



# Peace Women



**Women's Federation for World Peace Oceania Newsletter January 2009**

*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 was held in Oceania, October 22-26, 2008



### Report on the 9th WFWP International Conference in Sydney

Jynene Helland, Int. Vice President for Oceania Region

The 9th WFWP International Conference was held in Sydney 22nd -26th Oct 2008 at the Collaroy Conference Centre on Sydney's northern beaches. The theme for the conference was "The Role of Women in Building a Culture of Peace". This theme was chosen because 2000-2010 was designated by the UN as the decade of a culture of peace.

One hundred and thirty women attended the conference from 23 nations. Fifty five women participated from nations outside Oceania. Special guests were Mrs Ruth Lini, the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu and Mrs Leias Cullwick, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vanuatu and Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar, a respected Maori elder from Queensland.

#### Wednesday 22 Oct - Opening Banquet

In her welcoming remarks Mrs Chung Ran Woo Kim, Advisor for WFWP Oceania warmly welcomed all the participants to Oceania. The MC Mrs Felicity Cairns, President WFWP NZ, then introduced Dr Lan Young Moon, President WFWP International who expressed her greetings and conveyed our founder Dr Hak Ja Han Moon's heart felt words of encouragement and best wishes to all participants. "We, the sisters of WFWP" she said, "must do our utmost in realizing the establishment of one peaceful world with God as the parent". WFWP International Vice President

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### International UN Day 24 November 2008

#### NSW Parliament, Sydney

Speech By: Mrs Lini, Republic of Vanuatu

Honorable David Clark, Upper House MP, Honorable Penny Sharp, Representing the Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr Lang Yong Moon, President of International Women's Federation of World Peace, Honorable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honored to be able to address this October gathering today commemorating the International United Nations Day.

As one of the smallest members of United Nations, Vanuatu reaffirms its commitment to build global Peace and Security.

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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 WFWP'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 WFWP 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. WFWP USA supports seven "Schools of Africa" through an annual series of benefits held around the US.

Since 1997, WFWP 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 WFWP was founded, the practice of true love and sharing".



## Achieve Universal Primary Education

### Target 2.A:

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- 2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
- 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men

- 28 million more children are able to attend school since 1999. But 75 million still miss out on education 34 million boys and 41 million girls.
- More than 90% of children in developing countries are enrolled in primary schools and 54% attend secondary school.

In Haiti, an effective collaboration between the government, UN agencies and NGOs changed the lives of 4,300 of the country's poorest children, thanks to an education project that provided school materials and supplies to 33 schools.

Source: [www.mdgmonitor.org/](http://www.mdgmonitor.org/)

## 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/](http://www.mdgmonitor.org/)

## “THIS YEAR WE WILL BE DEVELOPING THE THEME OF THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN”

It is with a deep sense of honour and privilege I write to you as the President of the WFWP Australia branch. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to building the culture of peace with you. I was deeply moved to participate and contribute a little to the International Conference of the WFWP in Sydney last October. The women from around the world who came were so inspired and inspiring in their efforts to solve seemingly intractable problems through co-operation and intuition to find new ways.

The letter from Hanifa Mezoui, Chief Non-Governmental Organisations Section/DESA, reproduced in this newsletter, ([http://www.wfwp.org/wfwp/library/unNewYork/Letter\\_UNNGO\\_DESA\\_July08.pdf](http://www.wfwp.org/wfwp/library/unNewYork/Letter_UNNGO_DESA_July08.pdf)) is a testimony that the approach of the Women's Federation is coming to be recognised as a way forward for the world. A much needed ingredient in the effort to build a sustainable culture of peace. The reason I believe this is happening because even as we have been solving really practical problems it has been with the spirit of respect and love for all the people involved. To give assistance to someone, in a crisis, with the belief that we are part of a bigger family together, that all have something to contribute to and all will have needs, though they may be different creates a quality of relationship which affirms the dignity and honour of the one receiving the help as well as the giver.

This year we will be developing the theme of the dignity of women and how we can support each other in nurturing and cultivating the awareness of it in our family members and beyond in our sphere of influence.

Though the world may be in an economic crisis, this is not how we are defined as a people. We have some many precious resources within us such as love, compassion, hope, trust, aspiration, desire for peace and fulfilment and friendship. The development and expression of these things will surely allow us to build the type of world we would like to see the children of the world growing up in.

I hope to see you at many of our meetings, seminars or programs this year.

With warmest wishes

Tracy DeGeer.



Tracy DeGeer President of WFWP Australia

Tracy is a Naturopath working at the Nature Care Wholistic and Medical Centre, specialising in stress management and education and coaching for adopting healthy behaviour.

### 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 thirty-nine 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. WFWP International has twenty UN representatives in seven countries: Austria, Chile, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand, and the US.

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for Oceania region, Mrs Jynene Helland, then introduced the participants by region and welcomed everyone to the Oceania Conference. The evening concluded with a wonderful musical performance by Lohas Notes a duo from Japan playing the flute and the piano.

#### **Thursday 23 Oct - Regional Reports**

The day began with a Morning Peace Service given by Mrs Barbara Minnett of WFWP New Zealand. Barbara spoke about being healthy physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. She guided us in meditation playing her flute in the background.

To open the program Aboriginal elder, Nancy Hill-Wood, gave an Acknowledgement to Country. MC Mrs Dianne Simboro, President WFWP Victoria introduced Mrs Jynene Helland who gave a brief welcome to all participants before Dr Lan Young Moon gave her opening remarks. President Moon spoke of the recent elections in Korea and encouraged us to support and raise up young women in the community to become political leaders in the future.

The reports that followed from Japan, Europe, Korea, and Middle East regions were impressive. WFWP is doing so many activities around the world. Before lunch we had an inspiring talk by guest speaker, Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar on "Reconciliation and World Peace". Mrs Merekaraka encouraged us to dream big and never give up on our dreams.



After lunch Mrs Felicity Cairns, President WFWP New Zealand was MC. The reports presented in this session were on activities in Canada and USA region and the United Nation's Office. Mrs Sugiyama (UN Office) announced a ten year milestone as director of the UN Office in New York. We expressed our appreciation to her for her diligent and consistent work with the UN to gain and to maintain our NGO status and support us as we work toward realising the Millennium Development Goals.

Mrs Lini, the Deputy Prime Minister's wife of Vanuatu then addressed the conference. Mrs Lini spoke on "The Role of Women in Pacific Island Culture". She described the simple yet happy, family-orientated life in Vanuatu and the important role of women. She reminded us that Vanuatu was recently voted the world's most happy nation. We could understand why from listening to her description of life in her homeland. After a group photo and dinner we gathered for the evening session and heard the reports from Asia, South America and Oceania before closing.

#### **Friday 24 Oct – International UN Day**

The Morning Peace Service was given by Leona Didsbury WFWP New Zealand. Leona urged us to be better not bitter when difficulties and challenges come in our lives.

After a short morning session discussing the Global Peace Festival we moved to the central city area of Sydney to attend a Reception at Parliament House to commemorate United Nations Day. The Hon David Clarke MP NSW Parliament hosted the event.



David Clarke was introduced by the MC, Mrs Tracy DeGeer (WFWP Sydney). He warmly and enthusiastically welcomed and praised WFWP International for the good work it does to foster peace, for our support of the family and our promotion of family values.

The Hon Penny Sharpe MP, representing the Office of Women, then welcomed us to the Parliament. Penny Sharpe spoke about the founding of the UN and offered best wishes to WFWP for our work with women.

After a short DVD on The United Nations and WFWP, Mrs Lan Young Moon gave her opening remarks. She spoke about the UN Consultative Status of WFWP and how important it is. There are only 139 organisations world wide with General Consultative Status. "Women" she said "are playing an increasingly important and more active role in the world".

The guest speaker Mrs Ruth Lini spoke, reaffirming Vanuatu's commitment to the UN. She touched on the issue of global warming and the vulnerable position of the Pacific Islands nations. "A culture of peace can only come when we serve others" Mrs Lini stated. She commended the WFWP for the work we do.

At the close of the program Dr Lan Young Moon asked to say a few more words. She spoke from her heart about her experience in 1950 when the Korean War broke out. Her father was captured as her family fled. She never saw him again. She has been to North Korea 18 times but has never been to her hometown. She shared openly and from her heart and those present couldn't help but be moved.

The Reception was very successful bringing together around 50 community leaders and Members of Parliament to commemorate UN Day with the WFWP representatives. Members of Parliament who attended were the Hon David Clarke the Hon Penny Sharpe, the Hon Marie Ficarra, and the Hon Pru Goward.

#### **Closing Dinner**

Following the Reception in Parliament House, participants attended a Closing Banquet at the Oceania Peace Embassy.

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# United Nations Activities

## Women's Federation for World Peace International

By Motoko Sugiyama, VP and Director of UN Office



**This is a copy of the informative Power Point presentation explaining the significance of WFWP's General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, given by Mrs Sugiyama at the 9th WFWP International Leader's Conference in Sydney on October 23, 2008. Especially of note is that of the 3052 NGO's associated with the UN, WFWP is one of only 139 that has General Consultative Status. The activities of WFWP Oceania have contributed toward that end. From 2009 there are plans to substantiate the foundation already made.**

**1. The UN's purpose** for NGOs to affiliate with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Department of Public Information (DPI): NGOs are granted the privilege of participation in a wide variety of UN sponsored meetings and activities. In return, NGOs support the goals and work of the UN as partners.

\* WFWP International was granted General Consultative Status with ECOSOC and associated with DPI in 1997.

### **2. The missions and responsibilities of the UN NGOs.**

A). NGOs associated with DPI: To disseminate information about the goals and work of the UN. The effectiveness of information programs of NGOs associated with DPI are reviewed on a quadrennial basis. WFWPI's information programs include the WFWPI UN Office, newsletter and the WFWPI UN Office Website.

\* WFWPI has two representatives in New York with DPI credentials.

B) ECOSOC: Three Statuses:

- 1) General Consultative Status.
- 2) Special Consultative Status.
- 3) Roster Status.

General status is relevant to all areas of ECOSOC. Special and Roster status are limited in some areas.

\* WFWPI has five representatives at UN HQ in New York, Geneva, and Vienna.  
plus CEO and CAO of the organization in NY.

\* WFWPI has one Representative in each Regional Office: Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Beirut and Santiago.

\*Total WFWPI UN Representatives: 23

**NGOs in Consultative Status** have the responsibility of furthering the development aims of ECOSOC and the UN.

Every four years, the activities of NGOs in Consultative Status are specifically reviewed based on the support and the contribution they provide to global development as partners to the UN.

This review is based on the Quadrennial Report that each NGO in Consultative Status must provide to the UN NGO Section DESA. It will be reviewed by the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs (reps. from 19 member states.)

**The most important aspect of the Quadrennial Report** is a thorough accounting of the contributions of the organization to the work of the UN.

This includes:

- 1) Participation in the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other UN meetings.
- 2) Cooperation with UN bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at UN HQ.
- 3) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which now form the basis of the UN's global agenda for the 21st century. (Contributions to MDGs has been added since our last quadrennial report)

\*WFWP International Submission of the third Quadrennial Report covering 2005-2008 is due in 2009.

### 3. Tables of ECOSOC NGOs

Year	General	Special	Roster	Total
1948	13	26	1	40
1968	17	78	85	180
1992	18	297	409	724
1993	40	334	410	784
1994	40	334	410	784
1995	65	406	415	886
1996	76	468	497	1041
1997	85	582	517	1184
1998	100	742	663	1505
1999	111	918	909	1938
2000	122	1048	880	2050
2001	124	1132	895	2151
2002	131	1197	906	2234
2003	131	1316	903	2350
2004	134	1474	923	2531
2005	136	1639	944	2719
2006	137	1780	952	2869
2007	139	1956	955	3052



### 4. Focuses of WFWPI UN activities.

- A) Attending major conferences, meetings and briefings.
- B) Sponsoring/cosponsoring conferences, workshops and meetings.  
Connecting field activities to the UN Agenda within/outside UN ([www.un.org.observances](http://www.un.org.observances)).
- C) Involvement with NGO Committee on the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status (CONGO) as a member.
- D) Oral and /or written statements.
- E) Maintain information programs. (Newsletters, Website)

- F) Maintain records: legal, membership, accounting and world activities.

### Involvement with CONGO NGO Committees

- Committee on Status of Women, NY, Geneva, Vienna
- Committee on Sustainable Development, NY
- Committee on Youth, NY
- Committee on Human Rights, Geneva
- Committee on Peace, Vienna
- Committee on Drugs, Vienna
- Committee on Ageing, Vienna
- (C Handshin serves as Secretary of CSW in Geneva)

## 5. Activities in 2008.

### Feb 25 – March 7: The 52nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN HQ NY.

WFWPI Parallel Event on March 5 and two joint Statements to CSW.

Fifty registered participants attended CSW representing WFWPI.

### June 30 - July 24: ECOSOC Substantive Session, UN HQ NY.

April 25: The Ancillary Luncheon Meeting to support the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) of the High Level Segment of ECOSOC Substantive Session of 2008, cosponsored by WFWPIUSA.

### May 13:

Submission of WFWPI's Statement was recognized by SG and officially translated in six UN languages. It was circulated in the session.

### June 30 - July 3: Participated to Second AMR Innovation Fair, UN HQ NY

Two success stories, Fighting against Malaria in the Republic of Niger and JAMOO Social Self-Support Assistance Center in the Republic of Senegal were

1) posted on the UN-NGO-IRENE best practice network.

([www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene))

2) And invited to display at the booth of Civil Society Pavilion in Conference Room D

### June 17-18 : WFWPI 12th Annual Women's Conference for Peace in the Middle East, UN HQ Geneva



### June 27-29, UN HQ Vienna , WFWPI Conference Promoting Human Dignity to Prevent Trafficking and 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

### July 7-9, UN Office on Drug and Crime , UN HQ Vienna , "Beyond 2008" NGO Forum

### Sept 3 – 5, 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference UNESCO, Paris.

A representative was in the planning committee in NY and Three Representative attended in Paris.

**October 29: Forum at Four**, "What is really being done about crime prevention at the UN" at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NY.

Sponsored by the Alliance of NGO on Crime prevention and Criminal Justice. (WFWPI is one of the member and K Smith serves as Vice Chair)

**November 25: The Fourth Forum on the Eradication of Poverty " Global Public Health and the Eradication of Poverty" Supporting of the AMR of ECOSOC of 2009, Conference room 4, UN HQ NY.** Co-Sponsored by WFWPI and UN DESA NGO Section.

## 6. Summary of WFWPI's 11years as a UN NGO.

- A) Publicity without a foundation of consistent programs and activities does not work at the UN. It is like a castle on the sand.
- B) The WFWPI foundation;
  - 1) Good, consistent field work including service projects/humanitarian development projects, Bridge of peace/peace conferences and seminars aligned with UN agendas.
  - 2) Substantial involvement in UN sponsored functions
- C) Evaluations from the NGO Section of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
  - 1) Wide variety of Int'l service projects enable WFWPI to connect with any UN agenda.
  - 2) Seriousness of involvement with ECOSOC and the UN at large.
  - 3) Newsletter with relevant information regarding UN.

\* WFWPI does not take advantage of the UN Status but acts as a good partner.



D) We all deserve to be proud and confident members of WFWPI because of our performance as a UN NGO and our fulfillment of the goal of being a good partner to the UN.

All of you contributed to this success through your warm and consistent support.

E) Now, on this solid foundation, we are ready to step forward to the higher arena of leadership in the NGO and Civil Society Community at the UN. Examples: participation on the DPI/ NGO Executive Committee, Board of CONGO and more.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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We also remain committed to support UN Peace keeping missions as our modest contribution to this worth cause. I am of the understanding that the UN has declared 2009 as the Year of Reconciliation and we welcome this initiative. We all hope and pray that this will be a time for real compromises and political goodwill.

We are encouraging all members of our family of nations to approach 2009 with open hearts.

If we are to turn the tide of tension and animosity, we must have courage to be able to reconcile our differences and converge on those dimensions that will enhance the role of this noble organization in Peace Building and development.

Madam Chair,

We are living in perilous times. The United Nations is the organization of the family of independent sovereign nations and people of the world.

If the United Nation was able to assist our nation's difficult progress towards independence then surely it must continue to pursue the interest of those countries and people who continue their struggle for freedom and a permanent place amongst us.

The increase in and destructive powers of natural disasters is again a stark reminder of the increasing vulnerability of today's global environment where nature respects no boundaries and no person.

I join other Pacific Region leaders calls to the international community for more concerted efforts in urgently addressing climate change as an immediate security issue.

Unless the present trend of global warming is reversed through sincere international action through the UN Framework, some of our Pacific nations will go under water.

God has entrusted upon all leaders of the world the responsibility to ensure a world safe and just for all peoples and children.

As women are regarded as the first teacher in the home the onus is on us to immediately embark on encouraging and fostering the practice of unselfish service to others.

In closing I would like to express our gratitude to all our development partners who have generously complimented Vanuatu's development efforts.

In particular we wish to thank Australia, New Zealand, China, the European Union, Japan, France and the United States of America.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of other partners, South Korea, India, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Italy, Cuba and Canada and multilateral Institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other UN agencies.

Madam Chair, Distinguished guests Ladies and Gentlemen. The world destiny is in our hands. "Culture of Peace derives only from having LOVE and RESPECT for our neighbours"

Thank you all for your attention. I wish you all a happy meaningful commemoration of this International United Nations Day having just had its 63rd General Assembly Last September 2008.

May God Bless the United Nations and the efforts of Women's Federation for World Peace.

May God Bless us all.

Thank you

## *2008 'Woman of Peace' Award Recipient*

### **Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki-Caesar**

Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki-Caesar was born in New Zealand. She is a recognized Maori Elder in Queensland, Australia, and a World Peace Speaker. Her name Merekaraka, meaning "Miracle Awakened", was the name of her ancestor who played a leading role in bringing peace between the Maoris and early British settlers in New Zealand.

Mrs Tipoki-Caesar is the Founder and President of Whanau Trust, a humanitarian trust in New Zealand which provides programs for social, cultural and economic welfare, vocational training and health services. It also promotes the return of sacred lands to native people in the Northern East Coast region of New Zealand.

In 2005 she founded Wahine Maori, a non-profit cultural organization on the Gold Coast, Queensland, of which she is the President. This organization promotes 1000 year-old traditional Maori arts, performing and visual, as well as working through film, video, television, radio and community arts to nurture values intrinsic to Maori culture. The organisation also supports families, and is involved with youth justice conferencing with the Department of Communities.

On an international level, Mrs Tipoki-Caesar is Executive Cultural Advisor for an international Movie Humanity Advisory Board- a timely, practical leadership initiative. Mrs Merekaraka is the Cultural Coordinator of orphanages in Thailand and a T.V. program for pre-school children in association with Mom Dusdi Paribatri, the Royal Princess of Thailand. She is also Director for Humanitarian Housing for Thailand and Latin America and coordinator of The Diabetes Medical Centre for Paiute Nation and Cheyenne Native Americans.

At Congress 2007 of the World Peace Conference Mrs Tipoki-Caesar was Moderator of a Panel and at Congress 2009 she will also moderate a Panel. Merekaraka is an Ambassador for Peace with the Universal Peace Federation in Queensland.

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# Mrs Aivu Tauvasa, outgoing Trade Commissioner, Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission

Mrs Aivu Tauvasa, the Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commissioner ([www.pitic.org.au/](http://www.pitic.org.au/)), was interviewed by Mamiko Rattley and Tracy DeGeer. Mrs Aivu Tauvasa has a reputation for integrity and service and has successfully balanced raising a family while fulfilling extensive career commitments.

## What has been your life journey to this point?

Only a handful of women from PNG have jobs outside of PNG at an influential level. Almost all had a church boarding school education, which is what I attribute much of our success to. My school was run by Church of England missionaries and involved chores like getting up early to bake bread for breakfast or milk cows. I now appreciate my strict disciplined school days. I learned life values that continue to empower me. I also learned the value of prayer, the best de-stresser – certainly better than any pill!

I went on to gain an Arts Degree in PNG and later a primary school teacher's certificate in Canada. I returned to PNG, got married and unable to get a job (I was told I was over qualified!) I accompanied my husband Joe (who was the Controller for Civil Aviation within the Department of Transport) to the United States and while he completed a double Masters Degree in Aviation Management and Aeronautical Sciences, I used the opportunity while there to self fund my MBA degree, also in Aviation Management.

## How do you relate to your countrymen? How do you balance your work and family?

I've grown into my current position out of my background living and travelling in PNG and many other parts of the western world, as well as out of my formal education. It is a position where I can be a bridge between the traditional and the modern, as well as mentoring women in the formal small business sector and helping their personal development.

My husband and I seek to be role models, understanding the need for development through economic activities without losing the importance of tradition and its merits to family togetherness. We encourage people to think about how they can contribute to the well being of their societies. I am aware of the delicate balancing act of family and work and am grateful for my husband's support, especially with frequent commuting between Sydney and Port Moresby; otherwise I could not have continued for so long in this position. We have had frequent discussions to work out the best way to look after our young son and his early education, and maintain a positive balance in our marriage.

## What is your actual work as trade commissioner of PITIC?

PITIC is funded by AusAID and the responsibilities of the position range from business, enterprise and investment development support for the Pacific Islands to capacity building initiatives such as upgrading website and desktop publishing skills. Our work also complements the broad socio-economic programs of our head office in Fiji. I would like to think that part of my role has also been to strengthen the philosophical approach of those I have engaged with in promoting good ethics and non discrimi-



*Mrs Aivu Tauvasa (right) and Mrs Sashi Kiran / Director of Fiji FRIEND*

nation against women or men.

There are special needs and unique opportunities for businesses in the Pacific. I recognise that there are inherent challenges such as lack of capital, coaching and mentoring, business extensions services etc. Then there are the phenomenal costs of doing business in the Islands. But against this background, we encourage people to take the initiative to service their own local needs and to use the strength of sharing, traditional values and the clan system to specialise in products and services to look after themselves before looking to engage in broader commercial fields through specialised business activities.

## How can Pacific Island nations improve?

I am concerned about the notion that education is a means to an end or that it is only for formal academic ability purposes. Rather, education should be about building a human being – all aspects – on an ongoing basis and empowering them to cope, manage and be the best they can in life and positively, too. It is about being a good role model to someone needing one; encouraging one to develop the whole self; learning to live and work together to achieve good common outcomes even with those from different backgrounds ie cultural, social, economic and political circumstances and of course even if we disagree with them we need to respect them.

I believe we need change in our societal and cultural attitudes to prevent our people from being dependent on the might of the “big man” attitude – it should not be about the adulation of individuals because of wealth and power, it should be about forging common sense, ethical leadership values and qualities in local communities.

I hope I can continue to encourage people to dream and have a bigger vision for themselves and their own lives as well as for their nations and what they can do to bring about change for good. ■



*International UN Day Reception at Parliament House*



*Dr Lan Young Moon,  
President WFWP International*



*Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar  
Woman of Peace Award Recipient*



*Jynene Helland,  
Vice President WFWP  
International, Oceania*



*Hon Penny Sharpe MP with WFWP representatives  
from Kenya and Taiwan*



*The Collaroy Conference Centre*



*Felicity Cairns,  
President WFWP NZ with  
representative from California*

*Closing Banquet at the Oceania Peace Embassy*



## ACTIVITIES WITH DRUG FREE AUSTRALIA

Report by Mamiko Rattley

### A FORUM AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG USE

WFWP sponsored a forum to commemorate the "United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," on Saturday 28 June 2008 in Sydney in partnership with Drug Free Australia (DFA).

Australia's illicit drug use is the highest of all nations in the world, Ms Josephine Baxter, Chief Executive Officer of DFA explained in her talk on "The Important Role of Drug Prevention." She emphasised that a person addicted to drugs affects not only himself or herself but also their family and community. She urged each one of us to become a DFA representative and promote "harm prevention", not the politically popular "harm minimisation."

Major Brian Watters, a director of DFA, former chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs and Australia's representative to the UN International Narcotics Control Board, has travelled extensively, and under the topic "Drug Control – an International Perspective" gave us much surprising information on drug production, trafficking and use in many key nations.

How can we solve the crisis with illicit drugs? UPF's Rev Enrique Ledesma, who spoke on "The Phenomena of Substance Abuse and its Underlying Causes," chief of which, he said, is family breakdown. We need to build good families, to raise good citizens. Somebody well supported by a good family is better placed to resist temptation under peer pressure, and more likely to enjoy natural "high"s.

### PETITION CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE UN'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Last year we started to promote this campaign through WFWP network of women. Also Ms Marina Chan and Mrs Avelina Carson approached the Media and universities.

Thank you for those who did sign up and gave support for the UN to keep its strong stand against Drugs. If you didn't do so, you have a few weeks until the vote at UN Drug Control Conventions in March this year in Vienna. Please go to [www.ungassdrugs.org](http://www.ungassdrugs.org) and click 'Project Sundial'.

### THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

WFWP is going to work closely with DFA to approach communities and schools to promote

1. Drug prevention,
2. Character & values education programs.  
"NO" to drugs and "Yes" to Life!

### WORKSHOP FOR FACILITATORS ON SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY AT THE OCEANIA PEACE EMBASSY

1. The Purpose is to understand drug facts
2. Make strategies to promote character to overcome abuse

We would like to encourage everyone to learn special skills to reach out and protect our families from the threat of illicit drug and alcohol abuse.

### What are current drug statistics?

ANCD (Australian National Council on Drugs) report – 2008

In any given week

- 1 in 7 secondary school students use cannabis
- Over 67,000 secondary students have used amphetamines



*WFWP leaders and DFA directors*

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Guests filled the hall to overflowing sharing a delicious meal followed by some entertainment from The Doves, the WFWP inter faith choir. Mr Les Saxby an Aboriginal performer who entertained us on the didgeridoo and shared about Aboriginal culture and the Tahiti Dance Group. It was a very enjoyable night celebrating the success of the conference and just being together as sisters.

### Saturday 25 Oct

On Saturday morning Mrs Dianne Simboro gave a very moving Morning Peace Service to begin the day. She spoke about her experiences in Africa where people were so very poor. She saw children dying because of insufficient medical support. She spoke of some lessons she had learnt.

The day's program began with a sightseeing tour in the Botanic Gardens stopping for photos at the Opera House on our way to the Rocks for lunch.

The WFWP International Board Meeting was held at the Oceania Peace Embassy in the early afternoon. Included on the agenda was some time for reflections on the conference and discussion on the location for next year's conference. South America and Africa got the most support for a location

as these are the only regions that have not hosted a WFWP International annual conference. The final decision for the location will be announced in early 2009.

On Saturday night WFWP participants were special guests at the 'Living for Others' Awards night hosted by the Universal Peace Federation. The room was filled with around 450 Ambassadors for Peace and community leaders. 'Living for Others' Awards were presented to eleven recipients including Mrs Agnes Shim, WFWP member and President of the Sydney Korean Women's Association for her tireless work for the Korean community in NSW. Dr Lan Young Moon presented a special 'Woman of Peace' award to Mrs Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar for her extensive work with the Indigenous communities in New Zealand and Australia.

### Sunday 26 Oct

We had our final Morning Peace Service sharing reflections. We said our good byes till we meet again next year and left inspired to continue our WFWP activities with renewed zeal and determination. ■

## Women's Federation for World Peace

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A Membership application form is printed below for your convenience.

### Women's Federation for World Peace • Membership application form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full membership:  Associate membership:

*Please send this form to your local WFWP Office*