



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo

DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO

ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Annual Report 2007

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1. Executive Summary

2007 was the second year of the new project PeaceWomen Across theGlobe (PWAG), that emerged out of the initiative 1000 PeaceWomen for the Peace Nobel Prize. The year was very important for the project as it showed us, whether our new goals and objectives could be reached – and they could!

Our central work is still to increase women's participation and influence on a local, national and international level through connecting together and collaborating with peace efforts around the world. Our goal is to facilitate connections and strengthen women's peace efforts around the globe so that a strong, cross-sectoral and global women's peace movement will develop. We have three objectives through which to achieve our goal:

1. To make peacewomen more visible, recognised and supported in their work;
2. To connect peacewomen globally, channel solidarity and expand their knowledge and skills;
3. To popularise the PeaceWomen concept of peace and peacebuilding.

One of our strategic principles in 2007 was the decentralization of the project. Whereas before the project was run from Switzerland and the International Secretariat in Berne was the only project-office, we have 5 more secretariats operating regionally today. These offices are established successfully in Hong Kong, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Tashkent. This is a relief for the secretariat in Berne and an important step towards decentralisation: PWAG is an international project, with an international board and with most of the activities taking place outside of Switzerland. The countries, where there are no PWAG-offices as such, the project is often interlinked with a partner organisation, that hosts the project coordinator from the region and provides administrative help. The secretariat in Berne is the place where everything comes together and where the global project is managed.

For the year 2007 PWAG received subsidies from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Zivik, Action Aid International, Volkart Foundation, Zürcher Kantonalbank, and from churches as well as from private donors in Switzerland.

The subsidies were used very successfully, for various projects and always in accordance with PWAG's three objectives mentioned above.

2. International Team

The structure of PeaceWomen Across the Globe stayed the same, however there has been changes in the international team.

The board has nine members. Doris Wastl-Walter has left the board and Heba Hage from Switzerland has joined as new member and expert for the Middle East.

The international team is made up of 19 members. Kamla Bhasin, Anita Mir, Vera Chirwa, Asha Elkarib and Sima Samar are no longer working as regional coordinators. New members of the international team are Maha El Zein from Sudan (coordinating Horn of Africa) and Retika Rajbhandari from Nepal (coordinating South Asia).

3. International Secretariat in Switzerland

The International Secretariat PWAG is the project's pivot for information sharing, and its main activity is the intensive communication with the international team, the coordinators in 19 regions of the world, with peacewomen, women's and peace organisations and donors. The secretariat recommended peacewomen as experts, implemented decisions of the Board, like the conceptualisation of new projects. The secretariat is responsible for the Fundraising of the global project and reporting, as well as for administration, evaluation and accounting.

This year the secretariat could welcome the two coordinators from the international team Anita Mir and Sandy Fong who both spent some weeks in Berne. The secretariat also met with several peacewomen from all around the world who either happened to be in Switzerland or who have been explicitly invited to a conference in Switzerland thanks to PeaceWomen Across the Globe.

In February 2007 the project manager Rebecca Vermot left the Secretariat. Since then the secretariat has Maren Haartje (as before) and Agota Hasenfratz (new) as project managers who together work 150 percent. Sara Bukies is since March 2007 the new assistant and works one day per week.

4. Exhibitions worldwide

The exhibition meets perfectly the two PWAG goals of “visibility” and “connectivity”. Also this year it has been our most successful and popular instrument to raise an interest on the understanding of Human Security in the local context. The presence of peacewomen at exhibition openings or for round tables as part of a supporting program is inspiring and gives motivation in the sense of “everybody can contribute to peace”.

The exhibition has been shown around 200 times in 2007 and on all continents and regions. It has been shown in museums, in schools and universities, in parcs, in embassies, in churches and many places more. Many organisations made use of popular dates like March 8 (International Women’s Day), September 21 (International Peace Day) or December 10 (UN Human Rights Day) to host the exhibition and organise a supporting program about different themes.

The exhibition has been translated fully this year into Russian from a team in Uzbekistan, which is an important step for us to strengthen our network in the russian speaking regions. Translations of some of the 1000 exhibition cards have been made into several languages.

The cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has been very successfull. The exhibition has been shown in several embassies around the world, always in cooperation with local peacewomen.

5. World Social Forum in Nairobi

From mid to late January 2007, 32 of the 1000 peacewomen and twelve members of the International PWAG team met in Nairobi (Kenya) to participate in a self-organised ‘Women for Peace’ programme at the World Social Forum (WSF). This was the first international meeting of the PeaceWomen since the nomination in 2005, and the first time that PeaceWomen Across the Globe had formally engaged with the WSF. The decision to organise this meeting around the WSF was made while conscious of concerns about the organisational and logistical challenges at the WSF. In the end, we decided at the Coordinators Meeting in July 2006 to go ahead with plans and to actively participate at the WSF, but to treat it as a ‘test’, against which we would decide about future engagement with the WSF.

The Objectives for our participation at the WSF were:

1. (Immediate) to mobilise a large number of PeaceWomen including representative ‘envoys’ from different regions, to strengthen international solidarity, extend and deepen networks across linguistic,

ethnic and religious divides, provide opportunities for training and information to expand their capacities and skills.

2. (Longer term) To establish the basis for a strong and growing presence at the WSF of a broad platform of women peacebuilders and peace organisations in order to influence the direction of the WSF in regards to the role of women and the discourse on peace and conflict.

For detailed report please request the Final Report “PeaceWomen Across the Globe at WSF Nairobi 2007”.

6. Regional Activities

6.1 South Asia

The PWAG work in South Asia this year put its main focus on increasing the visibility of the peacewomen of the region. This objective was come by doing translations of the exhibition cards and by writing biographies about peacewomen in Nepali, Sinhala, Urdu, Bangla and Tamil. Next to that the exhibition was hosted in different places in India and Pakistan and a documentary film was produced on Indian peacewomen. Through these activities the peacewomen and their work were introduced in their own countries, which makes them more visible, recognised and also supported in their work. In this way the outreach of PWAG South Asia could be increased.

PWAG South Asia also produced a booklet on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” which presents the information on the resolution in a simple and understandable language. The booklet is being distributed among the peacewomen and their networks and partners, with the aim to expand the knowledge and skills of the women and to show how the UNSCR 1325 can be used as a reference tool in the fight for more participation of women on all political and institutional levels.

6.2 Southeast Asia

The four coordinators of the Southeast Asia region conducted one conjoint project in collaboration with the GZO Peace Institute from the Philippines. They organised a workshop called “Southeast Asian PeaceWomen engaging UNSCR 1325” which took place end of October in Bangkok. Seven

peacewomen from the region were invited to discuss and share ideas about their strategies, achievements and needs. After a more general discussion round, the focus was put onto the UNSCR 1325, and its implication in the different countries and in the overall context of Southeast Asia. Goal of the workshop was to plan future activities to implement UNSCR 1325 and also to strengthen the connections and networking for all PWAG members of the region. This goal will be reached by the production of learning materials on UNSCR 1325 in Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. A group of seven peacewomen are going to work out concrete 1325 project proposals for the years 2008 and 2009. A yahoo-email group was set up to link and connect peacewomen and their networks.

With the partners RAGAM and IMPARSIAL a documentary film was produced on peacewomen in the East Nusa Tenggara region, and with the support of the Swiss Embassy in Jakarta the exhibition was hosted at the National Archive Museum with the participation of several peacewomen.

6.3 East Asia

Two PWAG offices have been set up in East Asia: one in Hong Kong and one in Beijing, both hosted in two partner institutes. Both offices operate a website, which provide information and news and also facilitate the exchange of ideas and services.

In May a workshop entitled “Peace, Women and the Everyday: Across borders, beyond war and for change” was held at the PWAG partner institution Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Over sixty participants attended the workshop and nine research papers were presented on the subject. The papers will be collected in a book and will be presented to various peace, women and feminist movements as resource materials and for a better understanding of the significance of the work of peacewomen.

Next to this workshop different materials have been produced to make PWAG more known in the region. These were on one hand the book “Colours of Peace” documenting the work of all 108 peacewomen in East Asia and on the other hand two documentary films documenting some of these women. The book and the films are being sold all over East Asia and are also available through our website.

6.4 Brazil

With the partner Geledes and Rede Mulher a regional office has been set up in the beginning of the year in Sao Paulo. The office is respected in the country as a competent one and is the turning point of all peacewomen activities in Brazil.

One of these activities done with SDC subsidy was the hosting of the exhibition at the Second Conference of Women's Public Politics in August in Brasilia. Over 3000 women leaders from Brazil attended the conference and had the possibility to see the exhibition, most of them we can consider as multipliers in their home towns. The exhibition was a big success with diverse media and television coverage.

Another important activity was a training about violence against rural women taking place in November in Sao Paulo. This training was conducted with six partners, amongst them UNIFEM with the goal to formulate a diagnosis and recommendations for the struggle of violence against women in the rural area. The participants worked out a diagnosis of the situation and discussed the challenges of possible future projects. There was an intensive dialogue between the peacewomen, who were completing the training, and rural organisations that work in the field of violence against women.

6.5 Latin America and the Caribbean (without Brazil)

PWAG activities of the Latin American region concentrated on the establishment of a regional office in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Due to the big region the main focus of the activities this year were in Argentina and Peru.

Setting up the office in Buenos Aires meant the establishment of an adequate infrastructure for the work tasks of PWAG with the goal to become an information centre around the subject women and peace. The activities included the translation of all 1000 exhibition cards into Spanish and the subtitling of the PWAG documentary "1000 Women and a Dream" and its multiplication through various networks, organisations and institutions. After the Spanish exhibition set was ready, the exhibition was hosted in several places in Argentina, always including speeches from local peacewomen and the screening of the film.

In Columbia there was a meeting of 11 of the 12 peacewomen from Columbia on the occasion of the publication of a book on the 12 women. Nora Franco, coordinator for the region, set up a one-day workshop with the women discussing their expectations and ideas on PWAG's work in the region.

March 2008

Agota Hasenfratz, Maren Haartje