

## Manage the environment from the household level

"Women in Safe Environment" was the theme of a national conference aimed at increasing awareness in the household of environmental issues and identifying projects which would encourage homemakers to contribute to environmental management.

The conference was held June 25-27, 1990, at the Institute of Science, Mathematics and Education Development (ISMED), University of the Philippines (UP) campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The sponsor was the Philippine Women's University (PWU), representing the Asia-Pacific Women's Environmental Network.

PWU vice president for planning, development and special projects Encarnacion Rarallo, who served in the conference secretariat, noted that "women constitute a vital role in the management of the environment. They can effectively promote a clean and safe environment. By being enlightened consumers of biodegradable products and preserving non-renewable resources, they can prevent land, water, air and noise pollution."

She said the network was put up in answer to the need to consolidate and communicate efforts of global/re-

gional actions towards environmental protection and management, to facilitate coordination and information exchange among women organizations, documentation and dissemination of sound environmental management practices, testing and evaluation of technologies and products for their effects, good or bad, on the environment.

The plenary session topics and their respective speakers were: "Women and Environmentally Critical Areas (Pollution and Poverty)" by UP Dean Asteya Santiago; "Risks of Toxic and Hazardous Substances and Their Impact on Women," Dr. Corazon P.B. Claudio, president of Sitech Resource Group, Inc.; "Use of Home Pesticides," Dr. Salome del Rosario, consultant, PWU office of the vice president for planning; "The Multiple Roles of Women in Upland Production and Conservation System," Dr. Corazon B. Lamug, research director of the UP Los Baños in Laguna;

"Women in Home Recycling Centers for Development of Recycling Cooperatives," Dr. Emma Abane-Pujalte, president and executive officer of Irren Foundation, Inc.; "Household Waste Management," Ms. Leonardo Camacho of the Women Balikatan Movement, Inc.; "Environmental Education at All Levels," Dr. Leticia Cortez, UP ISMED; "Government Organization," Prof. Rosario Jimenez, UP School for Urban and Regional Planning;

"Science, Technology and the Environment," Dr. Juanita Manalo, director of the PWU Science and Mathematics Research Center; "The Role of External Assistance in the Implementation of Environmental

Projects and Programs," Ms. Lirio T. Abuyuan, assistant secretary for foreign-assisted, Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and "Shall We Recycle Our Waste to Maintain Ecology?," Dr. Metodio Palaypay.

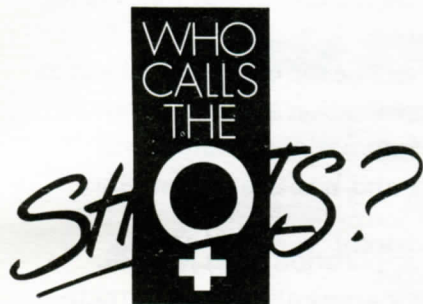
## On gender and society

The Chinese University of Hongkong's gender research program held a conference on "Gender and Society: Pacific Rim Experience" from March 21 to 22 this year at the university campus in Shatin, New Territories, Hongkong.

The conference program included a roundtable discussion on "Social Milieu and Economic Reality of Gender Studies in the Asia-Pacific Rim." There were also sessions on: "Continuity and Change," "Women and the State," "Gender Stereotypes in Mass Media" and "Housework and Sexual Division of Labor" as well as a planning workshop on "Strategies on Gender Studies in the Asia-Pacific Region."

Dr. Fanny Cheung was the gender studies program coordinator.

Participants from the Philippines were Jeanne F. Illo of Ateneo de Manila University, and Leni Z. Angeles and Lucia Pavia-Ticzon of the Women's Resource and Research Center.



## Fight for reforms in media and advertising

"Who Calls the Shots?", the 1991 International Conference on Women, Media and Advertising, is scheduled for May 12-17, 1991, at the Manila Hotel in the Philippines. Conference convenor is Anna Dominique Coseteng, district representative of Quezon City to the House of Congress. The organizer is the Women's Media Circle Foundation, Inc.

According to the organizers, led by Anna Leah Sarabia, one of the founders of the foundation and producer of the television program *Womanwatch*, "the media have been identified by international institutions as among the key factors to the global advancement of women. While the media have shown sensitivity to the concerns and viewpoints of women in the last 10 years, media outputs have still been promoting negative images of women and stereotyping of women's roles, abilities and interests. These outputs have also encouraged the imbalance of relationships between men and women, and created derogatory attitudes towards women in society."

The conference will seek answers to the questions:

- Why are media outputs concerning women the way they are?
- Who controls the creation of these outputs?
- How can the products of this

media culture be modified to substantially address the issues concerning women?

- What positive intervention can be proposed?

Maria Vargas Montelibano, executive director of the Philippine Presidential Broadcast Staff and Radio-Television Malacañang, will give the keynote address to be followed by a plenary session on "Commercial Media or Public Media: How Much Do Women Matter?" Participating in this session are Germany's Inge von Bonninghausen, Donna Allen of the United States, Thais Corral of Brazil and Selina Chow of Hongkong.

Other workshops will tackle the subjects: "Women and Media Ethics," "Satellites and Regional Cooperation," "Changing Political Systems and Changing Roles of Women in the Media," "Can Women Handle the New Technologies," "Alternatives to Advertising Stereotypes," "Media Violence and Women," and "Women's Programs for Radio and Television."

Among the films and video works for screening are: "Women's Labor" from India; "Frauen-Fragen," Germany; "A Portrait of Imogen," US; "Into Focus: Changing Media Images of Women in Asia (Women and Media/Women and Violence)" and "From Priestess to President," the Philippines; "Women Framed," Norway.

For inquiries, contact the House of Travel, Inc., 411 Quirino Avenue, Parañaque, Philippines, telephone numbers 832-0893 and 832-2371 to 5 and fax number 832-0044.

## Trafficking of women, children

A seminar on the trafficking of women and children was held in Karachi, India, from Nov. 15 to 19, 1990. Participants came from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Norway and Bangladesh.

Naina Kapur of India, in her paper "Ignorance is No Excuse for a Law," observed that since the 19th century, "prostitutes have been squeezed between two extremes -- institutional exploitation through laws and notions of moral salvation -- in a debate which has refused to acknowledge it as the most entrenched profession in the world."

In most countries, she said, "Everything necessary to work as a prostitute is illegal although it isn't illegal to be a prostitute." She called such a prohibition system hypocritical, unenforceable and corrupt, and blind to the fact that prostitution must also be seen in terms of sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children.