

MAORI

Maori Women And Fisheries

by Nikki Searancke-Ngati Porou
Source: Greenpeace New Zealand, Green Women's Network Newsletter no. 3, Autumn 1995

Nikki's research into the role of Maori women in traditional fisheries management has raised some critical political issues. Although her focus has been on traditional knowledge, the women she has spoken with are very aware of intellectual property rights aspects of the issues and of the realities of use and development of fisheries. For the traditional kafdaki (guardians) of a resource it has become dangerous to reveal too much.

Knowledge is a taonga which must be treasured and protected as much the kaimoana itself. When asked for details some will say "that's my business" meaning that they are protecting traditional knowledge. The example of kina shows the joint venture between iwi and the Japanese had some initial success in harvesting the readily accessible kina but Maori people are now struggling with issues of traditional guardianship and control of the resource. Maori coastal hapu are setting bottom lines and defining boundaries which in essence protect their traditional kina beds and maintain the mana and control of the hapu itself. Maori women or indeed their hapu on the coast, do not reject use and management of fisheries, but this must evolve from a process of consideration by the traditional owners including women as resource managers. Gatherers of kai for centuries, Maori women must have a voice in the fisheries access and sustainability debates. For Nikki, her work on past fisheries leads into the future.

PAKISTAN

PAWLA Produces Legal Literacy Films For Women

Source: Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies, Vol. 1 Number 2, 1995 Karachi-Pakistan.

The literacy rate among women of Pakistan is very low and legal literacy is practically non-existent even amongst literate women. To combat this the Pakistan Women Lawyer's Association (PAWLA), has produced six video films on different legal issues. These films namely Rishta Ilzam, (Accusation), Warasat, (Inheritance), Dastak, (knock at the Door) were prepared by Ms. Rashida Mohammed Hussain Patel, President PAWLA. She has taken each

topic based on the cases which came before the Legal Aid Centre of PAWLA. For out reach areas, PAWLA has a Mobile van which is equipped with a television set and V.C.R. Seminars follow the film showing. A woman law officer accompanies the Mobile Van to give legal advice to the women.

Rishta (Marriage contract) is the first film produced by PAWLA, is Rishta. This film concerns, Talaq (divorce) by a husband. PAWLA considers that the unilateral "Talaq" by the husband is one of the major problems creating hardship and misery for the wife and children. Aurat Ki Awaz (Woman's Voice) concerns the cases of women who seek divorce. The film creates awareness among women about their rights and the procedure for getting divorce through courts of law.

PHILIPPINES

Girls Added To 3 Gs In Isabela

By: D. Gorecho
Source: TODAY April 25, 1995.

Politicians in Isabela province in the Philippines have expanded the three "Gs" - guns, goons and gold of Philippine politics to win votes. They added girls to the list. Sources said local beerhouses were often short of guest relation officers' because politicians were treating barangay officials, their ward leaders and supporters to a good time in girlie bars from the start of the election campaign until elections were held in May. "They [politicians] bring them to sing-along bars and disco houses to keep them in their political camps or make an impression," said a source, who did not want to be named. "In a sense, wooing them". One mayoral candidate was said to have taken with him at least 40 men, mostly barangay officials, to a local night, club where an estimated 60 girls work, including a 14-year-old. Most of the girls came from Manila after nightclubs in Ermita were ordered closed by Mayor Alfredo Lim. Others came from rural areas of Bicol and Samar. "I went straight to this town without seeing what Manila looks like," said 19-year-old Glenda, a Bicolana. She said she couldn't tell if her customer is a politician's guest or not but emphasized that the club manager often warned the girls to be cautious with the men from neighboring Quirino province. Men from Quirino have gained notoriety among club owners for prodding the girls to escape; the latest such incident happened in March.

SOUTH AFRICA

Women And South Africa: SPEAK Speaks No More

by Fatima Jaffer
Source: Kinesis March 1995; #301-1720 Grant Street, Vancouver, BC USA 246; Tel: (604) 255-5499; Fax: (604) 255-5511

Speak, the most widely read and one of only two national feminist publications in South Africa, has ceased publication of its monthly magazine and closed down its radio project.

The decision to discontinue Speak operations was made early this year after most of the skilled personnel at Speak resigned for newly available jobs in the mainstream media, following the first multiracial, non-apartheid elections in South Africa last April.

Speak was founded in 1982 at a time of great proliferation of civic, anti-apartheid organizations. The women who formed Speak, like others in the Left, saw a need to link the struggles of peoples in local communities to the broader national struggles taking place. But history had shown that even while women are the driving forces of liberation movements, the issue of women's equality is sidetracked once revolutions are won. And so the women at Speak decided to ensure women's liberation would be an integral part of the national liberation right at the start. Speak became an organizing tool for women.

ISIS thanks all the women who produced SPEAK over the years. We will miss your voices and the magazine as a source of news and knowledge about women in South Africa.

TAIWAN

Taiwan: Married Women Stand Up

Source: Taiwan Industrial Relations Bulletin no. 28, April 10, 1995.

On 2nd of March, 1995, members of the Women's Solidarity Alliance demonstrated at the freeway toll station, south of Taipei, against the Freeway Bureau's ban on employing married women. The bureau requires its women toll collectors to remain single as it would be inconvenient for married employees to do the night and overnight shifts. The poster of one demonstrator says: "I am married. I want to apply for a job. I protest the decision to deprive married women of their rights to work." There has been growing advocacy from workers' groups and women activists against companies imposing the regulations to dismiss female workers after marriage. They stressed the regulations are unfair and a kind of discrimination.