

INSTRAW INHOUSE



WOMEN ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a first concrete activity in the follow up of UNCED, INSTRAW in cooperation with the Task Force on Women in Development of the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) and in association with the State Science and Technology Commission and the All China Women's Federation, organized from 9 to 15 September an Interregional Workshop on Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

The opening session, at which a message of the United Nations Secretary General was read, was held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The meeting was convened for the purpose of developing concrete and replicable project proposals addressing some of the more significant issues raised in Agenda 21. Participating at the meeting were over 100 women and men from some twenty developing countries, including 46 from China and twelve major UN system entities. Margaret Shields and Borjana Bulajich attended the workshop.

INSTRAW background paper on women and sustainable development and video on

women, environment and sustainable development were presented. INSTRAW will be publishing shortly the report, proceedings and 70 project proposals agreed upon by the participants of the meeting.

As a result of the workshop the Chinese counterparts expressed interest in having a national training seminar on "Women, new and renewable sources of energy" in September, 1993 in Beijing using the INSTRAW/ILO Turin modules on Women and NRSE. Other participants were equally enthusiastic about follow-up activities in their countries, particularly training on "Women, water supply and sanitation".

WOMEN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

INSTRAW in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized an Interregional Workshop on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" in Bangkok, Thailand, from 21 to 25 September 1992.

The workshop was conducted on the basis of the INSTRAW, DESD, ILO-TURIN Centre modular training package on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" which aims at

promoting the integration of women's needs in sustainable water supply and sanitation programmes and management of water resources. INSTRAW was represented by Borjana Bulajich who explained the training methodology and presented one of the modules.

Borjana Bulajich attended the Second Meeting of the UN Inter-agency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation and the Thirteenth Session of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, held in UN Headquarters, New York, from 5 to 9 October 1992. INSTRAW presented a report on its activities in this programme area and offered to host the Steering Committee meeting in 1993.

In Havana, Cuba, WHO/PAHO organized a symposium, 17 to 19 November 1992, to analyze the environmental health problems specially connected with water. The objective was to sensitize technicians, engineers, planners and policy makers of the need to have a gender perspective in their planning and design of programmes and projects. INSTRAW was represented by Julia Tavares.

WOMEN AND STATISTICS

Workshop in Turkey

In response to a request received from the Government

of Turkey through the auspices of INSTRAW focal point the Directorate General on the Status and Problems of Women (DGSPM) of the State Ministry, INSTRAW helped organize the first national workshop on statistics and indicators on women in Turkey, which was held in Ankara from 21 to 23 October 1992.

While an overwhelming number of issues and problems were considered important, the workshop focused on four major areas: 1) women and health, 2) women and employment, 3) women and education and, and 4) special groups of women.

The active participation of the representatives from the national statistics office, state planning office, relevant ministries, academic and research institutions as well as local UN agencies was most fruitful and brought forward a number of recommendations in pursuit of achieving the specified goals.

Workshop on Statistics in the South Pacific

INSTRAW organized and conducted a Subregional Workshop on Statistics and Indicators on Women in the Pacific in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 30 November to 3 December 1992. The data producers and users that attended the meeting identified steps towards improving the use and quality of statistics available on women and men.

The producers were urged to review their programme of activities and to ensure that gender statistics are given priority and tailor statistical products and services to meet the wide range of user needs

including the publication of more user friendly reports. They were urged as well to prepare reports related to themes of concern to women and to initiate, together with interested user groups, the compilation of data for drawing up a profile on women.

On the other hand, the users were encouraged to initiate discussions with the national statistics offices on their data needs and to invite statisticians to participate in their meetings and conferences to raise their awareness on women's issues.

INSTRAW, SPC, ESCAP, UNSAT and UNIFEM were called on to look favourably upon requestes for technical and financial assistance to countries in the Pacific to develop gender disaggregated statistics. The workshop was attended by eighteen participants from the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

Seminar in Tokyo

Under the training programmes of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a seminar for senior officers of national machineries for the advancement of women was conducted by JICA in cooperation with the office for Women's Affairs, Prime Minister's Office from 9 November to 2 December 1992 in Tokyo, Japan.

International senior officers from sixteen developing countries from the Africa and Asia regions participated at this three week seminar. The seminar aimed to improve the know-how required for establishing or improving

national machineries and promotion of their activities, as well as for the design and formulation of a national plan of action on women.

JICA invited INSTRAW to give a lecture on the Institute's programme on statistics and indicators on women. A one-day lecture which was delivered on 18 November gave particular focus on the use of statistics and indicators in policy and programme/project design, problems with available information, current data gaps and INSTRAW initiatives towards improving statistics and indicators on women and how it addresses these data gaps.

WOMEN AND COMMUNICATION

The second phase of the programme on Women and Communication which we mentioned in our August number has already begun. In this phase training courses on how to incorporate gender in the media will be organized in collaboration with women non-governmental organizations.

In Colombia, one of the three project countries, Cine Mujer will produce a weekly television programme on women which will treat various themes relevant to gender. One of its objectives is to establish a national network concerning women and communications.

In Argentina, another of the project countries, the "Centro de Estudios de la Mujer" (CEN) has started a series of work programmes with different sectors with a view to sensitizing them to the importance of the role of women in mass communication. CEN is making an in-depth analysis

concerning the impact women could have in advertising and the need to include a gender perspective. In the third project country, the Dominican Republic CIPAF is organizing a seminar with women journalists to discuss gender in the media.

WOMEN AND DRUG ABUSE

At the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Coordination Matters of International Drug Abuse control organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Vienna, 14 to 16 September 1992, INSTRAW's collaboration was requested in order to include women into the programme on controlling drug abuse.

The proposed research project is action oriented aimed at filling the void of qualitative information about women not only as drug abusers themselves but also as people significantly affected by the drug abuse of others.

The research would be carried out in three selected developing countries from the Africa, Asia and Pacific regions and would last approximately two years. However since this project does not fall under one of the approved subprogrammes for 1992-1993, it would remain as an extrabudgetary project fully funded by UNDCP.

HOST COUNTRY

During the past months INSTRAW was particularly active in its host country, the Dominican Republic.

The Institute participated in the "Congreso Continental de la

Mujer Americana" which was convened as part of the special celebrations of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America and brought women from the Americas together. The Congress took place 10 and 11 October 1992.

The Director, Margaret Shields made a presentation in the panel on health on women and water. She stressed the importance of including women in all water related programmes and projects given the fact that women are the administrators and principal users of water in the household and for the family.

Florissa Abreu spoke on effective policies for rural women. She underlined the need to gather statistical information on work done by women in rural areas as a prerequisite for designing appropriate policies. Heather McDonald, an INSTRAW consultant, spoke on strategies to combat violence against women.

In cooperation with the Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer (DGPM), the national machinery for women in the host country and INSTRAW focal point, a seminar was organized 8-9 December 1992 on the "Participation of Rural Women in the Development Process" in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

The objective of the seminar was to stimulate a dialogue between rural women and the various organizations involved in working with them in the Dominican Republic, including the governmental agrarian sector, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, international and local NGOs. It proceeded from the assumption that rural women themselves are

the primary source of information about their own problems, their needs and their expectations. The women were brought together with planners, funders and policy makers in the hope that in the future there would be a greater commitment from the latter group to alleviating the particular needs of rural women.

A major concern of the rural women was their right to be considered as head of households which would give them access to owning land.

They were also preoccupied with the migration of the population from the countryside and the lack of sanitation and education facilities.

WORLD FEDERATION OF UN ASSOCIATION MEETING IN CYPRUS

The 13th Regional Conference of European United Nations Associations was held in Nicosia from 2 to 5 November 1992.

Although WFUNA has had a women's caucus for some time, this was the first time that the group has discussed women's progress as a major item and devoted a full session to it.

Margaret Shields, Director of INSTRAW, was invited to open the discussion with a prepared paper on the "Enhanced Role of the United Nations Associations in Implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies". The debate that followed, chaired by the President of WFUNA, Ms. Androulla Vassilou, was very lively and informed and a positive indicator as we move towards the 1995 Women's Conference in Beijing.

While in Nicosia, the Director met with the people involved with Womens affairs in Cyprus, within the Ministry of Justice and also had a meeting with a broad range of NGOs working on women's issues.

VISIT TO MADRID AND MEXICO

The Director visited Madrid and Mexico. In Madrid, together with the Vice President of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees, Pilar Escario, she visited the INSTRAW focal point, the Instituto de la Mujer. They discussed the possibilities for translation of INSTRAW materials into Spanish. The other major topic of discussion was a proposed project on women, environment and sustainable development for the Mediterranean basin. This project is designed to build networks for the sharing of information and experience among women at the grassroots level working on regional and local environmental problems. In Mexico, discussions were held

with UNICEF on the possibility of INSTRAW collaboration in UNICEF's water programmes in the Latin America and Caribbean region. This would be facilitated if INSTRAW's modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation are made available in Spanish and adapted to Latin American conditions. Preliminary work has begun on the possibility of a "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation Workshop" to train trainers in the region.

The carrying out of this proposal will depend on funding being available for the translation and adaptation of the modules.

INSTRAW NEWS

Number 18 of INSTRAW NEWS is now in the press. The issue is on United Nations and Women. It is a compilation of the work of the bodies and entities of the United Nations to advance the status of women within their specific mandate and informs of actions taken and future plans.

INSTRAW PUBLICATIONS

Since last August a total of seven reports were published through the Institute's in-house printing facilities.

Four of these reports were within the framework of the UNDP funded project on "Improving linkages between women and energy sector: policies programmes and projects with special reference to new and renewable sources of energy", carried out in 1991 in the two projects countries that the Institute was responsible for, namely Zambia and Malawi.

The other three reports were also the outcome of a UNDP funded project on "Improving African Women's Role in the Informal Sector-Production and Management" and in which the Institute along with the United Nations Statistical Division was responsible for the statistics component. ■

*WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY HOLIDAY
AND THAT 1993 WILL BE A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.*

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