# ICW-CIR

Newsletter No. 60 / MAY 2017



# **Contents**

- 2 Message from the President
- 4 Reports on UN CSW61
- 11 Review on UN CSW61
- **12** Upcoming Events
- 13 ECICW Spring General Assembly in Tunis
- 15 NCW News

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN



**CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES** 



# Message from the President



Dear ICW sisters and friends,

Greetings! It is always such a great pleasure and honor to work with you, to share your passion and wisdom regarding improving the plight of women and the advancement of ICW. Spring has come and gone in the blink of an eye and summer now sets in. Time marches forward, and so do we!

Last March, I attended the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The session was held from March 13th to the 24th with the theme "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work". ICW hosted two events during UN CSW61, both of which were on March 16th. The first, a parallel event co-hosted with the Korean National Council of Women (KNCW) embraced the theme "Transformative Politics and Women's Leadership". The second, a side event, sponsored by the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, ROK, focused on "Strategies to Transform: Empowering Women for Economic Rights". In my humble opinion, both events were extremely successful in accomplishing their objectives.

In addition, ICW co-hosted and/or sponsored other events working with various NCWs and UN organizations during CSW 61.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to all ICW delegates, participants, and all the speakers for their remarkable effort to make these events so successful. In both of our side and parallel events, we have seriously reviewed strategies to transform our society through women's empowerment in the political and economic fields.

I would like to remind you all that we, ICW, have adopted the triennial theme of "Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment" at the 34th ICW General Assembly held in Izmir, Turkey in May 2015. As the gender that bears, gives birth and nurtures life, women can transform the society through women's caring and loving leadership. The time is right for our very best efforts to transform society through the empowerment of women.

The kind of transformation we envision can easily be distinguished from ordinary or conventional social change. We are less concerned with what might be called "surface change," although some aspects would certainly be desirable, and far more concerned with what we might call "deep change". Targeting personal, organizational and systemic change, we see the potential to create a different kind of politics.



We also want politics that uses power to create change, to develop people, and to build communities; that is non-hierarchical and participatory in its structures and processes. We, women want equality in numbers, in power, and in responsibility. But we want to use power differently.

When we examine political and economic reality in today's world, it can leave us with a feeling of despair. For now, only 17 nations are led by women. Globally, women serving in national assemblies constitute only 23.3% of the total body. Only about half of the world's women participate in what might be called meaningful economic activity. On average, women receive only 64% of the wage of men. Women continue to face formidable glass ceilings at work, and the number of women on the boards of corporations is only 0.9% in the Middle East, 6.4% in Latin America, and 9.4% in Asia-Pacific, 20.3% in Europe and 19.2% in the USA. (Korea has only 2.1% women on the boards of corporate directors.) On the other hand, Scandinavian countries stand in stark contrast with roughly half of board members being female.

Scandinavian countries do not stand alone in what they've accomplished. Let's look at the Rwanda Case, where 61% of the legislators are women. They could pass the laws giving women the right to own assets, which has led to 40% of business now run by women.

There is much to learn from these countries where women have fought for change. You can be sure the transformations did not come easily, and nor are the transformations complete even in the exemplary countries, but there is a reason for optimism just as there is a necessity for hard work.

I believe with all my heart that we women can change the world to a better place by uniting our effort to empower women. Let us all, ICW sisters and friends, be at the forefront of bringing about positive transformation. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Jungsook Kim (Ed. D.)

Dangak!

**President of ICW** 



#### **Reports on UN CSW 61**

# ICW-CIF at the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women New York, USA 14<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017



Priority theme Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work

Review theme Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eight session)

Emerging issue/Focus area The empowerment of indigenous women

The 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 13 through 24, 2017. The primary focus was on the theme of "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of employment". In addition, there was a review of progress made on the 58th session theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls."

#### **Opening Ceremony**

On March 13, 2017, at the Opening Ceremony in the UN General Assembly, United Nations Secretary-General H.E António Guterres and the bureau members, CSW Chair Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Vice-Chair Fatma Al Zahraa Hassan, Vice-Chair Sejla Durbuzovic, Vice-Chair Jun Saito, Vice Chair Andreas Gloassner, and representatives of civil society welcomed one another to the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

The Secretary General António Guterres made opening remarks at the CSW61. He emphasized that "... in a male dominated world, the empowerment of women must be a key priority. Women already have what it takes to succeed. Empowerment is about breaking structural barriers. Men still dominate, even in countries that consider themselves as progressive. Male chauvinism blocks women – and that hurts everyone." He also encouraged all countries to address the gender gap at work, which he contended would generate sufficient revenue to underpin the success of the 2030 Agenda.



Secretary General Guterres touched on the issue of widespread discrimination against women and how



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opens the 61st Commission on the Status of Women in New York. © UN Women

"women's rights are, in effect, human rights--- and attacks against, and maltreatment of, women are attacks on all of us." He also emphasized that our world needs more women leaders, that men should have greater concern for the plight of women, and that men should take a firm stand in support of gender equality. He pledged that he would be a proactive ally of the women's movement. His concluding note of encouragement was: "Keep pushing. Keep inspiring. Keep making a difference."

Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized the relatively slow progress made toward gender equality: "The much-needed positive developments are not happening fast enough, nor are they reaching tipping point in numbers of lives changed... let us agree to constructive

impatience." She also stressed issues of unequal pay and under appreciation of women's work as well as limited work opportunities of women resulting in the existing serious gender gap. She concluded by accentuating the importance of CSW: "What you agree to do during this CSW could well be an



accelerator for the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda"

The opening ceremony recognized the fact that the SDGs are central in combating structural barriers related to the empowerment of women in the work place. There was also clear acknowledgement that the elimination of gender inequality in the work place will have the effect of strengthening women's participations and empowerments in a macro-economic context.

#### **Strong Civil Society Presence**

Despite severely adverse weather conditions, more than 3800 civil society representatives from 138 countries attended United Nations 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) from 13- 24 March 2017. On 17 March, delegates seized the opportunity for dialogue with the new Secretary General of the United Nations in the form of a town hall meeting. The purpose was to assess and ensure his commitment to women's empowerment.





Those present, in addition to the International Council of Women (ICW) President, Jungsook Kim, included board members, ICW First Vice President and President of NCW of Taiwan, Linda Liu, ICW Vice President, Elisabeth Newman, Treasurer and President of CNF France, Martine Marandel, Permanent UN Representatives,

Iryna Kurowyckyj, Brigitte Polonovski, Elizabeth Carll, Jeanne Kim, and ICW secretary Dohee Kim. Delegates from ICW family included Monica Tolman and three youth delegates from NCW Great Britain, Ikbal Mourad Doughan, President of Lebanese Council of Women, Rae Duff, President of NCW New Zealand, Ayesha Javeri, President of APWA Pakistan, Athenia Kuo and Erika Chao from NCW of Taiwan, Lyudmyla Porohnyak, President of NCW Ukraine, and Margo La Zaro. Besides attending UN events, ICW delegates took opportunity to network with other delegates from National Councils and other women's organizations around the world during the conference.

#### ICW Parallel Event: Transformative Politics and Women's Leadership.

All ICW events took place on 16 March 2017, as scheduled. The parallel event on *Transformative Politics* and *Women's Leadership*, was co-hosted by the International Council of Women (ICW) and the Korean



National Council of Women (KNCW), and was sponsored by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea. This event took place at the Hardin Room in Church Center to commence ICW events. It ran from 12:30 PM to 14:00 PM, with about 100 participants from around the world.

In addition to substantive discussion of the characteristics and challenges of women's political leadership, the speakers also suggested a range of methods which could act to strengthen women's leadership in the political arena. President Kim opened the event with a short speech to welcome the speakers and participants and to introduce the topic.

Dr. Kim underscored the notion that transformation must be both development based and gender responsive in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). She also stressed that women



should actively participate in politics to transform current male-dominated political systems. She then introduced the moderator of the event, Ms. Martina Gredler, Chair of NGO/CSW in Vienna and a former European MP, who took the reigns of the event.

The first speaker, Ms. Irene Natividad, President of the Global Summit of Women, lamented the lackluster state of women's political leadership in the world. With merely 17 women national leaders, an average of 18.1% of women ministers and 23% of women parliamentarians, women have a long way to go before achieving gender equality in the realm of politics.

She stressed the need for role models so that younger women and men grow up knowing that women also belong in positions of power. Ms. Natividad also highlighted the critical need for women to vigorously participate in politics in order to alter the political culture of the government. Citing Rwanda, where 61% of the legislators are women, she spoke of how female legislators



passed laws giving women the right to own assets. This, in turn, has led to 40% of business now being run by women.



Renowned women's activist and scholar, Dr. Charlotte Bunch spoke about the current world crisis created by the ascendance of populist patriarchal strongmen to top leadership positions.

More importantly, she pointed out that women's leadership is not in itself transformative, but rather, women leaders should make a conscious effort to ensure

that their leadership is indeed transformative. She echoed Ms. Natividad's view that women should vote for candidates, even if they are male, who hold feminist ideals as an important part of their platform and see themselves as an advocate for women's advancement. Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada and UN Secretary General Guterres are good examples of such.

Dr. Bunch stressed that we cannot have democracy if half of the population is not fairly represented in politics. She further emphasized that studies show that women in leadership positions do make a difference only if there is a critical mass of women in politics, at least 25-30%, therefore she urged more women to become actively involved in politics.

Noting that constituency partially makes up for lack of funds and power limitations that traditionally characterize women, she suggested that women politicians should go into office with a constituency of women and feminist men who can help them change the way politics is done. She also made reference to women leaders coming under verbal and physical attack. In response, she stressed the importance



of women activists and organizations to fervently defend women leaders and convince men that "the future is female."

Dr. Pam Rajput, Professor at Punjab University, presented an analysis of women leaders around the Asian region. She found that in Asia there are two distinct models of female political leadership.



One is the old model of political legacy or relations by family members. These women tend to carry the burden of their family legacy and the inability to overcome such legacy despite possessing outstanding leadership skills. In many of these instances throughout Asia, allegations of corruption and nepotism have been used to remove the woman leader from power once she attempts to bring change.



A second, and newer, model is that of the single woman with no family connections. Several examples of this model can be found in today's East Asia nations-- e.g., President Tsai Ing Wen of Taiwan and Yuriko Koike of Japan, but it remains to be seen how successful representatives of this model will be. Dr. Rajput stressed the importance of women political leaders keeping communication and dialogue open

with women's organizations after they have gained office. She also spoke about how women leaders often face physical threats to their power, citing many women leaders in India who have come under verbal attacks and physical arrest.

With a theme of "Political Development and a Woman Leader's Leadership and a focus on President Park, Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea", Dr. Youngae Ha gave an analysis of women's political leadership in Korea, identifying the pitfalls and perils of leadership that led to President Park's impeachment.

As a comparison, Dr. Youngae Ha used different types of political leader's leadership and general political theories to examine President Park's leadership skills comparing with other well-recognized women political leaders around the world. These include lack of communication, ineffective persuasion, lack of support, privatization of power, small circle of trust, and fake news. At the end of her informative presentation, she included that 'it might be judged that the feminist leadership of token status causes a more negative influence when it is viewed through state affairs headed by woman president who is the chief of state, especially in Oriental society'.



#### ICW Side Event: Strategies to Transform: Empowering Women for Economic Rights



ICW Side event Strategies to Transform: Empowering Women for Economic Rights was held from 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm in the United Nations General Assembly building. More than 150 participants were able to squeeze into Conference Room 8 before the security guard barred more from entering.



The speakers at this event provided a wealth of information on the state of women's economic empowerment in various regions around the world, as well as existing collaborative programs and government policies and measures that encourage job creation and employment. Eager for the experts to take the podium, President Jungsook Kim commenced the event introducing the ICW and its historical emphasis on the advancement of women's economic rights. She ended her talk by

introducing ICW Vice-President Linda Liu, the moderator for the event. After making a few points on the main topic, Linda introduced each of the invited speakers.

The first speaker, Ms. Meg Jones, Chief of Economic Empowerment of UN Women, stressed that the UN in general and its Secretary General in particular fully appreciated that without women's empowerment we cannot achieve SDGs. She spoke of the United Nations efforts working with Member States to reduce the gender gap in labor participation through job creation and procurement policies.

She stressed that countries need to drive change through creating jobs and removing barriers to women's economic participation. She also spoke of the need for international organizations to work together with businesses and governments to establish gender responsive budgeting and policies as well as to encourage procurement from women-owned enterprises. Moreover, member states should



provide gender equal education so that women and girls can develop necessary skills for employment in the changing workplace.

The next speaker, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN from the Republic of Korea, Ambassador





Ms. Youngju Oh drew on her own experience as the first woman to enter the Foreign Ministry to discuss how women can break barriers in employment.

She emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach by governments, with legislation, measures and education, to increase women's labor participation. For example, the government of Korea has adopted measures, including professional

skills training, for young women as well as provision of maternity leave, to encourage women to enter the labor force. She concluded by stating that economic empowerment of women is the smartest goal for any government.

The last speaker, Ms. Alicia Hammond, a gender specialist at the World Bank, identified the causes for gender wage and employment inequality and suggested some solutions to reducing these gaps, e.g., providing women access to legal and financial resources, eliminating occupational segregation, alleviating women's burden of care, and reducing education and skills disparity.



Ms. Hammond spoke about World Bank collaborative programs in member countries leading to reduction of skill and employment gaps. These programs include improving water provision and sanitation facilities so that girls do not have to spend half the day carrying water to their homes, thereby freeing more time for more productive enterprise.

These inspiring talks stimulated a host of questions from the floor for all three speakers. In answering, the speakers cited more concrete examples of the work that international governmental organizations, such as the United Nations and World Bank, have undertaken which stimulate advancement toward women's economic empowerment. For example, the United Nations is launching a virtual skills school this year. When time was up, many women approached the speakers with yet more questions.



Both of these events attracted many young delegates in the audience. It is evident from the lively Q&A sessions that they are keenly interested in both political and economic empowerment. They are eager to take their place at the decision-making tables and want

to know how best to achieve their goals as expeditiously as possible. Through these CSW events, more people have become increasingly aware of the ICW and its mission for the advancement of women's rights and equality.



#### **Review on CSW 61**

This year ICW-CIF had a diverse delegation of 30 plus at CSW61 which included delegates accredited by the National Councils of Great Britain and Korea. It was particularly pleasing to have had an increased number of young NCW members two of whom had attended CSW previously. Great Britain is to be commended for accrediting four of the young women, two of



whom also attend the Youth Forum held just prior to CSW. All found the experience most beneficial and plan to return for future CSWs.

As has been the custom over recent years, delegates were invited to meet over a meal the evening prior to the opening of CSW. It was a time to renew friendships and form new ones with first time delegates. During the two weeks of the Commission Dr. Jungsook Kim was available, following the Morning Briefings, to meet with delegates to exchange information.

Morning Briefings, run by the NGO CSW/NY were held each week day from 14th - 23rd March. Guest speakers included Under -Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzle Mlambo-Ngcuka, The Secretary-General, António Guterres and Antonio de Aguiar Patriota Chair of CSW. All outlined their aspirations to advance the empowerment of women and gender equality.



As in previous years, ICW-CIF's participation in CSW61 was most successful. Both the Parallel and Sides Events, "Transformative Politics and Women's Leadership" and "Strategies to Transform: Empowering Women for Economic Rights", respectively, were highly commended with the rooms full to overflowing, as was the side event, "Violence, Crises and Non-Communicable Diseases: Implications for Global Health and Well-Being for

Women and Girls" organised by two NY Representatives to the UN for ICW-CIF.

There were also several other successful events co-sponsored by ICW-CIF and/or run by NCs and associated organisations. A written statement was submitted and accepted but unfortunately the oral statement was not. Due to the high number of statements submitted and the few that are accepted, an organisation is lucky to have a statement accepted. The ICW-CIF statement was not wasted; it was used as the basis for the statement the Council issued to mark IWD.

Towards the end of the second week there was a move to restrict NGO access to the UN building one evening; intervention by UN Women permitted NGO delegates to stay longer, also discussions on the "Agreed Conclusion" was moved to an area off limits to NGOs restricting their access to Mission delegates. A petition to the Chair of



CSW, of which ICW-CIF was a signatory, contributed to resolving the issue for the following day. The incidence was described as "outrageous" by Susan O'Malley, chair of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee. In his remarks at the closing of CSW61, the Chair of the CSW said "There should be no shrinking space for Civil Society". Those of us who have been attending CSW for some years are very aware of the gradual increased restrictions placed on NGOs. It is said they are necessary because of the increased number of NGO's and therefore delegates attending the Commission.

It was very pleasing a consensus was reached on the Agreed Conclusions (the Outcome Document). This document is for a use by States and Civil Society. National Councils are urged to study and use it together with the ICW-CIF Plans of Action. Some ICW-CIF members feel the Council should have better input into the negotiations around the Agreed Conclusions and thus further increase ICW-CIF's visibility at CSW: this is to be looked at for CSW62. By attending some briefings for delegates from Australia I did learn how negotiations were progressing with the Agreed Conclusions.



Between attending several parallel and side events each day, I had good opportunity for net-working.

It was a pleasure to have again had the opportunity to assist with organising ICW-CIF's programme. Dr. Jungsook Kim is to be thanked for her generosity, particularly in making sure we were well fed. Thanks also to all the delegates, including the three

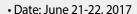
or four without accreditation so could only attend the NGO CSW events, who contributed in making CSW61 a success for ICW-CIF.

Elisabeth Newman, ICW-CIF Vice President

# **Upcoming Events**



#### 2017 ICW-CIF Spring Board Meeting



• Venue: Best Western Plus, Ottawa, Canada



#### **ECICW Autumn General Assembly**

- Date: Sept. 28- Oct. 2, 2017
- · Venue: Pavia, Italy



#### Celebrate Canada's 150th with NCW Canada

- Date: June 22-25, 2017
- Venue: Best Western Plus, Ottawa, Canada



# **Report: ECICW General Assembly**

## **The Role of Women in the Democratic Transition**



Hosted by the National Council of Women in Tunisia (Union Nationale del la Femme Tunisienne) the ECICW General Assembly with the theme of "The Role of Women in the Democratic Transition" was held from 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017 in Tunis, Tunisia.

In her introduction the President of the

NCW Tunisia Radhia Jerbi said that women are in the Centre of the political confrontation in Tunisia. Women as Agents of Change have the duty to promote themselves in the society by a better level of education.

In the first Constitution passed after the revolution of the Arab Spring in 2011 it was said that women are considered according to the religious tradition as a complement in the men's earthly life (art. 46). Then after the historical march of August 13, 2014 this article was abolished.

In her presentation the Minister of Women and Family Hon. Nazila Labidi mentioned that she concentrates her activity on the ground level by providing help to raped women as well as legal assistance to all needy women.

Saida Zniber, active member of the NCW Morocco described the work of her association by the decentralization of the 63 Centres in urban and rural areas. Thanks to the support of King Mohammed VI the family law is progressively modernized.

Leila Kayat, Vice President of the Arab Council of Women and former President of the International Association of Women Entrepreneurs insisted on the fact that maternity should not be a fatality. She also said that women's leadership has a real transformative effect if 2 conditions are realized: women should definitely vote for women and they should act to encourage other or themselves in politics. Her slogan: Alone a woman is invisible, together women are invincible.

In her speech Cosima Schenk stated that a real democracy should be evaluated according to the place and the rights granted to women. Besides facing the uncertainty of the world political situation women's issues have lost importance.

Tunisia and other countries around the Mediterranean shared in the past the same destiny as Europe for the best, but also for the worst. One of the main objectives of ECICW is to reinforce its network and support to the rather new women's organizations around the Mediterranean and to the Eastern European countries.

No country in the world has achieved the process of equality. The democratic process remains a challenge for women and depends on the degree of integration of them in the societies, which was in the past and is



nowadays still so often denied.

#### **ECICW General Assembly Spring Session**

Cosima Schenk opened the meeting by expressing her gratitude to the President Radhia Jerbi for hosting the event, to Mrs. Leila Kayat and to our Board member and President of CNFF Martine Marandel for making the meeting possible. Joelle Letsch as General Secretary accomplished also a great job in circulating all the documents under pressure of time.

The ECICW President expressed also her gratitude to ICW President Jungsook Kim who came from Korea to attend our regional meeting.

President Kim expressed also her appreciation to have the opportunity to speak about the achievements of ICW around the world. She gave us information about the Executive Committee Meeting held in Taiwan in November 14-17, 2016. The Taiwanese government together with the NCW Taiwan Linda Liu made out of the ECM a successful event. Besides she spoke about the participation of ICW in the CSW 61 in New York last March.

In her report Cosima Schenk recalled the meeting we had in Moscow last May 2016, the seminar hosted by the NCW Northern Cyprus, the General Assembly of ECICW presided by Fatos Inal in Taipei. Besides she mentioned the rather difficult issue of getting new affiliations.

#### **Council of Europe**

Our Representative to the CoE Brigitte Le Gouis sends us regularly reports on the women's issues dealt at this important international Entity in the field of Human Rights.

National reports were circulated among our members produced by 15 National Councils. This figure is very satisfactory. Reports are important for us all in recognizing specific problems in different countries. For the Board it is the only way to identify priorities and to make up its policy. The highlights of each of one will be later on evaluated and circulated. In the meeting some important issues were pointed out, such as the relation between violence and lack of education, the benefit women can experience from the micro-credit, the intercultural trends in the Euro-Med region.

One stressed also that investments in youth-led initiatives and education are perceived as the best response to conflicts and radicalization of terrorist movements.

Elected to the new Board 2017–19 were: Cosima Schenk, President, Joëlle Letsch, Rosa Artigas, Fatos Inal, Vice-Presidents, Jamal Herès, General Secretary, Radhia Jerbi, Assistant General Secretary, Ludovina Moreira, Treasurer and Martine Marandel, Co-opted board member.

Cosima Schenk, ECICW President



## **NCW News**

#### **National Council of Women of Taiwan**



Over 100 members and guests attended the 2016 Annual Meeting of the NCW of Taiwan, ROC (NCWT) held on 14 January 2017. In addition to conducting its regular business meeting, NCWT invited Mr. Bing Li Yen, a real estate investment expert to speak about the current trends and situation of real estate investments in Taiwan. This was one of our activities on the ICW

Triennial Theme, "Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment." It was a very vibrant Q&A session, demonstrating the depth of our members' interest in economic empowerment.

On 22 February 2017, several presidents of NCWT member organizations attended the Spring Tea Party and Banquet held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry hosted this annual event at the historical Taipei Guest House for NGOs with whom they have collaborated during the year.

On 8th of March, NCWT attended the National Women's League International Women's Day Celebration. At the tea party, the National Women's League gave a historical recollection of its work to empower women and children as well as service to society during the last 60 years.

Three delegates from NCWT, including its President, Linda Liu, flew to New York to attend the CSW 61 at the United Nations. The first night, they attended the dinner reception generously hosted by ICW President Jungsook Kim for ICW delegates. In addition to attending the excellent ICW sponsored events, they participated in a town hall meeting with the new Secretary-General of the United Nations where NGO delegates had the opportunity to hear directly from him about his support for gender equality and commitment to bring gender equality to the top echelons of the United Nations. NCWT delegates often met with ICW Board Members and fellow NCW delegates at the briefings and meetings held by fellow NCWs and other organizations. CSW 61 is not only an excellent venue for networking with delegates from other international women's organizations, but also, important for discerning the pulse, progress, work and trends of the world's women.

Linda Liu, President of NCW Taiwan

#### National Council of Women of Indonesia (KOWANI)

Kowani as an organizational federation of 90 women's organizations at the national level with 52 million members spread across Indonesia, almost all activities (included education) undertaken by Kowani have involved



the media, why? Because Kowani aware of the role of the media in order to deliver the goal positively to the community, so that the echoes can reach all corners of the region so that it will produce multiple effects.

These are the two activities of Kowani, among others, involving the media:



1. Healthy Living Community and Family Healthy Movement is a movement that involves the community directly in creating healthy life behavior. This movement is in line with the goal of health development in Indonesia that is to increase awareness, willingness and ability to live healthy for everyone to realize the highest level of public health as an investment for the development of human resources that are productive socially

and economically.

Working closely with the Ministry of Health, KOWANI held four "Journalist Information Forum" meetings, which are a facilitation forum for electronic media journalists, newspaper media and online media in promoting clean and healthy living behavior through positive and constructive news so that it can be appointed by the media to be submitted to the community

The result of the 4-time meeting is 120 news coverage in newspapers, online media, radio and television

2. Fun Walk themed "Healthy Mother, Healthy Indonesia" this time to commemorate Mother's Day in Indonesia which is also a memorial Kowani, currently there are 2,800 participants who participated in activities where the results of its activities could be visible at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kelryw16io&t=13s

The purpose of this activity is to invite the community to know, have a will and be able to to become a change agent to participate in the decline efforts of maternal mortality rate which is still high in Indonesia (approximately 359 / 100,000 live births)

Giwo Rubianto Wiyogo, President of KOWANI

#### **National Council of Women of Israel (CWOI)**

The National Council of Israel – CWOI – is pleased to report about the activities undertaken by its member organizations during the last six months:

Under the auspices of the Department for International Organizations of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Round-Table dealing with Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals, was held at the prestigious Herzlya University Campus. Five female speakers gave inspiring views on different areas of concern such as: Leadership and Decision-Making, Equal Opportunities, Education and Training, Women at Work, Women's Rights, Domestic Violence, Institutional Mechanisms, etc. The results conclusions formed part of a declaration which was



submitted to Israeli policy makers and to UN specialized agencies, such as UN-WOMEN.

In the months of November and December, several events took part throughout the country, marking the International Day for Combating Violence against Women and the International Day for Human Rights. On that occasion, a series of lectures and workshops were organized, in cooperation with municipalities and the civil society. A vibrant debate in the electronic media allowed women to speak out, to claim their rights and to analyze gender differences. Women's rights awareness within the public sphere has increased, and the language of rights has permeated into Israeli daily life.

We took part in a ceremony marking the International Women's Day, held at the Israeli Parliament - The Knesset. The Minister for Social Equality, MK Gila Gamliel, spoke about the role of the Government and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals', especially Goal 5.

CWOI organized an event on the topic of women leadership in a multicultural society, with the participation of women judges (Ethiopian origin), woman member of the Parliament (Ethiopian origin), women high rank officers in the army and leaders in the municipality council etc.

Aviva Kohlmann, President of CWOI

#### **National Council of Women of Austria**



Book launch at the Museum of Technology, Vienna, Jan 2017

After the death of the former Federal Minister for Women Affairs and Health, Dr. Sabine Oberhauser, a new Minister was appointed, Dr. Pamela Rendi-Wagner in March 2017.

NCW Austria participated in the book launch of "Waere Ada ein Mann" (If Ada would be a Man) at the Museum of Technology in Vienna. The NCW Austria president was invited to write a preface and spoke on the organizations involvement in the efforts related to female engineers,

architects and scientists in the field of technology since its foundation and outstanding women in this field. An exhibition accompanied the book launch and is still on.

The UNIDO Gender advisor spoke on "UNIDO and Gender Equality: The move towards accountability", a NCW Austria event with great attendance and interesting discussions, underlining the great importance UNIDO is giving to women issues.

Some interesting events on Women's Day: At the UNIDO: "From smart economies to smart workplaces", at the University for Music and Performing Arts (mdw) "Spiel/Macht/Raeume" the presentation of the new virtual platform, a new room and an exhibition "Women at the mdw 1817-2017" on women musicians, female composers, and scientists, showing a number of members of the Club der Wiener Musikerinnen (member



organization of NCW Austria) from history and our days.

"Generation Y - Challenges of the Future for female Medical Doctors - Report on the 30th International Congress of MIWA held in Vienna" was the theme of another lecture by the president of the member organization "Organisation der Aerztinnen Oesterreichs" (Organization of Medical Women Austria) focusing on the problems to motivate young women to become members of volunteer organizations.

An exhibition "Women of the Republic (The political battle for equality in Austria since 1918" at the Dr. Karl Renner Museum at Gloggnitz is dedicated to the courageous women who paved the way for us. A number of former members of NCW Austria are shown and their merits are described.

On the European Data Privacy Day a lecture "The new data protection bill in the EU" at the chancellery was attended by the NCW Austria president.

As Austria has the presidency of the OSCE in 2017 we are attending all the related conferences and briefings.



NCW Malta meets NCW Austria, Dec 2016

We thank Doris Bingley, Hon.Secr. of NCW Malta, and Therese Cassola for having met our member Antonia Beck-Mannagetta during her visit in Malta to discuss ICW and UN representation in Vienna.

NCW Austria is participating in symposia and meetings at the ministries and in all meetings of the Platform International Affairs and Gender at the Federal Ministry for Women Affairs dealing with updates on the EU, UN (CSW), CEDAW country reviews and actual

development related to women issues such as pensions, child care, part time etc.

In my capacity of the ICW Representative to the UN in Vienna and to the UNIDO I am drawing the attention of the participants of conferences to the work of the ICW and participate actively in the NGO Committees on the

Status of Women, on Ageing, on Drugs, on Peace, on the Family and in the Vienna NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Afterwards I am briefing the members of the NCW Austria on that. During the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a side event was organized by the ICW together with WIZO on "Addiction and Gender" with speakers from the Med. Univ. Vienna, the Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona and the Ruth House in Israel. It was a great success also for the ICW, men also participated, people even were



CND Side event "Addiction and Gender", UN Vienna, March 2017

staying during the whole event in the room as there were not enough seats.



#### **Korean National Council of Women**



On Wednesday March 8, 2017, Korean National Council of Women (KNCW) held an event on the theme of "Women in Transformation" celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) 2017 at the Korea Press Center. Over 130 local women's organizations including 65 KNCW affiliated members commemorated IWD. 500 women leaders in political, economic, and educational fields and other

specialists joined in this big celebration of the day.

For the first part of the celebration, the participants spent time recognizing women pioneers who dedicated their lives for the improvement of women's right and the empowerment. There also was a "sand art performance" commemorating the International Women's Day. During the second part experts such as politicians and scholars had a rigorous discussion diagnosing the present issues and suggested various policies in this regards. At the end of the discourse, all participants adopted agreed conclusions for 2017, which advocates Korean women to urge the government to enhance women's role and make the policies feasible to achieve the true gender equality.

Then, it was followed by the performance where 500 participants all stood up exclaiming "Reduce Gender Wage Gap" to assure equal payment for both genders. The performance described the unequal payment in Korea, which has the biggest gender wage gap among



member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This projected the presence situation where women who work from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm are only paid up to 15:04 and supposedly work for free for the rest of the working hours.

Korean National Council of Women ensured to achieve equal payment for both gender and bring end to all forms of discrimination in the work place by continuing "Reduce Gender Wage Gap" campaign.

**Keum Sook Choe, President of KNCW** 



# Historical Picture of ICW



Officers, official delegates, and honorary vice-presidents at the second quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women, London, 1899.

http://www.icw-cif.com/

Join the International Council of Women,
and join us in changing women's lives for the better

everywhere in the world



