoman' (July-September 2012),

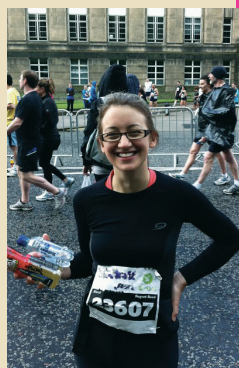
but also on our front cover, so you can share your experiences with members around the world. The length of your article should not exceed 500 words and it should arrive at Central Office by the end of May, either by post or else by email to pnp@acww.org.uk. Please note that it is helpful to send photographs as glossy prints or as image files as this maintains the resolution necessary for printing in 'The Countrywoman'.

WOMEN RUN THE WORLD IN APRIL 2012... WELL, ALMOST

LISA ROUT, our new Office Manager, has decided to take up the challenge of running the Brighton Marathon on 15th April 2012. She would not describe herself as a natural runner, but she has been training hard for months in order to conquer the 26.2 miles.

If you would like to sponsor Lisa's efforts for ACWW, before or after the event, please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Lisa-Rout> or alternatively, make cheques payable to 'Associated Country Women of the World' with the reference 'Lisa Sponsorship' and send to ACWW Central Office. There will be a full race day report in the next issue...

STAY TUNED!



Lisa Rout, ACWW's Central Office Manager

Calling all women! You can help bring more trust into our world!



international
day of **trust**

'trust is fragile – handle it with care'
www.internationaldayoftrust.com

EMPOWERING WOMEN WORLDWIDE ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE & ENRICH



From left to right: Guest speaker, Vanessa Hall, International Ambassador for Trust, Australia; Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President; Dr Semane Bonolo, Southern Africa Area President; May Kidd, ACWW World President; HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar, Area President South East & Far East Asia & Alison Burnett, ACWW Treasurer



From the left: Erika Lubbe, Cape Women's Agricultural Association; Mignon Smit & Magdiele Kock from The Ladies Circle; Grace Jordaan & Suzaan van den Bergh from the Free State Women's Agricultural Union

MAGDIE DE KOCK, ACWW's Promotion and Publications Committee member, submitted a report on ACWW's Southern Africa (SA) Area Conference, which took place in Maseru, capital of Lesotho from 6-9 February 2012, in which she writes:

Lesotho is a democratic, sovereign and independent country, which is situated centrally within Southern Africa and has the unusual distinction of being completely surrounded by another country. Lesotho's strength lies in its investment security, beauty and rich cultural traditions.

The Southern Africa (SA) Area Conference, held in Lesotho, was hosted by three of the Women's Institutes of Lesotho, who are affiliated to ACWW. The conference was chaired by the SA Area President, Dr Semane Molotlegi. 250 delegates as well as observers,

representing women's organisations from 9 countries of the Southern African Area attended the event. Various members of ACWW Board attended the conference: World President, May Kidd; Deputy President, Anphia Grobler; Treasurer, Alison Burnett and Area President for South East & Far East Asia, HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar. Members of

ACWW specified committees who attended the Conference as delegates of their various societies included Cornelia Gaspar, Agriculture; Henrietta Schoeman, Finance and myself from Promotion and Publications.

The theme of the conference was 'Empowering Women Worldwide – Encourage, Educate and Enrich'. The theme was emphasised throughout the conference to encourage, to educate and to enrich the attendees. The impressive opening ceremony included the procession of flags, followed by a local choir who sang the 'Song of Peace'. May Kidd along with Her Majesty the Queen of Lesotho opened the conference.

Sufficient speakers took part in the programme, which followed the opening day, to cover all six Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations first Millennium Development Goal, which called for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and the improvement of employment for women, was presented by the guest speaker Robert Likhang, an expert on financial

management. In addition, Alison Burnett presented a practical workshop on budgeting.

On the second day various health issues, including Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 were discussed. Topics included: protecting children against cancer, by Dr. Carl Albrecht; improvement of maternal health, by Dr Sharon Matela; HIV/AIDS by Criselda Kanada, a HIV/AIDS survivor and mother of a teenage HIV/AIDS infected child and the issue of mental health by Motlalepula Morweng.

Part of the conference programme was general information on ACWW presented by the members of the ACWW Board.

The programme also included presentations on other Millennium Development Goals, such as Food Security by Yvette Abrahamson and Sebina Sekoli, as well as Energy and Environment Climate Change by Tseliso Tsoeu. The end result was that ACWW and the Millennium Goals were linked to local programmes, which proposed a strategic plan and prioritised a way forward for the societies of Southern Africa.

Vanessa Hall, the International Ambassador for Trust, Australia, who was also a guest speaker, spoke of her organisation's goals to enlighten, enable and enrich you through the truth about trust, in your business, your home and in your community.

Magdie concludes: on the last day we took part in a 4km 'Women Walk the World' event, thereafter we boarded buses for an excursion, visiting historic sites near Maseru.

Following the summary and closing thoughts by the SA Area President, a vote of thanks was given. After the farewell luncheon everybody departed having been motivated to empower the members of their various societies, to encourage, educate and enrich, thereby being part of the ACWW mission to Empower Women Worldwide.



May Kidd, World President being presented with the winning shopping bag in a competition held in Women's Agricultural Union, North, society, by Tharina Rossel, President.



Top left Artwork Sculpture Bottom left Hungarian Pianist playing at UNESCO's Opening Ceremonies

SHARON HATTEN ACWW's UN Chairman, writes: In October 2011, I had the opportunity to visit UNESCO headquarters and attend the UNESCO 36th General Conference (GC) in Paris. The venue was very different from the UN headquarters in New York and Geneva, as it was smaller and in the middle of Paris, just behind the Eiffel Tower. The GC was a biennial meeting of government officials who met to discuss the budget and overall direction of the work of UNESCO. The sectors of UNESCO are Education, Natural Science, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communications and Information. The theme of this GC was 'A Culture of Peace and Sustainability'.

The opening ceremonies began with a magical concert preformed by the UNESCO orchestra and choir. The opening addresses recognised that all three UNESCO sections were currently headed by women. The general director is from Bulgaria, the President of the GC is from Hungary and the Chair of the Executive Board is from Barbados. 201 countries and associates belong to UNESCO and during the procedures 'the Palestinian homeland' was added. The first afternoon session was opened with a wonderful performance by a world renowned Hungarian pianist. The government speakers were mostly at the ministerial level with only a

A CULTURE OF PEACE & SUSTAINABILITY

Dignity in Poverty beside UNESCO

few heads of states participating. Several ministers referred to the importance of civic responsibilities and that children must be taught their responsibilities to their family, the whole community and their own countries. ACWW has passed many resolutions at the triennial conferences over many years encouraging that governments do this, so our advocacy is important. Some other general themes from the government speakers included; the violence on television versus a culture of peace; the internet and its influence; the need to speak many languages -one Caribbean country has an educational goal that all graduates speak 4 languages; the need for young women to be educated and respected as contributing members of society and the engagement of youth in decision making.

While at UNESCO, I had the opportunity to visit a programme specialist from the 'Education for All (EFA) sector, a UNESCO programme, which ACWW has been associated with for many years. One of the EFA redirections was towards skills development and not just in the western version of education. The one workshop I did attend gave a great example of this.

An NGO in India preferred to teach skills to grandmothers because they tended to stay at home, were willing to share their skills, encouraging their whole family's to become better educated and to learn to read and write. Throughout UNESCO the importance of early childhood education has been made a priority. It highlighted the importance of educating girls, emphasising an economic return of 18% compared to 14% return from educating boys. This also emphasised that boys needed to be encouraged to stay in school and learn skills to enter the job market. Another startling statistic pointed out was that, while it would take \$16 billion dollars to put all children from low income countries into school, the 'western world' spent \$32 billion on ice cream, \$13 billion on perfume and \$12 billion on pet food.

During this significant UNESCO conference, there were very few non government delegates. Due to this the conference voted to revise the UNESCO/ NGO relationship, so instead of the format used in Geneva and New York, the NGO's in the different countries would be called on to participate. Currently, ACWW maintains operational relations with UNESCO, but

this classification will be redefined in the new format.

The following are some of the quotes I noted at the ceremony:

- "Never let anyone second guess who you are, live out loud, dare to make a mistake"
- "Cultural differences often stand in the way of cultural sharing"
- "Life is like riding a bicycle, in order to keep in balance, you must keep moving forward"
- "Literacy is a pre-requisite for peace to ensure inclusion and intelligent debate"
- "Values are important, if you have values, you look for other ways to achieve goals" and finally "Forget the telegram, the telegraph, the telephone; it's the age of tell-a-woman".



Above: UNESCO Artwork Below: Scouts International UNESCO Rep with Sharon Hatten ACWW UN Chairman



Sabine Detzel EFA specialist with Sharon Hatten ACWW UN Committee Chairman.

GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE

AT THE BEGINNING of 2011, UNESCO and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and the World Bank, initiated a new project entitled 'Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action'. For this three year project, UNESCO, jointly with the partners, will be working closely with Member States, the main actors in the management of groundwater resources. Under the responsibility of the UNESCO-IHP network, an organisation called Regional Consultation Workshops (RCW) will be the fundamental component of the Groundwater Governance project.

This project is in response to the emerging global concerns over the increasingly unsustainable use of groundwater and the degradation of aquifers. The overall project objective is to increase awareness and the paramount importance of sound management of groundwater resources, in preventing and reversing the global water crisis.

The RCW seek to encourage discussion regarding specific regional characteristics, priorities, visions, gaps and challenges. They will also consider 'twinning', i.e. bringing together successful models of groundwater governance for future collaborations. The preparation of a series of RCWs has already begun between UNESCO-IHP in Paris and UNESCO regional offices in different regions. The Regional Consultations will be held in the following regions: Latin America and Caribbean; Africa; Arab countries and Asia.

The first Regional Consultation is set to start in Latin America and the Caribbean and will be hosted in Uruguay from 18th to 20th April 2012. The second in Kenya on 24-26 May 2012, the third in Jordan on 8-10 October 2012 and the fourth to be held in China in December 2012. The fifth Regional Consultation dedicated to the European region, as well as institutions from the private sector, will be hosted by the Netherlands in the first quarter of 2013.

The results of the regional consultations will contribute to the preparation of Global Groundwater Governance Diagnostic, compiling the best available scientific and technical knowledge on groundwater resources and their governance, which will be accessible to a larger public of policy and decision makers across developing sectors.

During the project's formulation and implementation, UNESCO-IHP will join the Permanent Consultation Mechanism (PCM), the purpose of which is to increase the number of partners contributing to a project. Working closely with a wide variety of partners, UNESCO-IHP hopes to represent the stakeholders at all levels that have strong experience in groundwater governance.

As a final result, the project will develop a global 'Framework of Action' (FA), consisting of a set of effective governance tools, policies, laws, regulations and customary practices. The FA will foster the recognition of the value of groundwater as a critically important natural resource and of the social, economic and ecological opportunities, which sustainable groundwater management can provide through interdisciplinary dialogue.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN



ACWW Delegates at the 56th Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Left to right, Kerry Tucker, Valerie Stevens, UN Committee; Jo Almond, Secretary; May Kidd, World President

Valerie Stevens, member of ACWW's UN Committee, reports: I have just returned from New York where I represented the UN Committee of ACWW at the 56th Commission on the Status of Women. The theme 'Empowering Rural Women' brought together almost 2,000 women from about 370 NGOs from all over the world to share their concerns, problems and possible solutions. Common problems included transport, education, medical services, elderly care, markets, income and rural to urban migration.

Special interest groups concentrated on widows, discriminatory legislation and violence against women and girls amongst many other issues.

For eight days I listened to government spokesmen and an incredible range of speakers, who presented some heart-breaking facts and some seeds of hope.

Our workshops focused on the work done by ACWW in Grenada, rural Canada, Malaysia, Senegal, Tonga, South Africa and Hungary. The views of a group of WI members high up on Dartmoor made interesting contrasts.

Our audience, some of whom had attended our workshop last year, were interested and impressed by the way in which ACWW supported the efforts of local groups of women, when improving the quality of their lives and those of their families. I came back with the feeling that here, in Dorset, I lived on another planet.

Last year two Iranian delegates returned home only to be arrested, imprisoned for four months, allowed bail and are now awaiting trial, simply for attending the 55th Commission on the Status of Women. This shows the need for ACWW advocacy and lobbying is stronger than ever.

UN SECRETARY- GENERAL MESSAGE ON WORLD WATER DAY

The following was a message, which was released in the run up to 'World Water Day' - 22nd March 2012.

Over the coming decades, feeding a growing global population and ensuring food and nutrition security for all will depend on increasing food production. This, in turn, means ensuring the sustainable use of our most critical finite resource – water.

The theme of this year's World Water Day is water and food security. Agriculture is by far the main user of freshwater. Unless we increase our capacity to use water wisely in agriculture, we will fail to end hunger and we will open the door to a range of other ills including drought, famine and political instability. In many parts of the world, water scarcity is increasing and rates of growth in

agricultural production have been slowing. At the same time, climate change is exacerbating risk and unpredictability for farmers, especially for poor farmers in low-income countries who are the most vulnerable and the least able to adapt.

These interlinked challenges are increasing competition between communities and countries for scarce water resources, aggravating old security dilemmas, creating new ones and hampering the achievement of the fundamental human rights to food, water and sanitation. With nearly 1 billion people hungry and some 800 million still lacking a safe supply of freshwater, there is much we must do to strengthen the foundations of local, national and global stability.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Guaranteeing sustainable food and water security for all will require the full engagement of all sectors and actors. It will entail transferring appropriate water technologies, empowering small food producers and conserving essential ecosystem services. It will require policies that promote water rights for all, stronger regulatory capacity and gender equality. Investments in water infrastructure, rural development and water resource management will be essential.

We should all be encouraged by the renewed political interest in food security, as evidenced by the high priority given to this issue by

the agendas of the G8 and G20, the emphasis on the nexus of food, water and energy in the report of my Global Sustainability Panel, and the growing number of countries pledging to scale up Nutrition.

On this World Water Day, I urge all partners to fully use the opportunity provided by the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. In Rio, we need to connect the dots between water security and food and nutrition security in the context of a green economy. Water will play a central role in creating the future we want.

CENTRAL & SOUTH ASIA AREA CONFERENCE

WOMEN REDEFINING THE COURSE OF ACTION TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION



May Kidd, World President being greeted by DM at the start of the Central & South Asia Area Conference



Left: Traditional Dancers perform for arriving guests. Below right: Welcoming committee

FROM 16 to 18 November 2011 at Pillar Hall Madurai, India, ACWW held its Central and South Asia Area Conference, entitled 'Women: Redefining the Course of Action towards Transformation'. The conference was hosted, under the dynamic leadership of Central and South Asia Area President, Sister Viji and by Sree Sakthi Trust in Tamil Nadu.

75 participants from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were registered.

The inaugural session began with the flag procession by the respective countries delegates. The Tamil Thaaai Vallthu song was played, followed by lighting of lamps by ACWW's World President, May Kidd, and Secretary, Jo Almond. Guest speaker Ruth Manorama, from Women's Voice, Bangalore, shared her views on global issues for women, focussing on areas that needed to be amended in today's society, with special reference to Indian legislatures. Jyothi of Sakthi Trust, Mumtaz Begum of Bangladesh, Mahila Samity and Hazel Armstrong and her friend, who were in India monitoring projects for ACWW projects, were also present. Sree Sagayam, IAS, the District Collector of

Madurai made a point of being present for the inauguration of the conference, amidst his busy schedule. Delivering an address, he shared how rural women had been motivated to become self-reliant and self-sufficient through various small scale economic activities. He expressed his wish that such initiatives and encouragement were given by various NGOs in the districts, which would continue to transform the lives of rural women. The inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Santhiraj, Vinmathee Educational Trust. All the delegates from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in turn wished for a successful outcome for the rest of the conference.

The first day concluded with 13 presentations by the member societies on their activities and projects supported by ACWW. In the evening a sumptuous dinner was arranged by the host organisation, with enjoyable live music, dancing and a street play. All participated making it a perfect end to a perfect day.

The second day began with an Interfaith Prayer Service led by a team of professors from Gandhi Gram University, Dindigul. Instrumentals, chanting of mantras and readings brought blessings and peace of mind. Delegates were then taken by coach to a nearby area where ACWW supported projects, implemented by the PACHE Trust.

Beneficiaries of the villages of Keela Mattaiyan and Chempatti gathered to receive

their guests with traditional dances, garlands and flowers. At around 6pm, all gathered to see the light show at Thirumalai Nayaker Mahal in Madurai. With this field visit and city tour the second day of the conference came to an end.

On the third day, the sessions started with a short prayer led by a member society, followed by the special address by May Kidd and Jo Almond, Sister Viji reported on Central and South Asia Area. Her report brought out the strategies to strengthen the Area member societies, whilst achieving the objectives of ACWW worldwide.

She highlighted visits to member societies and how they could build a better rapport with one another and within the organisation. Sister Viji's report ended with her offering a donation for ACWW's 'Pennies for Friendship' fund to the World President. On the last day there was an open-ended discussion where ideas and suggestions from members and delegates were presented, regarding the development of the Area. During discussions the following recommendations were made:

International Day of Rural Women

It was suggested and accepted that members and member societies of ACWW, observed International Day for Rural Women on 15th October every year.

Women Walk the World

29th April is observed as ACWW Day by the members all over the world. On 29th April 2012, as members celebrate ACWW Day, women all over the world would be taking part in Women Walk the World event.

Pennies for Friendship

This would be promoted and ACWW Central and South Asia will continue to collect funds through various programmes.

New member societies

The Central and South Asia office will continue to promote the recruitment of new member societies and individuals into the international family of ACWW.



PREPARING FOR THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN 2013



Lobby of Chennai Trade Centre-Convention Centre



View of the Convention Centre - left to right Sister Rita, May Kidd, Jo Almond, Mr Michael, Fr Arul Ra, Sister Viji & Sister Sidi



Water fountain in front of Chennai Trade Centre-Convention Centre



Jo Almond ACWW Secretary & Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) Chairman

WITH LESS THAN 18 months until the next Triennial Conference in September 2013, ACWW's Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) Chairman Jo Almond reports on the preparations so far for the upcoming event:

I have just returned home from a site visit of the venue and prospective hotel possibilities. This was a very exciting adventure for me, as it was my first visit to India. I found the Indian hospitality wonderful and the culture is so worth educating yourself on.

Our India society sisters are very enthusiastic and eager to host this world conference. Upon arriving at the Chennai airport, the host society, 'The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate' (DMI) met me with open arms and flowers. Even though it was 11:45pm when I arrived, the airport was alive with activity. I was then whisked away to my room at the DMI Hilltop, for a night's



Left to right, Jo Almond, ACWW Secretary & TCC Chairman, May Kidd, ACWW World President, Sister Viji, Central & South Asia Area President; DMI Team Mr. Micheal, Sister Rita, Fr. Arul Raj

rest before meeting with the DMI team on Monday morning.

The DMI Triennial Conference team met with me at DMI headquarters bright and early after breakfast, to discuss the schedule of the Triennial Conference and the responsibilities of the host society. I found that the DMI team were well on the way to having the arrangements for the conference made.

The team and I travelled to the conference venue, Chennai Trade Centre, Convention Centre. We had a walkthrough of the facility to make sure that enough space was available for all facets of the conference. The venue is extremely adequate for all workshops, displays and area meetings.

The entrance of the Chennai Trade Centre, Convention Centre was very impressive with the water fountain that greeted us at the entrance. There was also a very spacious lobby that will be used for our exhibits.

The hotels have been visited and the negotiations for accommodation costs are ongoing. The cost and photos of suggested hotels will be posted in 'The Countrywoman', later in the year.

The sights and food of Chennai are fascinating- you must research!

In the run-up to Chennai, think about hosting a dinner or Indian night, dress in Indian attire (Sari); make it fun and educational all at once. Don't forget to mark your calendars, 26th September – 2nd October, 2013, Chennai, India.

For further information view the website: www.acwwindia2013.com.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE LOGO



The 27th Triennial Conference logo has been selected. The host society, DMI, presented the Triennial Conference Committee with many possible examples. After discussion of each example, one was selected and proposed to the Board. A vote was taken and the selection was made. We are very pleased to publish the logo in this edition of 'The Countrywoman'.

Look for the logo in each of the following additions of 'The Countrywoman'. There you will find information regarding the Triennial Conference. Do plan to attend the Triennial Conference in Chennai and receive your logo pin, along with all the general Triennial information, at registration.

SEE YOU THERE!

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR 27TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE TRADE CENTRE, CHENNAI, INDIA 26TH SEPT-2ND OCT 2013

EMPOWERING WOMEN WORLDWIDE-ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE, ENRICH

TIMETABLE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Thursday	26 September	Registration at conference centre	
Friday	27 September	Area Meetings / Plenary	Opening Ceremony
Saturday	28 September	Plenary / Board Elections	
Sunday	29 September	Plenary	
Monday	30 September	Interfaith Service / Tour / Sight Seeing	
Tuesday	1 October	Plenary	
Wednesday	2 October	Plenary	Mega Evening / Gala
Thursday	3 October	Departure Day	

PLEASE NOTE THAT ACWW IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR:

- 1 ACCOMMODATION - All bookings of accommodation are the participants' own responsibility. Due to the Host Country's booking procedure for accommodation, these and further contact details will be made available in a later issue of 'The Countrywoman' and websites www.acww.org.uk | www.acwwindia2013.com
- 2 TRAVEL - Participants must make their own travel arrangements
- 3 INSURANCE - All participants are advised of the importance of arranging comprehensive cover for personal accident, personal liability, medical expenses, baggage, cancellation charges, etc. as soon as they register.

PLEASE NOTE

ACWW is not liable for any events beyond its control. These include unusual, unforeseeable or unavoidable events beyond our control, the consequences of which could not be avoided even if all due care has been exercised, including but not limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, government action, terrorist activity, natural or industrial disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, level of water in rivers or floods and closure of airports. This will include industrial dispute involving third parties, technical or maintenance problems or unforeseen operational decisions of air carriers, such as changes of schedule or any failure in the information technology infrastructure.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS

1. The Officers of ACWW.
2. Five voting delegates from each Category I Society.
3. Two voting delegates from each Category II Society.
4. One voting delegate from each Category III Society.
5. Chairmen of Specified and Ad Hoc Committees.
6. Category IV(a) and IV(b) as space allows.
7. Past World Presidents.
8. ACWW UN Representatives.
9. Visitors invited at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

HOW TO REGISTER

- (a) Complete registration form, sign and date it. Detach and send to ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB, United Kingdom, together with Conference Early Bird registration fee of £515 per person (payable by cheque, bank draft or credit card, exclusive of bank charges) to arrive at our London Central Office no later than 25th May 2013.

After the 25th May 2013, the fee will rise to £565 per person and the cut-off date will be 1st August 2013.

- (b) All cheques, bank drafts should be made payable to the 'Associated Country Women of the World'. If you wish to pay by credit card, please download and complete the Card Payment form on the website: www.acww.org.uk (Please note that a surcharge is levied by the bank on all credit card transactions.)

Bank Transfer using the following SWIFT DETAILS

Account Number 01244108
BIC NWBK GB 2L
IBAN GB67 NWBK 5600 3301 2441 08
*Please ensure to reference with your FULL NAME

- (c) On receipt of the completed registration form and fee, ACWW will send you confirmation of registration to be retained and shown at the ACWW registration desk in Chennai, India.

Fully paid-up Member Societies, may send voting delegates according to membership category. Fully paid-up Individual Members of ACWW may attend as observers.

ACWW 27TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

TITLE (MISS/MRS/MS/MR) _____ MEMBERSHIP No _____ (QUOTED ON The Countrywoman label)

SURNAME _____ FIRST NAME(S) _____

STREET NUMBER AND STREET NAME _____

TOWN/CITY _____

COUNTRY/PROVINCE/STATE _____

COUNTRY _____ POSTAL/ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (INC COUNTRY & AREA CODE) + _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

OFFICIAL DELEGATES ONLY – PRINT SOCIETY NAME AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBER BELOW

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE (NON REFUNDABLE BUT TRANSFERABLE ON TRANSFER PAYMENT OF A £10 FEE)

I enclose £515 Early Bird Registration fee

To arrive at Central Office no later than 25th May 2013

For registration after this date please enclose £565

Final date for registration is 1st August 2013

Please see Conference Information (page 10) 'How to register' for payment methods.

Spouse/Partner details (fees as above)

Full Name _____

FOR ACWW OFFICE USE ONLY

PLEASE NOTE

ACWW is not liable for any events beyond its control. These include unusual, unforeseeable or unavoidable events beyond our control, the consequences of which could not be avoided even if all due care has been exercised including but not limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, government action, terrorist activity, natural or industrial disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, level of water in rivers or floods, closure of airports. This will include industrial dispute involving third parties, technical or maintenance problems or unforeseen operational decisions of air carriers such as changes of schedule or any failure in the information technology infrastructure.

I indemnify ACWW of any liabilities arising from the personal injury or loss of personal property during my attendance at the Conference.

SIGNED _____

Date sent _____

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



BroccoliSaladPhotofromfakeginger.com

BROCCOLI SALAD

Mary Janes, Ontario, Canada
Taken from the 26th Triennial Conference Cookery Book

- 1 head broccoli, thinly sliced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 cup Sunflower seeds (or nuts of some kind)
- ¼ cup Bacon bits
- 2 Tbsp. Vinegar
- 1 cup Mayonnaise
- Mix all ingredients; add vinegar, sugar, mayonnaise mixture. Stir together. Serves 8



BrowniesPhotofromTraceysCulinaryAdventures

I AM ZIPPY NOMAD

An ACWW member, with the pen name Zippy Nomad, has written a book entitled 'Wizzing Round Britain. Celebrating Fellowship amid Jam and Jerusalem', about her experiences of visiting 100 Women's Institute events in England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man during 2011. Details on the book will soon be available from zippynomad.com. Profits from the book will go to ACWW, so please help ACWW and purchase a copy for yourself.

NEVER TOO YOUNG

Kath Reddy from Kent West, Kent Federation WI sent ACWW a cheque for £50 for the Clean Water Project, the money was raised by her Great Granddaughter Charlotte Reddy.

Kath wrote: "My Great Granddaughter sent her pennies saved in a jar for the 'Children with dirty water' when she was four. This week she gave me £8.40, which she has been collecting. She will be six in July and has spoken at her school about the Water Project.

"My son, her Grandfather and his wife have added to the amount she collected make it £25.20. Being a member of ACWW myself I have also added to their effort and made up the difference."

BROWNIES

Eleanor Arnold, Indiana, USA
Taken from the 26th Triennial Conference Cookery Book

- 1 cup Sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 sq. unsweetened chocolate
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- Add sugar to eggs, beat. Meanwhile, melt chocolate and butter together. Cool slightly; add to egg mixture. Blend in flour; add vanilla and nuts, if used. Spread in sprayed 8 x 8 x 2 inches pan. Bake at 350F degrees for 25 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in outer ¼ of pan comes out clean. DO NOT OVERBAKE. Cool in pan. Cut when cool. This recipe, when doubled makes 9 x 13 inches pan or may be tripled in 9 x 13 inches pan to make a luxuriously thick, rich, fudgy cookie.

INTERNATIONAL PEN PAL



Members of Cambridge Branch West Kings Nova Scotia

Judy Parks, President, Cambridge branch, West Kings, Nova Scotia wrote: "Our Cambridge WI group has benefitted from ACWW guiding us to increase our international pen pals. They have also added to our meetings and I want to take this opportunity to thank them.

"It has made me encourage others, as I have done recently, to join ACWW as individual members. Some groups do not realise that an individual membership is possible, so I am here spreading the word.

With all the hustle and bustle of life, all that is important, is our health and having family and friends who care. Having international friends adds value to that life."

SELLING TEDDY BEARS



Margaret Powwall, President of Belmont WI Bolton, Lancaster has informed The Countrywoman that her WI has raised money for ACWW. The main bulk was through selling teddy bears to members and guests at their December party. Thank you ladies, every penny counts.

THE FIRST TO WALK



Magdiède Kock (left) member of ACWW P&P Committee, at a Women Walk the World event in South Africa

ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2012 members of the Women's Agricultural Union of Mpumalanga, South Africa, took up the challenge and walked for ACWW. It was a beautiful sunny hot day, as the ladies gathered to walk, Magdiède Kock, an ACWW P&P Committee

member, was amongst those who took part in the first official walk.

"The 'Women Walk the World' event took place during our regional meeting of Highveld Region of Women's Agricultural Union of Mpumalanga", stated Magdiède. "The distance was 2 kilometres. 65 women took part and it went very well. Along the way we promoted

ACWW when people stopped us to enquire about our march. The sight of women walking and talking in the streets of the small town of Standerton must have made rather an impression.

"Before we started I gave an informative talk on ACWW matters, promoting the organisation and showing a PowerPoint presentation. Afterwards we collected money for Pennies for Friendship, which will be paid in by WAU Mpumalanga. My talk resulted in two members deciding to join ACWW as individual members. At the end, our walk was successful with all the women coming together."



Magdiède Kock (right) & other members of the Women's Agricultural Union of Mpumalanga, South Africa

UPLIFTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA



The Ladies Circle at a school in South Africa IN 2010 'THE LADIES CIRCLE'; South Africa, received funding from ACWW to present an upliftment project directed at women and children. Altogether 168 branches were involved in implementing the project and 2,000 people participated countrywide.

The project served as a means for acknowledging and healing trauma and also for dealing with painful memories of events in people's lives. During the 2011 Southern Africa Area Conference, branches received training as well as '10 Scrap Therapy' packages, which were applied as follows:

- in environment where people had gone through traumatic experiences
- or helping members of their own branches

who had experienced trauma -or as part of a programme in cooperation with trained personnel, in children's homes and other institutions for people with special needs.

After completion of the project, branches had to report to the Project Leader and provide photos that could be used for feedback and reporting to the donors. When the reports were completed, some branches took great pains with presenting them with personal letters from participants who shared their own experiences and feelings. The many letters from participants pointed out that the project had made a very definite contribution to the defusing of their own trauma.

The reports confirmed that the project was extremely successful and many branches had requested that it be followed up.

Members from the society as well as people from other spheres successfully experienced the therapy, of which the photos and personal letters bear witness: children in children's homes, inmates in prisons (men as well as women); poor and underprivileged women; patients in hospitals; learners in primary and secondary schools and learners in schools for specific needs; schools for juvenile offenders; the elderly in homes for the aged as well as disabled and students at universities. All were affected by the project and made positive comments in its regard.

WINNERS 6 YEARS IN A ROW

The picture below shows the happy faces of Brunei Women Institutes, Badminton Team and supporters after winning Her Majesty's Challenge Cup at the 10th Badminton Tournament of the Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam on 22nd January 2012.

The team went on to beat a women's institute named PERTIWI 3-1, at the tournament, which is held once every two years. This is the sixth time in a row the WI has won this tournament since it started in 1994.

The Council of Women's Institutes is an umbrella body of women associations of which Brunei Darussalam Women's Institute was one of its founding members.



Brunei Women Institutes Badminton Team (Second from the left side front row) Hajah Marhan binti Abdullatif President of Brunei Darussalam Women's Institute

QUILTERS OF ST CLAIR



Left: Warm Touches Quilters. Right: Some of the quilts made

Pictured above is a group called the 'Warm Touches Women of St. Clair County Association for Family and Community Education (Michigan and National FCE); who gather monthly around sewing machines to make quilts, tote, bags, 'boppies', baby bibs, etc.

The material used is mostly donated. It is cut, sewn and tied with yarn and then given to organisations like the American Red Cross and MSU Extension's Family Support Services for very young moms and Kids in Distress, an organisation that gives clothing to those in need. Every item donated goes a little towards helping women and their families live a better life.

TEC-WE-GWILL RAISE AWARENESS



TecWeGwillWomen'sInstituteattheirAfternoonTeaParty

Tec We Gwill Women's Institute from Simcoe County, in Ontario Canada held an afternoon tea party on International Rural Women's day last October, to raise awareness of ACWW's work and its connection with the United Nations. Approximately \$120.00 Canadian dollars was raised towards the project that the Canada Area has committed to.

BOTTLED PENNIES, LEADERSHIP & A SINGING AREA PRESIDENT

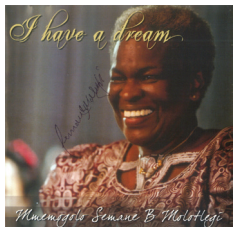


Pennies in bottles

Inspired by the collection boxes for Pennies for Friendship, donated by the ACWW Treasurer, Alison Burnett, Dr Semane Molotlegi, Area President for Southern Africa, introduced a unique way to collect Pennies:

A 2-litre plastic cold drink/water bottle is stripped of its labels. A well-designed label with the same wording as the ACWW collection boxes is pasted around the bottle.

A slit (just long enough to take the largest coin or folded paper money) is cut near the top. The bottle top is secured with firm hold instant glue. 1,000 labels were printed and each branch/club in every member society was urged to order labels (free of charge) and to circulate the bottles at every meeting, helping to raise a lot of money for the Pennies for Friendship fund.



Maternal Health & Singing Area President

At a recent tea, hosted by Dr Semane Molotlegi, funds were raised for Cancer South Africa (CANSA).

Former cancer patients addressed the guests and an auction of donated articles raised a considerable contribution towards this worthy cause. Breast and cervical cancer, in particular, are rife in South Africa. At the same event Dr Molotlegi, who is very fond

of singing and who has been attending formal singing lessons, released her first CD, 'I have a Dream'. Apart from the title song the 14 tracks include: 'Let there be Peace on Earth', 'Amazing Grace', 'Song of Peace' and 'Song for the Nations'. The CDs were on sale and the proceeds were donated towards Cancer Research and Maternal Health (Millennium Development Goal).



DrMolotlegi(backleft)&someoftheguestsatateaparty inaidofcancerandtheimprovementofMaternalHealth (Millennium Development Goal)

Leadership & ACWW Awareness

During the winter recess, 25 leaders of 17 societies in the Southern Africa Area accepted the Area President's invitation to a weekend workshop on Leadership and ACWW, themed, 'For a Better World: Empower Women's Minds, Enlighten Women's Hearts'.

Stimulating ideas were discussed by four groups of six each, who provided feedback to the meeting. Topics included: ACWW SWOT Analysis, 'Our Views of ACWW – what does it stand for', 'Expectations of its members', 'How can societies benefit from membership?' and 'How can members become involved?'

A workshop on 'Communication and Leadership' resulted in the approval of several actions to improve communication among societies. The idea of twinning with other societies to communicate and share ideas was accepted. It was agreed that the six societies at each table would communicate closely. It was also suggested that such a meeting should take place annually.

MAKE OUR SHOPPING BAG



The green and white shopping bag with ACWW's logo on it, featured on page 9 in our January-March 2012 issue of 'The Countrywoman', was beautifully designed by Cornelia Gaspar from South Africa.

Cornelia, who is a member of ACWW's Agriculture Committee, designed the shopping bag to promote ACWW's work.

Please help spread our work by making the shopping bag for yourselves and using it whenever you can.

QUEEN SONJA'S SCHOOL AWARD



Farleft Gerd Louis Molvig, UN Committee member attends award ceremony

LAST YEAR, MALAKOFF was the first high school in Norway to receive the Queen Sonja's School Award. The prize was established 6 years ago by the Queen herself and has previously only been awarded to lower secondary schools in Norway.

The award is presented to schools that work actively to promote equality and inclusion. This year there were 20 applicants from over the country. Malakoff School has 1,000 students, about 170 of whom are of non-Norwegian ethnicity and represent 30 different languages. For several years Malakoff high school has been working systematically against bullying, violence and racism and for inclusion. The jury's report states, Malakoff high school lay great emphasis on looking after individual young people based on their own premises, in order to create the opportunities for both personal and academic development. The school's socio-pedagogical and special-pedagogical arrangements, as well as its collaboration with the nearby universities, play an important role. The school also has a

broad collaboration with local industry, not least in the form of partnership deals.

These lead to a mobilisation of both the school and the industries to the best for teachers, students, and apprentices. The entire school's work programme is characterised by an effort to give young people from various cultural backgrounds a good future. Large scale international focus makes up a considerable part of this.

The prize, which was awarded on the 1st December 2011, consists of a diploma and a cash prize of NOK 150 000. A lithograph entitled, 'Into the warmth' by artist Eli Hovdenak, was specially designed for the award. The Minister for Education and Research, Kristin Halvorsen, who was present together with the Queen and County Governor, described Malakoff as a miniature image of the world.

TEA, PIGS & POULTRY

JEAN WILSON, a member of Llandysul WI, in Wales, held a garden tea party in which she invited WI institutes in Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire and the Llandysul Stroke Group Mother's Union, as well as individual walking groups, to visit her beautiful gardens, raising a total of £1,050 in donations.

This amount was sent to ACWW Projects and went towards completing the amount needed for a project in Mambu-Baful, N.W. Province, Cameroon.

Jean reports: There were eleven visits that took place over the summer months of 2011.

As well as exploring the garden, my visitors were given plenty of cups of tea and a selection of four home-made cakes.

Llandysul WI has a small sewing group, which meets at my house every week, so before the visits we made items such as aprons, laundry bags, bunting, shoe bags and scarves, which were sold at the garden visits. Our sewing group also had a table at the Llandysul summer craft fair and, in addition to sewing items, we sold bread and jams. We only had two rainy day visits, but after tea indoor guests were still able to look at the garden. Umbrellas were useful! Three friends; Susanna van Eeghan, Beryl Jones, and Imogene Jones helped with making tea and serving my home-made cakes.

In 2011 Sir Gar, Carmarthenshire, the Women's Institute contributed generously through Pennies for Friendship. Some institutes did their own fund-raising such as Llannon WI, which held lunchtime BBQ. Other institutes arranged visits to my garden in Pont-Tyweli, Llandysul for tea and cakes.

The following activities, funded in part by their donations, have been carried out in a Cameroon project called 'Income Generation Activity- Pig & Poultry Farming':



Visitors enjoying tea & home-made cakes at Jean Wilson's garden tea party

- Purchase of materials and equipment for training and construction
- Forty members have been trained and given managerial and teaching skills in pig and poultry income generating activities
- Construction of pig pens and a poultry house
- Purchase of 30 piglets and three hundred day-old chicks including feeds and some vaccines.

I would like to thank Susanna van Eeghan, Beryl Jones, and Imogene Jones for their help at the garden openings and the sewing group, Ann Hunt, Beryl Jones, Vera Lewis, Carol Thomas, Angela Hurley, Ann Reynolds and Nicole Couchman. Also Linda James, who with Imogene, made bags which we raffled.

Also special thanks has to go to my husband, Ian, who makes what I do possible. I love people coming to share my garden and hope all who visited back in 2011 enjoyed themselves.



Top right Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire WI members / Middle right: Visitors at Jean Wilson's garden tea party. Below: right Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire WI members, selling items to raise money

PROJECTS UPDATE



Children playing at a free playground



Gardening - income generating project

SRI LANKA 900th Project

At the end of 2011 ACWW Projects Committee celebrated its 900th project, which was located in Mulleriyawa, Sri Lanka.

The year started off with warm and dry weather. The hot and dusty roads were still under construction and moving through traffic for the 900th project organisers, was difficult. The aim of the project was to provide mental health support and assistance to rural families that lived in remote areas of the country, who had not been visited by government officials and were deprived of regular health services, education and transport.

The organisation, Nest Occupational Therapy Centre (OTC) who runs the project, called it the 'Half Way Home'. Nest OTC have had 5,619 residents and their families walk through its doors since the project received funding. Nest OTC state that every

day groups of residents come to their centre and take part in the daily activities, enjoying a small snack and drink.

Some residents are referred to Nest OTC for income generating skills training, such as: home garden project, cooking or sewing etc. They also enjoy relaxing and reading books.

Twelve women, who took part in the kitchen activity, had the opportunity to taste various foods and create the menu. Since then many more residents have requested the kitchen activity, so that they too can enjoy a good meal, which is in many ways better than the scheduled meals in the local hospital.

Daily exercise is encouraged for residents, their families and staff, who take part to keep fit, to improve their physical health and well being. Nest OTC have a free telephone service for women whose families are not with them. The free service has helped many speak to their family almost daily. The 'Half Way Home' is not without its problems,

like many villagers, for six days the project had no electricity. Two staff members were transferred to the national hospital in Colombo due to very bad coughs and slight temperatures. However two members of staff working in a nearby hospital were transferred for a few days because of the staff shortage.

When it comes to the needs of the resident's children, Nest OTC have set up a free playgroup. Nest OTC concentrate on families who cannot afford day care.

Even though some of the children are very young, their parents have no hesitation in sending them, feeling safe in the knowledge that the playgroup is secure. The organisation also aids the children's educational needs with text books, erasers and pencils and school meals.

Apart from ACWW funding, Nest OTC have received gifts of items distributed to the residents from Mr and Mrs C. Palmer of Melbourne, Australia. These gifts have helped give strength, friendship and encouragement to all the families who pass through their doors. Going forward, the organisation will work with state institutions and government bodies and will provide assistance to more than 100,000 women.

The organisation will purchase more medicine on prescription and food for people who cannot afford the cost. They will also purchase and distribute more First Aid Kits to the community.

The future aim of the project is to decentralise the state health service and promote community-based health care.



Above & bottom right: Making Incense Sticks

INDIA

Agarbathess- Preparation & Selling Programme for the Self-Support to the Destitute Women

The total number of beneficiaries who were chosen for Mahila Seva Samithi (MASS), 'Agarbathess (Incense Sticks) Preparation and Selling Programme for the Self-Support to the Destitute Women' project was 50.

MASS conducted surveys with the proposed beneficiaries before the project was formulated. Due weight was given to their day to day problems, such as family, income source, the cost of living and basic

needs. They conducted detailed discussions with the target women in the form of face to face interviews and found that most of these women were poor and unemployed and lacked sustainable income resources.

MASS divided the 50 target women into 5 groups, where each group consisted of 10 women. By identifying more active and responsible women, MASS can give them leadership training. MASS stated "We trained the target women in Agarbathess (Incense Sticks), which we believe would increase their income. We also trained them in book keeping and records maintenance, etc. as well as anything else we felt was relevant".

The training provided used locally sourced material. Simple and low cost traditional technology was used to manufacture the incense sticks. No machines were required and not much electricity was used, which saved a lot on cost. The training was for a period of 10 days for each group of beneficiaries. The training was based on a scientific technology of candle preparation, at the same time using innovative and new trends and modern methodologies. This project played a vital role in improving the

lives of the women. The women were saving Rs. 200 per month from the beginning of the programme from their income, which they have used to form Self-Help-Groups (SHGs).

The amounts saved with the SHGs and the existence of a Micro-Credit and Revolving Fund, which was put in place by MASS, has enabled them to get credit to meet their needs and to help purchase material to increase sales of their finished products.

The great thing about this project is that so far the women's lives are more enriched. MASS's relationship with the women has strengthened, their skills have been sharpened and their good will has been developed.





Street Children in Bucharest, Romania

ROMANIA

Street Children enter the Computer World

The location of the project entitled 'Street Children enter the Computer World' is Pinocchio Centre, Bucharest in Romania and is run by the Institutul Femeilor (IF).

The purpose of the project was to teach the Pinocchio residents; namely street children, computer literacy. This in turn would in the long run prepare them for the future when looking for work, enabling them to integrate into society. There are 12 volunteers involved in this project, 11 women and 1 man, who work with around 44 street children in total.

IF recognised that the children needed more than just computer skills, in fact they needed help on all levels. The project went about helping children who did not know how to read and write or attended school, but needed more help with their homework. At the same time they were helping those children who had been abandoned by their

families, to live normal lives and avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness, IF also organised day trips as rewards for good behaviour. One such trip was arranged for a group of 19 children. The children visited historical sites and learned about the geography of the region.

The organisation purchased new computers, as well as books and other teaching tools and donated them to the Pinocchio Centre. In the summer of 2011, IF worked with several children who had very serious problems when it came to learning. Today these children can recognise syllables and write letters.

Using the new computers, the children have also improved their computer skills.

A spokesperson from IF says "Every day new children arrive in Pinocchio Centre, and every day we work with them and include them in our programmes, so when they leave they do so with newly learned skills and a brighter future". In the coming months IF will measure the achievements of the project, by noting how many children can read and write properly and if there is an improvement in their behaviour and attitude.

IF has gained a lot of experience and will apply this experience over the next phase of the project. IF has found working with street children both rewarding and challenging, as the children are very energetic but reluctant to learn, as most of them do not see the benefits. IF now know their organisation can help these young individuals by giving them the guidance, skills and confidence to play a vital role in their own communities.



Street Children in Bucharest, Romania, on a day trip



Mrs Annet in her home generating vegetable growing business

UGANDA

Economic Empowerment of Rural Poor Women Farmers

Eighteen women farmer groups, each with an average of 10 members, were trained in agribusiness practices for a project called 'Economic Empowerment of Rural Poor Women Farmers'.

The project ensured that all the training conducted covered cross-cutting issues, such as: human rights and gender; child protection; effects of domestic violence to families and communities and the relationship between domestic violence and poverty. The project was implemented in the Kampala district of Uganda and run by the Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA).

MAFA is a women's organisation, whose purpose is to improve the living conditions of poor rural women farmers and their

families. To date, the rural women have been specifically trained in profitable enterprises, cost benefit analysis, record keeping, market research and farm planning, as well as receiving training in savings and credit management. This has helped them manage their finances. Many were supported with small Micro Agricultural Revolving loans of Ug.shs 150,000 each, to invest in their existing enterprises. Using the money, the women farmers have improved their agribusiness practices, which has led to improved crops and the ability to purchase animals, poultry and animal feed. They have also purchased mushrooms, beans and maize.

The support and training in improved specific crop and animal management has enabled target groups to increase their income by at least 20% for the last six months, enabling the women to pay back their loans with an interest of 15% per annum, which is much quicker whilst still being able to save.

It has also led to nutritional improvements in their homes, as the women are able to purchase better food for their families. Despite all the achievements and successes in the last six months, MAFA has experienced some challenges:

-The persistent inflation rate has led to the hiking of prices of every commodity. Everything in Uganda almost doubled thus affecting the project.

-The current land tenure system is leaving the farmers with a very small portion of land to cultivate, which limits the farmers' produce.

-Some women farmers cannot read and write and this has made it difficult to write and record their business activities and savings.

Over the last six months MAFA has learned the following during the implementation of the project:

-When women are empowered, they can do anything by themselves. For example, after they were trained and provided loans, they have been advising each other on credits and savings mobilisations.

-There is a need to consider supporting farmers with other water interventions e.g. rain water harvesting structures, so they can limit loss of produce during the pro-longed dry spells.

-There is also a need to explore other economic empowerment interventions that are non agricultural, that do not depend on rainfall to ensure diversification e.g. making crafts, amongst other things.

-It is important to advocate for access to land, due to the fact that most of the targeted farmers are tenants/squatters of absentee landlords. The current land tenure system is not favourable for agribusiness.

PROJECTS UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



Mrs Mugerwa-Hadjah in her income generating piggy business

After these first six months of training, 10% of the targeted families are saving and their savings are being used for further business investments. It is hoped that at the end of the project, these women will continue to save and also take up various business ventures for increased household incomes.

The project will continue to have an impact on both the women and their families' lives. This will mainly be through sustainability whereby, after the first group of women have benefited from the Micro Agricultural Revolving loans, the loans will be passed on

to other poor rural women farmers. In the future MAFA will utilise their experience by continuing to empower the women in all ways, so that they support themselves.

MAFA will also support the women farmers with rain water harvesting structures so they can get water for simple irrigation at all times. Finally MAFA will start training the women in other non agriculture activities like tailoring, weaving and hand crafting.

This will diversify their skills, so they do not completely depend on agriculture as a source of income.



Abused women receiving counselling. Below a woman who had been abused by her husband

the abuse to the police. Most women do not want their husbands to know they have reported them, but TNCW point out the importance of reporting the abuse, knowing full well that if they did not, it could continue.

Traditionally, when a woman is being abused by her husband, the island leader or a Church Minister would resort to reconciliation. This system often does not work as the problem is not resolved.

What the project has accomplished so far is letting the women know where they can go, as well as teaching the women their rights. The hope is that as time goes by, more women will slowly start to open up and report domestic violence to the centre. There are a lot of women who would like to attend but because of funding constraints TNCW have to restrict the numbers to 30.

The organisation has faced some difficulties in trying to implement the project on time. Late last year a new government came in, one minister passed away and a bye election was held. This meant that they were unable to conduct consultations and workshops and had to postpone. Tuvalu is a small country and, if such events occur, it is everybody's business, since Tuvalu's involvement is community based.

Therefore programmes have to be postponed to suit people's availability in order for them to fully participate.

Over the coming months TNCW will evaluate the workshop, by presenting reports on DV and VAW cases from their respective island communities, stating what actions had been taken to eliminate the problem. So far TNCW have utilised their experiences and are visiting other island communities' Leaders and the Department of Women in government to hold discussions.

This could lead to formulating a policy on DV and VAW. Participants and representatives from various women organisations, religious institutions, island communities etc, are being asked to share their skills and knowledge with their fellow women groups and communities in their

own organisation. The National Council of Women is also willing to conduct workshops within their communities upon request. It is anticipated that the project will be completed at the end of the year.

PROJECT MONITORING

GHANA

Marginalised Women and Youth Development Initiative

The aims of the project 'Extension of Water and Sanitation in Ashaiman for Health, Productivity and Poverty Alleviation', was to provide portable water for Ashaima official town and to provide water storage facilities, which would minimise water related diseases, as well as training on hygiene and sanitation.

Beneficiary communities provide local materials: sand, stone and gravel to construct water storage stand points, so that the project fund could be used to purchase a large number of water storage tanks. 300 people (men, women and children) benefitted from the project, as the health service department educated the beneficiaries on sanitation and health preventives. During this project there has been a noticeable reduction of diseases related to sanitation.



TUVALU Violence against Women

In Tuvalu, domestic violence against women is growing to the point where

an organisation, Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW) Vaiaaku, Funafuti, applied for funding for a project's workshop, which they named, 'Elimination of Domestic Violence (DV) and Violence against Women (VAW)'.

Its aims were to make everyone in the community aware that no one has the right to hurt someone else through any form of violence or emotional abuse.

The workshop was attended by more than 30 women and a few men. It was very successful as it managed to help those who had suffered domestic violence. TNCW stated that if this kind of workshop could continue, it would teach the women how to handle situations discussed in the workshop.

TNCW managed to set up a crisis counselling centre within its office to cater for the need of the victims and those who carried out the abuse, who were willing to seek help in changing their behaviour.

However on more than one occasion, when time was arranged for the husbands to come in, TNCW stated that many did not turn up, for fear of being known as a perpetrator. What TNCW does at the centre is assist the women in terms of reporting

PROJECTS FINAL REPORTS



Teenage girls attending a discussion group

UKRAINE

Prevention of delinquencies amongst young girls

In general, the project 'Prevention of Delinquencies amongst Young Girls' in the Luhansk region, by the organisation Luhansk Regional Charitable Foundation -Teenager (LRCF), fulfilled all of its aims and objectives. They aimed to investigate the reasons why a high number of young girls in the region became delinquents, by answering the question 'what pushed them to break the law?'

At the start of the project objectives were outlined and the circle of the project was defined. This meant that from March 2011 to September 2011, it was agreed that video seminars and discussion groups would be held. A number of questions were put to a group of young girls attending the seminars, who had experience of either imprisonment, penalties for the crimes committed, probation or conditional early release as well as girls kept in prison settlements.

What these seminars showed, was that several factors influenced the young girls engaging in risky situations. One of these is bad or neglectful relationships with families, the influence of which was strengthened by a feeling of doubt in personal abilities.

Another factor is negative influences made through the girl's relationships with friends and peers, relationships which were very important.

In general, the groups were inclined to self-criticism and due to an absence of life aims, were more likely to see their situation as a reason to commit to these acts.



Teenage girls attending a video lecture

51.9% of these girls also accused teachers and adults in general of misunderstanding them and felt punished and victimised as a result. Research did show material wealth, or the absence of such, was not the reason young girls committed crimes.

The project showed a difference between the two groups questioned: those who were on police files and those kept in prison settlements. In a number of cases the experience of the lawbreakers who were not imprisoned, but were served a fine, did not always change their attitude towards crime. For some kept in prison settlements, cynicism and violence towards strangers and lawmakers was very typical. However most did change their outlook for the better and conduct themselves in a positive way after their prison terms.

The overall goals of the project have been achieved. Carrying out this survey, the team of specialists and volunteers have pin-pointed what they saw as the root cause of delinquencies amongst young girls. LRCF's solution was to work on the prevention of negative images and messages directed at teenagers, by giving talks, training and video lectures on positive topics, helping the groups to make better choices.

The project gave the cities of Luhansk region an opportunity to encourage communities to come together and come up with solutions for youth criminalisation.

In LRCF's opinion, the efficiency of the project is helping to rid the Luhansk region of negative displays, which is necessary both for adults and young girls. This project has laid the ground work for the creation of new projects concerning teenagers, which is why, within the timeline of the project, LRCF has also engaged the town of Krasnodon and received permission to carry out the activities in 18 educational establishments in 7 towns of the Luhansk region.

SRI LANKA

Training of young rural women in small income generating enterprises

The purpose of this project was to improve the well being and living conditions of rural women, whose families had been stricken by poverty and malnutrition and who were affected by the Tsunami disaster. Lanka Mahila Samiti (LMS) organisation worked on empowering women through its income generating project called 'Training of Young Rural Women in Small Income Generating Enterprises'. About 35 to 40 women and their families were expected to benefit from these training courses. At the start of the project LMS asked the women to identify which types of training would be of most use to them. The suggestions which were adopted

were: dressmaking, embroidery and fabric painting (Batik), food preservation (yoghurt and curd making), handicrafts (made of locally sourced material) and manufacture of coir products (door mats).

To date, the participants have acquired knowledge in cutting and stitching garments and making handicraft items. This knowledge has made the participants very keen to start up their own businesses to earn extra income, with assistance from LMS. In fact, it has been noted that some women have already started taking payments for sewing. So far the following courses have been completed:

-Dressmaking and hand embroidery

-Making baskets with raw material

There were some problems faced in managing the training. For example, dressmaking and other skills training needed more time, as it involved a lot of practical preparation.

During the project's timeline LMS committee members monitored, evaluated and inspected all the products made and asked each participant to evaluate themselves by filling in a feedback form, after they used the skills learned to start their own businesses. At the end, the balance from the project fund and input from other associations created a fund that went towards aiding the beneficiaries, who needed financial assistance. The women can now borrow a loan at 5% interest. This interest would increase the amount returned, helping other women to borrow. With this facility LMS believe it has put a greater impact on their lives, as they will feel more empowered and the project will be sustainable. It is hoped that they will exert a positive influence on others in their community, as they improve the living conditions of their families.



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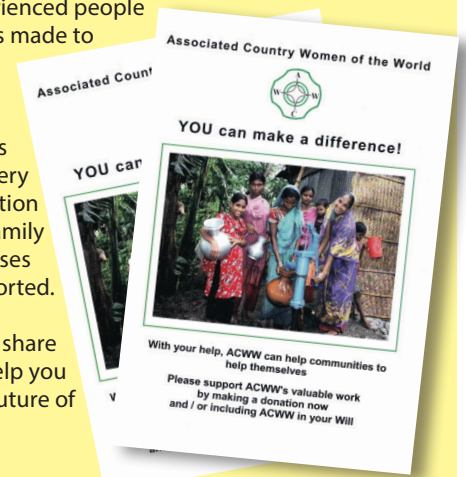
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