



# BPW News International

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Theme for 2005 – 2008

“New Dimensions of Leadership”

BPW International was founded in 1930

## From the President's Desk

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Dr. Chonchanok Viravan  
International President  
2005-2008



## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

The year 2006 was a year of traveling, reform and changes. I visited 16 countries in 17 trips. Several reform measures were tried out, while we followed the reform at United Nations closely. We co-organized events with the UN in New York and in Bangkok. More BPW members are gaining high post at regional and national levels. Member Services has been transferred to the President's office in Thailand. BPW International survey on Violence Against Women received an overwhelming response from member countries.

As we march ahead into 2007 with a full agenda, including planning the International Congress in Merida, Mexico, I would like to offer every BPW member my New Year wish.

May 2007 be a year  
 You discover  
 That within you  
 is a treasure.

Be happy  
 With what you have, for you are bless.  
 Even when things don't go as you plan,  
 Alternatives can bring a greater success.

Be wise  
 On your way to wealth,  
 Balance your time  
 For work, family and health.

Be inspire  
 To take on new challenges,  
 Strengthen your will to win  
 And grow your confidence.

Be bright  
 Let your inner light shines through.  
 Let the world discovers  
 A treasure is YOU!

Warm Wishes,

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan  
 International President  
 21 December 2006

(Poem written by Dr. Chonchanok Viravan)

## UN Agency for Women

The high-level panel appointed by former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, is recommending the creation of a separate UN Agency for Women, following an increasing demand to rectify the gender shortcoming.

Currently, UN bodies that deal with women's issues include:

- UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA),
- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW),
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) and
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

Yet none of them with the exception of UNFPA, are resource-rich agencies such as the UN Development Programme or the UN children's agency UNICEF.

Since the 1995 Fourth World Conference in Beijing, United Nations and national governments are failing on their commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment.

It needs a powerful and well-resourced entity within the UN, with a comprehensive mandate dedicated to the full range of women's rights and concerns, derived from CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and other relevant policies. The agency must be able to create and set coherent global policy for gender equality across the UN system.

In order to create such an agency, several proposals are currently on the table: or to incorporate UNIFEM into the UN Development Programme; or to merge UNIFEM, DAW, OSAGI and INSTRAW, and to create a new agency with a broad mandate on gender equality (building on UNFPA and UNIFEM), with substantial resources at the global and country levels.

Stephen Lewis, the UN special envoy on AIDS/HIV in Africa and a strong advocate of gender empowerment, has lobbied vigorously for an agency that would deliver programs and services to billions of women throughout the world.

Stephen Lewis is convinced that what is needed is an international women's agency, within the United Nations, to advocate for women the way UNICEF does for children. "At the moment – he said – the UN is hopelessly fragmented in its dealings with women's issues and women's human rights."

The Panel of 13 Prime Minister and Presidents recommended the creation of this gender and well resourced agency with a dual mandate:

- 1) To provide programming on the ground, by guaranteeing a presence in every county office, on a par with major agencies like UNICEF and UNDP;
- 2) To be the chief adviser to the Secretary-General on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The consolidated agency should be led by an Under Secretary General with substantive expertise in gender equality who would report to ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) and the General Assembly, through the Secretary General. Moreover the agency needs a stable, core funding and specialised staff.

In addition, this entity must participate in high-level decision-making bodies, such as the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB), the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS).

In this way the structure, characteristics and principal functions of a gender equality agency for the UN system has been outlined. But this entity must now involve not only the UN system and the governments, but also the women's organizations and the experience around the world and a creative thinking.

The implementation of the recommendation awaits the decision of the new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

Annarosa Colangelo  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and  
Chair of UN Committee on Status of Women



Dinner with representatives to UN in Geneva on 20 November 2006.  
*Front row (left to right):* Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, Michele Gerber (Representative for WHO), Irmgrad Andresen (Representative for WHO).  
*Back row (left to right):* Marlene Parenzan (representative for UN Geneva / ILO), Gabriella Gonzenbach (Representative for WHO), Josiane Perrier Cathomen (Representative for UNICEF), Annarosa Colangelo (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President /UN Committee Chair)

## Activities with UNESCAP



Opening Ceremony: (Left to Right): Mr. Xu Guoxiang, Chief of Space Technology Application Section at UNESCAP; Dr. Wallop Suwandee, Deputy Governor of Bangkok; Professor Dr. Yongyuth Yuthawong, Minister of Science and Technology; Barry Cable, Officer-in-Charge of Secretariat of UNESCAP; Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, President of BPW International; Dr. Kio Chung Kim, Director of APEC Women e-Biz Center, Korea.

### **APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific**

15 December 2006

United Nations Convention Center,  
Bangkok, Thailand

Almost 200 people attended “APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific” which BPW International co-organized with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, APEC Women E-Biz Center and Asia-Pacific Women Information Network Center (APWINC) as a part of the “Initiative for APEC Women’s participation in the Digital Economy” in order to promote internet based commercial opportunities in each member economy of APEC.

During the opening ceremony, Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Yongyuth Yuthawong, Deputy pointed out that women constitute only 35% of people registered to do E-Commerce. Dr. Chonchanok pointed out according to statistics from World Economic Forum’s “*Global Competitiveness report 2006-2007*”, the three priority areas Thailand must address to improve its competitiveness are technological readiness, higher education and business sophistication. Thus training women business owner to use ICT in their business and do e-Business can help improve Thailand’s competitiveness.

The forum was divided into five sessions as follows:

- In the “*Women-Owned Enterprises and e-Biz*” session, Dr. Lorna Wright from Canada presented a study which showed that women-owned small and medium enterprises in USA, Canada, Chile and Australia buy on-line twice as much as they sell online. Women owned SMEs in Hong Kong, Korea, Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia, on the other hand, sell more online than they buy online.
- In the “*E-Business Enabling Policy: Regional and National Perspectives*” session, the speakers talked about policy recommendations from UNESCAP and e-business policies in Philippines, Korea and Thailand were present. One of the speakers, Dr. Nona S. Ricafort, was a past president of BPW Philippines and the newly appointed Minister of Higher Education in Philippines.
- In the “E-Business Start up” session, e-commerce service providers spoke about how to start selling through other web site like e-Bay and Tarad.com; how to develop effective e-business web site and how to connect to the bank’s payment gateway service.
- In the “Growing E-Business” session, speakers addressed topics such as e-marketing and payment security. Dr. Chonchanok talked about the Guideline for E-Commerce Merchants, which pointed out pitfalls that e-commerce should avoid in doing e-business.
- In the “E-Business Success Stories” session, executives of companies that achieve great success in expanding their business channel through the internet told their stories.

BPW International gained a lot of publicity in organizing this event, including a television interview of Dr. Chonchanok Viravan. For more information, visit [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org).

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, International President

## 2006 Report from BPW Representative at the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation. Any European state can become a member on condition that it accepts the principle of the primacy of rights and guarantees respect for human rights and freedom of the individual.

There are 46 member states at the moment of writing. The Council of Europe (CoE) represents 800 million Europeans. It must not be confused with the European Union. However, the 25 member states<sup>1</sup> of the European Union all belong to the Council of Europe. Canada, The Holy See, the USA, Japan and Mexico have observer status. The Headquarters of the CoE are in Strasbourg. It deals with all issues relevant to Europe except defence. BPW International is one of the 400 INGOs (International Non Governmental Organisation) which has had participatory status at the Council of Europe since 2003.

### 2006

At the **Winter session** of the Parliamentary Assembly in January 2006, Annelise Oeschger, the President of the Conference of INGOs, drew up a Multi-Year Framework Programme for 2006 to 2008. The aims of this programme are :

- to contribute to “a Europe without dividing lines, a Europe of solidarity”.
- to increase co-operation between the Conference of INGOs which are registered with the CoE, with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as well as the Secretariat and the other structures of the Organisation.
- to increase the impact of the activities of the Conference of INGOs within the Council of Europe and its member States
- to increase the financial and material means to carry out the mission of the INGOs Conference and its structures.

She underlined that this would be an important year because it follows the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government (Warsaw 2005). She reaffirmed the need for INGOs to continue to work to ensure that the mission of the CoE be carried out successfully.

The underlying principles of this mission are:

- to promote the respect for human rights and the pluralistic democracy
- to fight against all forms of intolerance

- to promote social and economic progress
- to heighten the importance of justice

The **Autumn session** of the Parliamentary Assembly took place from 3-6 October 2006. The Conference of INGOs was on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. The **Winter session** will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February. For the first time it will not be held during the Parliamentary Session in the hope that this will intensify the INGO Conference’s co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies and raise its profile outside the council .

In line with BPW’s campaign on violence against women, the Council of Europe set up in early 2006 a Task Force composed of 8 international experts in the field on preventing and combating violence against women. This taskforce developed a blue print for the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. This was approved by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006 and serves as a road map for the implementation of the campaign.

The CoE will closely co-operate with NGOs active in preventing and combating violence against women. **BPW International is one of these and therefore we should take advantage of this opportunity to work not only with the CoE but also with other NGOs.**

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in Verona the Club BPW Verona Est, together with the Commission on Equal Opportunities of the Province, the Women’s Council and other related organisations, is holding a big meeting on the subject of violence against women . We would like to promote the adoption of a better law on stalking and an improvement in safety measures in the streets to enable women to feel more protected when they are out in the evening.

**Suggestion:** It would be useful to present a statement on the results of the survey on violence against women carried out by BPW at the Winter session (or later). From the few questionnaires I have seen I realize that women are not very well informed on the subject. I think that we could invite one of the 8 international experts of the CoE Task Force to come and address a meeting of BPW Members.

For 2007, I’m also delighted to welcome President of BPW France, Nicole Pelletier Perez, who will serve as an additional representative to Council of Europe.

Livia Ricci,  
BPW Representative at Council of Europe

<sup>1</sup> Before 1 January 2007

## MEMBERSHIP

### BPW Membership

An organization's strength and credibility is determined by its membership. To be recognized the organization must have a long history, exhibit staying power, do good works and be financially sound. BPW International meets these criteria, however financially we have more work to do and new membership development and strong member retention is fundamental to sustaining its future. The triple one membership challenge was designed to achieve this goal.

It is now well under way and I will be reporting some results in January 2007 after the December 2006 submissions from affiliates. If you have brought in a new member to BPW this year be sure to let your club president know as soon as possible so that you can be recorded as eligible for the triple crown pin. Club presidents and federation presidents will be sending in their reports to me by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Successful member retention is key to a sustainable future and it relies on two things: Individual member investment (time and money) and, the return (services) members receive from the organization. I would like to encourage all to review your membership records, the development programs and your retention programs.

That is where our members come in. Your personal investment in paying your dues makes a huge difference to the operation of the organization. Increases in membership provide new and vital ongoing revenue.

Many members believe that BPW should not be reliant on dues alone. This I agree with however, our members must first be willing to support with their personal investment. The annual dues of 10.5 Euro is the best deal of any international organization. Much is expected for our members from these dues.

The BPW International executive board is working very hard to increase and improve on our programs and services. Among them are the BPW business and member pages, [www.bpw-business.org](http://www.bpw-business.org) now in 6 languages and free for members to be listed. This valuable tool shows who our members are.

On my recent trips I met 4 accomplished BPW women musicians.

- BPW Pula, Croatia - Vesna Nežić Ružić  
[www.scardona.hr](http://www.scardona.hr)
- BPW Cervia, Italy, - Jenny Fumanti  
[www.jennyfumanti.it](http://www.jennyfumanti.it) (news)
- BPW Cuiaba, Brazil - Sueli Batista, poems
- BPW Mexico, Nidia Mazon

These very talented women perform and have produced CDs of their work. How many more are there? The only way we will know is to make our members more visible.

I encourage all members to make themselves, their careers and businesses visible by entering them on the member pages.

Take ownership in your organization and its future. Invest your time and money. Support the programs and services. Pay your dues in full and on time. With a vibrant financially healthy organization that provides good services, new members will be much more likely to join.

Liz Benham  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Membership Chair

## MEMBER SERVICES

### Transfer of Member Services

As of 1 December 2006, Member Services for BW International has been transferred from United Kingdom to the President's office, located at 46 Soi Sukhumvit 61, Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand Tel: +66 2 7140651; +66 2 3917843, Fax: +66 2 391 2120. E-mail contacts are [presidents.office@bpw-international.org](mailto:presidents.office@bpw-international.org) and [members@bpw-international.org](mailto:members@bpw-international.org).

### 50% dues for 2007

Associate Clubs and Federations in Benin, Nepal, Pakistan are reminded that they are again eligible for 50% dues reduction provided they meet the membership (5% increase) and activity criteria (active projects in 2006 and planned for 2007). Associate Clubs in Haiti and India are also eligible provide they apply and meet the criteria. The deadline to apply for due reduction has been extended until 28 February 2007.

## Africa

**New Clubs** BPW membership in Africa is growing. In 2006, we already have two new clubs in Egypt: Pyramids and Guiza clubs. Two new clubs were formed in Kodofan and Darfur, Sudan. A new BPW Club was formed in Nairobi, Kenya. These last three clubs will be balloted early in 2007.

Nine new clubs in Africa, which are being finalized in 2007 including

- (1) BPW Tripoli, Lybia; (2) BPW Dakar, Senegal; (3) BPW Aleppo, Syria;  
(4) BPW Lusaka, Zambia; (5) BPW Maputo, Zimbabwe, (6) BPW Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
(7) BPW club in Uganda (8) BPW Tunis, Tunisia (9) BPW Banjul in Gambia

Dr. Amany Asfour  
Africa Regional Coordinator

## Asia Pacific

**Australia** I attended two State Conferences in Australia in October 2006: BPW New South Wales (NSW) State Conference in Coffs Harbour and BPW Western Australia (WA) State Conference in Perth to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, where I gave a talk about BPW and The United Nations, BPW benefits for young BPW, the progress of Organization Review and Reform. It was great for me to meet so many BPW Australia members, especially Past International Presidents Beryl Nashar and Dr. Pat Harrison. These conferences also offered great opportunities for Liz Benham and I to catch up with chairs of committees / taskforces from Australia.

BPW Australia, under the leadership of National President Kay Morrison, has many impressive initiatives. Its brochures, new name cards, and new web site look highly professional – with a slogan “Nobody care about women issues like we do.” The management of the national office was outsourced. Individual members now pay dues online directly by credit cards. Membership cards are also issued. Mentoring and Leadership training programs are widely promoted. National Young Women’s Board was established in 2006 to address the undergoing both structural and constitution reviews. The executive chair of this review is Marilyn Forsythe. BPW Western Australia produces a very interesting guide called “Keys to Achievement: A personal and professional development program for Women” . It is designed to challenge members of BPW to work through a structured series of tasks to develop key career and business skills such as communication, development and leadership as well as enhance knowledge and commitment to BPW.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan  
International President



BPW members at BPW NSW State Conferences, with National president Kay Morrison, State president Marilyn Forsythe, International president Chonchanok Viravan, past International President Pat Harrison, BPW New Zealand president Faye Gardiner.



(left to right): Past International Presidents Dr. Pat Harrison and Dr. Beryl Nashar; International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### China:

I was a keynote speaker at Shanghai International Forum on “Women’s Development and Economic Participation on 9-10 November 2006 in Shanghai, China. My talk on “International Perspectives on Improving Women Economic Participation” gave me opportunities to tell over 200 Chinese women and international participants how BPW projects help “bridge the gaps” in women development within their own countries.

I also had a fruitful meeting with Madame Meng Yan Kun, Chair, Shanghai Women Federation, where we laid out a future collaborative plan between BPW International and Shanghai Women Federation. Three initial areas of collaboration include (1) Forming a BPW club in Shanghai, (2) Lobbying the stock exchange to collect gender statistics of executive levels in the listed companies, (3) Twinning with BPW located in sister cities of Shanghai. Madame Meng also accepted my invitation for her and members of Shanghai Women Federation to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Seoul Korea on 12-15 May 2007.

My policy recommendations to address all phases of women development (not just training women to enter the workforce) and promoting more women to serve at executive level were adopted and included in the final policy recommendations of the Shanghai Women Federation for this forum.

Dr Li-Yan Ling who had taken care of me during my visit also took me to visit *Chinese Executives Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP)*. This is one of the three major leadership training facilities in China. With funding from Central Government, CELAP trains high level leaders for government and top executives from business community. As there are training courses that last up to 6 months, they are building a complex with accommodation built in for participants. China is in deed developing its competitiveness in the right place – the people.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan  
International President



(Top): Dr. Chonchanok Viravan gave a keynote speech.  
(Middle): Xu Weina, Chonchanok Viravan, Madame Meng Yan Kun and Dr Li-Yan Ling from Shanghai Women Federation.  
(Bottom): Chonchanok Viravan, former Mayor of Hannover, Germany - Dr H C Herbert Schmalstieg, Deputy Secretary of Shanghai Municipality Party Committee and Chair of CELAP, Wang An-Shan

## Europe

### Romania



Dr. Livia Ricci, Past International President and Gabriella Canonica, European Coordinator

**15<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of BPW Arad in Romania** was held during 9-10 September 2006 in the beautiful city of Arad. Many Rumanian BPW members and BPW guests from all over Europe participated in this event. Livia Ricci represented her club BPW Verona Est, which helped set up BPW Arad club and is still twinned with it. The city authorities were also present. BPW President Prof. Dorina Ardelan has highly profiled programs for the future and we are collaborating on European level with many joint programs, such as the upcoming BPW Danube Net. Gabriella Canonica spoke about BPW Europe and International matters.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### Italy



(left to right): Dr. Livia Ricci Past President; Liz Benham 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, President BPW Italy, Gabriella Canonica European Regional Coordinator; Anna Scialabba, President of Palermo Mondello Club, Sicily; Dr. Annarosa Colangelo, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; International President Chonchanok Viravan

**Annual Meeting of BPW Italy** was held in Cervia on 29 September – 1 October 2006. International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dr. Annarosa Colangelo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Liz Benham and myself took part at the annual Meeting of BPW Italy.

The Italian President, Dr. Margherita Gulisano led the meeting in a top professional way throughout the whole 3 days. Important decisions were taken on national level, including ones to strengthen the collaboration at international level and to integrate projects in the BPW Europe community. The Project “Women for President”, which was already presented

during the European Congress in Stockholm in June 2006, was promoted amongst the Italian BPW members. At this occasion, the International Executive, also took the opportunity to hold internal meetings and speak about upcoming decisions in the international board.

### Czech Republic

The Annual meeting of the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) took place in Prague on 20– 21 October 2006. Among many business sessions (all information on [www.bpw-europe.org](http://www.bpw-europe.org)) elections were carried out for the new board. We are happy to announce, that our permanent representative **Eufemia Ippolito** (BPW Italy) was re-elected and will carry this task for another 2 years. Congratulations to Eufemia! Many BPW Members from different countries participated in this event, and the day before, I had the possibility to hold a seminar for the Members of BPW Prague

### Hungary

The first Forum of the BPW Danube Net took place in Budapest on 10-12 November 2006. Five of the eight BPW Danube Net countries were represented by their Country Presidents or members of their Executive Boards: Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary – the host country – and Romania.

The European Coordination Committee was also there in its entirety. Over the weekend, 40 participants from a total of eleven countries exchanged ideas and experiences and, in presentations and workshops, informed themselves about the business situation in the Danube countries. New contacts were made and existing ones were strengthened. On November 11 the BPW Danube Net was launched in a special founding ceremony. Step by step it will now be developed into what it was envisaged to be: a network for BPW businesswomen in the Danube countries. The Net is based on the four elements of business, networking, influence and culture. The next BPW Danube Net is to be held in Pula/Croatia on 16-18 November 2007.

### France

**Council of Europe.** For the first time BPW Europe was able to activate and promote the participation to “Seminar on the Participatory Element of Democracy”, organized by the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe as a contribution to the Forum for the Future of Democracy. **4-5 December 2006**, in Strasbourg. Out of 15 registrations the CoE has chosen three participants: Nicole Pelletier, President of BPW France, Sanja Ronga, President of BPW Switzerland and Arzu Ozyol, President of Associated BPW Club Ankara, Turkey. Congratulations to all three of you!

Gabriella Canonica  
European Regional Coordinator

### Latin America and Spanish Speaking Countries in the Caribbean

#### Brazil:

BPW Brazil's president Beatriz Fett invited both Liz Benham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and I to attend Latin America & SSCC presidents' meeting on 1-2 September 2007 and its 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference (18<sup>th</sup> CONFAM) on 2-6 September 2007 in Cuiba, Brazil. Prior to Cuiba, I visited Sao Paolo. Elisa set up an appointment for me to have a lunch meeting with Dr. Raymundo Magliano Filho, Chairman of the Board of BOVESPA, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest stock market exchange in the world. Under his leadership, BOVESPA initiated "Women in Action" – a financial education program especially for women and the "Social Stock Exchange" program which helps raise funds for social projects that "listed" with BOVESPA. He also sent a reporter to interview me. The interview is published in BOVESPA magazine and published on-line at

[www.bovespa.com.br/InstSites/RevistaBovespa/100/Mulheres.shtml#03](http://www.bovespa.com.br/InstSites/RevistaBovespa/100/Mulheres.shtml#03)

It was also a pleasure to meet Margarida Hiroko Yassuda, a BPW Sao Paolo member who won an award from United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for her environmentally conscious measures in hotel management.



Chairman of BOVESPA Dr. Raymundo Magliano, International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, Elisa Campos and members of BPW Sao Paolo.

Regional Coordinator Maria Ines Bunning organized a very successful Latin America and SSCC presidents' meeting. She planned to increase member countries in the region by getting existing member countries to help start up a BPW Club in its neighbouring country. My two hours session on BPW Organization Review and Reform enabled me to present the progress as well as gather feedback and suggestions from presidents of federations / clubs.



BPW Brazil's president Beatriz Fett, BPW Sao Paolo's president Elisa Campos, International President Chonchanok Viravan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Elizabeth Benham and members of BPW Brazil.

awards, SABRE will develop a video of their success stories giving them opportunities to teach others to do business "by example". SABRE also funded the winners from 2004 to attend BPW International Congress in Luzern, Switzerland in 2005. The winners from 2007 will be also received SABRE funding to attend BPW International Congress in Merida, Mexico in 2008.

The 18<sup>th</sup> CONFAM was informative as well as fun! BPW Brazil educated their member clubs on how to apply for funding from Brazilian government, resulting in receiving a lot of funding support for their projects. BPW Brazil also partnered with SABRE and Secretariate Especial de Politicas para as Mulheres to organize a competition for women entrepreneurs. Beside receiving the

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan,  
International President

#### Chile:

**BPW Chile** is preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress of L.A. & SSCC. to be held in Santiago, in 17-19 April 2007. After the Congress, there are plans to visit three important tourist attractions as the closure to the Congress.

Maria Ines Garcia Bunning  
Latin America and SSCC Regional Coordinator

### North America and Non-Spanish Speaking Countries in the Caribbean

#### Cayman

Launching its activities for the year, the Young BPW Cayman presented the Young Parents' Programme with a donation recently. The Young Parent's Programme was created by the Department of Children and Family Services. There are nine young women on the programme at the moment aged 14 through 21 and 8 babies, newborn to 9 months.

Young BPW members, Joy Coe, Tesia Scott, Alexa Thomas and Chair, Charmaine Moss were on hand to present the young parents with 3 gift baskets consisting of baby supplies. Young BPW members plan to organize a short talk to the Young Parents

Programme on "Personal Ethics" including: self esteem building and etiquette.



Members of the Young Business & Professional Women's Club make a presentation to the young mothers from the Young Parents' Programme

#### Barbados

BPW Barbados partners with the Bureau of Gender Affairs in a project sponsored by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) since year 2005. IOM wanted to alert the Barbadian Public as to the nature and characteristics of Human Trafficking. It wanted to put Barbados on guard, to prevent the island from being used as a point of distribution for human trafficking. A coalition was formed, made up of representatives of the agencies/organizations. Planning meetings were held. Three public campaigns were held in Speightswn, Oistins and Bridgetown. In 2006, two officers of IOM came to the island and conducted a workshop on Human Trafficking, its implications and ramifications. The outcome of the workshop was that participants arranged to set up mechanisms to do empirical research and to set up a watch-dog operation to scrutinize events or actions that resembled human trafficking and report to IOM.

#### Netherlands Antilles

BPW St.Maarten in collaboration with Women's desk and Women awareness movements organized the first biennial essay writing contest among the secondary schools for International Women's Day. The topic was "*Women in leadership for a better tomorrow*"

The award ceremony took place on June 21, just before the closing of the school year. The first prize of a Laptop computer went to Ms. Christy Generlette. The second prize, a trip for two wherever Winair flies and 1 cellular phone, went to Nitesh Nihalan. The 3rd prize, a hotel stay for 2 at Summit Resort Hotel went to Alissa Hoogenboesem. The 4th prize, dinner for two at Taloula Mango's Restaurant, went to Christopher Bell and the 5th prize dinner for 1 at Turtle Pier Restaurant went to Roald Tjon-Kon-Fat. The awardees also received 1 National Symbols book, and a St. Maarten Pin.

#### *Annual Mothers day Luncheon*

The Club held their Annual Mothers day Luncheon on Mothers day and was pleased with the large turnout of members and non-members.

At the luncheon awards were made to the following persons :

1. Mrs. Mercedes De Polo for her 40 years of service to the community as a businesswoman. Mrs. Mercedes De Polo owned 4 drugstores, and is a friend and sponsor of the club.
2. Two young ladies for their creativity: Ms. Leticia Flanders in making the tickets and Ms. Angelique Scantlebery for making the programs

Monica McNeil  
North America and NSSCC Regional Coordinator

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Young BPW International Meeting

The planning of Young BPW International Meeting has been the prime concern throughout 2006. The programme has been revised and modified several and these iterations were based on the feedback and suggestions from the Young BPW committee and especially the International President.

The leadership trainings provided during this 4<sup>th</sup> Young BPW International meeting is a university training and participants will get university certificates which will boost their CV and add a feather in their hat.

In additional, we will have brainstorming session to make recommendations on expectations of young business and professional women. These recommendations will be submitted as input to BPW International's organization review and reform.

I'm preparing a proposal to the executive board in January 2007 to arrange some financial assistance for young BPW members to attend this meeting. This will include Young BPW committee budget and sponsorships from donor agencies or multinational companies. We do hope that this would enable more members will be able participate at this event.

The finalized programme will be disseminated by the end of January 2007 through Young BPW members, presidents of BPW affiliates in all member countries, web site [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org) and BPW Online.

Rooma Para,  
Chair of Young BPW Committee



Young BPW Breakfast talk in Perth, Australia in October 2006. Front row (left to right), Western Australia Development Officer Alicia Curtis; BPW President's office Director Naphaphen Vejjajiva, International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, BPW Western Australia's president Michele Miller and Lisa Meurs, a Guest Speaker. Back row (left to right) BPW Australia's President Kay Morrison, Ranelle Cliff, Vice Chair Membership, National Young BPW Board.

We would like to congratulate 3 women who gained top posts at the United Nations as follows:



**Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro** from the United Republic of Tanzania has been appointed as the new Deputy Secretary-General for the United Nations. She was a Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Tanzania.



**Dr. Margaret Chan** from China was elected as the new Director-General of World Health Organization, in November 2006. Her term of office is January 2007 - June 2012..



**H.E. Sheikhha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa** was appointed as Chair of the United Nations General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session in June 2006..

... And we also like to congratulate 3 BPW members who gained top posts as well.



**Dr. Nona Ricafort**, Past president of BPW Philippines, was appointed as Minister of Higher Education in Philippines in December 2006. She was a Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education.



**Eufemia Ippolito**, BPW representative to European Women's Lobby (EWL) from BPW Italy, was re-elected to serve on the board of EWL for 2006-2008.



**Marlene Parenzan**, BPW representative to UN Vienna from Austria, was elected to serve on the Board of EWL as Representative Members of National Organizations (Austria). Marlene was the former Vice President of Conference of NGOs (CONGO).

# COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES

## Health Committee

**STATEMENT to agenda item 15.0 *Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS***

**From the International Federation of Business and Professional Women**

**Fifty-seventh Session of the World Health Organisation of the Western Pacific.**

September 21<sup>st</sup> 2006

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women commend the commitment of the WHO, UNAIDS and other international bodies in the battle against the scourge of HIV/AIDS. and strongly support the concept of universal access to prevention, treatment and care by 2010.

We also appreciate the progress achieved through the 3 by 5 Initiative, and the determination to work towards the goal of universal access.

However, we fear that global efforts to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS are failing because the world has not recognized that it is a female epidemic. Women are biologically twice as likely to become infected with HIV during sex as they are exposed to a larger dose of virus, and are more prone to be cajoled or forced into sex because of their lack of social power.

The 2004 United Nations Global Report on the AIDS pandemic said 39.4 million people were living with HIV, up from 36.6 million 2 years ago. Over 50% of AIDS sufferers are women, and 50% of all new infections are among young people aged 15-24 years. Of these, almost two thirds are girls. In Sub-Saharan Africa, new infections are 5 times higher for girls than for boys aged 15-19.(NGO Committee on UNICEF, 2004).

Women and girls face a range of HIV-related risk factors and vulnerabilities that men and boys do not—many of which are embedded in the social relations and economic realities of their societies. The UNICEF task force's July 2004 report, *Facing the Future Together*, found a clear link between gender discrimination and the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls in six areas, including prevention programmes, education, violence, women's property and inheritance rights, home and community-based care giving and access to care and treatment.

Women and girls are guaranteed the right to health, education and protection from violence, exploitation and discrimination by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. When poverty, unequal power relations and lack of services and information increase their risk of HIV/AIDS, these rights are severely undermined and strategies to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS are rendered ineffective.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women believes that combatting gender inequality is crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We fervently encourage Member States of the World Health Organisation Western Pacific Region to take account of the effects of gender disadvantage and discrimination and seek to develop ways to embed gender equality and women's empowerment within the proposed strategies and health interventions for universal access. The issue of the feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic must be addressed if the goal of universal access by 2010 is to be achieved.

Submitted by Faye Gardiner RGON,  
Health Committee Chairperson  
IFBPW

## COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES

### Twining Taskforce

The BPW International Twining taskforce is chaired by Megan Smith from BPW Australia. The taskforce members comprise of Amelie Leclerc (BPW France), Jasmyn Mumme (BPW Australia), Marilise Estives (BPW Brazil) and Marion Volk (BPW Switzerland).

The Twining taskforce, with the wonderful assistance of International President Nok, has been busy updating the registered Twining projects. It will be completed by the end of January 2007, thanks to the help of Kay Morrison, President of BPW Australia.

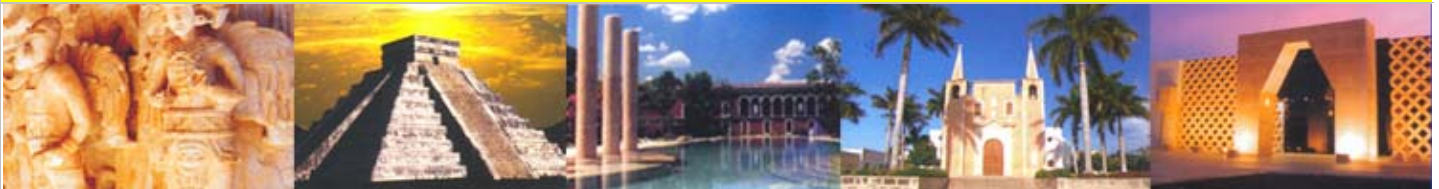
The updating has provided us with a wonderful insight into the Twining activities of BPW clubs worldwide. The Twining request and record form is also being updated and it will shortly go online. The Twining certificate is undergoing some minor changes and the process of issuing them is to be streamlined. It has been decided to reissue certificates to all Clubs who are on the updated Twining register in order to recognise their valued partnerships. These certificates will be signed by International President Nok and the Twining co-ordinator Megan Smith.

There is a list of clubs waiting to be Twinned and these requests are being met. With the new forms this process should be speeded up. However Clubs need not wait! Send Twining requests to the Twining Taskforce c/o the co-ordinator Megan Smith - [smitkim@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smitkim@bigpond.net.au). Some contact details and perhaps the country you wish to find a Twin is all that we require. More questions can then be asked to meet the request.

The Taskforce will need to make other clubs in their regions aware of the benefits of Twining. This will be achieved through BPW publications, web postings, regional co-ordinators, country Presidents, and individual clubs by sharing information on successful meetings, projects etc of clubs already Twinned. Clubs can assist in this process by sending updates of Twining Activities and photos to the Twining co-ordinator and the taskforce member in their region. This information and photos sent to the Taskforce can be filed, included in articles, used in promoting BPW Twining as well as inclusion in the Projects CD, which is aimed to be one of the new major PR material for BPW International.

Megan Smith  
Twining Taskforce Chair

## MERIDA CONGRESS 2008



### Host Planning Committee

Host Planning Committee (HPC) for XXVI BPW International Congress in Merida, Mexico on 24-28 October 2008 comprise of

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Chair of HPC:             | Ma. Luisa Herrera de Moncada     |
| 2. Operative Coordinator:    | Martha Soto Zermeño              |
| 3. Logistic Committee Chair: | Sra. Silvia Hernández de Coronel |
| 4. Finance Committee Chair:  | Lic. Ma. Esther Ozuna G.         |
| 5. ICT Committee Chair:      | Lic. Concepción Mendoza Díaz     |
| 6. Special Task Team         | Young BPW Mexico                 |

Advisor of HPC include several Past BPW Mexico Presidents, which are Gloria Nelly Castilla de Bernal, Olga Ramírez de Gómez, Olga Margarita R. De Rodríguez, Isela Gómez de Delinco, Silvia Contreras de Salazar, Silvia Hernández de Coronel, Irma Leticia Castro de García. The HPC will also work closely with the Nacional Executive Borrad, chaired by President of BPW Mexico, Sra. Virginia Morales de Cuadras.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan  
International President

## Calendar of Events

### BPW EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
16-18 February 2007	Montego Bay, Jamaica	✚ North America & NSSCC Regional Conference
12-14 April 2007	Mar del Plata, Argentina	✚ BPW Argentina National Conference
16-18 April 2007	Santiago, Chile	✚ The 5 <sup>th</sup> Latin-America & SSCC Regional Conference
21 April 2007	Sligo, Ireland	✚ BPW Ireland Annual General Meeting
3-6 May 2007	New Zealand	✚ BPW New Zealand National Conference
10-13 May 2007	Seoul, Korea	✚ The 4 <sup>th</sup> Young BPW International Conference
12-15 May 2007	Seoul, Korea	✚ Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
August 2007	Benin	✚ BPW Africa Regional Conference
19-21 October 2007	Valencia, Spain	✚ The 6 <sup>th</sup> European Presidents Meeting
October 2007	Australia	✚ BPW Australia National Conference

### OTHER EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
22-30 January 2007	Geneva, Switzerland	120 <sup>th</sup> World Health Organization Executive Board Meeting
23-24 Feb 2007	New York, USA	“Train-the-Facilitator” Leadership Seminar for Individual Development Program (IDP)
24 Feb 2007	New York, USA	✚ Project Five-O Meeting
26 Feb – 9 March 2007	New York, USA	✚ Commission on Status of Women, 51 <sup>st</sup> Session
4 March 2007	New York, USA	✚ BPWI / New York Annual General Meeting
14-16 June 2007	Berlin, Germany	✚ Global Summit of Women

✚ President 's Travel

## BPW News International

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To get a copy, please download the newsletter from BPW International website ([www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)).  
If BPW Federations or Associate Clubs prefer to receive a hard copy, please inform Member services at [members@bpw-international.org](mailto:members@bpw-international.org).

### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

31 March 2007 : No. 1 / 2007  
30 June 2007 : No. 2 / 2007  
30 September 2007 : No. 3 / 2007  
31 December 2007 : No. 4 / 2007

Articles for the newsletters must be submitted to [presidents.office@bpw-international.org](mailto:presidents.office@bpw-international.org)  
no later than 1 month prior to the release date of the newsletter.

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