

focus on the environment

Pacific Edition

# OFANews



ONCE & FUTURE ACTION NETWORK OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

December 2001

NEWS FROM REGIONAL PREPARATORY EVENTS

## World Summit on Sustainable Development

*From the Women's Caucus at the Europe prepcom, Geneva, September 2001*

In 2002, after a worldwide consultation process the Women's Action Agenda 2002 will be presented containing women's concerns and priorities for a Healthy Planet. Women's perspectives, visions and knowledge are not adequately taken into account and the implementation of the measures in chapter 24 of Agenda 21 Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development is still relevant.

- Gender balance must be guaranteed in the WSSD preparatory process
- Gender specific analysis should be part of all decisions and legislation
- Peace and justice are prerequisites for sustainable development
- Military production and consump-

tion are a serious impediment to sustainable development

- A world economic and policy system that perpetuates poverty and even widens the gap between rich and poor is not sustainable
- Globalisation can cause women to lose control over means and systems of production and distribution of resources
- Health and environment are closely connected
- Everybody has the right to a fair share of natural resources of good quality
- Food security implies food sovereignty. Women within their regional and local economies should be empowered to obtain control over land and other resources
- Much more support must be given to the promotion and development of sustainable land use and agricultural systems that are environmentally sound
- The conservation of biological diversity and wise use of natural resources must be supported at all levels
- Government must ratify and implement all international environmental conventions and protocols

The full text of the women's statement, prepared by Irene Dankelman and Valerie Evans can be obtained from Dr Minu Hemmati, UNED Forum, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL, UK telephone +44 207 8397171, fax +44 207 9305893, mobile +44 7949 777 453, email [minush@aol.com](mailto:minush@aol.com), web: [www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org) AND [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)

*The Pacific prepcom  
September 2001 Apia, Samoa*

The reports of the ECOWOMAN delegates are available from Patrina Dumaruru at the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji. Phone (679) 304649 fax (679) 304755 email: [pdumaruru@pcrc.org.fj](mailto:pdumaruru@pcrc.org.fj)

The official report of the meeting can be obtained from SPREP the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, P.O. Box 240, Apia, Samoa. Phone (685) 21929 fax (685) 20231 email [geraldm@sprep.org.ws](mailto:geraldm@sprep.org.ws)

The consolidated list of issues to be forwarded to WSSD are:

- Climate change and sea level rise
- Vulnerability and hazards
- Oceans (marine & resource protection/management)



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Current Trends & Future Actions (from GLOBALNET #173 of the IWTC\*)

# Once and Future Action Network (OFAN)

Meeting convened by OFAN and Radcliffe on Gender Science & Technology

Many of you may remember the Once & Future Pavilion at the NGO Forum in Beijing (Huairou) 1995 where women asked questions, searched for solutions, shared ideas, demonstrated their knowledge of science and technology, and showed how they made it work for them. The work has continued and one of the more recent happenings was a meeting convened by the Once & Future Action Network (OFAN) and the Radcliffe Centre for Public Policy, Boston USA, April 30 and May 1 2001. Possibilities for closer collaboration among the global gender, science & technology (GST) networks were discussed and plans outlined for future activities. Among the global GST networks present in addition to OFAN were:

- Gender and Science and Technology Association (GASAT)
  - The Global Alliance for Diversifying the Science & Engineering Workforce
  - The Third World Organisation for Women in Science (TWOWS)
  - The Regional Secretariats (South-east Asia & Pacific, Africa, Latin America) of the Gender Advisory Board (GAB) of the UN Commission on Science & Technology for Development.
- Other organisation represented were:
- AWIS Association for Women in Science
  - AAAS American Association for the Advancement of Science

- UNESCO Science Sector
- DAW the UN Division for the Advancement of Women

Decisions reached during the meeting included:

1. the rotation of the OFAN global secretariat from India to Fiji (ECOWOMAN, Box 9874, Nadi Airport P.O., Fiji fax/phone (679) 720003 email goodwillie@is.com.fj)
2. a renewal of OFAN's role as a policy monitoring and advocacy network on gender, science & technology issues with an immediate focus on Rio + 10 and the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to review implementation of the Beijing Platform for action.
3. an agreement to explore a global collaborative project on information and communication technologies

Reports given during the meeting included:

UNESCO held the World Conference on Science in 1999 which included a panel on women, science & technology. OFAN & ECOWOMAN participated in Paris meetings last December and April on "Technology & Poverty Alleviation". The UNESCO/GAB Toolkit is described elsewhere in this newsletter. Gender Indicators for Engineering, Science & Technology

As a follow-up to the 1999 World Conference on Science UNESCO has ap-

pointed Gloria Bonder as the new Coordinator of the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science & Technology for Latin America, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A 2-year plan of action for Latin America will be presented at a meeting in December prior to the II Global Congress of Citizens Network 2001: "Renewing Communities in the Digital Era". For more information contact Gloria Bonder at Centro de Estudios de la Mujer (CEM) cem@mujer.org.ar

TWOWS is seeking funds for young research scientists' fellowships to gain international experience. They hope to hold their 2003 Assembly in Latin America or Asia. Meanwhile, TWOWS considers networking to be a vital component of their activities.

GASAT 10 has just been held in Denmark, strengthening regional capacity building and the international network.

For more details on (3) contact Sophia Huyer WIGSAT/GAB, P.O. Box 145, 623 Brimley Road, Grafton, Ontario K0K 2G0 phone 1 905 349 9962 email: shuyer@wigsat.org or the International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA, phone 1 212 687 8633, fax 1 212 661 2704, email: iwtc@iwtc.org

A full report of the meetings in Boston is available from Sophia or IWTC, detailing the work of both GAB and OFAN and related global GST groups including Women in Global Science & Technology WIGSAT, which manages the website on behalf of OFAN. Regional OFAN focal points will be responsible for inputs into the Rio + 10 process, WSSD: the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in South Africa September 2002.

\*International Women's Tribune Centre

SEND TO:

**Fernand Vincent**  
**Innovations et Reseaux Pour le Developpement**  
**3 rue de Varembe**  
**Case 116**  
**CH-1211 Geneva 20**  
**Switzerland**

RETURN MAIL ADDRESS:

International Women's Tribune Centre  
777 UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
USA  
phone 1 212 687 8633  
fax 1 212 661 2704  
email: iwtc@iwtc.org

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Please address correspondence to any of the following on the OFAN Steering Committee. If they cannot respond to your queries they will send to someone who can:

Sophia Huyer	<shuyer@wigsat.org>
Ruth Lechte	<goodwillie@is.com.fj>
Lilia Ramos	<aptechmnl@phil.gn.apc.org>
Lala Bukarau	<lala@sopac.org>
Marilyn Carr	<marilyncarr55@aol.com>
Jayshree Mehta	<satwac@wilnetonline.net>
Vicki Semler	<vickisemler@aol.com>
Shirley Malcom	<smalcom@aaas.org>
Yolanda George	<ygeorge@aaas.org>
Lis Joosten	<arpalis@edured.net>