



Peace Women



Women's Federation for World Peace Oceania Newsletter June 2008

WFWP International, empowering women with knowledge, skills and support to create peace in our homes, communities, nations and the world.

The 9th Annual Women's Federation for World Peace International Conference will be held in Oceania.

The 9th Annual Women's Federation for World Peace International Conference will be held in Sydney Australia from 22nd -26th October 2008.

WFWP Int. was inaugurated in 1992 and then in 2000 representatives from WFWP chapters around the world met in Jeju Island, Korea to participate in the first annual WFWP International Conference. Since 2000 the International Conference has been held in Japan, Austria, Russia, USA, Thailand and last year in Kumgang Mountain in North Korea. Seven hundred and thirty women from 38 nations attended the Kumgang conference including 10 North Korean women leaders representing their various women's organisations.

WFWP Oceania is very happy to be the host of this year's conference which will be held at the Collaroy Conference Centre on Sydney's Northern Beaches. The annual conference is a chance for WFWP Chapters to report on their activities and to network and discuss ideas and strategies.

The General Assembly of the United Nations designated 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace. In keeping with the very noble aim of creating a culture of peace, the theme of this year's conference will be "The Contribution of Women in Building a Culture of Peace". Our focus naturally will be the contribution made through the activities of WFWP Int. The International United Nations Day falls during the conference on Friday 24th October. We will celebrate this special day with a reception at State Parliament.

The conference is a great opportunity for WFWP members from Oceania region to learn more about the foundation of WFWP worldwide. It will inspire and empower you!



MOBILIZING GRASSROOTS PARTNERS TO FINANCE EMPOWERMENT AND CHANGE LIVES, ONE WOMAN AT A TIME

Presentation by Motoko Sugiyama at the Parallel event for the 52nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Church Centre in New York March 2008.

The WFWPI parallel event highlighted successes that are making a positive difference in the lives of women in need. In particular, microcredit projects have an impact that is sustainable. Small amounts of money in the hands of motivated women and their families make a lasting difference in lives by empowering women to start small, successful businesses.

Ms. Motoko Sugiyama, VP of WFWP International and Director of the UN Office of WFWPI, gave a brief overview of WFWPI overseas poverty eradication projects and the peace building, Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Projects. (Complete reports available www.wfwp.org/). Ms. Sugiyama emphasized that poverty eradication and peace building are inextricably linked. She shared success

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Collaroy Conference Centre



The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) was established in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in an effort to address the confusion of a world seeing a breakdown in family ethics, as well as the escalation of racial and religious struggles.

Dr. Moon leads this peace movement and insists that in order to save the world from moral chaos, the AIDS crisis, drug abuse, and war, women must play a central role in building families of true love. With the international headquarters located in Seoul, South Korea, there are one hundred and twenty-two national chapters.

The founding spirit of WFWPI guides its activities in three areas:

- Strengthening the family, with the understanding that the family is the foundation for lasting peace in the world
- International service projects, that encourage "living for the sake of others"
- Peace and reconciliation activities, through WFWPI's affiliation with the United Nations, as well as with her signature project, the "Bridge of Peace Ceremony".

WFWPI focuses on poverty eradication through worldwide service projects. In 1994, more than one thousand WFWPI volunteers from Japan went to live in one hundred and sixty nations for the purpose of establishing projects in support of women and families. WFWPI currently maintains fifty seven service projects worldwide in the areas of: education, women's self-help, agriculture, AIDS prevention, nutrition, and medical aid. WFWPI USA supports seven "Schools of Africa" through an annual series of benefits held around the US.

Since 1997, WFWPI Japan has sponsored a noteworthy series of women's conferences on the topic of Peace in the Middle East. This series has brought prominent women together from throughout the Middle East region to explore ways they can work together to advance peace in that region. Over the years this series has been held in Turkey, Cyprus, Greece and Switzerland. Themes have included; "Women and the Future of the Middle East", "The Role of Families in Creating a Peaceful Middle East", "Women and a Culture of Peace", "Women and the Dialogue among Civilizations" and "The Realization of Peace in Women's Hands; Meeting the Challenge".

In 2002, WFWPI established the "One Percent Love Sharing Project". Through donations of \$1 per month, or \$12 per year, WFWPI is helping those less fortunate. With an initial focus on women and children in North Korea, this project "exemplifies the spirit with which WFWPI was founded, the practice of true love and sharing".

THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN THE WORLD

POVERTY = State of being deprived of the essentials of well-being such as adequate housing, food, sufficient income, employment, access to required social services and social status.

1.3 billion people live on less than \$1 a day; 70% of them are women. 3 billion people live on less than \$2 a day, almost half of population of the world.

More than 850 million (every seventh person) are at starvation state. 500 million of them suffer from chronic malnutrition.

The number of children in the world is 2.2 billion.

The number of children living in poverty is 1 billion - every second child.

More than 12.1 million primary-school-age children are out of school; the majority of them are girls.

The number of adults who cannot read in developing countries is 800 million; two third of them are women. 30,000 children under 5-years-old die every day - 10 million in a year.

Every third child lives without adequate shelter and every fifth person cannot access safe water in developing countries.

1 billion people cannot drink safe water.

Source: World Bank, UNICEF, and UNDP

THE 8 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



2 Achieve Universal Primary Education



3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



4 Reduce Child Mortality



5 Improve Maternal Health



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases



7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability



8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

For update on the Millennium Development Goals go to www.mdgmonitor.org/

“ YOU ARE THE PIONEERS MAKING NEW HISTORY”

To all the fellow members of WFWP and to the readers of Peace Women:

The world is becoming ‘One Global Family’ and is undergoing rapid change. Hunger and disease among African children, conflict in the Middle East and the reunification of South and North Korea are no longer problems affecting their own regions.

We have made much effort to construct an international network to realize a vision of ‘One Global Family’ whose purpose is to ‘Help Others’. We are now hoping to add such global activities and experiences into the political system for a more efficient outcome.

In particular, the ‘Pacific Era of Women’ of the 21st century has given rise to numerous professional female leaders whose backgrounds are based on feminine values and vision. Their influence has spread across the political field and will take a leading role in building a better world.

Kofi Annan, the former UN secretary general, has emphasized that in order to fulfil the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and solve conflicts around the world, more women will have to become part of government organizations and meetings.

March 8th of this year is the 100th anniversary of the International Women’s Day, established by the UN. 100 years ago in 1908, 15,000 women gathered in New York demanding pay raises and voting rights. Since then, there have been many sacrifices and struggles, but many women around the world still suffer from inequality and discrimination. It is inspiring to hear that many brilliant women are working in the fields of politics, economics, and society, but in order to increase the current 17.7% ratio of female members in the world’s parliaments to 30-50%, we need more courage to face the challenges, and time.

Our founder has encouraged the education of female leadership around the world. Thirty-six members of our Korean community became candidates for the general election of April 9th. These people were not overly attached to the election results, but rather put all their efforts into creating a society based on true family morals and values. A new political paradigm will thus develop and gain momentum.

We hope that you will fully understand the current time and gain the professional and leadership skills to enter the political mainstream in order to influence policy decisions.

When looking back, we can see the course of history being changed by great leaders. Each member of this community is a leader and a pioneer. Let’s always bear this in mind and pledge ourselves to the task.

We thank you for all your love and support for our community and we hope there will be great blessings upon your family and your work.



Dr. Lan Young Moon is the President of WFWP Int., a position she has held since 2000. She is also the Co-Chair of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation and Joint Representative, of the Committee to Realize the 6.15 North-South Declaration, South side. Mrs Moon is a lecturer in Sunmoon University’s Theology Dept. in Korea.

United Nations Affiliation

WFWP International became a “NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations” in 1997. This status has continued to be renewed based on the preparation of the quadrennial report.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

There are only one hundred and twelve NGOs worldwide that hold the general consultative status. The requirements of this level of affiliation include:

- ❖ Applying organization’s activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC
- ❖ The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least 2 years in order to apply
- ❖ The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism
- ❖ The major portion of the organization’s funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components
- ❖ NGOs granted General consultative status must submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, in particular regarding their contribution to the work of the United Nations (Quadrennial Report)

General consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach

The benefits of receiving this status include:

- ❖ The NGO may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC
- ❖ Organizations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies

WFWP International maintains a UN office in New York City. WFWPI has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA



In March, Sydney WFWP held an interfaith evening at Strathfield Community Centre. The topic was 'Holi; the Hindu Festival of Colour and Harmony'. The speaker, Mrs Punam Chhibber, brought the Holi celebration to life for those of us who have never experienced it. Punam showed us a video of Holi celebrations in India and showed us some of the coloured powder that people throw on each other during the celebration. We enjoyed the meeting and left looking very colourful.



With the International Conference coming up in October, members have been taking any opportunity to raise funds to support and to make it a great event in our region. Some members have held sausage sizzles at Bunnings at Auburn. Thank you to Bunnings for that support.



Some members have had garage sales. Thank you to everyone for their efforts.



ASIA-PACIFIC INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

In February this year Naoko Raymond and Jynene Helland attended a two day symposium on the theme 'Women, Faith and a Culture of Peace' at the Multi-faith Centre in Brisbane. The event was co-hosted by Believing Women for a Culture of Peace and the Multi-faith Centre at Griffith University, Brisbane. The 150-200 women participants came from various island nations in the Pacific and from around the world and represented a broad range of faiths. One of the speakers, Ms Gyung-Lan Jung from Korea, spoke on the topic 'Affirming Human Rights and Transcending Conflicts; Where can faith take us?' She spoke about the reunification of Korea and named some of the organisations working in Korea for North South unity, including WFWP. Ms Gyung Lan Jung is the Director of the Centre for Peaceful Korea and Women Making Peace and knew our WFWP Int President Mrs Lan Young Moon through her very active involvement in North/South reunification.

The program broke into workshops during the second day (Sunday), many topics were covered and much discussion and sharing flowed. As can be expected it was difficult to leave each other at the end of the symposium. We had shared some valuable time together.





Korean Women's Day Event

By Debbie Bruce

In early May the Korean Women's Association held the Korean Women's Day event at Marsfield in Sydney. Ten WFWP members participated in the event.

Federal Member for Bennelong Ms Maxine McKew, commended Agnes Shim, President of SKWA and SKWA on the great job they do supporting women from Korean background living in Sydney. This sentiment was echoed in the congratulatory speeches from the Mayor of Ryde, Councillor Ivan Petch and Chairman of the Community Relations Commission, Stepan Kerkyanskisheck AM. WFWP Int Vice President, Jynene Helland also congratulated Agnes and her organisation on their efforts and achievements.

Lunch was provided followed by entertainment. There was quite a variety of performances, ranging from a lively Korean women's group singing "Oh Susanna", to Indonesian dancing and even a magician. The WFWP Choir donned Korean Hanboks and Japanese Kimonos and offered a Korean and a Japanese song. There was also a costume parade and our members wore costumes from France, Finland, Japan and Korea, there were so many beautiful costumes from many countries.

Kamsahamnida (thank you) to Agnes and SKWA for a wonderful day.



WFWP members of Sydney taking part in International Women's Day march on 8 March

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world, that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies.

In 1908 great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women on to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

Of course, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so the tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives.

Annually on 8th March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. While there are many large-scale initiatives, a rich and diverse fabric of local activity connects women from all around the world, ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more.



In April this year WFWP Sydney celebrated the 16th Anniversary of WFWP International with an afternoon tea at the headquarters in George St, Sydney. On the Sydney leg of her world speaking tour in August in 1992, Mrs Hak Ja Han Moon, Founder of WFWP Int. encouraged women in the audience saying:

"Let us all become the courageous women who can build unity, peace, freedom and happiness in this world.

Let us go the way of a true mother.

Let us go the way of a true wife.

Let us go the way of a true daughter."

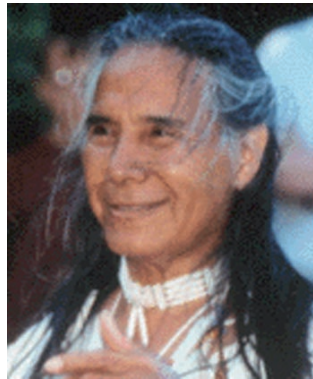
So much unity, peace, freedom and happiness has indeed been built in the last 16 years through the work of WFWP worldwide. We look forward to what we can achieve into the future.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE ACTIVITIES IN NEW ZEALAND

WFWP NZ met in January to plan the year ahead. It was decided that this year our monthly meetings will centre on the theme, "The Role of the Mother in the Family; Creating Harmony and Peace". The meetings will focus on 3 aspects: education, hobbies and service projects.

At our February meeting Pauline Jamati shared inspirational readings on moral values. Discussion followed on the role of the mother in guiding the family on moral values. Leona Didsbury gave additional advice from a psychological and social point of view. Barbara Minett spoke on the issue from a spiritual perspective and Felicity Cairns from a physiological viewpoint.

On 5th March 2008 WFWP was invited by the Universal Peace Federation to attend their monthly meeting hosting world renowned Native American Musician and Spiritual healer, Mr. Reuben Silverbird and his son Mr. Gil Silverbird at the Jubilee Hall, Parnell, Auckland. Reuben plays guitar, flute and other percussive instruments during his Native Spiritual Musical Concerts. He travels extensively with The Universal Peace Federation and is attached to the United Nations as an NGO. They travel the world promoting peace through music.



Service Projects: Knitting Club

The WFWP Knitting Club in Auckland has for a number of years been supporting the Knitting Program run by the Middlemore Hospital in South Auckland. The women volunteers knit baby clothes, blankets, booties and hats for babies born in the hospital whose parents are unable to afford a lot of baby clothes. The Knitting Program provides much appreciated support for struggling families.

In April this year the Middlemore Hospital held a Morning Tea to acknowledge the hard work and the valuable contribution made by the volunteers in the Program. Around one hundred of the three hundred women that knit for the Program attended the morning tea, including the members of the WFWP Knitting Club.



Photos taken at the event by Barbara Minett

Last year WFWP Auckland also raised \$1000 for the New Assessment and Birthing unit at Middlemore Hospital.

Vanuatu



WFWP Vanuatu would like to thank WFWP Australia for its generous donations which have allowed the women's federation on the island of Tanna to start building a women's occupational centre and the purchase of sewing machines.

Many individuals in WFWP have also been inspired to contribute to this cause, as well as WFWP New Zealand, which has helped with donations to achieve the goal of empowering women of the Pacific Islands, who, as we all know, have always been key to strong families and to helping build a better society.

WFWP Vanuatu would also like to express its deep gratitude for the support of WFWP Japan, which has faithfully over the past 10 years, supported the work on the islands with the goal of bettering women's conditions. WFWP Japan once again in 2007 sponsored a student from Vanuatu to pursue her studies at a higher learning institute. They will continue doing so also this year 2008. Warm thank you again for all the support for Vanuatu WFWP and Vanuatu communities and their women.



REPORT, ACTIVITIES WITH DRUG FREE AUSTRALIA

Mamiko Rattley

Last year WFWP Australia signed up to be a supporting organisation for Drug Free Australia (DFA).

DFA is a national independent, peak body in illicit drug prevention. Please see the website; www.drugfree.org.au.

These are two activities we are carrying out.

1. Petition campaign – We join the international effort of collecting one million signatures for the petition to support the crucial work of the United Nations to curb illicit drug use and trafficking in the world. Please see the “Plan 1-2-3” below and take part in this worthy cause to protect our society from illicit drugs.

2. Forum - *On Saturday 28th of June* at the Oceania Peace Embassy, 826 George Street, Sydney (corner of Regent Street) *1.00 to 5.00pm*. We will commemorate UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by holding a forum partnering with DFA. We would like to invite all concerned members and friends to this important and crucial event.

Keynote speaker Josephine Baxter, CEO of Drug Free Australia



Plan 1-2-3

Support the UN’s Fight against Drugs

The International Narcotics Control Board, Vienna, is collecting 1 million signatures for the UN meeting in March 2009. The Women’s Federation for World Peace, in supporting Drug Free Australia, urges you to take part in our ‘Plan 1-2-3’

1 Sign up

- Go to www.ungassdrugs.org and click on ‘Project SUNDIAL’.
- Sign up and submit the petition putting Women’s Federation for World Peace in the box for ‘organisation’.

2 Family and Friends

- Persuade family members over 18 years old to sign up too.
- Send three emails to three friends, asking them to take part in ‘Plan1-2-3’

3 Work/church/interest or community group/library

- Download a copy of the SUNDIAL petition and leave a copy at these places
- Speak to the people about it and ask them to take part in Plan1-2-3

For further enquires:

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stories from WFWPI microcredit projects in Jordan. These projects in Jordan represent a very small number of the microcredit and economic empowerment projects that WFWPI volunteers initiated and have invested in since 1994.

Microcredit projects in Amman, Jordan were initiated in 2000. Jordan's economy has faced many years on shaky ground due to the volume of Palestinian refugees, the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks, drop in tourism, and the Iraq war due to Jordan's dependence on oil from Iraq. Currently, about 30% of Jordan's population lives below the poverty line. Unemployment in 2005 was at 15%, and doubles for young people. Jordanian culture encourages women to stay home but often families have many children, making it difficult for men to fully support the family. Japanese volunteers discovered that many women hoped to start small home-based businesses. In order to fund the microloans, volunteers held bazaars in their home communities and solicited donations from businesses and individuals in Japan. Loans were from \$150 to \$1000 depending on the scale of the business. Relationships between borrowers and the volunteers strengthened through home visits by WFWP volunteers who offered advice on life and business management. Borrowers started beauty salons, boutiques, a children's clothing store, cosmetic shops, grocery stores, vegetable stands, second-hand clothing shops, perfume shops, sweet shops, kitchen tool shops, tailors, stationery shops, blanket and carpet shops, knitting shops, small restaurants, photo studios, drug stores, poultry stores, advertisement stores, small shops selling milk, oil, lunch, artificial flowers, diapers, computer

parts, goat's milk, etc. Since 2000, about 100 women a year have received loans, with about 1000 loans made since the program's inception through 2007. Repayment rate is nearly 100%.

In 2007, microloans were extended to the city of Madaba. A widow with eight children prospered when her teenage son received training and a loan to start a cosmetic shop. Later the family requested a loan for a second business, a grocery store. The enterprise has been expanding. Another woman had tailoring skills but only a small domestic sewing machine. Her husband had been ailing with kidney disease so could not work. A loan from WFWP to purchase an industrial sewing machine allowed her to take high volumes of orders from wholesale houses. She has hired three employees. Although her husband has since passed away, she is able to feed her nine children. A third woman had a very run down beauty salon. She used her small loan to fix up her shop, upgrade equipment and the atmosphere. Customer volume increased dramatically. This woman is now teaching hair styling at a WFWP technical school as well.

The microloans have assisted many women and families in improving their financial circumstances. The women have gained stature and a sense of independence. They are more confident, wiser, stronger and better able to support their husbands and children. Empowering women economically through micro loans increases domestic and social stability. These projects can meet the needs of an Islamic culture like Jordan. The happiness of the women and their families is the best reward for the WFWP volunteers ■

Women's Federation for World Peace



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A Membership form is printed below for your convenience.

Women's Federation for World Peace • Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

General membership: \$25.00 per year Donation: \$ _____

Amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to Women's Federation for World Peace and send to your local WFWP Office,