

## A Call for New Directions

by Jane Kesno

Women,  
don't let the changing times,  
the changing technology, mean  
technology changing hands  
Don't lose your ground in the game  
they call 'development'  
Dare to demand education that is  
real,  
Employment that has rewards,  
Effective voices in the future

Take hold of what you have,  
Of what you know and do, already,  
Keep it  
Caress it  
Cultivate it  
Call improvements to your corner  
Put progress in your path  
Capture innovations  
and invent!

Crush ways of learning  
and categories of work  
which cut your options  
Beware the tricks  
of training for women  
Deceptive education  
Token extension  
Elusive equality

That starts and ends at home,  
As 'housewives'  
having little  
or no  
opportunity  
to actively engage,  
enthusiastically participate  
'In all forms of social and economic  
life'  
Don't be trained, taught, educated  
to occupy yourself with  
trivia,  
with the 'toy' development  
of household trappings and trim-  
mings  
...the sewing, baking, handicraft,  
(Needlecraft, mothercraft,  
childcraft)  
that they call Women's Work.  
yet reduce  
and ridicule  
in the analysis of 'real work'  
of man-hours  
and man-made definitions of  
development  
Be cautioned against 'crafty'  
connivances  
claiming to refine your

competence,  
to crown your role  
while crippling your potential

Go forward, not backwards  
Seize time  
Seize training opportunities.  
Teach yourselves  
Set your own horizons  
Take note  
Take courage  
Take care.  
Take no tricks of tradition  
which hide you,  
hold you down  
keep you back.  
Take hold firmly of tools and  
technology,  
Take part fiercely in the future;  
Take stock of changing times  
Take on a stake in training,  
Be all that you can  
...and all that you want,  
A decade is over  
our day has begun.

Source: *New Directions for Women  
in Non-formal Education,*  
Papua New Guinea.



Doms Anosan (above photo, left), Isis International technical associate, and Luchie Ticzon (above photo, right), Isis International coordinator for organization and human resource development, attended the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet

### Conferences, Exposures for Isis Workers

in Miami, Florida from Nov. 8-12, 1991. (See report on page 30.)

From Nov. 13 to Dec. 2, Doms travelled around the U.S. to visit eight women's groups involved in women's health campaigns and services. These visits served as an orientation to the reality of the marginalization and oppression suffered by women in First World settings on the basis of their gender, class and race.

Some of these groups were the Portsmouth Feminist Health Center, Boston Women's Health Collective, American Friends Service Committee, Women's International League for

Peace and Freedom, Women's Project, and the Pulaski Peace Center.

From Nov. 24-28, Luchie attended "A North-South Dialogue: Learning Together/Working Together" sponsored by the Association of Women in International Development from Nov. 24-28, 1991 in Washington, D.C. She was one of the panel on communication technologies and women's philanthropy together with Anne Murray of The Global Fund for Women.

Luchie also had an opportunity to visit some funders in both Canada and the U.S.

Miami, Florida:

# Report from the Healthy Planet Congress

by Elizabeth Thomas and Dominga Anosan

The World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet was held November 8 - 12 of 1991. The five-day Congress brought together eighteen hundred women activists and experts representing all regions of the world, the majority from developing countries, with the intention of formulating and promoting environmental policies which place women at the center of decision making.

Delegates to the Congress produced a global women's action agenda in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which will be held in Brazil in June 1992. UNCED will bring together more than 100 heads of state and government to find a common basis for action on the global environmental situation.

The preliminary declaration of the World Women's Congress states: "We know that the major causes of environmental degradation are economic systems that exploit and misuse nature and people; pollutants and waste of industry and military technologies. We are outraged by the suggestion that women's fertility rates (euphemistically called population pressures) are to blame. Unchallenged, this analysis lays the groundwork for the re-emergence of top-down, demographically driven population policies and programs which are deeply disrespectful of the basic human rights of women as guaranteed in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women."

Doms Anosan, Isis International technical associate, was at the Congress and reports: "Women's testimonies and experiences clearly describe the extent of environmental degradation in Third World countries where multinational companies controlled by the richer first world countries are allowed to ravage natural resources as one condition of debt allocations. Yet there are tendencies among first world people to put the blame on Third World population in the devastation of forests and other natural resources. I observed this 'victim blaming' in a workshop on 'Saving Natural Systems', where some first world participants

insisted that a major factor in the devastation of forests in Third World countries is the culture of third world people cutting trees for firewood. To this, third world participants argued that the extent or number of trees being used for firewood is very limited compared to those being cut by big logging concessions...

In all cases of environmental devastation, as in any other crisis, women get the brunt. It is the women who have to walk longer hours to fetch water and gather firewood as the forests continue to be denuded by logging concessions. It is thus important that women should become active participants in decisions that concern their environment."

At the workshop on Health, Women and Population, Doms reports that the following points were made:

"Population Control is a World Bank condition for development programs that espouse racist and colonial ideologies which perpetuate an element of fear among western people of the increase in the population of people of color. This fear leads to views that Third World populations should be controlled because they are a threat to western or first world industrialization, and that Third World people are dispensable.

Women have always been the target of population control programs, while men are taking less and less responsibility for family planning in their own families and in society as a whole. This is apparent in contraceptives and the newer reproductive technologies which are all directed at women and made for women."

Women organizing globally to make their voices heard has already had an effect on planning for UNCED. The UN office on Women in Environment and Development reports that the appointment in December 1990 of a special advisor from the WED office to UNCED "considerably improves the prospects for mainstreaming (women's) issues"

"The Secretariat is also compiling a roster of women experts in the major areas covered by UNCED, and is undertaking a review of the activities in the UN system in respect of women environment and development. In addition, networking and promotional activities are being planned to ensure that women's needs, concerns and perspectives are being integrated in the UNCED preparatory process." (UN non-government liaison service newsletter, May 1991, no. 14).

The Women's International Policy Action Committee (IPAC) on Environment and Development, headed by Bella Abzug of the U.S., is already planning a Women's Centre at the conference site (See page 32 for details).

## Women Prepare for UNCED in June 1992

A lot of rhetoric and big promises surround UNCED or the Earth Summit. However, UNCED remains an important opportunity for a major revision of the world's approach to development. The Green movement which has been pointing out for years the limitations to growth is now being heard. Along with a hard look at the world's pollution and waste management we also hear dissent among world leaders for the development model altogether. It is important that, as the world talks of revising development models, gender is heard clearly as one of the issues which should shape the future of the world's development.

UNCED is proving to be a long and unwieldy process from the point of view of 'the people', particularly women, with many closed consultations among governments and multilateral institutions, though there has been major attempts to create some channels for NGOs to reach decision making bodies. Women's issues have not been prominent and to some extent have had to be worked in from the sidelines.

The UNCED preparatory committees have been one forum which NGOs have attended with open plenaries and working groups. There have also been many NGO conferences on all sorts of themes ranging from the private sector to indigenous people as well as youth and North/South dialogues. Greens and development NGOs are proving to be rather difficult bed-fellows and one gets the impression that there are an awful lot of meet-

ings and not too much clear direction as to where it is all heading officially. Women's perspectives have hardly been heard in the major fora: concerned women are still fighting to get women in development recognized as a crosscutting theme in the analysis of environment and development.

Women in Development Europe (WIDE), a network of women development workers and researchers, needs to support the lobby of government delegations in recognizing the specific needs of women during the UNCED meeting. These include:

- allowing women to set their own agendas for development

- empowering women by giving them equal access to land, money and technology

- giving women more time for self-improvement by involving men and boys in housekeeping and agricultural chores

- educating women and sensitizing them to the role they play in natural resource management.

Some themes arising from the debate around UNCED which WIDE could pursue:

- to use the occasion of UNCED to mark the end of a worldwide pattern of unsustainable economic development which now threatens the planet and women, men and children.

- to end dependency of the South on the North by changing a system of world development, trade and finance shaped by the interests of the rich, high-consumption, high-pollution countries

- to highlight the gender issues, ethical and human centered agendas underlying the concept of sustainable development

- to encourage the analysis of the Third World environmental and economic solutions by the women from those countries

- to reach out to the public and to increase public awareness of the cross cutting gender issue implicit in UNCED.

Source: *WIDE Bulletin*, August 1991, c/o SID, Palazzo Civiltà del Lavoro 00144 EUR Rome, Italy. Fax: 39/6/5919836.

### Woman is Peace-Maker

Marshallese Proverb: "Kora Jeltan Binij" - "Woman is Peace-Maker" ---Only the woman in the family can settle disputes that arise among family members - including land disputes and fights between men. Our lands are owned and controlled by women. We inherit the law through our mothers. That's why we are the peacemakers.

From "Women in Action: Newsletter of the Palau-Pacific Women's Conference." Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1991. For information, write: Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, P.O. Box 100, Koror, Republic of Palau.

# Global Forum at the Earth Summit

The '92 Global Forum is a series of simultaneous events which provide an opportunity for all sectors to express their independent views in Rio at the time of the Earth Summit. It is being jointly coordinated by the Brazilian NGO Forum and the International Facilitating Committee. The site will be the area surrounding the Gloria Hotel (where conference facilities and hotel accommodation are being arranged) and the Flamengo Park (which will be used as the venue for exhibitions, informal meetings and other outdoor activities, including live broadcasts by television of UNCED itself).

Some of the events currently planned for the '92 Global Forum include the following:

- Conference/Risk Analysis
- Global Youth Summit
- Symposium/Spiritual, Ethical and Policy Issues in Environment and Development
- Seminar/Transportation and Development Policy
- Social Movement NGO Meeting
- Seminar/Renewable Energy Strategies
- Public Meeting/Exhibition on Peace
- Symposium/United Nations Interns
- Conference/Ecological Designs
- Religious Interfaith Event
- Cultural Event/Rights & Liberation of People
- Conference on Industries
- Youth Center and Open House
- Women's Centre



Some of the workshop topics are: Environmental Law, Solar Energy, Consumer Issues, Environmental Education, Women and Environment, Chernobyl, Green Fringe Quest, Green Movement of USSR, "Building the New World", InterEcos, Health, Education and Development, Architecture, North-South Policy Dialogue, Global Warming/Air Pollution, Popular Education, Drinking Water and High Basin Protection, Children's Concerns in Environment and Development, A Global "Children's Hearing", Indigenous People's Concerns, Rainforests, and Desertification.

For more information, contact:  
'92 Global Forum  
Hotel Gloria  
Predio Anexo, Sala 366  
Rua do Russel, 632  
22212 Rio de Janeiro  
RJ, Brazil  
Tel.: (55-21) 5563030  
Telefax: (55-21) 2054114  
Telex: 2141201 GLFO  
E-Mail: APC Networks: ax:gf92  
Internet: gf92@az.apc.org

## Women's Centre

A coalition of women NGOs called FEMEA - Feminists and Environment - in Brazil, has proposed a Women's Centre of Activities and Resources at the '92 Global Forum. Since 1990, the coalition has been working on several levels, including the deepening of discussions on women's theoretical framework for their relationship to the environment, and the promotion and advancement of women's participation in the UNCED preparatory process and the official and unofficial events in June 1992.

The Women's Centre proposal calls for a separate space with room for 500 people, equipped with sound and lighting systems, a stage and chairs to accommodate different discussions, cultural shows, etc., another space equipped with audiovisual equipment and panels for exhibiting photos, artwork, postcards, etc., space for healthy, non-toxic food-sharing, space for workshops, and space for a press centre.

For more information, contact:

IPAC Secretariat

845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, NY 10022, USA

Tel.: (212) 759-7982; Fax: (212) 759-8647

## Fact Sheet

### What are women doing for the environment?

#### Boycotts

Women and children consumers persuaded McDonald's fast food chain to recycle food containers, and a tuna boycott convinced the three top U.S. tuna producers to halt the sale of fish caught in dolphin-trapping dragnets.

#### Cleanups

In the USSR, Siberian women organized efforts to clean up Lake Baikal, the world's largest body of fresh water. Zoologist Maria V. Cherkasova helped set up protests against Central Asia's Katun River dam project, which threatened the destruction of local ecology.

#### Emissions

Women in Bhopal, India, continue to protest Union Carbide operations, and in Quito, Ecuador, women have organized to protest local factories' chemical emissions.

#### Reefs

Biologist Janet Gibson led the campaign to set up the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, which protects the world's second largest barrier reef, in Belize.

#### Trees

Wangari Maathai and the National Council of Women led Kenya's famed Green Belt movement, planting more than 10 million trees and setting up more than 600 income-producing nurseries.

#### And more...

The Women's Environment Network persuaded British manufacturers to produce chlorine-free toilet tissue and diapers. Sri Lanka's Savodaya Women's Movement is promoting the use of traditional pest deterrents like garlic, goat weed and lemon grass instead of chemical agents. And helping to inspire these new ideas was the late Rachel Carson's powerful 1962 expose, *Silent Spring*, which helped launch the worldwide environmental movement.

#### Source:

WEDO Women's Environment & Development Organization/Women's Foreign Policy Council, 845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, NY 10022 USA.

## Update on UNCED



The first UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 1-12 June, 1992

Some of the objectives of UNCED are the following:

- to formulate a set of global laws on climate change, biological diversity, forestry and other environmental concerns.
- to reach an agreement on an Earth Charter that would contain principles of cooperation between regions, nations and individuals to help the environment.
- to reach an agreement on Agenda 21, containing actual actions and strategies to help the environment.
- to allocate financial resources for developing countries to enable them to help the environment while continuing to develop.
- to reach agreement on technological aid and training to developing countries
- to work towards improving ties between existing environmental and development organizations and the possible setting up of an "Environmental Security Council".

The Women's Action Agenda '21 which was compiled during the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet brings together the major issues that women want discussed during the conference. These include:

- democratic rights, diversity and solidarity
- code of environmental ethics and accountability
- women, militarism and the environment
- debt and trade
- women, poverty, land rights, food security and credit
- women's rights, population policies, and health
- biotechnology and biodiversity
- nuclear power and alternative energy
- science and technology transfer
- women's consumer power
- information and education.

# Upcoming Conferences in 1992

**Year 2000: Challenges and Prospects for a New Environmental Order**

**March 6 - 8, 1992**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

Contact: LEADERS Action Committee  
P.O. Box 4851, Radhakuti Arcade  
Ramshahpath, Kathmandu, Nepal

**The Second Asian Women's Conference**

**Asian Women's Research and Action (AWRAN)**

**April 2-4, 1992**

**Japan**

Conference topics will include women and politics, women and education, Asian women's studies, women and labor, sexuality, patriarchy and violence against women, women and development, women and media, women and technology, and prostitution in Asia.

Contact: Kuniko Funabashi  
Asian Women's Conference  
Organizing Committee  
22-17 Nishikubocho, Tokiwadaira  
Matsudo, Chiba 270, Japan  
Tel.: (81) 473 88 8899  
Fax: (81) 473 87 7800.

**Industrialization and Women's Health:**

**A Regional Workshop  
for the ASEAN Countries**

**April 22-25, 1992**

**Amara Hotel, Singapore**

Contact: Singapore Council of  
Women's Organizations  
11 Penang Lane, #05-01  
Singapore 0923  
Tel.: 336-6641; Fax: 336-5276.

**Asian Lesbian Network Conference**

**May 3 - 5, 1992**

**Japan**

Contact: ALN Nippo  
c/o Regumi Studio Tokyo  
Joko Nakazawa Building 3F  
23 Araki-cho, Shinjuku-ku  
T 160, Tokyo, Japan

**Feminisms and Cultural Resistance in the Americas**

**Sponsored by the Union for Democratic  
Communications, May 7 - 10, 1992**

**Trent University, Peterborough  
Ontario, Canada**

The Union is an independent organization of people who teach or work in the mass media. It is committed to fundamental social change and to struggles against racism, sexism and heterosexism.

Proposals on papers invited. Contributions on feminism and grassroots communication, feminism and media reception, feminism and cultural resistance, race and cultural resistance and small cities and cultural struggle are welcomed.

Contact: Alan O'Connor  
UDC Conference, Peter Robinson College  
Trent University, Peterborough  
Ontario, Canada K91 7B8  
Fax: 705 748 1795.

**Strategic Management of Non-governmental  
Organizations**

Contact: School for International Training  
Kipling Road, PO Box 676  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301, USA

**Communication and New Worlds**

**Theme of the 42nd Annual Conference of the  
International Communication Association**

**May 21 - 25, 1992**

**Miami, Florida**

The conference intends to examine the changing nature of the global communication society and the role of communication and/or technology in shaping political, economic, cultural and social change.

Contact: Robert Cox, Sandra Ridings  
or Linda Frederick  
International Communication Association  
PO Box 9589 Austin, Texas 7876 USA  
Fax: (512) 454 422

**First International Conference on Women  
in Africa and the African Diaspora:  
Bridges Across Activism and the Academy  
June 1992**

**Nigeria, West Africa**

The conference will give an opportunity for researchers and activists inside and outside Africa to discuss mutual/collective interests and plan collaborative work.

Contact: Organizing Committee  
Women in Africa and the African Diaspora  
c/o Prof. Obioma Nnaemeka  
Dept. of French, The College of Wooster  
Wooster, Ohio 44691 USA

Contact: Dr. Joceline Clemencia,  
Chairperson, Bureau of Language Affairs  
SEDE di Papiamentu, Scharlooweg 29  
Curacao, Netherlands Institute  
(5999) 61647/611783

**International Congress on  
Women's Health Issues  
Aug. 25-28, 1992  
Copenhagen, Denmark**

The conference will focus on environment, daily life and health, and women strategizing for a common future.

Contact: Fifth International Congress  
on Women and Health,  
Center for Nursing Research  
c/o Else Guldazer  
University Hospitals of Copenhagen  
Rigshospitalet Afsnit 7331  
Tagensvej 20, DK. 2200  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**The Caribbean and Female Vision  
for the 21st Century**

**Third International Caribbean  
Women Writers Conference  
July 28-31, 1992**

The conference will focus on the female role in the changing cultural setting, and within literary settings.

**4th War Resisters International Women's Conference  
Women Overcoming Violence:  
Women Redefining Development and Changing Society  
through Non-Violence''  
November 25 to December 1, 1992  
Bangkok, Thailand**

The 4th WRI conference which is co-sponsored by War Resisters' International and People's Plan for the 21st Century Thailand 1992 and co-organized by Friends of Women, Coalition for Peace and Development, EMPOWER, the Association for the Promotion of Status of Women, and the Foundation for Women will look at three themes: Militarism, Development and Non-violence. It is open to 150 women active at the grassroots level in nonviolent societal change. Its goal is to build stronger links among women and to encourage solidarity and South-South exchanges among Asian, Pacific, Latin America, African and Middle Eastern women activists.

Aside from plenary sessions, workshops on public speaking and practical skills for activists, peace education

and feminist perspectives on militarism and development and nonviolence training will be held. Each woman will be a resource person and speak about the situation of women in her country and about their nonviolent campaigns, issues and questions.

CONNECT is the working group assisting the conference organizers to find women in the Asia and Pacific regions who may be interested in attending the conference. Women who are involved in grassroots work or social change are encouraged to apply or to nominate other women who may benefit from the conference. Women who need assistance with funding should reply to CONNECT by March 15, 1992 indicating their needs.

Contact: Margaret Pestorius/Wendy Orama  
CONNECT  
19 Murray Street  
West Brunswick  
Victoria 305, Australia  
Tel. : (61-3) 3835785  
Fax: (61-3) 4190430

