



BPW News International

Official Newsletter of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women

Quarter 1 / 2006
Theme for 2005 – 2008
“New Dimensions of Leadership”
BPWI was founded in 1930

From the President’s Desk

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Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President
2005-2008

ON THE ROAD OF JOY AND CHALLENGES

Since BPW International Congress in Luzern in June 2006, it has been eventful for me. The first BPW National Conference I attended as International President was the Swiss National Conference in Bern, Switzerland. Since then I have visited 8 countries, including Austria – for BPW Austria 75th Anniversary; Denmark – for Project Five-O 25th Anniversary; Korea – for APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women and APEC Women Leaders’ Network; Mexico – for Merida Congress Site inspection; Pakistan - for BPW Pakistan’s Hazrat Khadicha Tul Kulbra Conference; Bermuda and Taiwan for their 2006 Candle lighting ceremonies; and New York, United States for the 50th Session of Commission on Status of Women (CSW). I gave talks and lobbied for equal participation of women in power in and decision making in all these meetings. I also organized a workshop at the United Nations on “Return on Investment When Women became Top Executives”.

In between these events, I held 7 meetings with Executive Board members. Four are Executive Board meetings in June 2005, August 2005, January 2006 and February 2006. Another three includes Finance Director handover meeting and informal meeting in Salzburg, Austria in October 2005 and International Planning Committee meeting in January 2006. We manage these within a budget of one executive board meeting, as we take advantage of having meetings at Bangkok with low expenses, meet when executives attend same events and using Internet for meeting (in August 2005). Three more Internet EXCO meetings are plan in 2006 to improve effectiveness of BPW management.

For organization review, the executive board decided to take AFTA approach (Action First, Talk After) which means we will reform BPW to resolve known issues first, then review the outcome of these reform and the remaining issues in order to make final recommendations. Among top priority issues that we already get start on are *Branding BPW, Strengthen Committees and Taskforces, Communication and Reform of Friends and Fellows program.*

Internet is an asset for reforming BPW communication. We already put BPW Roster On-line, accessible via www.bpw-international.org under MEMBERS. Thanks to Gabriella Canonica who set up the system, BPW affiliates can also update the names and address of their executives online. We also plan to use Internet for voting of Board of Directors. Member Service already sent out “credential form” for each member countries to specify the official “e-mail address” for this purpose. Countries must pay International due to enable voting. Internet groups will be set up to “review” various aspects of BPW.

The executive board revised Friends program to give Member Countries 10% rebate from Friends contribution starting in 2007 and also introduced “Lena Madesin Phillips Fellowship”. Find out more about these initiatives in this newsletter.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President
27 March 2006



CSW 50th Session, 27 February – 10 March 2006

I would like to highlight 3 things from the 50th Session CSW: BPW International workshop; equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels and proposals for a multi-years work program of the CSW.

BPW International's workshop

BPW International's workshop on *Return on Investment when women became top executives* on 28 February 2006 was very well received.

- Chonchanok Viravan told us many interesting cases studies on *Return on Investment when Women Became Top Executives during Thailand Financial Crisis*. These case studies illustrate how "decisions" made by top women executive at Kiatnakin Finance company, Siam Commercial Bank and Toshiba Thailand save their companies from this crisis that last from 1997-2002 and enable the companies to continue to prosper today.

Leigh Henderson, through her programme "Leadership Training Room", presented us the results of a questionnaire on the Returns on Investments (ROI) when Women become Top Executives, the different perspectives of ROI - financial, cultural, social, mythical, and personal. She also presented some statistic about the presence of women in the boards in different countries: Norway (33.3%) takes the first place, following by the UN (17.5%); Finland (12.5%), Malaysia (12.5%) and United Kingdom (12.5%) have the same percentage and the Brazil (11.1%) has a minimum level. Others countries have around 10% or less: a very disappointing situation.

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels

Report of the Secretary-General on "Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-making Process at all levels" and the correlated meetings at the UN emphasizes on Political Participation and Leadership, and gender Equality - Making a Difference through Parliament. In a panel Anders B. Johnson, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) also presented data from IPU surveys (available for download on www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#45-05). I would like to highlight some of the key facts here: 45.3 percent of female parliamentarians, followed by Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. The Arab States are increasing their percentage in November 2005 in a high of 8.2%

women. The most progress is achieved in Americas (+7% points increase), followed by sub-Saharan Africa (+6.7% percentage points increase) and Europe - excluding the Nordic countries - (+6.1% percentage points increase). Table of "Countries with 30% Women Representatives in Parliament" shows that one quarter of these countries are Nordic countries, characterized by social and political changes in the past 30 years. One fifth of these countries are the "post conflict countries" as Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa, that are in transition and the process of establishing new constitutions, institutions and political rules opened golden opportunity for women. In South Africa, i.e., in only one election the number of women jumped from 2.7% to 25% and in Rwanda from less than 15% to 48.8%; AND more than three quarters of these countries use "electoral quotas". Table of "Women in the Executive on January 2005" shows 14.3% Women Ministers and 858 in 183 countries Ministerial portfolios held by women, but only 12 portfolios related to defence, 20 to finance and 25 to foreign affairs.

Important field of action for BPW International would be BPWI participation to the incoming Peace building Commission based on the point 21. of the Resolution 1645 (2005), adopted by the Security Council in December 2005: "21. *Encourages* the Commission to consult with civil society, nongovernmental organizations, including women's organizations, and the private sector engaged in peace building activities, as appropriate".

Proposed Multi-years work program of the CSW

A multi-years work program on substantive themes for the period 2007-2009 are as follow: Elimination of discrimination against the girl child (2007), Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (2008), and Sharing of responsibilities for home and family, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS (2009).

Annarosa Colangelo
Chair of UN Committee on Status of Women

Lobby at CSW

The two thematic issues of CSW 50th Session are (1) "Equal Participation of Women and Men in Power and Decision Making Roles" and (2) "Enhance participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work". Beside this, the commission also discussed many other issues, including Multi-years Methods of Work. BPW actions were to address the highest priority issue with respect to each of these areas of concern.

We start our lobbying effort through the media by placing an ad in the NGO-CSW booklet to call for the following actions:

- Collect evidences on Return on Investment when women are in power and decision making roles to convince governments, corporations and companies to foster the growth of women executives and give high priority to address women's issues.
- Lobby at corporate level to convince corporations to value women for the quality of their work and the quality of their decisions rather than penalizing women with lower pay for the same post or denying women of promotion just because they balance their personal life with their working life and do not spend extra hours at the office.

BPW International also organized a workshop on "*Return on Investment when Women Became Top Executives*" with respect to the first theme equal participation of women and men in power and decision making roles. Dr. Chonchanok Viravan and Leigh Henderson, Managing Director of Leadership Training Room, LLC, were speakers. Evidences from case studies showed that women executives play vital part in pulling through companies through the financial crisis in Thailand. Studies of companies in USA by Catalyst Company also showed that companies perform better financially when they have higher percentage of women participation in top executives.

The outcome of this workshop called for lobbying at national level to make it a mandate for Public listed companies to have women participation in the Board of Directors and to disclose the statistics on the participation of women and men in the top executive level in Corporations.

For the theme regarding enabling environment for women through education, health and work, BPW members distributed statement which was formulated by Dr. Chonchanok and lobbied their respective government officials accordingly. The statement pointed out that the problem is not the lack of development projects in each of the three areas; the problem is the lack of coordination among such projects, creating "gaps" that result in ineffective enabling environment for women. The highest priority, therefore, is for governments to identify these gaps and close them through improve collaboration among projects within the same community to ensure all three areas area addressed and promote collaboration with NGO and private sector to accomplish this task.

For Multi-years Methods of Works for future CSW, Dr. Chonchanok gave the following recommendations on behalf of BPW International:

1. For each CSW meeting, the UN should publish a statistics report on the "Status of Women" with respect to thematic issue OR at least summary of status based on recent CEDAW reports.
2. In addition, the UN should encourage NGOs to submit data resulting from their monitoring process on the thematic issues - as opposed to just making general recommendations. Quality data should be considered for publication on the UN web site as it will become useful to the general public.
3. Give a platform for NGOs to interactively discuss the thematic issue with the people who prepare documents for the Commission AHEAD of time. Web discussion group would be fine.
4. Give each speaker at Expert Panel during the session MORE time so that the expert can really transfer the knowledge adequately to participants at CSW. Fewer experts with longer time are better than 3 minutes speech from a lot of experts.
5. The OUTCOME of CSW should identify the TOP 5 highest priority issues (under the chosen theme) that demand immediate attention of the member countries of the UN.
6. The two years review should AT LEAST report implementation progress/effectiveness with respect to the TOP 5 highest priority issues to see whether the problems have been mitigated. NGO participation in these monitoring activities and NGO shadow reports are welcome.

Over 80 other NGOs at CSW have signed on to this statement are signing on to this statement, which has been submitted to the United Nations for further consideration.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Development: Triple One Formula

I wish a very happy healthy and prosperous 2006 to all BPW International members. Much activity has been going on since Luzern and now in 2006 we will start to implement my plans on membership. In the last triennium from 2002 until June 2005 despite the hard efforts of our past vice president Ilse Spritzendorfer to increase our membership by 12% we actually have experienced another decrease in membership of 8%. Although the trend seems to be holding at single digits over the past years, it cannot continue and we must have some urgent focus to increase membership if we want to survive and be recognized as the international organization that we are.

Since our dues are still very minimal the only way to increase the level of services, provide more tools and increase the visibility of BPW International is to work on increasing our network. I have outlined an aggressive strategy to accomplish over the next 3 years and along with the membership team of all the regional coordinators and the focal point members, I urge all our members to participate in this and help us achieve the growth that we need.

The membership team is chaired by me and the members are Dr. Amany Asfour (Africa), Ambica Shrestha (Asia-Pacific), Gabriella Canonica (Europe), Maria Ines Bunning (Latin America), Monica McNeil (North America). We will also have 1-2 focal point members from each federations and associate clubs. Margareta Ling Vannerus is our first focal point from Sweden!

Membership development consists of three things.

Firstly we must work on ensuring retention of our members which is critical. Along with the dues invoice for federations and associate clubs which have been sent out, I have requested 3 questions on some numbers to be reported for us:

- (1) The number of continuing members.
- (2) The number of new members.
- (3) The number of non renewing members.

This information will help me to establish how we are doing retaining our members and also to identify the new member growth. It is very important for new members in the first 1-2 years in the organization to experience the value of membership in BPW and feel the pride and satisfaction of belonging to an International organization that is worthy. The new member booklet prepared by past president Dr Antoinette Ruegg is great and is a very valuable tool. that will be improved on even further and distributed to all members. All federations and

Associate Club presidents will be receiving this to distribute to each member directly and especially to all new members.

Secondly, we must strengthen what we currently have. The country federations and associate clubs that exist now must be motivated, maintained and helped with sustained growth. We are identifying the countries and clubs in the regions that are having problems and need care. The regional coordinators and I will work closely there to resolve issues and help to strengthen the leadership and the organization

Thirdly, new member development is very critical. So I have devised the **Triple One Formula** which means that each **1 member** should get at least **one new member** every **1 year**, equaling: **1+1+1**. This is where I am urging the participation of all members and not only the regional coordinators, presidents and their executive boards.

To make this more interesting and competitive, I have designed parts to accomplish this goal:

- The goal of **each** member gets 1 new member **each** year , will be rewarded by a **Triple Crown pin** which will be awarded to the individual members in 2008 who got 3 new members in 3 years. They will also be highlighted on the website and in the newsletter.
- A point system of 1 point for each new member will be given to each federation and club and will be reported each quarter. The winners (clubs/federations) with the highest growth (in points) at the end of the triennium will be awarded a **Triple Crown medal / plaque** at Congress. This will not be just any kind of award. I can assure all members that this will be very special and definitely worth enjoining the competition. The membership team is committed to working hard with everyone to achieve this. A good tracking system will be implemented and I will report the progress every quarter.

And so lastly: **Membership is the responsibility of every single member. Retention and New Membership development are the key factors so let's work together to make this an historic triennium of growth!**

I welcome your comments or feedback so please email me or write to liz.benham@bpw-international.org

With Warmest Wishes,

Liz Benham
Second Vice President and Membership Chair

REGIONAL NEWS

Africa

Egypt: BPW Africa Regional Conference will be held in Cairo, Egypt on 9-11 April 2006 at Marriott Hotel. The theme is “Economic Women Empowerment”. There would be guest speakers from all over the world covering variety of topics, including Women Leadership, Economic Women Empowerment, Role of Business Women in Economic Development, Role of Business Women in Social Development, presentations from BPW in Africa, the Arab World, Mediterranean region to exchange of experience & projects, Small and Medium Enterprises, New methods of finance, Women and ICT. Business of Peace, Women Entrepreneurship promotion, economic integration in Africa and Arab world, Business partnership in the Mediterranean region, Business opportunities between women in Africa, Networking and roles of International Business Organizations, free communications, women in Trade and Marketing and Diversity program.

Amany Asfour,
Africa Regional Coordinator

Burkina Faso: BPW Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso organized a conference “Femmes et fistules obstétricales, femmes et VIH / SIDA” on 8 – 10 February 2006. It was attended by 60 women and a few men from Niger, Senegal, Sweden and Switzerland. Members met with Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Genevieve Ah Sue, to discuss a common project in the UN office in Ouagadougou. The wife of the Prime Minister, godmother of BPW Ouagadougou, invited all BPW members for dinner. Post congress included visits to different companies and business of BPW members.

Antoinette Ruegg,
Immediate Past president

Asia Pacific

Korea: President Chonchanok and Young BPW Chair Rooma Para, President of BPW Philippines Nona Ricafort, along with other BPW members from Japan, Philippines and Korea, attended APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women at Sookmyong Women University in Seoul, Korea on 22-23 August 2005 and APEC Women Leaders' Network (WLN) on 24-26 August 2005 in Daegu, Korea. In the first event, Dr. Chonchanok gave a talk on “Strategies of Online Banking Services” and Rooma Para gave a talk on “E-Business Training – an on-going endeavor to empower women”. In the second event, she gave a talk on “The Future of WLN”.



BPW Korea strategically arranged two national newspapers to interview for Dr. Chonchanok and Rooma in Seoul. When the interview articles were published during APEC's Women Leaders' Network in Daegu, the news significantly raised BPW profile among women leaders in 21 member economies of APEC.

Pakistan: By invitation of Dr. Salima Ahmad, President Chonchanok attended BPW Pakistan's annual Hazrat Khadicha Tul Kulbra Conference in Karachi, Pakistan as a chief guest on 14-15 January 2006. During the seminar “Enlighten Moderation and Road Map for Women Development” on 14 January at Dr. SRA Women's Complex, Dr. Chonchanok gave a talk to emphasize the needs to value women's work by its quality rather than the hours they can sit in the office and the need to make the return on investment when women became top executive visible. The gala dinner was BPW Pakistan's candle lighting ceremony. The next day was the award ceremony where President Chonchanok gave Hazrat Khadicha Tul Kulbra gold medals (Outstanding Women Award) to 5 women, including Dr Saeeda Malik Minister of Women Development, Government of Sindh, Pakistan. Khadicha Tul Kulbra is considered to be a “perfect women” and a “role model” as she was both a successful women entrepreneur and a great wife to the prophet Mohammad. The event is broad cast in several Television Channels. In the evening at the

REGIONAL NEWS

Farewell Dinner, Dr. Salima surprised President Chonchanok by presenting her with Khadicha Tul Kulbra gold medal – in recognition that she is the first president of BPW International from Asia. BPW Pakistan has many impressive projects. They managed to raise fund to build many women hostels in many cities in Pakistan to give accommodation to working women. Dr. Chonchanok visited one of the schools that BPW Pakistan has adopted and turn into “Quality school”, with better qualified teachers, better support on education materials and better design on school curriculum and low tuition fee.

Taiwan: BPW Taipei organized a Candle Lighting ceremony on 11 March 2006, where President Chonchanok attended and deliver her message. At this ceremony, President of BPW Taipei, Fongmei Hsu, gave an award to Taiwan Vice President Lu (in the middle), who is also a co-founder of BPW Taipei. This ceremony was broadcast on Taiwan National television. On 12 March, President Chonchanok has a chance to dine with members of BPW Taiwan to exchanges ideas and informed them about BPW International activities. The strength of BPW in Taiwan is in lobbying as BPW members there have a lot of political connection. On 13 March, they arranged President Chonchanok to meet with key organizations that work on gender issues, including Foundation of Women Right Promotion and Development, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, National Council of Women and Y.W.C.A. Taiwan is quite advance in collecting gender disaggregated data, addressing gender issues, and have high participation of women in the government. When Dr. Chonchanok identified the information gap on statistics for women participation as executive in the private sector, the authorities were quite eager to address this issue.



Thailand:



The Executive Board meeting was held in Bangkok on 4-8 January 2006, follow by an International Planning Committee (IPC) meeting on 9 January 2006. While tough issues were addressed during the days, our executives enjoyed relaxing evenings after the meeting each day. BPW Thailand’s president, Maleeratna Plumchitchom along with other Thai members hosted a welcome dinner for the executive board at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Erawan (see the photo) on 5 January. After the meetings, the executive board went for a tour and shopping spree in Chiang Mai at their own expense. They were welcome by the wife of Chiang Mai governor at the luncheon hosted by past president of BPW Chiang Mai, M.L. Preeyapun Sridavat.

In March 2006, Khunying Natthika Wattanavekin Ang-Ubonkul and Kobkarn Wattanawarangkul, Members of BPW Thailand, led a team to organize “The 10th Leading Women Entrepreneur of the World award” of the Star’s Group on 22 March 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. This is a world class event where winners must be successful business women whose businesses are considered leading business in her countries. For 2006, out of 15 winners world-wide, two are BPW members. They are Khunying Sasima Srivigrom and Mrs. Patara Sila-On. Both are members of BPW Thailand. The Star’s Group also gave 3 funding awards to small local business owners with high potential. The first prize was USD 10,000. The second and third prizes were USD 2,500 each. Pim Kemasingki, a Young BPW from Chiang Mai Thailand won the second prize. The next competition in 2007 will be in Africa.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

REGIONAL NEWS

Europe

France: Strasbourg / Germany: Weil am Rhein / Switzerland: Basel Dreiländertreffen The tradition, that every year these 3 Clubs in the different countries are meeting, is a highlight in our Networking. October 2005 we met at the world-famous Vitra-Museum in Weil am Rhein. Beside interesting conferences, we visited the Feuerwehrmuseum; build by Zaha Hadid, one of the world-wide famous women-architects.

France: Two new Clubs have been founded in Lille and Toulouse. BPW France has decided on the annual meeting in Paris, January 28th 2006 that they will restart the Young BPW Section in France. Viktoria Balensiefen, Young BPW Representative for Europe and Gabriella Canonica, Regional Coordinator Europe, took part in the Meeting and promoted the topics of BPW Europe / International.

Cyprus: **Global Summit of Women: Enterprising Women International Entrepreneur Award.** Immediate Past 'President of Cyprus, Artemis Toumazi has been selected to receive this important recognition / award for her work in the Women's Co-operative Bank in Cyprus. The prize will be given to her during the Global Summit in Cairo, June 10-12th Congratulations to Artemis, we are very proud of you!

Turkey:



The first BPW Club in Turkey, Club Ankara: We proudly announce the official opening of the first Club in Turkey, BPW Club Ankara. The Founding Ceremony took place on February the 11th 2006 in the Hilton Hotel in Ankara. More than 100 Persons attended the event. Opening speeches are given by elected President, Arzu Ozyol and Regional Coordinator Gabriella Canonica.

Gabriella Canonica
European Regional Coordinator

Latin America and Spanish Speaking Countries in the Caribbean

Argentina: BPW Argentina's president is Florida D'Antonio. BPW Argentina consists of 15 clubs with 250 members. They are working in Business, Trade and Technology, Health, Young BPW, Memberships (2 new clubs is being organized), and have projects in tourism. Their goal is to found new clubs in many towns because they are now having a very high profile in their country. BPW Argentina is holding its Annual Convention in Rosario, 7-8 April 2006.

Brazil: BPW Brazil is organizing "BPW Get Together" in Rio on 10-12 April 2006. The next Latin America Presidents Meeting will be in Cuiabá, Brazil on 1-6 September 2006.

Chile: BPW Chile's president is Carment Ojeda Caceres. BPW Chile consists of 10 clubs with 118 members. Their committees did good work. They are working in Agriculture, Arts and Culture (exhibition of paints and art crafts and tales contest), Business, Trade and Technology, Health, Development Training and Employment. They have special connection with the Governor, now that the President is a woman.

Panama: BPW Panama Club's president is Albertina B. de Brugiati. The club has 25 members. Its committees are as follows: Business, Trade and Technology, Development Training and Employment, Public Relations. All of these are based on their Credi-Mujer project. They consider that the majority of members mentor new members with their important professional experiences.

Maria Ines Garcia Bunning
Latin America and SSCC Regional Coordinator

North America and Non-Spanish Speaking Countries in the Caribbean

Jamaica: BPW St. Andrew Club are actively worked on three projects: (1) *The Elsie Bernard Home for Girls*, which provides temporary shelter for girls, age 12-18 years old who need care and protection; (2) *Scholarship Fund for High School Girls*, which gave to 9 winners in year 2006 the total of J\$147,000 scholarship funding; and (3) *Jamaica Women's Political Caucus*, which trains women to enter politic and ensure that gender issues are given priority at policy making level. The club also hosted a panel discussion on "Career opportunities in the CSME (Caribbean Single Market Economy), arranged and moderated by the Regional Coordinator.

North America and Non-Spanish Speaking countries in the Caribbean Regional Conference will be held at Sunset Beach Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica on 16-18 February 2007. To view the hotel, please visit www.sunsetbeachresort.com

Monica McNeil
North America and NSSCC Regional Coordinator

Bermuda:



President Chonchanok and Second Vice President Liz Benham attended BPW Bermuda's 30th Anniversary Banquet and Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony on 18 February 2006. It was a joy to meet Yvette Swan, Past International President and Ms Barbara Lewis-Mills, President of BPW Bermuda, and all other members of BPW Bermuda. BPW Bermuda members are very keen in getting more involved at International level. They were very excited about Liz's Triple One formula and eager to formulate a mentoring project to attract younger members.

New York: During 27 February–10 March 2006, over 100 BPW members from 29 countries attended the 50th Session of Commission on Status of Women and its parallel events in New York. The delegation is led by BPW International President Chonchanok Viravan. International members have many chances to meet members of BPW New York during their participation at Commission on Status of Women 50th Session, through events such as BPW Manhattan's conference on "Heart and Health" on 23 February, BPW Briefing dinner 26 March, UNIFEM Luncheon on 2 March, BPW official dinner on 3 March and BPW New York Annual General Meeting on 5 March 2006. We also have a chance to congratulate Eileen Brennan for being elected as new president of BPW New York.

Prior to CSW on 25 February, President Chonchanok also met other presidents of Project Five-O to discuss the reform of Project Five-O (in the picture from left to right: Lynn Dunning, President of Soroptimis International; Chonchanok Viravan, BPW International President, Griselda Kenyon, President of International Federation of University Women; Anamah Tan, President of International Council of Women, and Olivia, incoming President of Zonta International). She also had a chance to meet and to exchange ideas both President of BPW/USA, Roslyn Ridgeway, and incoming President, Nancy Jackson at dinner for BPW members who participate in IDP Leadership Program Facilitator Certification"



sessions on 24 February. BPW/USA is focusing on lobbying for "pay equity" and have program to help women who leave the Army to find alternative careers.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

APEC Meetings in Korea

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum on “Digital Economy for Women” was held at Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul, Korea 22-23 August, 2005. (see <http://webiz.women.or.kr/forum>). It was organized by Asia Pacific Women’s Information Network Center (APWINC). Dr. Chonchanok Viravan and I were invited as speakers at this event.

During this forum, I discussed with Dr. Kio Chung Kim Director APWINC, the opportunity of having, Sookmyung women’s university certified E-Business training during the Young BPW International meeting. I received very positive response. Likewise Dr. Nok spoke with the President of Sookmyung Women’s university and found out about their new leadership training of the university and discussed the possibility of having this training for the Young BPW International meeting as well.

After the forum Dr. Nok and I attended the 10th Women Leaders Network (WLN) meeting which took place in Daegu city of Korea from 23 – 27 August 2005. The theme was Prosperity of Women Enterprises through innovation; new visions for women entrepreneurs. The event proved to be great networking opportunity and a platform for promoting BPW and Young BPW. For more information, please visit www.2005apecsme.org/wln

I met the Young BPW Chairperson Eunmee Hawang, Young BPW Representative Kim, Min Seong and Young BPW members. I was invited to attend a lecture on leadership. The lecture was in Korean but Eunmee did translate it to me. It was quite interesting. The professor said that a good leader should have social sensitivity, good memory, a sense of humor, interpersonal skills, give good impression, complement others, and have good communications skills and creativity. The Professor also mentioned what a leader should not have, which includes fatigue, frustrations, unstable family, and lack of finance.

This visit provided me a chance to meet and discuss the Young BPW meeting with the host country BPW Korea. I wanted to explore the idea of having university certified training at this event, We communicated all these possibilities to BPW Korea and our objective was to facilitate them in planning the event as much as we can. The trip was also a great lesson in term of organizing an international event. Through out the trip Nok and I discussed the things that one need to keep in mind when dealing with people from different parts of the world and how attention to small details can

make a big difference. Plus one should always have back-up plans and be prepared even for the worse.

I would like to thank BPW International, particularly our President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan for her encouragement and BPW Korea for their cooperation. I am very optimistic about the Young BPW International meeting and hope that these steps will act as groundwork for the beneficial activities of Young BPW in future.

Report on WSIS Phase II

I got the opportunity of participating in Phase II of “World Summit on the Information Society” (WSIS) in Tunisia on 16-18 November 2005, through United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) platform. UNDP and UNIDO organized a joint initiative called “Sharing the Future” at the “ICT 4 All” exhibition, as a parallel event to WSIS on 15 – 19 November 2005. It was a cheer delight that I have a chance to team up with Dr. Antoinette Ruegg to explore WSIS with BPW International spirit.

I gave a talk at “*The Use of ICT to Support SME*” Panel on Government of Pakistan IT project, called “Industrial Information Network” (IIN). The presentation focused on the concept and vision of IIN and the services that are being offered by IIN portal, its challenges and its contributions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan.

At the event I visited WSIS Youth Caucus pavilion where there are whole range of events for youth. I believe Young BPW can partner with other Youth organizations with similar goals. Some such networks are (1) *TakingITGlobal*, www.takingitglobal.org which is a network that partners with youth organizations to build capacity of youth for development, artistic and media expression. (2) *Young Asia Television* <http://www.yatv.net/> that involves young people in discussing issues related to sustainable development, the environment, human rights and peaceful coexistence. YA*TV is based in Sri Lanka. It makes use of an international network of country offices and broadcast professionals from whom the organization obtains a range of programming material. YA*TV in turn distributes and broadcasts its own programs through regional and international networks.

BPW and Young BPW members’ participation at such events has been encouraged in the past but more steps can be taken to increase this attendance and active participation. In future Young BPW activities. I will be focusing this as well as developing new partnerships.

Rooma Para,
Chair of Young BPW Committee

FRIENDS & FELLOWS

Friends and Fellows Programs

The BPW International Friends program initiated in 1985 and followed by the Fellowship program which was ratified at the Venice Congress in 1996 are two powerful fundraiser vehicles for our organization. They were the brainchild of past international president Dr Livia Ricci and were successfully driven under her nurturing care. The purpose was to obtain some additional funding outside of the dues from members to help young BPW members in their development and to attend congresses. The Fellows program was designed to get support from high profile individuals who were not members of BPW but who would support the aims of our organization. A few years ago due to some controversy about the Fellows name that program ceased and in addition the friends program became drastically reduced due to a loss of the friends database. Currently we have 110 committed friends but we could have many, many more.

Based on the track record of success of these two programs it is vitally important to jumpstart it again and improve on them to build a sustainable base of committed friends and fellowship members and to continue the wonderful work of Livia Ricci.

Friends Program

In order to gain our members support and to promote the friends program, I have established a profit sharing incentive to benefit the federations and clubs. From January 2006 when the friends' renewal requests are sent out we will be tracking the total amount of friends who renew their donations from each federation or club. In January 2007 a calculation would be made to take 10% of that total amount from the federation or club and give it back as a discount on their annual dues for 2007. For example if a federation's friends members contribute a total of Euro 2000 to the program then a discount of 10% (Euro 200) will be deducted on their annual dues invoice for the federation or club. This profit

sharing will greatly benefit the clubs and federations. The friend application forms have been revised and in addition will now also have a category for corporate friends. The new forms will be sent out to all the existing friends and also to the presidents for their support and distribution among the members to get new friends. The funds collected from the Friends program will be distributed as follows:

10% to young BPW

10% to federations and clubs as a discount on their annual dues.

Fellows Program

The Fellows Program is renamed *Lena Madessin Phillips Fellowship*. The admissions will be of qualified people of distinction in business, education, politics, and other professional fields outside of BPW or inside BPW whose work supports the aim of Dr. Lena Madessin Phillips. These individuals must be nominated by BPW members or federations and clubs by submitting a nomination form along with a one time donation of at least 1000 Euro into BPW International Project Fund. The Fellows program will allow us to increase our base of influential people who support BPW's aims and who can provide knowledge, advice and give higher credibility to BPW as an important international organization.

A special Lena Madessin Fellowship pin and medal will be given to Lena Madessin Phillips fellows. The Fellows money collected will be accumulated in the BPW International account designated for International projects and will be distributed as determined by the Executive Board and Projects committees. The special Friends and Fellows event held at Congress will be continued with enhanced recognition of the federations or clubs with the highest number of friends and especially also the diamond and corporate friends. We welcome any feedback and comments.

Liz Benham
Chair of Friends Taskforce

MEMBER SERVICES

Due Payment for 2006

Please reply to the e-mail that accompanied your invoice. Those without e-mail should already receive their due invoices and letter in the post. Please inform Member Services (a) after you make the payment or (b) if you have not yet received the invoice and the letter. You may contact Member Services by calling + 44 1403 73 93 43, e-mail: members@bpw-international.org. or fax +44 1403 73 44 32

Credential form for 2006

During the year, the Board of Director may be required to vote "via e-mail" on various issues. To identify "which e-mails" are entitled to cast the vote, please return the credential form that was sent with the invoice to Member Service. *Affiliates will only be entitled to vote if your dues for 2006 have been paid by 30 June 2006.*

Ann Swain
Assistant Executive Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS

Award Winners



Chonchanok Viravan

won (1) Outstanding Women of Thailand for International Networking for 2006 from Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and (2) "Hazrat Khadicha Tul Kulbra" medal from BPW Pakistan for being the first woman from Asia to become BPW International President.



Artemis T. Toumazi,

Immediate Past President of BPW Cyprus and President of Cyprus Women's Cooperative Bank (WCB) won Global Summit of Women's *Enterprising Women International Entrepreneur Award* in 2006. WCB is considered a best practice in Europe for micro financing by UN ECE.



Khunying Sasima Srivigrom,

Member of BPW Thailand won *Leading Women Entrepreneur of the World* from the Stars Group in 2006. She is the Chair of Golden Land Co., Ltd who successfully steered her real estates company through Thailand Financial Crisis of 1997. She is also a Director in the Board of Thai Airways.



Patara Sila-On

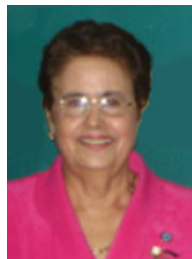
Member of BPW Thailand won *Leading Women Entrepreneur of the World* from the Stars Group in 2006. She is the chair of S&P Co., Ltd, which manages the largest Thai Restaurants chain in Thailand and Patara Restaurants in London, Geneva, Zurich, Singapore and Taiwan.



Anna Fang

Past President of BPW Hong Kong won *Hong Kong Volunteer Award* in 2006. Anna also won numerous Grand Awards and Awards of Excellence for her PR and marketing communication projects from the Awards for Publication Excellence (USA) since 1995.

Lena Madesin Phillips Fellowship



Silvia Salazar Salazar

Silvia Salazar Salazar, the coordinator of BPW International Project's School of Nursing in La Paz, Mexico, is the first recipient of Lena Madesin Fellowship.

This fellowship is awarded to Silvia Salazar Salazar on 10 March 2006. She was nominated by President Chonchanok Viravan and her nomination was unanimously approved by the executive board for her outstanding twenty years commitment to the School of Nursing, La Paz, BCS, Mexico.

La Paz Nursing school is one of longest running BPW International Project of BPW International. Since the project conception in 1985 when the International Congress was held in Auckland, New Zealand and Rosmarie Michel (then President of IFBPW) appointed her the Coordinator of this project, Silvia Salazar Salazar has been working tirelessly to coordinate the work both at local and International level and assisted several BPW International Presidents through the process of getting the land granted from the Governor of La Paz and raising fund to build the buildings. After CONALEP signed the 30 years agreement to run the facility as school of nursing with Yvette Swan (then President of IFBPW), Silvia Salazar Salazar continued her effort to support the school to help raising fund for the scholarships among many other things. To date, hundreds of nurses have graduated from this school, many of which received scholarships from member countries of BPW International, such as Mexico, Australia, United Kingdom, etc.

Silvia Salazar Salazar's nomination for Lena Madesin Phillips fellowship is currently supported by President Chonchanok, Past President Yvette Swan, Past President Livia Ricci, BPW New York and BPW Canada who pledged to donate into BPW International Project fund. The fund raised to support her nomination will be donated to La Paz Nursing school by 30 June 2006.

If other members would like to show your support for Silvia Salazar Salazar or for La Paz Nursing school, please inquire President's office via e-mail at presidents.office@bpw-international.org on how to make your contribution. All contribution will be recognized on BPW International web site.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan,
International President

BPW REFORM AND REVIEW

Branding BPW

One of the top priority issues for BPW is “Branding”. This is not just for people to recognize our “2 globes” logo and our name. The more important task is to make it crystal clear on what does it mean to be a “BPW” member.

Ideally, an organization should have one name and one logo. Though we changed our name from “International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)” to “BPW International” for over a decade now, the United National still recognized us by our original name. People who partners with us or co-organize events with us often expand our name into “Business and Professional Women International”, yet we call ourselves BPW in short. It’s about time that we “brand” our organization under one name. Though the resolution to use common logo with name of country underneath was passed in at Vancouver Congress in 1999, it has not been widely implement. BPW Affiliates should be reminded about this resolution. However, we recognized that the resistance from older clubs / federations may stem from the fact they are very well known for their local brand and see the switch to 2 globes-logo as the loss of their local brands. So we may have to consider a compromise, such as requesting these clubs / federations to use both their local logo and BPW International logo until 2008 (or set other predetermined year), then mandatory switch to International logo. We should also need to produce new products with the 2 globes logo for BPW Affiliate to sell within their clubs to popularize it.

Yet, the toughest branding issue is to define the answer for “What is BPW?” For over 75 years, BPW International has grown and evolved as an organization. As our activities have diversified, it becomes increasing difficult to answer this simple question. While Beijing Platform of Action has given women 12 critical areas of concerns to address, our past effort to stand for all 12 things took us out of focus. It is crucial to realize that if we try to be everything, then we will become nothing. With hundreds of women organization world-wide, we have to decide want to be well known for. To make BPW stands out among other women organizations, we need to “FOCUS” both our value, expertise and our effort and brand ourselves accordingly.

We can address this question at 2 levels – an individual level and organization level. At individual level we can quote Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips by defining a BPW member as a woman who *“dedicates herself to protect and promote the interests of all other women in business and the professions”*. At organization level, we can identify our work and our aim using an analogy of a tree. If BPW International is a tree, our root is in “Advocacy”, our trunk is in supporting women to *“Develop Professional and Leadership Potential for Women at all levels,”* and we expect that our work will bear fruit in *“Equal participation for women in power and decision making”*.

OUR ROOT in Advocacy is evidence through our work with United Nations. BPW International should take pride in lobbying for the formation of Commission on Status of Women, in receiving *Peace Messenger Certificate* from UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in 1987 and having Esther Hymer, the first Chairperson of NGO CSW who was named as one of the three women who had played a significant role in the work of the UN Commission by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 1997.

OUR TRUNK or the main body of our work should develop professional and leadership potential for women at all levels. Our members contribute back to society by “helping women to help themselves” as well as offering personal development programs for members through mentoring and leadership training programs. BPW projects aim to assist women to enter/re-enter the workforce, start up and/or advance their business or professions, balance their work-life, protect their rights, offer services to overcome their limitations and create enabling environment for women development. Such enabling environment may encompass interrelated key factors such as education, work, health, environment where BPW are inclined to collaborate with governments and other NGOs to accomplish these.

For our efforts to bear FRUIT in equal participation of women and men in power and decision making roles, it’s important that we PRIORITIZE the known issues and ACT on them. To us, the lack of gender-disaggregated data takes highest priority. Without it, discrimination and obstacle become invisible. Data on RETURN ON INVESTMENT when more women become executives, both qualitative and quantitative data, can be used to persuade companies and organizations world-wide that it’s financially beneficial to have more women participating in power in decision making roles. If BPW affiliates world-wide “act as one” on this matter, we have an opportunity to stand out among other International Women Organizations and our influence would be well known for decades to come.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

BPW REVIEW AND REFORM

Strengthen Committees & Taskforces

BPW works are very strong at local level. But one of the crucial issues is the inability to effectively channel the expertise of our members at International level through Committees and Taskforces. Currently BPW International has 25 committees and taskforces, each of which is limited to 6 members, despite much more interest to participate by member countries. Funding support is very limited. Long term project for each committees and taskforces are almost non-existence.

Thus, strengthen Committees and Taskforces are among the top priority issue that demanded immediate reform. We are doing this through giving Committees and Taskforces additional human resource, financial resource, publicity and recognition for their work.

1. Focal Points: To involve more talent BPW members' world-wide, the Executive Board introduced "focal points" to further support committees and taskforces in their work. As an experiment, 10 committees / taskforces have been selected to have focal points for 2005-2008. They are: (1) Business, Trade and Technology, (2) Development, Training and Employment, (3) Friends, (4) Fund Raising, (5) Health, (6) Legislation, (7) Membership, (8) Mentoring, (9) Project, (10) Public Relations. Each Federation can designate two focal points for each committees / taskforces and each associated club can designate one focal point for each of these committees and taskforces. A focal point MUST have email address and one person shall not

be a focal point for more than one committee or taskforce. Nominations should be sent to members@bpw-international.org no later than 30 June 2006.

- 2. Funding for Committees / Taskforce:** Additional funding support is offered for committee / taskforce for 2006-2008. A committee or a taskforce can submit a project proposal that required funding support to presidents.office@bpw-international.org to be evaluated by International Executive Board annually. Maximum of 5 projects that offer significant impacts to support the aims of BPW will be grant the budget support of USD 1000 each. This funding shall not be used for travel or accommodation expenses for attending meetings.
- 3. Web/ Interest Group:** To publicize Committees and Taskforces work, there will be a web section on www.bpw-international.org designated for each committee and taskforces to update members on their activities. Members can also sign up for "Interest Group" of each committees / taskforces o received news about such activities via e-mail
- 4. Workshops at International Congress:** Each committees and taskforces shall organize workshops can make BPW accomplishment more visible and create continuity.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan,
International President

FAREWELL



Patience Thoms OBE, the past International President 1968-1971, passed away on 2 March 2006 at the age of 91. Patience was the first International President from Australia. Patience received an OBE for service to improve status of women in 1970 from the Queen in Brisbane. She was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, the Key to the City of Seoul, South Korea and the Key to the City of San Jose in Central America in 1970. She received BPW International's Badge of Honor in 1999.



Katherine Graham Peden, Past National President of BPW USA in 1961, passed away on 8 January 2006 at the age of 80. She helped created over 148,000 jobs during her term as the state Department of Commerce commissioner in 1964-1968. Three U.S. presidents, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter, named Katie Peden to high-level advisory groups. She aided several Kentucky governors as an advisor in crafting economic development strategy. She chaired BPW International's History Taskforce and produced 2 BPW History books in 1996.

COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES

New Dimensions of Leadership Taskforce

International Theme 2005-2008: New Dimensions of Leadership

All Clubs, Federations and each BPW member can become actively involved. BPW International offers different OPPORTUNITIES and presents diverse ACTIVITIES under International theme:

- 1 Seminar, “*New Dimensions of Leadership*” New York, 23 February 2006 and 22 February 2007.
- 2 A first “**Train-the-Facilitator** – Seminar” for IDP (Individual Development Program) was organized by BPW USA in New York on 24-25 February 2006. It authorizes the participants to teach the program in their Clubs. Tentatively, the next seminar would be on 23-24 February 2007.
- 3 **Panel** “*New Dimensions of Leadership*”: Each Club and Federation is requested to organize such a panel in 2006 or 2007
- 4 **Task Force** “New Dimension of Leadership”: Every BPW is invited to become a “Member of the INTEREST Group” for this international theme taskforce.
- 5 The **website** will keep you inform about activities and reports on International theme.

1. “New Dimensions of Leadership” Seminar

The first successful Seminar was attended by 30 BPW from 15 different countries on 23 February 2006 and was organized by BPW International task force “*New Dimension of Leadership*”. The participants answered the following questions:

- How does a network become a successful leader concerning the aim *development of the professional potential of women on any hierarchical level?*?”
- What is required to reach this aim on an international level?
- Which new strategies and organizational structures can be used in the 21st century in which key issues can bring networks to the fore in a more efficient way? The seminar will analyse the facts and discuss the strategies and issues which will bring women closer to their aim.
- What are the new dimensions of leadership for a BPW member or for the BPW Network? The Task Force “*New Dimensions of Leadership*” will present new dimensions on the website and every BPW member or Club is invited to let us know their new dimensions of leadership.

Tentatively, the next seminar will be held on 22 February 2007. Registration fee for BPW members is US\$70 with the maximum of 12 participants. Registration is processed on a first come first served basis.

2. “Train-the-Facilitator” Leadership Seminar for Individual Development Program (IDP)

BPW USA developed Individual Development Program (IDP) and offers it to the members of BPW International. IDP consists of 14 modules. Members who attend a “*Train-the-Facilitator*” Seminar will be authorized to use the material to organize an IDP Seminar in their BPW Club. The first Seminar was attended by 30 participants from 16 different countries and was a great success. A big thank you to BPW USA. Organizers of this event are BPW USA and BPW International, Coordinators: Carolyn Grady, Past President BPW USA and Antoinette Ruegg, Immediate Past President BPW International.

Tentatively, the next seminar will be held on 23-24 February 2007. The registration fee for BPW members is US\$200 with maximum of 30 participants. Registration is processed on a first come first served basis. Please contact antoinette.ruegg@bpw-international.org for more information.

3. TASK: “New Dimensions of Leadership” Panel at club level in 2006 or 2007

BPW International encourages every Club and Federation to organize a panel discussion “*New Dimensions of Leadership*” in 2006 or 2007 to give the opportunity

- to invite leaders of the region
- to make PR and promotion for BPW
- to establish media contacts
- to invite potential new members
- to give open access to the public
- to ask for an entry fee

The task Force “*New Dimensions of Leadership*” will collect the short reports and post them on the web.

4. TASK FORCE “New Dimensions of Leadership”

Each BPW can become an “INTEREST Group Member” of the Task Force. If you send your e-mail address to the Task Force chair, antoinette.ruegg@bpw-international.org you will receive regular news about the International Theme by e-mail.

5. WEBSITE: International Theme 2005-2008

Information about “*New Dimensions of Leadership*” and reports can be found on www.bpw-international.org

Dr. Antoinette Ruegg
Immediate Past President and
Chair of New Dimension of Leadership Taskforce

MERIDA CONGRESS 2008



XXVI BPW International Congress Merida, Mexico, 24-28 October 2008

If you are fascinated about the Mayan Civilization and want to be a part of history when BPW International reform itself for the new century...you can not miss the 26th BPW International Congress in Merida, Mexico on 24-28 October 2008!

During 24-26 October 2005, President Chonchanok, 2nd Vice President Elizabeth Benham and Latin America Regional Coordinator Maria Ines Bunning visited Merida for Congress Site Inspection. Members of Host Planning Committee who also went to Merida were BPW Mexico President, Maria Luisa Herrera de Moncada. First Vice President, Virginia Morales de Cuadras, and Martha Soto. We received warm welcome from Yucatan Conventions and Exhibitions Bureau.

Some of key assistant for Congress included:

- (1) 30% discount for Yucatan Siglo XXI Convention Center if the contract is signed within 2006 with VAT exception, if bills are paid from International
- (2) 15% discount for (selected) hotels.
- (3) Free Volunteers from University, who would earn University credits instead of getting paid. We can have as many as 200-300 volunteers so long that we give the university 3 months notice.

Yucatan Siglo XXI Convention Center has a convention room that can seat 6,500 people, an Exhibition room that can hold 339 booths with rooms for workshops and other functions, each of which can fit up to 900 people each. The space is more than adequate than what BPW need for International Congress, so our congress may only need to occupy a part of these spaces.

We were satisfied with the availability of accommodations at various price ranges. Four key hotels, Fiesta Americana, Inter Continental Hotel, Holiday Inn and Hyatt Hotel are grouped together and offer rooms at various price ranges. A new hotel is also expected to be built next to Yucatan Siglo Convention Center by 2008. If this plan does not change, such hotel can be a Congress hotel. For members who want to get more in touch with Mexican culture have options to stay small hostels / bed and breakfast places that were converted from houses.

We have a pleasure of visiting many potential sites for social events / site seeing. There are many Hacienda that have been remodeled and open as hotels / restaurants that have good potentials for holding social functions. Better yet, as Merida is situated right in the middle of ancient Mayan Civilization, so it is surrounded by archeological sites that can “wow” BPW members, like Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Izamal, Ek’ Balam, etc.

Merida has an International Airport, which can be reached via seven airlines: Mexicana, AeroMexico, Aerocaribe, Magnicharters, Aero California, Aviacsa and Continental Airlines. Participants must be aware, however, that if their flights route through the United States to come to Merida, they need to have both the visa to the U.S. as well as to Mexico, even if they just transit through the U.S.

The strong support from Yucatan government and attention to details from Chair of HPC, Maria Luisa, gave us confidence for organizing the congress in Merida. It’s important, however, that we must prepare a contingency plan in case that the weather is not agreeing with Congress functions.

As for the program for Congress, International Planning Committee (IPC) already met once formally on 9 January 2006 in Bangkok and once informally in New York on 27 February 2006. The initial concept for Congress program include 2-3 tracks of workshops that would run partly overlap with the plenary business session. Tentative tracks include:

- **BPW Track:** This track would give platform for BPW committees and taskforces, member countries and representatives to UN present their work and projects.
- **Educational Track:** This track would offer program to develop professional and leadership potentials.
- **International Theme Track:** This track would offer speakers who talked about “International theme”.

At Merida Congress, crucial decisions will be made based on organization review result, new funding strategy and new constitution, which would lay the new foundation for BPW International. So mark your calendar and stay update on organization of Merida Congress via www.bpw-international.org Don’t miss it!

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

Calendar of Events

BPW EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
9-11 April 2006	Cairo, Egypt	✚ Africa Regional Conference
10-12 April 2006	Rio, Brazil	BPW Rio Get Together
28-30 April 2006	Tauranga, New Zealand	✚ BPW New Zealand National Conference
9-11 June 2006	Stockholm, Sweden	✚ European Regional Conference
12-14 June 2006	Helsinki, Finland	✚ Site Inspection for Congress 2011
2-4 June 2006	Niagara Falls, Canada	BPW Ontario Canada Provincial Conference
13-16 July 2006	Toronto, Canada	✚ BPW Canada National Conference
1-6 September 2006	Cuiabá, Brazil	✚ Latin-America Presidents' Meeting
21-22 October 2006	Coffs Harbour, Australia	✚ BPW South Wales State Conference
16-18 February 2007	Montego Bay, Jamaica	✚ North America & NSSCC Regional Conference

OTHER EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
15 May – 2 June 2006	New York, USA	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, thirty-fifth session
13 – 14 May 2006	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	ECA, Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, thirty-ninth session of the Commission
9-11 June 2006	Cairo, Egypt	Global Summit of Women
29 May – 15 June 2006	Geneva, Switzerland	ILO, General Conference
22 – 26 May 2006	Geneva, Switzerland	WHO, World Health Assembly, Fifty-ninth session
6 – 7 June 2006	Vienna, Austria	UNIDO, Industrial Development Board
25-27 August 2006	Halong Bay, Vietnam	✚ APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women
28-31 August 2006	Halong Bay, Vietnam	✚ The 11 th APEC Women Leaders' Network
6-8 September 2006	New York, USA	The 59 th Annual NGO/DPI Conference on "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for human security and sustainable development"

✚ President Travel

BPW News International

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BPW News International is available in .PDF file and MS Word.

To get a copy, please download the newsletter from BPW International website (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.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

From 2006 onward, BPW International shall issue 4 newsletters per year, one for each quarter.

31 March : Quarter 1 / year
30 June : Quarter 2 / year
31 August : Quarter 3 / year
31 December : Quarter 4 / year

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

*The news and views expressed in **BPW News International** are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher. While considerable effort is being made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, BPW International does not accept responsibility or liability for errors and omission.*