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MEDICAL WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2010-2013 TRIENNium

“MOVING BEYOND THE RHETORIC—IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND GIRLS”
I. MEDICAL WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Professor Afua Hesse, Ghana

Greetings to you all. I trust that you have peace wherever you are practicing and that your work and family life are progressing smoothly. I wish to bring our attention to the importance of research in our practice. It must not be considered only to be the realm of academicians and for each and every one of us we can and should consider turning our daily work into research areas. This will enable us to constantly interrogate our clinical findings in the light of current Evidence Based medicine. This is of special importance with emerging realization that our medical textbooks may be outdated as the evidence they contain was based mainly on research carried out in men and that there is emerging evidence that women may differ physiologically in presentation as well as response in many clinical states.

I encourage you all to keep records of the daily patients you see and their responses and perhaps this could form the basis for discussion and international collaborations in differing areas.

I encourage you to patronize and contribute to the new MWIA e-journal which is available online on www.mwiajournal.org. This pioneering effort is thanks to Finance Committee lead by Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi and her team. I encourage you all to patronize the website and take part in the many interesting discussions that will be so generated.

There is currently an on-going Forum on inequalities in salaries between men and women physicians and we would be very interested in your views and experiences.

I encourage you all to visit our revamped website on www.mwia.net which will have a link to the journal in the future.

This user friendly website is largely thanks to the efforts of the Scientific Committee headed by Dr Bettina Pfleiderer with members of the Executive Committee also making inputs and I am grateful to all the hard working members of my team.

Watch for a survey coming to you soon!

Enjoy your read!!

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

The fantastic news is the new website is up and running. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the website yet, please do so at www.mwia.net. I look forward to your comments. Much thanks goes to MWIA’s Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer for her work with the website designers to bring the website to fruition.

MWIA has also come into the modern age and is on twitter. Please follow us @MedWiA. Let us know if your national organization has a twitter account that we can follow.
Congratulations to Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, Vice President for Central Asia, and all of the Thai Medical Women for hosting a most successful **Central Asia Regional Meeting** in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme of Medical Women Advance Global Health provided the forum for many interesting discussions. There will be summaries of the talks on the website.

The MWIA Executive took the opportunity of the Thailand meeting to hold the annual **executive meeting**. Much was discussed and plans are underway for an exciting last year of the triennium.

The executive has recently reacted in an efficient manner to two issues. The first was the inclusion at the FIGO (International Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians) meeting in Rome of the topic of **cosmetic gynecologic surgery**. MWIA opposed the marketing of such surgery to girls and women with the promise that it will improve their appearance and their sexual enjoyment. Please see the full statement on the website under news. MWIA then wrote to the President of FIGO and Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Chair of Ethics and Resolutions, followed up at the meeting with MWIA’s statement.

The second issue was the **shooting of Malala Yousoufzai** by the Taliban while attempting to get an education. MWIA wrote a letter to Dra. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, asking for a stand against this behaviour for the women of the world.

MWIA has an **on-line journal** which can be accessed at [www.mwiajournal.org](http://www.mwiajournal.org) with the user name mwiauser and password user1234. Information in contained on the website how to submit articles for publication. Please give us feedback.

Congratulations also to Dra. Mercedes Viteri and Dra. Brigida Alvarez for organizing a successful **Latin American Regional Congress** in Guadalajara, Mexico. The theme was Transition of Medicine and Effect on the Family.

The last regional congress of the triennium is the **Near East and Africa Regional Congress**, being held in Cairo, Egypt, November 20-22, 2012. The theme is Women’s Health Improves Quality of Life. Please visit the website [www.emwa2012.com](http://www.emwa2012.com). Thank you to Dr. Shafika Nasser and Dr. Mervat ElRafie and their team for organizing this congress during such political strife in the Arab world.

MWIA was well represented at two of the **WHO Regional Committee Meetings** this fall. Dr. Shafika Nasser and Dr. Mervat ElRafie attended the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting and Dr. Arino Yaguchi attended the Western Pacific Regional Meeting in Viet Nam.

MWIA is now into the last year of the triennium and it is not too soon to plan to attend the Korea Congress. ([www.mwiasouth2013.org](http://www.mwiasouth2013.org)) Registration is open and abstracts are being accepted under the congress theme of **Medical Women Advance Global Health**. Contact the organizers if you wish to share a room and have no roommate. Early bird
registration ends in April so register early. The hotels have a varied price range to suit different needs. Please think of hosting the 2016 International Congress in your country. Applications are being accepted at the Secretariat

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York is being held March 4-15, 2013. The topic is Violence Against Women, a topic on which many MWIA members have done extensive work. Let us showcase our work in New York.

MWIA will co-sponsor an awards luncheon on October 31st with the Women’s City Club of New York, where Dra. Michelle Bachelet will be honoured for her work with UN Women.

Please keep the Secretariat informed of changes in your national officers and of upcoming meetings and activities in your organizations.

The contact information for the Secretariat is:

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Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3Y2, CANADA  
Phone +1 604 522-1960  
e-mail: secretariat@mwia.net  
website: www.mwia.net

3. REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada  
For those who have not paid their annual dues, I would like to remind you that yearly dues are needed July 1st each year. In Munster, it was decided that the amount would be set according to the value of the Swiss franc on July 1st. That equates to dues of $8 US dollars or 7 Euros or 8 Swiss francs. Please notify the Secretariat by email when you send the dues.

4. 2010-2013 EXECUTIVE

President: Professor Afua Hesse, Ghana  
Past President: Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan  
President Elect: Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Korea  
Secretary-General: Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada  
Treasurer: Dr. Gail Beck, Canada  
Vice President Northern Europe: Dr. Cisca Griffioen, The Netherlands  
Vice President Central Europe: Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Germany  
Vice President Southern Europe: Professor Alexandra Kalogeraki, Greece  
Vice President North America: Dr. Claudia Morrissey
Vice President Latin America  Dr. Mercedes Viteri, Ecuador
Vice President Near East/Africa  Dr. Petronila Ngiloi, Tanzania
Vice President Central Asia  Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, Thailand
Vice President Western Pacific  Dr. Maria Rosa Nancho, The Philippines
Finance Chair  Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Nigeria
Scientific and Research Chair  Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany
Ethics and Resolutions Chair  Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia

UN Representatives
New York  Dr. Satty Gill Keswani, USA
Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA
Vienna  Dr. Iris Habitzel, Austria
WHO  Dr. Clarissa Fabre, United Kingdom
European Women’s Lobby  Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia has embraced the fight against cosmetic gynecologic surgery. They are
entitling their article in their latest newsletter Pink Bits. Visit their website at
www.afmw.org.au

Brazil reports that they have scheduled the following Scientific Meetings Program for
the Second Semester: Humanization of Childbirth- Great Challenge for Public Health,
Humanization of Newborn Care, Humanization in Treatment of the Oncologic patient,
Humanization in Pediatric Oncology, Fighting Inequity: Clinical and Epidemiological
Approach of Hansen’s Disease and current situation in Brazil, Gender and Health:
Introduction, Stroke, Lipid Metabolism Disorders and Gender Specific Issues of
Cardiovascular Disease

They have decided to organize a yearly symposium about Health and Gender. The
MWIA’s Training Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health is being translated in
Portuguese by Dr Anna Maria Maritis (director of ABMM) and will be revised by Dr
Marilene Melo, (president of ABMM) and will be published in the site of the Brazilian
Medical Women.
Brazil participated in the recent Latin American Regional Meeting and Brazilian
colleagues are planning to come to Seoul for the congress next year. They will send
some studies about tobacco consumption among medical students that are being made by
Dr Melo and Dr Nise Yamagushi and some studies in gerontology which were part of the
doctorate thesis of Dr Maria de Fátima Caetano Pinto, President of São Paulo section of
ABMM.
Dr Marilene Rezende Melo, Past President WASPaLM (World Association of Societies
of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), President of ABMM, presented at the 46th
Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
on Differences in Gender in: lipid metabolism, coronary heart disease, and hereditary
cancer.
Canada held a successful annual meeting in Halifax in September. The Federation is keeping their eye on government policies of concern, particularly the Private Member’s Bill threatening reproductive choice and access.

France reports an enjoyable time at the Central European Regional Congress. They were impressed with the scientific program and the social program. The French Medical Women had a conference on alcoholism in women with an excellent presentation by Dr. Fatma Bouvet de la Maisonneuve, a psychiatrist specializing in addiction at the Saint Anne Psychiatric Hospital in Paris. This topic is in keeping with the grand plan of the French Medical Women for 2011-2013 which is Mental Health of Women and Children. The next annual meeting of the French Medical Women is Saturday, February 2, 2013 in Paris.

Hong Kong held their annual general meeting on 27 August 2012, with over 100 members in attendance. Dr Kit-Sheung Chan was elected as our new President, together with the new board of directors, who will serve the Association for a period of 2 years. The AGM was followed by a CME talk on “How effective is vaccination in cervical cancer prevention?” by Dr Hugues Bogaerts from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, which was very well received by members. The evening ended with a casual and delicious Chinese dinner and lucky draw.

In mid-June 2012, our Specialty Conveners and Board members invited Dr Ko Wing-Man, who will be the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food starting July 2012, for a cordial dinner gathering. Dr Ko was very patient in listening to our views and concerns of the healthcare system.

A cervical screening project was held in July in the office of RainLily. RainLily is the first rape crisis centre in Hong Kong established in 2000 to provide 24 hours one-stop crisis intervention to female victims of sexual violence. Social workers of RainLily noted that women of ethnic minority and female migrant workers encounter more barriers in getting assistance when confronted with sexual violence. Hence, they organized the project “WE stand” which stands for “Victims Support Program for Female Migrant Workers and Ethnic Minority Women” with the aim to enhance awareness about sexual violence and the capacity to combat violence for this group of women. We are grateful for funding on laboratory charges from Village Volunteers of HK Sanatorium and Hospital.

Another round of “Ripple Action” was held in Sham Shui Po, one of the poorest areas in Hong Kong, in September 2012. Cervical screening was again, provided free of charge for local residents.

In August 2012, a fitness class was organized for members. Our coach, Dr Laurena Law, a GP, a HKWDA member, and a Certified Fitness Trainer, lead a fun aerobic class for members and all participants have enjoyed a lot on a nice Saturday morning.
Korea is deep into planning for the 29th MWIA International Congress being held in Seoul July 31st to August, 2013. A past president of the Korean Medical Women, Dr. Lee, Gil Ya has provided funding for the opening reception. The Korean Medical Women have recently renovated their head office. Activities have included the 6th annual meeting of the medical school representatives, monthly meetings, policy development for discussing such topics as is there a need for a prescription for contraceptives led by congress woman and current President of KMWA, Dr. Park, In Sook. There is concern about low birth rate for female residents.

Switzerland The MWS (Medical Women Switzerland) annual conference in May 2011 was themed: “Everything is going to be alright” and comprised enthralling guest presentations on topics such as healthcare costs, ethical questions about the introduction of DRG (diagnosis related group), innovation in the public health sector, and the feminization of medicine.

Besides, there was growing skepticism inside the directorate of our organization – considering declining membership, lack of commitment to active participation from our younger colleagues, and the unavailing search for a new president – which prompted the question whether there was still need for an institution like MWS, whether there yet existed gender-specific issues in Switzerland to an extent which needed MWS to solve them. Certainly those issues remain – like arguable equality of opportunity in professional training, women's difficulties of career planning and academic advancement, as well as compatibility of professional, social, and familial obligations – but apparently they are less caustic if not disconcerting than in previous years.

Nevertheless, we decided to continue our activities and give MWS a chance once again.

6. REPORT FROM NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy MWIA NGO Reps to the UN
Drs. Keswani and Murthy have started working on the MWIA parallel event for the upcoming CSW in 2013. Dr Keswani has started working with AMWA on MWIA representation at the AMWA annual meeting which will be held in NYC from 15th-18th March 2013.
Dr Keswani represented MWIA and AMWA at the NJ Medical Women's quarterly meeting in July.
Dr Keswani has had discussions with the board members of the NJ medical women, who will be participating in the AMWA annual meeting and the MWIA sponsored event during the CSW in March 2013.

Dr Murthy presented the MWIA annual report on behalf of Dr Keswani and herself to the MWIA Executive Committee at the recent Central Asia regional meeting in Chiang Mai in Oct 2012.
Dr Murthy was invited to attend the inauguration of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island, NYC on October 18th as a member of the UN NGO
Community and represented MWIA, NGOCSW and UNA USA. The Secretary General HE Ban Ki Moon was the key note speaker and he met with the members of the UN community.

We would like to invite members of MWIA to attend the CSW and the annual AMWA meeting in NYC in March 2013.

7. REPORT FROM OUR WHO REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Clarissa Fabre
Dr. Fabre participated in the WHO consultation on the future of NGO involvement with WHO in October.

8. REPORT FROM OUR EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY REPRESENTATIVE
Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei
The European Women’s Lobby is meeting later in October and the December Update will have a report.

9. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

2012

1. **October 29-31, 2012**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
   Advancing Excellent in Gender, Sex and Health Research
   Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR)
   [http://genderandhealthconference.com/](http://genderandhealthconference.com/)

2. **November 9, 2012**, London, UK
   Tackling Taboo Subjects
   Medical Women’s Federation of the UK
   [www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

3. **November 10, 2012**, Vienna, Austria
   Annual meeting of the Austrian Medical Women
   [www.awrztinnenbund.at](http://www.awrztinnenbund.at)

4. **November 20-22, 2012**, Cairo, Egypt
   Near East and African Regional Meeting
   Email: Emwa2012@yahoo.com
   Website [www.emwa2012.com](http://www.emwa2012.com)

5. **December 3-4, 2012**, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France
   Millenia 2015, An action plan for women’s empowerment
   The Destree Institute and the Millenia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation (PUF) with the patronage of the UNESCO
6. **December 15-16, 2012**, Calcutta, India  
Annual conference of the Association of Medical Women in India  
[missionkolkata@hotmail.com](mailto:missionkolkata@hotmail.com)

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**2013**

1. **February 2, 2013**, Paris, France  
Annual meeting of the French Medical Women  
[http://affm.affinitesante.com](http://affm.affinitesante.com)

2. **March 4-15, 2013**, New York, NY  
Commission on the Status of Women  
Topic is Violence Against Women

3. **March 15-17, 2013**, New York, NY, USA  
98th annual meeting of the American Medical Women’s Association  
At the New York Palace Hotel.  
[www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org)

4. **May 22-25, 2013**, Copenhagen, Denmark  
First Global Conference on Contraception, Reproductive and Sexual Health  
[www.escrh.eu/events/esc-events/2013](http://www.escrh.eu/events/esc-events/2013)

5. **May 28-30, 2013**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
3rd Global Conference of Women Deliver.  
[http://www.womendeliver.org](http://www.womendeliver.org)

29th International Congress of MWIA  

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**2014**

1. **Northern European Regional meeting in Denmark**

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**2017**

1. **Northern European Regional meeting in UK in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the MWF**

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10. **Names in the News**

*Iris Habitzel*, MWIA’s representative to the UN in Vienna, worked for the German "Organization Aerzte fuer die 3. Welt" as a doctor in Dhaka for 6 weeks. Visit her blog at: [dochabitzel.blogspot.co.at](http://dochabitzel.blogspot.co.at).
Jill Sheffield, Director of Women Deliver, was honoured by FIGO with the Recognition Award to Non Ob/Gyns. This award is intended to honor highly distinguished people outside the obstetrics and gynecology profession who have performed a service to women’s health over many years.

Dr. Kim Templeton from the US was awarded the Medicine and Science Award from the Kansas University School of Medicine Women in Medicine and Science Organization for her work with the US Bone and Joint Initiative that spearheaded the change in the treatment paradigm for osteoarthritis.

Dra. Rosa Lucia Quintanilla Uribe was the recipient of one of the Women Deliver Scholarships for young doctors so she will be attending the Women Deliver Conference in Malaysia next May.

11. Books and Articles

*The Climb: A Handbook for Women Academic Physicians*” was prepared with the support of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)

Fiona Godlee of the *British Medical Journal* writes that the gap may be closing between men’s and women’s pay, but in medicine the gender divide persists, finds John Appleby in the latest in his series of data briefings. According to the latest survey of UK hourly pay by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) female doctors’ pay lags behind their male colleagues’ pay by 28.6%. His analysis suggested that female doctors were disadvantaged due to caring roles, and a hostile culture and geographical limitations which reduced their ability to change jobs (a key way to increase pay). These are of course problems faced by women in other occupations too. But it may be that these factors are more acute for female medical practitioners, suggests Appleby.

The *British Medical Journal* also reports that pregnant women are being encouraged to take the whooping cough vaccine to protect their babies against the virus. The recommendation from the Department of Health for England follows new figures showing that 10 people, all infants under 12 months old, have died from whooping cough in the UK so far this year (nine in England and one in Northern Ireland). This is the highest mortality since 1982, when there were 14 deaths.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and *the Canadian Women’s Health Network* has promoted wearing a peach coloured ribbon to think of breast cancer prevention, in contrast to the pink ribbon for breast cancer cure. They have developed postcards “Get the Word Out” campaign promoting resources and organizations working for breast cancer prevention. They can be downloaded from: [http://cwhn.ca/en/resources/breastcancerprevention](http://cwhn.ca/en/resources/breastcancerprevention)

Ireland has a campaign *Turn Off The Red Light* (TORL) with over a million supporters has launched billboards around Ireland advertising the fact that prostitution is starting at the young age of 14.
WFUNA’s latest publication, in collaboration with the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies and it’s Future of the UN Development System project, is *Making Change Happen: Enhancing the UN’s Contribution to Development*, by Stephen Browne and Thomas G. Weiss.

12. **Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students**
The second newsletter can be found on the MWIA website, [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net), under Young MWIA. Please also join in on Facebook at: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngMWIA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngMWIA/)

**II. ORGANIZATIONS**

1. **World Health Organization (WHO)**


   **NCD Global Monitoring Framework:** As a result of the NCD Summit, work has started on development of NCD targets (= measurable objective) and indicators (= measurements to detect progress). WHO’s latest proposal on tobacco target remains unchanged: **30 per cent relative reduction from current levels in the prevalence of tobacco smoking** (the target does not cover oral tobacco). The framework does not include indicators on tobacco control (instruments to measure implementation of the FCTC).


   **Global Action Plan on NCDs:** The current Global Action Plan on NCDs, which pays attention to only selected (demand reduction) tobacco control measures, expires next year. WHO’s discussion paper on the future Global Action Plan reviews key 15 overarching recommendations from Member States, such as that NCDs should be recognized as a development priorities or that high-level political support and increased resources for NCD work are needed. Unfortunately, none of these recommendations calls for an accelerate FCTC implementation, or requests that tobacco control and the FCTC should have a unique position within the NCD work.


   b. **WHO Regional Committee Meetings.** Thank you to Dr. Shafika Nasser and Dr. Mervat ElRafie who attended the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting (EMRO) in Cairo October 1-4, 2012. Dr. Nasser made an intervention during the report on non-communicable diseases. Dr. ElRafie was present during the discussion with Dr. Margaret Chan on reducing Maternal to Child Transmission in HIV/AIDS. Thank you to Dr. Arino Yaguchi who attended the Western Pacific Regional Committee Meeting
(WPRO). Dr. Yaguchi read a statement from MWIA on HPV vaccine and prevention of cervical cancer, which was well received.

c. To date, WHO has an active and engaging presence on the following social media:
   Twitter: @WHO
   Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization
   YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/who
   Instagram: @worldhealthorganization

2. United Nations

a. The 67th session of the General Assembly was held in September in New York.

b. During its 9th session in August, 2012,, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee took up a preliminary study on promoting human rights through a better understanding of traditional values of human kind. This study is highly controversial because of the debate between the proclamation of traditional values and the fear of backlash for women’s rights.


d. UN Women Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN Women Executive Director, has published an article in El Pais claiming that, although more gender equality has been achieved at the London Olympic Games compared to previous editions, gender inequalities have been still present. To her view, gender inequality is not only a women’s issue but a matter linked to human values.

3. World Medical Association
The WMA World Assembly was held in Bangkok, Thailand, October 10, 2012, immediately following the Central Asia Regional Meeting of MWIA. MWIA was aptly represented by Professor Afua Hesse, Dr. Gail Beck and Dr. Kyung Ah Park.

4. Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) has issued its annual report which can be found at: http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/part_publications/pmnchreport2012_full_28_09_2012.pdf

5. WomenDeliver
The third Global Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from May 28-30, 2013. For updates, visit www.womendeliver.com
6. **White Ribbon Alliance** is featuring **Respectful Maternity Care: The Universal Rights of Childbearing Women** to raise awareness of women’s rights to respectful care during pregnancy and childbirth. [http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org](http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org)


8. November 1-19 will be **19 days of activism to prevent violence and abuse against children and youth.**

9. **Family Planning Summit** The UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with participation by other partners (including technical assistance from USAID), sponsored a high-level event in London on World Population Day, July 11. The Summit raised the resources to deliver contraceptives to an additional 120 million women and girls which is estimated to cost $4.3 billion. More than 20 developing countries made commitments to address the policy, financing and delivery barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies. Donors made new financial commitments to support these plans amounting to $2.6 billion. You can still pledge to ensure that all women and girls have the opportunity to determine their own future, at [No-Controversy.com](http://nocontroversy.com). You can share your own story about contraceptives there as well. And keep the conversation going - whether on Twitter (#FPSummit and #Nocontroversy), with your own communities (both on- and off-line), and stay up to date with our partners in this effort—from Marie Stopes, International; [International Planned Parenthood Federation; UNFPA;](http://www.unfpa.org) Save the Children; the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood and so many others. These are the groups doing the hard work, on the ground.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me take this opportunity to mark your calendars for the 29th Congress in Seoul, Korea, July 31 to August 3, 2013.

The next Update will be published in December, 2012. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by November 30, 2012, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.