



BPW News International

Official Newsletter of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women

No 1 / 2007
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

60th ANNIVERSARY BPW-UN

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women gained consultative status with the United Nations in the year 1947. So this year, 2007, marks the 60th Anniversary of our consultative status at the United Nations. BPW International celebrated this 60th Anniversary in New York during the Commission on Status of Women 51st Session with a dinner celebration on 2 March 2007 and the BPW Panel session at the United Nations Headquarters on 5 March 2007, at which we have distinguished speakers from BPW Italy, Egypt, Brazil, New York. The most notable speaker is Dr. Rita Levi Montalcini, a Nobel prize winner and a member of BPW Italy.

This 60th Anniversary is also a good time to celebrate past accomplishments.

- The new version of the web site www.bpw-international.org was launched on 14 February 2007. New sections includes online version of BPW International History books, projects, awards sections.
- BPW International Anthem, composed by Professor Consuelo Amador de Rivera, was re-mastered and re-launched at North America and Non-Spanish Speaking Countries Regional meeting in the Caribbean in Jamaica on 17 February 2007,
- The book *Empowering Women Worldwide: The History of Project Five-O*, written by Sylvia G. Perry, was launched on 24 February 2007.
- The Dr. Silvia Salazar Salazar School of Nursing in La Paz, Mexico, celebrated its 15th Anniversary. The effort of BPW world-wide in starting and supporting this school is told in Chapter 7 of Project Five-O history book, which is also posted on the new web site.

This 60th Anniversary is also a good time to plan for the future. To continue to have this consultative status, BPW International has to report to the UN every 4 years on our activities with the UN and how our organization contributes to UN mandate, especially Millennium Development Goal. The UN Reform may have significant impact on the relationship between Civil Society and the UN.

I hope you enjoy this special issue of the BPW International newsletter and join in the celebration of 60th Anniversary of BPW consultative status at the United Nations.

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President
10 April 2007

Commission on Status of Women 51st Session

BPW Caucus

About 230 BPW members from 34 countries attended Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 51st Session in New York. BPW held a caucus to work on key issues to lobby for changes the draft document of CSW 51st session. Two key things were finalized. The first is to add the text to indicate that teaching self-defence to women should be used to prevent violence against women. The second is to ensure that in rehabilitation victims of gender based violence require comprehensive programmes for physical, psychological, economic and social recovery. Members were asked to lobby the government delegates from their countries on these two points.

Celebrating 60th Anniversary BPW-UN

BPW members celebrated the 60th Anniversary of our consultative status with the United Nations with a delicious cake during BPW International Dinner on Friday 2 March 2007. At this same event, BPW Moscow presented Antoinette Ruegg and President Chonchanok Viravan with Silver Medals, a Peace Award from Russia for BPW International in recognition of BPW International's work world-wide for Peace. We also publicised "Empowering Women Worldwide", the history of Project Five-O, written by Sylvia Perry. To view the photo gallery of this celebration, visit the BPW web site at www.bpw-international.org/un-connections/un-connection-activities-at-un-60th-anniversary-bpw-consulative-status-gallery.htm



President Chonchanok Viravan, Past Presidents Antoinette Ruegg and Livia Ricci and BPW International Executives Board members cut the 60th Anniversary BPW-UN cake.



President Chonchanok Viravan and Past President Antoinette Ruegg accepted the silver medals and certificate of Peace Award for Russia on behalf of BPW International



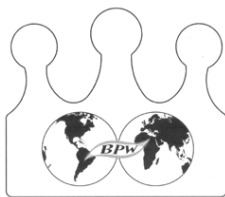
Speakers at BPW Panel: [Left to Right] Dr. Amany Asfour, Anita Palmieri, Talia Carner, Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, Dr. Chonchanok Viravan and Chair of BPW Panel; Beatriz Fett, President of BPW Brazil.

BPW Panel on Violence Against Women: Urgent Issues and Solution

On 5 March 2007, BPW International and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy held a Panel Presentation inside the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in parallel to Commission on Status of Women 51st Session. We had many distinguished speakers including a Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini (BPW Italy), Anita Palmeri (BPW Italy), Talia Carner (Award winning author of Puppet Child and China Doll - BPW Manhattan, New York), Beatriz Fett (President of BPW Brazil) and Dr. Amany Asfour (President of BPW Cairo, Egypt).

We had a room filled with an audience of over 200 people! Many issues on violence against women and the girl child were discussed through the work of Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini helping over 12,000 children, and the problem of infanticide in China. The solutions presented include the promotion of the Bill of Rights of the Girl Child by BPW Italy, Maria da Penha Law – the new legislation about violence against women in Brazil and the ways to gain financial independence in order for women to break free from their abusers. Annarosa Colangelo, Chair of UN Committee for BPW International, did a splendid job in arranging the venue within the UN. Photographs from this event as well as the presentations from this UN panel can be downloaded from www.bpw-international.org/activities/activities-conference-NGO-CSW-2007.htm

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan,
International President



***Triple Crown
Membership
Challenge Pin***

Growing BPW

The 2007 year has begun with excellent activity and growth in all the regions. The **Triple One Membership Challenge** has gained wonderful acceptance and I am very happy with the commitment from our affiliates focusing on the program. This is greatly beneficial to all. Not only will the federations and clubs gain new members and growth but so will BPW International.

The graphic of the triple crown pin (which is shown on the right) will be given to all qualifying members who bring in 1 new member each year, or a total of 3 members (or more) for this triennium. This beautiful pin will proudly signify your commitment and valuable contribution to our organization. Membership growth is the responsibility of all members so promoting BPW and gaining new members is a significant contribution which you can make.

In “marketing“, BPW, I always found it difficult describing to prospective ladies what BPW is all about. I noticed that because the explanation was always too long I would lose their attention if something on the long list did not catch their interest quickly. The following statement takes only a “New York Minute” and really works. Memorize this and then promoting and explaining what BPW is will be easy and efficient.

“BPW International develops the professional and leadership potential of women on all levels through our mentoring, networking, skill building, and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world.”

Creating a strong relationship with new members is critical in establishing a firm membership base in the organization. To ensure a lasting relationship it is important to welcome them properly and give them an appealing experience by engaging them in the activities, allowing and encouraging them to become active participants in the events and programs. Is there a designated mentor in your club who is suitable to take on the responsibility of guiding the new members? Please give me your feedback on what has worked in your club or federation.

The next reporting period of the Triple One Membership Challenge is due at the end of March. Please take a moment to review your progress and submit the reports. I am still accepting 2006 reports which can be consolidated and submitted to me in this March reporting period.

Triple One Challenge Highlight!

Congratulations to BPW Australia with the highest total of 193 new members for 2006!

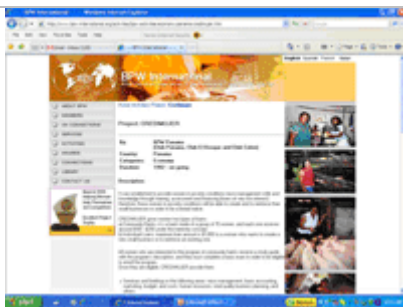
Wishing you all a very successful year of growth!

Liz Benham
2nd Vice President
Membership Chair

MEMBER SERVICES

New Web Site

BPW International launched a new web site, which is still located at www.bpw-international.org. This web site features many new sections such as History, Projects, Awards, etc. The new library includes the newsletters of BPW International as well as local newsletters of BPW Affiliates. It also provides easy access to various BPW International Online services, including BPW Online, BPW Roster Online, BPW Pay Online.



↑ BPW Projects

Currently over 100 projects of BPW Affiliates are on display. These are: (i) projects that formerly won “Beyond 2000: Helping Women Help Themselves” in 1999, 2002 and 2005 ” (ii) Projects from Project and Event tool in 2002-2005.

BPW International History →
The two volumes of BPW International History books are now online. The web pages present the history from 1930-1996, including pictures.



← BPW Awards

BPW Awards section feature winners of various BPW International Awards, including Badges of Honour and Beyond 2000: Helping Women Help Themselves, etc. The development of this section is ongoing as there are always more awards / awards winners to be added.



Call for information:

Country Pages: Each country can present 2 pages of information about their Affiliate clubs / Federation with pictures of the executives and of local events.

Events: Upcoming events of each club can be posted on the Country page, with 1 photograph or graphic and one paragraph text description. Such events would be posted on Regional News page. Any entry may be selected to be included in BPW International newsletter.

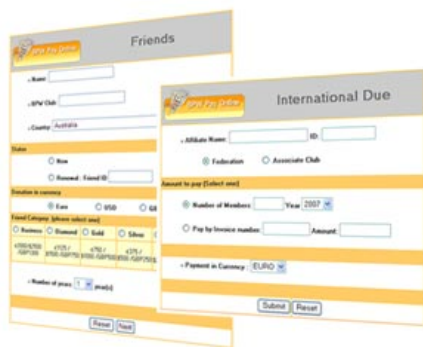
Projects: Each member country can submit projects to be posted on BPW International's Projects page. Links to projects will also appear in the Country page.

Please send information to member.services@bpw-international.org, with subject that begins with “[FOR WEB]”.

New BPW Pay Online

BPW Affiliates can pay their International dues and Friends donation with credit cards and PayPal.

To access BPW Pay Online click BPW Pay Online button from www.bpw-international.org.

The image shows two overlapping web forms. The top form is titled 'Friends' and has fields for 'Name', 'BPW Club', and 'Country'. Below these are radio buttons for 'New' and 'Renew - Friend ID'. The bottom form is titled 'International Due' and has fields for 'Affiliate Name', 'ID', 'Federation', and 'Associate Club'. It also includes a 'Number of Members' dropdown set to 'Year 2007', a 'Pay by Invoice number' field, and a 'Payment in Currency' dropdown set to 'EURO'. Both forms have 'Submit' and 'Reset' buttons at the bottom.

Basic flow for making BPW Online payment is as follows:

1. Identify Payer

- Payer of International dues must specify Affiliate ID.
- Friends who want to renew should specify Friends ID.

New friend can pay without having to specify ID. The system may ask for a few more details, such as Affiliate name or Friend name.

2. Specify amount and currency: Payment is accepted in EURO, GBP or USD.

3. Confirm payment information: A screen with summary of payment information will appear for you to verify payment information. If it is correct, click PayPal Payment

4. Make Payment: PayPal Payment page will have 2 options for payment method: Pay via PayPal account or Pay by credit cards.

- If you are a PayPal member, you can log in and make the payment.
- If you are NOT a PayPal member, you can pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express,

5. Get Receipt: After payment is complete, you will see a payment completion page. You will also receive a receipt via e-mail. BPW International will also get an e-mail notification of your payment.

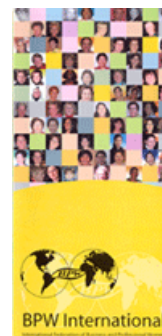
For International dues, official receipt and Certificate of Affiliate will be issued to your club / Federation after the payment is verified. For Friends payment, Friend's cards will be issued after the payment has been verified.

Coming soon! BPW Online payment would enable members to pay for BPW Business page subscription online as well.

BPW International Member Services

New BPW International Brochures

Need to introduce BPW in a colourful way? It's easy with the new BPW Brochure! BPW International brochures in English are now available. The French, Spanish and Italian versions will also be available in May 2007.



Relaunch BPW Anthem

One of the best kept secrets of BPW International is that we have BPW International Anthem! The anthem has been re-mastered and is available in CD format. Let's start a tradition of playing BPW International Anthem at the beginning of BPW International events!

History of the Anthem

BPW International Anthem was composed by Professor Consuelo Amador de Rivera. It was originally composed as National Anthem for BPW Mexico in 1984 with lyric in Spanish. At the 21st BPW International Congress in Nagoya, Japan in year 1993, a resolution was passed to adopt the anthem as BPW International Anthem. The anthem was played at the 22nd BPW International Congress in Venice, Italy. Yet, most affiliates are not familiar with it. As a part of branding in Organization Reform process, President Chonchanok Viravan decided to have this anthem re-mastered and redistributed. The first version, released at North America Regional Conference in Jamaica, February 2007 was re-mastered based on the old tape recording of the anthem. However, the anthem was revised with respect to the actual music notes after President Chonchanok met and received the notes from Professor Consuelo in March 2007.



Professor Consuelo Amador de Rivera presents International President Chonchanok Viravan and 2nd Vice President Elizabeth Benham with the note of BPW International Anthem music note at her home in La Paz, Mexico on 8 March 2007.

Competition for new Lyric

As the 21st Century will present new challenges for working women, it may be a challenge to find the right words to motivate BPW members! Therefore, BPW Affiliates are welcome to write new lyrics in English for the anthem. The lyrics of the top 3 finalists will be played at Merida Congress and will be voted upon to find the winner.

PACKAGE FOR BPW AFFILIATES:

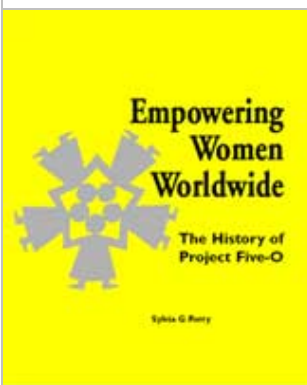
After 2007 international dues are paid, BPW International Member Service (in Bangkok) will send a package for affiliates, consisting of free set of brochures, CD of BPW International Anthem, Certificate of Affiliation. The initial set of brochures is free (the volume depend number of clubs / paid members). Affiliates will also receive a BPW resource CD which contains the current constitution, logo, soft copy of the brochures in all 4 official languages, etc. For more copies of the brochures, please send your request to member.services2@bpw-international.org. These additional brochures are free. BPW Affiliates only require to pay for shipping and handling.

PROJECTS

Launching History of Project Five-O book

A quarter of a century of activity and achievement on behalf of women in developing countries has been told in *'Empowering Women Worldwide, the history of Project Five-O'*, the special partnership of five major women's organizations, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Council of Women, Soroptmist International and Zonta International.

The partnership of Project Five-O was agreed and launched formally when they met in Copenhagen in 1980 for the Mid-Decade Conference after the UN First World Conference for Women in Mexico and the launch of the International Decade for Women in 1975. Their then combined membership was 75 millions in 75 countries. Initially, the Associated Country Women of the World was one of the five but left the partnership in 1987 and was replaced in 1991 by Zonta International. All shared a common goal, the desire to help disadvantaged women become educated and economically empowered.



Book Launch Event in New York, 24 February 2007

[Left to right]: Johanne Sorrenson, Coordinator of Project Five-O; Grieselda Canyon, President of International Federation of University Women; Anamah Tan, President of International Council of Women; Oliver Olivia Ferry President of Zonta International; Chonchanok Viravan, President of BPW International and Lynn Dunning, President of Soroptmist International.

A conference in Copenhagen in 2005 was part of the celebrations marking the first 25 years. The second was to produce a written history of this time with sponsorship by DANIDA, the Danish International Development Assistance. Sylvia Perry, a former president of BPW International, took on the challenge of writing the book, *'Empowering Women Worldwide'*, the story of women who deserve to be remembered for posterity. While the book is foremost the historical record of the first 25 years of Project Five-O, it also brings to life, the stories about each project, introduces some of the outstanding women who have made the vision of the initial Five-O presidents a reality and salutes the achievements of the five organizations for their continuing interest and support.

The books and CD versions are available for sale to raise funds for further worthwhile projects. The book can be ordered from BPW International President's office at 15 USD plus shipping and handling. For each book sold, BPW International will donate the profit to the Project Five-O fund, which is used to support women capacity building projects, which are managed locally by at least 2 out of 5 organizations in Project Five-O partnership.

In Kofi Annan's words "There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women" and Project Five-O has fulfilled, is fulfilling and hopefully will continue to fulfill that mission for the next 25 years.

Sylvia G. Perry
Past International President and Author

15th Anniversary of School of Nursing in La Paz



On March 8th 2007, in the City of La Paz, B.C.S, the celebration took place of the XV Anniversary of the beginning of labors of the Nursing School " Ma. Silvia Salazar Salazar ". This Project was initiated in 1985 by BPW International as part of the 5-O Project.

The celebration was organized by the authorities of the CONALEP , Government Professional Education Institution, which is in charge of the School. Attending as BPW guests of honor were our International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, Mrs. Liz Benham Second Vice President, Susan Jones Chair of Projects Committee, Professor Ma. Silvia Salazar Salazar International Coordinator of the Nursing School, Yasmín Darwich Chair of the Public Relations Committee, Mrs. Ryna Leonor Geraldo Fiol President of the La Paz Club with the Club members and Mrs. Rafaela Vizcaíno of the Cd. Constitution B.C.S. Club. At the event were the State Director of the CONALEP, Lic. Lino Renan Villavicencio Garayzar, Lic. Teresa Camacho Barajas Director of the School, Lic. Ricardo Pérez Rasura President of the H. Board of Directors, the authorities of the State and Municipal Government and the Directors of the Health Institutions in the State of B.C.S., and all the students and teachers.

During the ceremony, Dr. Viravan gave a very touching speech and distinguished the State Director of the CONALEP by naming him "Honorary Member" of BPW International, as recognition for the great support that he has

given us from the beginning of the Project. She also gave a special recognition to Professor Consuelo Amador de Rivera for being the composer of the Anthem of BPW International and donated the copy rights of it in 1993 during the International Congress in Japan, and to the Professor Ma. Silvia Salazar for her extraordinary work since 1985.

The presence of our International Executive authorities encouraged the State and Municipal Governments to continue granting their support to finish the construction of the Auditorium "Dr. Yvette Swan " which will be of great use and benefit for the students and for the whole community of La Paz.

The CONALEP granted recognition to those who have worked for the School from its opening. Dr. Viravan received the one for BPW International. Prof. Ma. Silvia Salazar Salazar, Dr. Yasmín Darwich and the La Paz Club members also received recognitions. After the Ceremony the CONALEP offered a traditional Mexican dinner. The students joyfully received the scholarships contributed by the BPW Australia Joondulup Club, Liz Benham and the Darwich family. The BPW Club Central Coast, Australia sent a donation for the construction of the Auditorium.

It was a very productive visit, full of satisfactions and new expectations to continue working on one of the most important projects of BPW International. We invite all members to join with their contributions to finish the construction of the Auditorium and provide more scholarships for the students. Remember that "At the end of the road your hands will be full only with which you have given".

Dr. Yasmín Darwich Darwich
Public Relation Committee Chair

AFFILIATES NEWS

Benin

BPW Benin is preparing for the BPW Africa Regional Conference which will be held in Cotonou, Benin on 9-11 August 2006. The theme is “Leadership économique des femmes en Afrique” (Empowering Economic Leadership of Women in Africa). For information, please contact bpwcotonou@yahoo.com.

Hugette Akplogan-Dossa,
President of BPW Cotonou, Benin

California



[Left to Right] Joyce Morrissey, Past North America Regional Coordinator; Chonchanok Viravan, BPW International President; Connie Stahl, President of BM California and members of BPW California.

The International President visited BPW California on her way back from the trip to New York and Mexico. Connie Stahl, President of BPW California; Joyce Morrissey, Past North America Regional Coordinator and other members of BPW California enjoyed a lunch meeting where President Chonchanok gave a brief presentation on the Organization Review and Reform.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President

Jamaica

The North America and Non Spanish Speaking Countries in the Caribbean (NSSCC) Regional Conference was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 15-18 February 2007. Monica McNeil, North America and NSSCC Regional Coordinator, did an excellent job in organizing this event. The first day was dedicated solely for the Organization Review and Reform, which allowed adequate time for the audience to give feedback and suggestions. The presence of almost all member countries in the regions and 3 past international presidents: Dr. Yvette Swan, Dr. Pat Harrison and Dr. Antoinette Ruegg enriched the review process.

The conference also featured many workshops on leadership, violence against women, etc. Country reports from the regions were enlightening. An election for the nominee for the next regional coordinator of North America and NSSCC was held and the candidate from BPW New York, Yasmin Darwich, was elected.

At the end of the meeting, Monica surprised all of the participants with the draft proceeding of the conference! The final version of this proceeding is posted on www.bpw-international.org

At the Gala dinner, BPW was honoured by the presence of Mr. Clark, President of Scotia Bank, a major sponsor for the Conference as well as for many BPW projects. The BPW International Anthem was played and CD's were distributed to all the presidents and members of executives.



Relaunching BPW International Anthem at Gala Dinner of NA & NSSCC Regional Conference. [Left to Right] Yasmin Darwich, PR Chair; Susan Jones, Project Chair; Monica McNeil NA & NSSCC Regional Coordinator, Liz Benham, 2nd Vice President and Chonchanok Viravan, International President.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President

AFFILIATES NEW

France

The Annual Meeting of BPW France was held in Paris on 27 January 2007. The good news is that France is increasing Membership. This event featured interesting workshops and discussion.

Prior to BPW France AGM, Amélie Leclercq and I visited the Head-office of ICC, *International Chamber of Commerce in Paris*. Samone (Blandthorn) Cottenceau, a young woman who received a scholarship through BPW Australia 16 years ago, is now working there. She opened the door for us to see the Manager of ICC. We are evaluating whether to have partnerships throughout Europe and the World with the Chamber of Commerce. This is the real success story of Samone from Australia!

Gabriella Canonica
European Regional Coordinator



[Top]: Gabriella Canonica, European Regional Coordinator, Samone (Blandthorn) Cottenceau, Amélie Leclercq, member of ECC at ICC.
[Bottom] President of BPW Switzerland, Sanja Ronga at BPW France AGM.

New York

BPW New York Annual General Meeting

Eileen Brennan, President of BPW International New York, organized her first Annual General Meeting at Harmonie Club on 4 March 2007. Almost all members of BPW International Executives were present and many of them gave talks. Livia Ricci, past international president, also attended. Mary Jackson, Public Relations Chair of BPWI/New York and member of BPW International Public Relations committee, conducted over 40 video interviews with BPW members. These interviews, including the video interview of International President, will be available for viewing via www.bpw-international.org.

IPC / HPC Meetings

On 1 March 2007, International Planning Committee (IPC), which is composed of several Executive Board members and past International Presidents, met at ByBlos Restaurant in New York to prepare for Merida Congress. On 3 March at Nation Café, IPC and Executive Board members met with the Host Planning Committee led by Maria Luisa Moncada. The offer from the professional congress organizers was discussed as well as the venue for congress.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President



← **BPW New York AGM at Harmonie Club, New York:** [left to right]: Livia Ricci, Past International President; Chonchanok Viravan, International President; Claire Fulcher, Permanent Representative to UN New York; Annarosa Colangelo, 1st VP.

IPC / HPC Meeting →

IPC, led by Chonchanok Viravan and HPC, led by Maria Luisa H. Moncada met at National Café, New York on 3 March 2007.



AFFILIATES NEWS

Mexico

Preparing for Merida Congress

President Chonchanok and 2nd Vice president Liz Benham visited Mexico City to meet with Yucatan Convention Bureau Director Ana Teresa Mendez on 9 March 2007. Ana Teresa reconfirmed government support for congress. They also met with professional congress organizer (PCO) at Maria Luisa H. Moncada's house. Martha Soto presented the progress of the Host Planning Committee. Several Young BPW members also attended the meetings. In the evening, the BPW club in Mexico City held a candlelight ceremony.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President

Rumania

BPW Danube Net Meeting in Rumania.

Prof. Dr. Dorina Ardelean organized, on the morning of 16 March 2007, a round-table discussion with two topics: management methods and leadership skills. Twenty women from Arad discussed the presentations and subjects. They exchanged different ideas and opinions and brought in personal experiences and experiences from their professional lives. The workshop was organized by two colleagues and members of BPW Arad, Gabriela Nitu si Nuti Neamtu in cooperation with Medium and Small size Companies (IMM) and the Arad Chamber of Commerce. In the evening 80 guests attended the BPW candlelight dinner, which included a raffle for a hospital for leukemia. It was a very successful and celebratory evening. Prof. Dr. Aurel Ardelean, Senator of Romania, also joined the event.

Gabriella Canonica
European Regional Coordinator

Spain




Preparing for European Presidents' Meeting

On 29 January 2007, Ma José Mainar, President BPW Valencia, Spain, Isabel Mañas, Member BPW Valencia, Gabriella Canonica and Enrichetta Bellini, Finance

Officer BPW Europe came together at the preparatory work session for the Presidents Meeting in Valencia and the open Hearing of BPW International – which will be held in October 2007. President of BPW Alicante Club, Pilar Gonzales, informed Gabriella Canonica that they increased membership to 30 and they have a goal to increase it to 50 in the next month. This is fantastic!

Gabriella Canonica
European Regional Coordinator

YOUNG BPW

<p>Burkina Faso</p>	<p>Young BPW was founded in BPW Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with over 20 young members on 1 February 2007. The chair of young BPW is Mlle Mounirou Kabre. The contact e-mail address is youngbpwburkina@gmail.com,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rasmata Kabre, President of BPW Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</p>
<p>France</p>	<p>New Young BPW France</p>  <p>President Nicole Pelletier announced proudly at BPW France Annual General meeting that Young BPW France has been founded and would have the first meeting on February 1st. The good news is that there are already over 10 young BPW Members in France. Congratulations to Young BPW France!</p>
<p>Switzerland</p>	<p>Young BPW Network Day in Zürich, Switzerland</p> <p>50 Young BPW from Switzerland, Germany and Austria met on 10 February 2007. Rooma Para, International Young BPW Representative and Viktoria Balensiefen, Young BPW Europe Representative were also attending this important event. For me it was a wonderful moment to feel the dynamism and the joy of life! Speed-Networking at the beginning and Workshops in the afternoon were the highlights of this event.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gabriella Canonica European Regional Coordinator</p>

AWARDS

Peace Awards:



United Nations Peace Messenger Certificate

The 60th Anniversary of BPW consultative status to the United Nation is a good time to remember one of the important awards BPW received from the United Nations. Twenty years ago in 1987, the International Federation of Business and Profession Women received a Peace Messenger Certificate from the Secretary General of United Nation, Javier Perez de Cuellar for the organization's significant contribution on the International Year of Peace. Esther Hymer accepted this award on behalf of IFBPW.



Peace Medal from Russia

BPW International received Peace Medals from Russia for the organization's work on peace. BPW Moscow nominated BPW International President of BPW Moscow, Irina Arsentieva accepted the award on behalf of BPW International in 2006. She re-presented the silver medals to Chonchanok Viravan, BPW International President and Immediate Past President Antoinette Ruegg in New York, during the dinner celebrating 60th Anniversary of BPW consultative status to the United Nations on 2 March 2007.

ORGANIZATION REVIEW AND REFORM

Hearing in Valencia, Spain 18-19 October 2007

This event will be a major hearing on Organization Review and Reform. While it will be held in Europe, BPW members from any region can also attend. Registration fee is 75 Euro. BPW members can register online

Besides presenting the review and reform result and collecting feedback from members, the initial draft of key resolutions and constitution changes as consequence of recommendations from earlier organization review and reform hearings may also be discussed.

The programme of this event will be posted on BPW International web www.bpw-international.org by the end of May 2007.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President
2005-2008

Hearings at Regional Conferences

North America and NSSCC:

The hearing was held on 16 February 2007 in Montego Bay, Jamaica during North America and NSSCC Regional Conference.

Latin America and SSCC:

The hearing was held on 17 April 2007 in Santiago, Chile during Latin America Regional Conference

Asia-Pacific:

The hearing will be held on 14-15 May 2007 in Seoul, Korea during Asia-Pacific Regional Conference.

Africa: The hearing will be held during Africa Regional Conference in Cotonou, Benin on 9-11 August 2007.

MERIDA CONGRESS 2008



Top: Jose Peon Contreras Theatre
Bottom: Sokolo (Main Square) of Merida in front of Merida Cathedral

XXVI BPW International Congress in Merida, Mexico 24-28 October 2007

The organization of the XXVI BPW International Congress is progressing. While BPW International has decided to hold the conference at a Hotel instead of Yucatan Convention Center, the government sponsorship for BPW International Congress will remain. Among many benefits included are exemption of 15% VAT for hotel accommodation for participants and the free usage of the beautiful Jose Peon Contreras Theatre for the opening ceremony and hosting the opening reception after the ceremony at the nearby main square (Sokolo) of Merida.

Have you any questions about Merida Congress?

Send your inquiry to merida2008@bpw-international.org

Dr. Chonchanok Viravan
International President

Calendar of Events

BPW EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
3-6 May 2007	New Zealand	✚ BPW New Zealand National Conference
10-13 May 2007	Seoul, Korea	✚ The 4 th Young BPW International Conference
12-15 May 2007	Seoul, Korea	✚ Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
28-30 May 2007	Cairo, Egypt	BPW Egypt National Conference
9-11 August 2007	Cotonou, Benin	✚ BPW Africa Regional Conference
2-4 September 2007	Brasilia, Brazil	BPW Brazil National Conference
14-16 September 2007	Novogrod , Russia	✚ BPW Neva, St. Petersburg Russia 10 th Anniversary
18-19 October 2007	Valencia, Spain	✚ BPW Hearing on Organization Review & Reform
19-21 October 2007	Valencia, Spain	✚ The 6 th European Presidents Meeting
22-23 October 2007	Valencia, Spain	✚ “Women in the World Leading the Millennium” Conference (organized by BPW Valencia).
27 October 2007	Tours, France	✚ BPW France National Conference
2-4 November 2007	Sydney, Australia	✚ BPW Australia National Conference

OTHER EVENTS

DATES	CITY/COUNTRY	EVENTS
30 April – 11 May 2007	New York, U.S.A.	Commission on Sustainable Development
14-16 June 2007	Berlin, Germany	✚ Global Summit of Women
22 June 2007	Australia	✚ APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2007: “Building a sustainable e-Future”
24-27 June 2007	Australia	✚ APEC Women Leaders’ Network
9 July 2007	Brussels Belgium	✚ Civil Society Hearing on Migration
10-11 July 2007	Brussels Belgium	Global Forum on Migration

✚ President’s Travel

BPW News International

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No later than 1 month prior to the release date of the newsletter.

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