

New women's organization in Russia

The Women's Innovation Fund 'East-West' is a non-government, non-profit organization based in Moscow that supports all efforts to create independent women's groups and initiatives in Russia - and to encourage networking between them - in order to increase the exchange of information and coordination with the international women's movement. 'East-West' aims to make telecommunications (such as electronic mail and databases) available and accessible to women. The group is organizing computer courses and managing a database of proposals of women's initiatives, organizations and enterprises from Russia and abroad to facilitate the matching of cooperative partners. Contact: **Women's Innovations Fund 'East-West'**, Box 375, Moscow 121019, Russia. Tel/ Fax: (95) 129-04-26; E-mail: femrus@glas.apc.org.

Source: **Worldwide Network**, 1331 H Street, N.W., Suite 903, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA.

New initiative for migrant women workers in Hong Kong

Cases of violence against migrant workers are frequently reported in the Hong Kong press. E.g., an Indonesian domestic helper, *Herni Wahyuning Astutik*, was gagged, tied up and then stabbed in the back, arm and side of her stomach. Her employment agency took her out of hospital after only 1 day and sent her to the Indonesian Consulate.

The **Coalition to Combat Violence Against Migrant Workers** was set up on 2nd August 1994, by several organizations calling on the Hong Kong Government to set up means by which migrant workers can be safeguarded against violence.

Source: **Asian Women Workers Newsletter**, Vol. 13 No. 4, October 1994, 57 Peking Road, 4/F, Room 403, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Japan's 1st Pride march

Between 300 and 1,500 lesbians and gays turned out for the first ever Gay Pride parade in Tokyo on August 28, 1994. "This is a landmark day for us. We were able to prove that we're alive and that we exist in this society," said a 28 year old lesbian painter. Most Japanese lesbians and gays remain extremely closeted. "Japan is

not an easy place to live if you're a Lesbian," said *Akiyo Ohya*, an organizer of the parade, "so for me, organizing this was a way of reducing stress."

Source: **Off Our Backs**, October 1994, 2423 18th Street, N.W., 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C., USA.

Rolling strikes in Vietnam

About 150 workers at **Song Be Garment Export Company** held a 2 hours work sit-in on April 21 to demand extra pay for overtime work, the **Lao Dong Newspaper** reported. The company had started a quota-based work regime under which, if each production line failed to reach its quota within eight hours, the workers have to work overtime without pay until the quota is filled. Overtime work without pay is prohibited under Vietnamese labour regulations. Part of the orders were for jackets and sports shorts for a South Korean company.

When the representatives of the Board of Directors agreed to reduce the quotas, the workers returned to work. Later, the Director told workers that the original quotas would be maintained, and workers unable to meet them should resign. Two days after the strike, three workers were dismissed. They were allegedly the first to stop their sewing machines before the strike. (News from Vietnam Investment Review).

Source: **Asian Women Workers Newsletter**, Vol. 13 No. 4, October 1994, 57 Peking Road, 4/F, Room 403, Kowloon, Hong Kong.