

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 35 September 2008

E-mail: secretariat@mwia.net Website: <http://www.mwia.net>

MWIA Secretariat
7555 Morley Drive
Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3Y2, CANADA
Phone +1 604 439-8993
FAX +1 604 439-8994

CONTENTS

	page
I MWIA	
1. President's Message	3
2. Requests from the Secretary-General	3
3. Letter from the Past President	5
4. A Message from the Treasurer	5
5. 2007-2010 Executive Committee	6
6. News from the VPs and their Regions	7
7. Information about the Committees and Projects	16
8. Calendar of Forthcoming Events	16
9. National Associations and Individual Members	18
10. Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Med Students	18
11. Donations and Bequests	19
12. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany	19
13. Names in the News	19
14. Books	20
II ORGANIZATIONS	20
1. World Health Organization (WHO)	20
2. United Nations	22
3. Global Call to Action to Prevent Cervical Cancer	24
4. PATH	24
5. World Medical Association (WMA)	24
6. European Women's Lobby (EWL)	25
7. International Consortium for Emergency Contraception	25
8. Women Deliver	26
9. American Women's Hospital Service	26
10. WONCA Women	26
11. Sophia World Women's Conference	26
12. UNIFEM	27
13. International Federation of Medical Students Association	27
14. International Talent Award	27
III ANNOUNCEMENTS	27

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

The second year of “ Participation, Communication and Visibility”

Prior to the beginning of my second term, in order to be fiscally responsible, I had to make two important decisions. The first was to cancel the face to face Executive Meeting and the second was to replace it with a meeting by internet using Skype. This was the first time in the 90 year history of MWIA that such advanced technology was used to save the time and expense of traveling to a meeting. There were pros and cons to such a decision and careful consideration will be given before deciding on the method of next year's executive meeting. In fact, we are physician scientists and I promise to make all my decisions as a scientist. I thank all members for your understanding and flexibility in making such a decision.

Considering it was the first time we had used the conference mode of Skype, the executive meeting was very successful. Considering the ease with which the communication flowed, it makes it possible to use this means of communication as many times a year as the executive feels is necessary. There are details about firming up the policy and procedure of such meetings.

In the second year of my term, I would like to collect information and develop a data base of leadership by women physicians. The plan is to present the completed data base at the Munster Congress. Funding will come from government and private funds.

In July, I was pleased to attend the Latin American Regional Meeting/ 24th Pan American Medical Women's Alliance (PAMWA) Congress held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The congress president was Dr. Alodia Lameido of Puerto Rico. The meeting was well attended by colleagues from Latin America as well as from US. The theme was Epoch, Gender, Health and the subject matter covered was diverse, covering such areas as covered in cervical cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis. My presentation on leadership was well received.

I am continuing my mission of Participation, Communication and Visibility by delivering lectures on leadership in several places in Japan during July and August, and will be in Jordan, Egypt and Syria in November. I look forward to meeting with the Egyptian Medical Women and looking for women doctors interested in MWIA in Jordan and Syria.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

The **regional meetings** are underway for the triennium. Dr. Atsuko Heshiki and Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado represented MWIA at the Latin American Regional Meeting

and Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus and I were at the Northern European Regional Meeting in Malmo, Sweden. Thank you to our colleagues in both regions for organizing such high quality meetings.

The Western Pacific Regional Meeting in **Melbourne** will be within the month and it is still not too late to register. Please check the meeting section later in the Update or the webpage at www.mwia.net for meeting information. If you would like your national meetings listed on the website, please send me the information.

Please be reminded that members from all regions are welcome to attend any of the regional meetings. Living in the North American Region, I personally invite you to join the North Americans on the **cruise from Boston to Montreal** in September, 2009. The early bird registration will end in November and registration can be found at www.seacourses.com.

The **World Health Organization** has released its report on the **Social Determinants of Health**. Please contact your local and regional WHO representatives to see how your national organizations can be involved in rolling out this information, which is so closely tied to our Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Health.

MWIA was well represented at the annual meeting of the **Department of Public Information of the United Nations**. Normally, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy represent MWIA at this meeting in New York. For the first time this year, it was held in Paris, France, as renovations were occurring at UN Headquarters in New York. Thank you to our French colleagues, Drs. Simone Zerah, Cecile Renson and Marie Dominique Ghnassia for representing us this time.

The **Regional Meetings of the World Health Organization** are underway in the regions and MWIA is well represented in each area. Please check the December, 2008, Update for information on the outcomes of those meetings.

It is not too early to think about the **Commission on the Status of Women** Meeting the first week of March, 2009, at UN Headquarters in New York. You need to be registered to attend, so please let me know if any members plan to be in New York and would like to attend. MWIA makes its presence known by organizing a side event.

Drs. Claudia Landerer, Elizabeta Dulic and Elisabeth Bloechlinger represent us well at **WHO in Geneva** and Dr. Iris Habitzel at the UN in Vienna and MWIA is appreciative of their time and efforts.

The contact information for the Secretariat is:

MWIA Secretariat
7555 Morley Drive
Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3Y2, CANADA
Phone +1 604 439-8993
FAX +1 604 439-8994
e-mail: secretariat@mwia.net
website: www.mwia.net

3. GREETINGS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia

It is not too late to take up my invitation to all our members of MWIA to attend the MWIA Western Pacific Regional Congress from 17th to 19th October 2008 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme of the congress is "Bridging Barriers: Women doctors of the Western Pacific" with an emphasis on health, human rights, gender and leadership. Six key areas have been identified for discussion:

1. The Environment and Health
2. Impact of Violence/War/Terrorism on Women & Children
3. Professional Issues for Women in Medicine
4. Innovations in Health Promotion
5. Infections and Vaccines
6. Advocacy and Health Politics

I am particularly excited that **Dr. Kechi Ogbuagu** from UNFPA will be one of our highlighted speakers. Dr. Ogbuagu began her public health career at the Medical Officer of Health in charge of one of the largest local government areas in Nigeria, moved to UNFPA in 1997 as program advisor in Nigeria and is now Adviser, Reproductive Health Logistics for the Country Services Team and is headquartered in Addis Ababa. Last but not least, as a Past President of the Nigerian Medical Women, Dr. Ogbuagu was Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee for the 2nd Regional Congress of the Medical Women's International Association, Near East and Africa Region, during which she was awarded the Prize of "*the Outstanding Medical Woman of the Near East and Africa Region*".

Visit the website <http://www.tourhosts.com.au/afmw2008/> to find more information.

4. GREETINGS FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

I would like to remind you that **dues are payable** for the financial year July 1 to June 30 each year. Payment can be made at the rate of 8 US Dollars or 4 Euros. If paying in US Dollars, please remit to Canada and if paying in Euros please remit to Switzerland. Please ask the Secretariat for the banking information.

During the Skype executive committee meeting, the motion was passed to the effect that the Secretariat continues to operate under the same rules as the last triennium, where the reserves cannot be touched to pay for the organization's expenses.

When planning the regional congresses, please remember that there is a MWIA **surcharge per registrant**. Please check with the Secretariat to ensure that this amount is included in your registration fee.

If anyone wishes to join the Finance Committee, please contact Dr. Kyung Ah Park, the Finance Committee Chair.

In September 2009, the North American Region of MWIA will host a cruise for Medical Women in the hope of raising funds for MWIA by providing physician members from North America, and perhaps other regions, with educational initiatives directed at assisting them in their own health maintenance regime. This is an area of great interest for women physicians in North America and one that we hope will provide our members with programs they have requested.

5. 2007-2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dr. Atsuko Heshiki from Japan
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross from Canada
Immediate Past President	Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia
President-Elect	Dr. Afua Hesse from Ghana
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck from Canada
Finance Chair	Dr. Kyung Ah Park from Korea
Vice Presidents:	
Northern Europe	Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir from Iceland
Central Europe	Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus from Germany
Southern Europe	Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan from France
North America	Dr. Shirley Hovan from Canada
Latin America	Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado from Bolivia
Central Asia	Dr. Manju Mataliya from India
Near East & Africa	Dr. Frida Kazembe from Zambia
Western Pacific	Dr. Winnie Yang from Taiwan (ROC)
Chair of Finance	Dr. Kyung Ah Park from Korea
Chair Ethics and Resolutions	Dr. Shirley Hovan from Canada
Chair Scientific and Research	Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir from Iceland
MWIA's Representatives at the UN and WHO United Nations and Department of Public Information in New York	
Dr. Satty Gill Keswani	
Dr. Mini Murty	

World Health Organization in Geneva
Dr. Elizabeta Dulic
Dr. Elisabeth Blocklinger
Dr. Claudia Landerer

United Nations in Vienna
Dr. Iris Habitzel

6. NEWS FROM THE VPs AND THEIR REGIONS

Northern Europe

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir, Vice President for Northern Europe, Iceland

The Northern European Regional Meeting was held in Malmo, Sweden, from September 3 to 6, 2008. Many thanks to the Swedish Medical Women and the organizing committee under the presidency of Dr. Inger Heimann for arranging such a high quality meeting. Also, many thanks to Dr. Karen Nielsen, the national coordinator for Sweden.

The Swedish Medical Women have long been interested in gender and the theme of the meeting was Bridging the Gender Gap. Topics ranged from how gender affected careers of medical women to female genital mutilation to legislation to ensure gender equality. Despite such legislative measures, the Swedish Medical Women often find themselves being paid less than male doctors for doing the same job. The opening keynote address was by Ambassador Anita Grodin, former European Union Commissioner, from Stockholm. She spoke of her career and how she overcame difficulties related to gender. The five main areas of discussion were gender in working life, gender bias in medicine, legislation the Swedish way, facts and fiction in medicine and my way—medical career making.

For many attendees, this was their first time at a regional meeting. The camaraderie and networking in addition to the high quality of lectures has increased their interest in attending other regional meetings and the international congress in Munster in 2010.

The social program was entertaining with a visit to the Lund Open Air Museum, known as Kulturen, much like a Canadian heritage village, followed by dinner. Lund is the nearby university town. The following night the Lord Mayor of Malmo had the attendees to dinner in the town hall, where we heard how Malmo and area changed hands from the Danes to the Swedes. The Swedes have been quite inventive, and can be thanked for the artificial kidney, the wrench, the kerosene stove, the tetra pack, not to mention Alfred Nobel with his dynamite and the subsequent Nobel Prize.

Denmark

Dr. Aggi Kjaer is the President and Dr. Margit Niebuhur is the National Coordinator. The Danish Medical Women remain active in the field of female genital mutilation.

Finland

Last week the Finnish association had its fall meeting and the President, Sanna Mustonen and Tuula Virrankari shared their experiences about Malmö and about the very interesting lectures with the others as well as some nice photos.

Iceland

The Icelandic Medical Women had a meeting at the home of the President, Dr. Lilja Jonsdottir, discussing the Malmö meeting and the winter ahead in our association. The national coordinator, Dr. Helga Hannesdottir stated they plan to follow up on the theme in Malmö and the equality rights of students and teachers in the Medical School.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Medical Women are celebrating their 75th anniversary with a meeting in Amsterdam on October 3, 2008. The details are on the MWIA website. All are welcome, but the proceedings will be in Dutch.

Activities of the organization include supporting women to advance in positions of authority and ensuring that there is adequate coverage for residents when one or more of their members go off on their three month maternity leave.

Norway

Judith Rosta attended the Malmo meeting. Judith is a researcher in gender for the Norwegian Medical Association.

Sweden

Dr. Inger Heimann and Dr. Karen Nielsen and their entire organizing committee spent countless hours in preparation for the Malmo Congress and can be congratulated on a job well done.

United Kingdom

National Coordinator Dorothy Ward, Scotland

Dr. Helen Goodyear is the President of the Medical Women's Federation of the UK. The summer months in UK are usually quite but MWF keeps an eye on issues which may affect women doctors and the health of their patients

On the medical political field junior doctors have are now deprived of free hospital accommodation when they are on call. This results in additional costs to the new doctor of around \$9,500- a cut of 20% in the year.

Many MWF members participated on many issues at the Annual General Meeting of the British Medical Association (BMA) in July, 2008. The MWF Treasurer and chair of the BMA Medical Academic Staff Committee gave the results from her recent research and that of MWF, which showed that there was a lack of opportunity and resources available in UK for the recruitment and retention of female academics. Another MWF member, Anthea Mowat, highlighted human rights issues in Tibet. Professor Bhupinder Sandhu,

Chair of the BMA Equal Opportunities Committee, hosted a session on Diversity and Equality. Shreelata Datta, member of the Junior Doctor's Committee, has been elected as Deputy Chair for negotiations on behalf of her peers. She is also a hard working member of the BMA Agenda Committee. One of our Honorary Secretaries, Beryl de Souza, has been elected to the BMA Council and joins a number of MWF members who have been encouraged to stand for election to this Council

The MWF Autumn Symposium, *Reaching the Work Life Balance* will be held in London on 14 November, 2009, followed by the MWF Council meeting on 15 November. Plans are well ahead for the Spring meeting, 8 May, 2009, at Brighton. The topic/debate will be - *Are There Too Many Women in Medicine?* Issues such as flexible training and the need to increase the availability of part-time positions will also be discussed. The AGM and Council Meeting will be held on 9 May and there will be a dinner and social programme. MWF invites MWIA members to participate.

Five MWF members thoroughly enjoyed the 16th Northern European Regional Meeting in Malmo, Sweden. September 2008, and appreciated the hard work of our Swedish hosts who arranged an excellent programme.

Meetings with the CMO and the Shadow Minister for Women

Earlier this month, President-elect Dr Clarissa Fabre attended the first of three meetings of a working group convened by Sir Liam Donaldson and chaired by Baroness Ruth Deech to discuss problems faced by women in medicine. High on the agenda was the availability of part-time training and working. The main aims of the group are to produce a short punchy document outlining the problems and suggesting practical solutions. Baroness Deech will be attending our Autumn Meeting.

A few days later, MWF President Dr Helen Goodyear and Dr Fabre joined a group chaired by Theresa May and Margot James (a previous speaker at one of our November meetings) to discuss flexible working in the NHS. We were able to highlight the rapidly rising number of salaried doctors in general practice, and the dearth of partnerships, and the problems of increasing privatization in the NHS. We also discussed the demise of the flexible career scheme and the retainer and returner schemes.

Central Europe

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Switzerland

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

As many times before I have written to all members of my region, have asked them for reports or any news of their region and have passed relevant information on to them e.g. on the European Women's Lobby (EWL) or the World Health Organization (WHO) and of course on our MWIA news. There was quite a lot of correspondence on the different topics between us.

I have also asked all National Associations belonging to the Central European Region to send me some words about their association to be published in our Update. As I have not received any replies, I assume they sent their news to the secretariat directly.

Some of the Eastern countries, where I tried to support forming a national association and offered to visit them and carry out e.g. a workshop on Gender Mainstreaming answered very friendly but told me that at the moment there are other problems of prime importance.

Of course I have written to our former VP Nino in view of the war in Georgia. By the way the EWL has prepared a very good resolution re this matter which condemns any war, aggression or terror and stresses the importance of freedom and peace. Any form of violence hurts women and children in an especially vulnerable way. You can find the resolution re the war in this Update under EWL. The next meeting of the EWL will take place in Lyon in the end of October, so that I will report on that meeting in the next Update.

A very nice event was the participation in the Northern European Regional Congress (NERC) in Malmö/Sweden in the beginning of September. MWIA was well represented by Dorothy Ward, former President MWIA and current National Coordinator, by Shelley Ross, former President and current Secretary -General, by Vibeke Jørgensen, former VP and International NC, by Disa Lidman, former VP Northern Europe, by Cajsa Rangnitt, former treasurer, by Olöf Sigurdardottir, current VP Central Europe, by myself, former SG and current VP Central Europe and three more members from Germany, seven from Denmark, five members from the UK, five from Finland, three from Iceland, three from Switzerland, two from the Netherlands, one from Ireland and one from Norway. It was a very successful congress with a lot of communication. I personally would like to thank the Swedish colleagues for an excellently done job and especially the person who is the Swedish link to MWIA, the Swedish National Coordinator Karen Nielsen.

Austria

The Central European Regional Meeting will be held in Vienna May 22-23, 2009. The theme will be Women in Medicine with emphasis on Migration and Female Physicians. The venue will be the Josephinum. The program will soon be available through the MWIA webpage.

On November 22, 2008, there will be a meeting in Vienna, with plans for a workshop on gender mainstreaming in health.

Dr. Edith Schratzberger is the President and Dr. Eva Egger is the National Coordinator.

Georgia

The Secretariat has been in contact with Dr. Nino Zhvania, past vice president for Central Europe during this time of conflict in Georgia. Our Georgian colleagues are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

The European Region for WHO met in Tbilisi as the hostilities settled and Dr. Zhvania represented MWIA at this meeting.

Germany

The 30th scientific congress of the German Medical Women's Association took place from 22nd to 24th September 2007 in the beautiful Bavarian city of Regensburg.

250 participants from medicine and science discussed topics around the main theme "Quality of life – requirement and reality". How can medicine satisfy high expectations of patients and where were the limits? High specialised medicine offers solutions for nearly every situation including many taboo problems like incontinence, adiposity, genetic problems, breast reconstruction after operation, other fields of plastic surgery, etc. But this specialisation is not always the best way to resolve patient's problems. In many cases, the talking medicine is much more effective, as it offers the patient who wants an operation other options leading to an informed consent. Therefore, individual patient care needs to be set up in the health services, as well as a gender specific medicine. Female doctors are known to be competent on that field.

The very successful congress ended with a public panel discussion "beauty at any price? " Participants concluded that the society is challenged to postulate new values. It's important to work against a false beauty illusion (even young girls are unhappy with their bodies!) and the denial of the attractiveness of the age.

Besides the quality of life of patients, the quality of life of female doctors in the area of conflict between occupation and family needs to be considered and was lively discussed in different lectures and workshops. New ideas on that topic were found for example during the workshop "How to dress for success".

During each Congress of the German Medical Women's Organisation, a scientific price and other awards were given to female colleagues who worked on gender specific medical subjects.

Please find more details on the homepage German Medical Women's Association <http://www.aerztinnenbund.de> .

Switzerland

The Website of the Swiss Medical Women is a good instrument for communication (<http://medicalwomen.ch>). There is information in German and in English. A board for jobs and for mentoring is included as well. Dr. Andrea Gilomen is the National Coordinator.

The next meeting of the Medical Women of Switzerland (MWS) will be the annual assembly in July, 2009, in Basel. Basel is a city with a university and with big pharmaceutical industry like Novartis, Sandoz and Roche. Our topic for the meeting will be about different aspects of "movement" in medicine (in health/body/mind) and about the development of public health in Switzerland through the next years.

MWS will participate on the Wonca Congress (Primary Care) in Switzerland in September 2009 in Basel.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Dr. Gwenaëlle M Vidal-Trécan, Vice President Southern Europe, France

Belgium

The Secretariat was pleased to hear recently from Dr. Christine Pouliart, a past Southern European Vice President.

France

Drs. Simone Zerah, Cecile Renson and Marie Dominique Ghnassia of the French Medical Women represented MWIA at the Conference for the Department of Public Information for NGO's September 3-5, 2008. This was the first time that the conference was held outside UN Headquarters in New York. The reason was the renovations occurring at UN Headquarters. The theme of the meeting was

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Shirley Hovan, Vice President North America, Canada

Canada

Plans are under way for the **North American Meeting** to be held onboard a cruise ship Sept. 19-26 2009 from Boston to Montreal. Bookings **must** be made through SeaCourses in order to participate. Please visit the website at www.seacourses.com to register. The theme is "Caring for the Caregiver". The last North American Region cruise to Alaska was very successful and we expect a repeat performance. Please book early for the best rooms, remembering that the block booking will only be held until November this year.

The last week of October is Cervical Cancer Awareness Week. In recognition of this event, the Federation of Medical Women of Canada is having a **Walk-in Pap test Campaign** during Cervical Cancer Awareness Week.

Cervical cancer remains a significant problem. The Canadian Cancer Society predicts that there will be 1300 new cases of cervical cancer diagnosed in Canada this year. The tragedy, is of course, that most of these cases could be prevented through regular screening programs (Pap Test). While new vaccines may prevent up to 70% of cases in the future, there is no substitute for early diagnosis other than a Pap test. Recommended schedules of screening vary from province to province, but in essence cover women between the ages of 16 (if sexually active) and 65. Depending on sources, between 15% and 35% of women who should be tested, are not.

There is good news for **repayment of loans** for Canada's medicine students from the federal government. The big changes include medical students not accumulating interest during their residency and basing their loan payments based on their income, not debt level. The total package announced by the Federal Human Resources Minister is worth \$1 billion over 4 years, and also includes new grants for low and middle income families. The changes come into place August 2009. You can see the information here: <http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/main/spotlighton/bdg2008/rap.shtml>

United States

Every Awards Banquet, the American Medical Women's Association gives its highest award in the name of **Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell**. Louise Bernikow of the Women's E News states of Dr. Blackwell that she become the first woman to graduate from medical school, in Geneva, N.Y., in 1849. She went on to open buy an old house in a Manhattan slum. On May 12, 1857--a date chosen to honor Florence Nightingale's 37th birthday--doors of the first hospital staffed by women, serving women opened in the name of The New York Infirmary for Women and Children. The hospital survived. Less than a decade later, a Women's Medical College was added. It was only in the 1960s, having been incorporated into Beth Israel Medical Center, that male physicians were allowed on the hospital's attending staff.

AMWA's Position on Sex- and Gender-Specific Medicine:

I. AMWA advocates public policy that recognizes that every aspect of a citizen's health is influenced by sex and gender, and for policy that ensures that all aspects of medical and provider education as well as healthcare delivery are held to standards that reflect this principle.

II. AMWA advocates public policy that not only ensures the preservation of the national offices of Women's Health already established in the US (NIH OWH, CDC OWH, UPHSS OWH), but promotes development of other appropriate offices in Women's Health at the Federal level.

III. AMWA advocates continuing research and research institutions that not only include both genders but analyze and report data according to sex and gender.

IV. AMWA advocates for incorporation of that research into curricula that are comprehensive, sex- and gender specific, evidence-based and will promote sound decision making.

V. AMWA advocates for incorporation of sex- and gender-specific curricula into ALL forms of physician and provider education, including medical schools, residencies, fellowships, midlevel training programs, and continuing medical education venues.

VI. AMWA advocates for a method of certification that allows consumers to be assured that their provider has completed educational requirements that are specific to sex-and gender-based information.

The **Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine** is housed at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. For information, contact fhwim@burkhargroup.com. The website is www.fhwim.org.

Latin America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru

Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado, Vice President Latin America, Bolivia

Thank you to the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance for organizing the Latin American Regional Meeting of MWIA, held July 9-13, 2008, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The themes were Social and Economic Problems and Cardiovascular disease.

Dr Atsuko Heshiki, Dr. Ruth Guillen and Dr Mini Murthy represented the MWIA at the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance in Puerto Rico. Dr Atsuko delivered a talk entitled "leadership in highly advanced and specialized area". Dr Murthy also spoke at the congress and her talk was titled Social Problems and its impact in the family : Women's Health is Society's Wealth.

The reason for the creation of the Pan American Women's Alliance dates back to the 1940's when the North American physicians, Dr. Elizabeth Mason-Hohl from California and Dr. Margarita Delgado de Solis from Mexico decided to create a women's physicians alliance so they could meet, discuss and exchange solutions for the Pan American medical problems. The Alliance has continued throughout the years, putting together congresses in different countries, maintaining friendship bonds and exchanging knowledge.

Near East and Africa

Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Dr. Frida Kazembe, Vice President Near East and Africa, Zambia

Plans are underway for the Near East and Africa Regional Meeting in July, 2009, in Dar-Es-Salaam. Please see the website for details.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

Dr. Manju Mataliya, Vice President Central Asia, India

India

Calcutta

The West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India continues to run the Mission Hospital in Calcutta. Donations of both money and medical supplies are always welcome. Please contact the MWIA Secretariat for contact details.

Plans are underway for the **Central Asian regional meeting**. The organizations are looking at the feasibility of holding the meeting in January, 2010.

Dr Deepti Dongaonkar, Chairman of the Mumbai Branch and Dr. Ratna Sanyal, Vice President of the AMWI Council from Calcutta represented MWIA well at the **South East Asia Regional Meeting of WHO** September 8-11, 2008, in Delhi.

Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director General, addressed the meeting. She highlighted the various health issue, problem, solution, difficulties, action plan for control of communicable and non-communicable disease, mother child services, health promotion etc. she stressed upon family health as key core to be focused for physical, mental and social health, She expressed her concerned with increase tobacco use and 2 million death in 2007 due to tobacco consumption. She expressed uncertainty of polio eradication with the effort shown at present. Public health policy should be implemented

with responsibilities. She said maternal and child health still not getting priority in health. Declining Mortality should not only be as focus.

Western Pacific

Australia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan (ROC)

Dr. Winnie Yang, Vice President Western Pacific, Taiwan (ROC)

Australia

The MWIA Western Pacific Regional meeting will be held in Melbourne October 17-19, 2008. The theme is **Bridging Barriers: Health, Human Rights, Gender and Leadership**. Come and hear about carbon footprints, sustainability, climate change and health, and world poverty. The Australian Medical Women welcome medical women around the world to join the conference. Visit the website:

www.tourhosts.com.au/afmw.2008

Korea

The Korean Medical Women's Association (KMWA) held the third Meeting of "Representatives of Korean Women Doctors" on August 30, 2008, in Daegu, Korea. The participating members consist of the president, vice presidents and executive of KMWA, the president of regional associations, the president of the female professor association of medical colleges. The total number of participating members was 50

This meeting was started in 2006 to promote the networking between women doctors throughout the country. 1st meeting was held in Daejeon, which is located in the middle part of Korea and 2nd meeting was held in Gwangju which is located in southwestern part of Korea. This time, Daegu is located in southeastern part of Korea.

This meeting was very lively and there was active discussion on various items concerning the rights of women doctors.

Three motions were passed:

1. We are very much disappointed and surprised to hear the news of sexual harassment of female residents in K university hospital. We insist that this should be severely punished and it should not happen again. We will fix our eyes on this matter in the future.
2. The percentage of female doctors is over 20% in Korea now and the female medical students are over 30%. The medical associations, including Korean Medical Association, has only 0-3 female members on the executive and we insist this percentage should be raised to 30%.
3. The legal maternity leave of women doctors should be strictly kept.

7. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

MWIA has **three standing committees**: Finance, Scientific and Research, and Ethics and Resolutions. Please email the Secretariat if you would like to serve on any of these committees.

The **Chair of the Finance Committee** is **Dr. Kyung Ah Park**. Vice Chairs are Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi and Dr Caroline Jehu-Appiah. The **Chair of the Scientific & Research Committee** is **Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir**. Vice chairs are Dr. Ruth Guillén de Maldonado, Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan and Dr. Winnie Yang. The **Chair of the Ethics & Resolutions Committee** is **Dr. Shirley Hovan**. Vice chairs are Dr. Susanne Close and Dr. Deborah Colville.

PROJECTS

MWIA has decided on a number of projects in addition to the **ongoing work with:**

1. Gender and health to include the gender culture intersect
2. Adolescent sexuality
3. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission in HIV AIDS Plus
4. Issues for Women Doctors including Leadership, Human Resource Planning, and the Pink Collar Profession

The **new projects for the 2007- 2010 triennium** are:

1. Cervical Cancer including HPV and HPV vaccine
2. Gender based violence including trafficking and female genital mutilation
3. Primary Health Care
4. Gender perspective to Diabetes Mellitus

Please e-mail the Secretariat if you wish to serve on any of the committees or work on any of the projects. Please note that this is volunteer work and there is no financial compensation. A functioning e-mail address is necessary for successful communication for the committee work.

8. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS



2008

1. **October 17-19, 2008** - Melbourne, Australia
MWIA Western Pacific Regional Meeting
For further information, contact www.tourhosts.com.au/afmw.2008
2. **October, 2008** – Seoul, Korea
World Medical Association
For further information contact www.wma.org
3. **November 17-19, 2008** – London, UK
International Conference on Doctors' Health
Visit www.bma.org.uk/doctorshealthmatters

2009

1. **May, 22-23, 2009** – Vienna, Austria
Central European Regional Meeting
Further details will follow
2. **July 13-17, 2009** - Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
MWIA Near East & Africa Regional Meeting
Developing World Towards Achieving Health Related MDG in 1025
Venue: Dar Es Salaam Kunduchi Beach Hotel
Further details can be found at www.mewata.org
3. **September 19-26, 2009** – Cruise from Boston to Montreal
MWIA North American Regional Meeting
Taking Care of the Caregiver: Physician Heal Thyself
Bookings must be through SeaCourses at www.seacourses.com
4. **September 26, 2009**
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Montreal, Quebec, following the North American Cruise
Further details can be found at www.fmwc.ca
6. **October 21-25, 2009** Washington, DC, USA
Annual Global Meeting of the Bone and Joint Decade.
Visit www.usbjd.org

2010

1. **May 7-9, 2010** – Paris, France
Southern European Regional Meeting
2. **May 23-29, 2010** Sophia, Bulgaria
Sophia Women's World Conference
MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment
www.sophia2010.org
3. **July 28-31, 2010** The Residence in Munster, Germany
28th International Congress of MWIA
Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities

9. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

With the relocation of the Secretariat, this is an excellent time for all the national associations and individual members to update their contact information. Please send to the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net the following:

1. The name of your President and National Coordinator with mailing and email addresses, phone and fax numbers
2. The website of your national association. You will find below a list of websites for the national associations. Please update the information.

Websites of National Associations

Austria	www.aerztinnenbund.at
Australia	http://www.wafmw.org.au
Belgium	http://www.mwab.be
Canada	http://www.fmwca.ca
Denmark	http://www.quindoc.dk
Finland	http://www.suomennaislaakariyhdistys.com
France	http://affm.affinitesante.com
Germany	http://www.aerztinnenbund.de
Iceland	http://www.fkli.is
Italy	http://www.donnemedico.org
Japan	http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jmwa
Kenya	www.kmwa.or.ke
Korea	http://www.kmwa.org or www.kmwa.or.kr
Mongolia	gerontocenter@mongol.net
Nigeria	www.mwannational.org
Sweden	www.kvinnligalakare.se
Switzerland	http:// www.medicalwomen.ch
Tanzania	www.mewata.org
The Netherlands	vnvemail@vnva.nl
Uganda	http://www.auwmd.org
United Kingdom	http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
United States of America	http://www.amwa-doc.org

10. Formation of the Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students

Please remember that MWIA has a Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students. Please nominate a young woman under the age of 40 to represent your country.

The committee contacts are through the Secretariat and are:

Chairperson: Dr. Inke Doench, Germany
Vice chair: Dr. Adjoa Duker, USA
Secretary: Dr. Jane Mba, Nigeria.

Find the MWIA Young Doctors and Medical Students Group on **Facebook** by following this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38931816104&ref=ts>

11. Donations and Bequests

In addition to paying your dues on time and in full, please consider MWIA at the time of year when you make charitable donations and when you are updating your will. We have had a number of such donations over the years and are happy to publicly acknowledge your contribution if you wish to make a bequest or donation.

12. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany July 27 to 31, 2010. Theme is Networking in Changing Times/World

In each MWIA Update, the organizing committee of the 2010 MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany, wants to bring you some information about Munster.

The theme has been changed from Networking in Changing Times/World to **Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.**

The **sub themes** are:

nutrition (lifestyle diseases, over- and under- and mal-nutrition)

addiction (drugs, alcohol, etc., internet and gambling addiction, etc.)

epidemic plagues (both communicable eg. AIDS, Malaria, TB, HPV and non-communicable eg diabetes, heart disease)

gender strategies (leadership, gender mainstreaming, empowerment, gender based violence, adolescent sexuality)

primary health care

The **dates** have been changed from July 27-31, 2010, to July 28-31, 2010.

Please check the website at: www.mwia2010.net

13. Names in the News

Dr. Sue Harris of Vancouver won the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Category of Health.

Dr. Catharine Whiteside is Dean Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto
Rosemary Brown, a Member of Honour of the FMWC, is having a stamp made in her honour.

Dr. Beryl DeSousa of the Medical Women's Foundation has been elected to the British Medical Association Council.

Navanethem Pillay of South Africa succeeds Louise Arbour as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Judge Pillay brings a distinguished professional career in law and human rights to her new post; she also has been a prominent voice over many years in support of women's rights, particularly leading the international community to take strong positions on crimes perpetrated against women during conflict.

14. Books

Dr. Eileen Cambon, a Past National coordinator for Canada, has recently written a book entitled: **Uppity Women We Are! 100 Year History of Medical Women of British Columbia (1893 - 1993)**

Dr. Jean Fourcroy, Past Vice President for North America, has edited a book entitled **Pharmacology, Doping and Sports**. It can be ordered from orders@taylorandfrancis.com.

Dr. Mamta. Gautam wrote the ever-popular book, **IronDoc**, telling us how to take care of ourselves. She will be the keynote speaker on the North American cruise.

The World Health Organization recently published **Closing the Gap in a Generation**, which is the report from the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



Social Determinants of Health

The Commission on the Social Determinants of Health was initiated by the late Dr. JW Lee, former Director-General of the World Health Organization. The Commission has published its findings in a book entitled, **Closing the Gap in A Generation**. The Commission feels that reducing health inequities is a matter of social justice. Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale.

The Commission has made three recommendations:

1. Improve the conditions of daily life—the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources—the structural drivers of those conditions of daily life – globally, nationally and locally.

3. Measure the problem, evaluate action, expand the knowledge base, develop a workforce that is trained in the social determinants of health, and raise public awareness about the social determinants of health.

Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has recently released their document on Guidelines on Protection from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke.

Regional Meetings

PAHO

Dr. Jean Fourcroy represented MWIA at the Pan American Health Organization which is the WHO region for the America, held in Washington, DC. This was the 60th session of the regional committee and the 50th anniversary of PAHO.

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO stated that: "Our greatest concern must always rest with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. These groups are often hidden, live in remote rural areas or shanty towns and have little political voice."

All of the important documents including the agenda and participants for a better understanding of the importance of this meeting. (<http://www.paho.org/>)

The Agenda and all of the important working documents are easily found on the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) webs site. It is also important to remember that this is the 50th anniversary of PAHO. I had the honor of attending f this meeting for MWIA and will share the highlights.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to make new policy decisions that address the critical health problems of the region. Among key topics discussed were : cervical cancer, prevention of diabetes and obesity, neonatal health, adolescent and youth health, prevention and management of diabetes and obesity, response to vector-borne diseases, climate change and its impact on public health, and the presentation of the Director's Annual Report. I believe the critical issues noted were the continuing reduction and elimination of tobacco use, access to health care for all, intellectual property issues and environmental (global warming) issues and their relationship to health. Change in warming and levels of water are destructive in many ways to communities whether increase vulnerability to vectors of disease, absence of clean water, or even the habitat of the citizens. The documents are available in several languages at:

<http://www.paho.org/English/GOV/CD/govbodies-CD.htm>

SEARO

Dr Deepti Dongaonkar, Chairman of the Mumbai Branch and Dr. Ratna Sanyal, Vice President of the AMWI Council from Calcutta represented MWIA well at the South East Asia Regional Meeting of WHO September 8-11, 2008, in Delhi.

Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director General, addressed the meeting. She highlighted the various health issue, problem, solution, difficulties, action plan for control of communicable and non-communicable disease, mother child services, health promotion

etc. she stressed upon family health as key core to be focused for physical, mental and social health, She expressed her concerned with increase tobacco use and 2 million death in 2007 due to tobacco consumption. She expressed uncertainty of polio eradication with the effort shown at present. Public health policy should be implemented with responsibilities. She said maternal and child health still not getting priority in health. Declining Mortality should not only be as focus.

European Regional Meeting

Despite the conflict in Georgia, Dr. Nino Zhvania represented MWIA at this meeting in Tbilisi.

Eastern Mediterranean Region

Drs. Shafika Nasser, Mervat ElRafie and Salma Galal represented MWIA in Cairo.

Western Pacific Region

Dr. Concordia Pascual represented MWIA in Manila.

2. UNITED NATIONS

WOMEN, INK. Release directory of free resources on HIV/AIDS and WOMEN

Women, Ink., a program of the International Women's Tribune Centre dedicated to distributing resources that raise awareness on women, gender and development, compiled a list of free and downloadable resources on HIV/AIDS & women on the occasion of UNGASS. Comprising some 50 action-oriented tools as well as analyses, reports and case studies, this resource pack was assembled to support informed participation and action on issues of women and HIV/AIDS. It provides background and training tools on the complexity of women's vulnerability to HIV infection, including the need for a gender-based approach to HIV/AIDS; protecting the rights of young women and girls; promoting a gender-based approach to prevention and care; guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health rights; supporting empowerment and leadership for women living with HIV/AIDS; eliminating violence against women; and ensuring women's economic rights.

To browse the resource list, go to <http://www.womenink.org> or to download a PDF copy, go to http://www.womenink.org/hiv_for_web.pdf

The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) welcomes the **nomination of Navanethem Pillay of South Africa to succeed Louise Arbour as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**. Judge Pillay brings a distinguished professional career in law and human rights to her new post; she also has been a prominent voice over many years in support of women's rights, particularly leading the international community to take strong positions on crimes perpetrated against women during conflict.

UNFPA

There is a fundraising group for UNFPA called 34 Million Friends of the UN Population Fund. The idea is that each American would donate \$1 to replace the funding not given

to UNFPA for family planning. You can watch a 5 minute video on YouTube called 34 Million Friends, which tells of her fundraising.

Commission on the Status of Women

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held in UN Headquarters in New York from March 2-13, 2009.

The themes that will be considered are the following:

Priority theme: **"The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS"**

Review theme: **"Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels"**

Millennia 2015 - Global Experts Studies: Developments to Improve the Status of Women

Gender equality and advancement of women is addressed by the Commission on the Status of Women of ECOSOC, and dozens of other governmental and non-governmental organizations. Nevertheless, disparities continue worldwide, from the glass-ceiling in the nations claiming equality principles, to more stringent issues as unequal access to education, health care and decision making positions in many cultures and world regions.

The WFUNA Millennium Project (www.millennium-project.org) proposes a Real Time Delphi to collect your contribution about these issues. This Real Time Delphi aims to identify long term gender-sensitive issues that are not yet sufficiently addressed or resolved, those that are emerging or might grow in importance in the next two decades, as well as policies, strategies, challenges and barriers to improving the status of women worldwide and in specific regions or cultures, and the organizations that exist or should be established to address them.

The results will contribute to building a foresight diagnosis about that question. They will be presented and discussed within the research process of Millennia 2015 international conference about "Women actors of development for the global challenges" (www.millennia2015.org). They should also provide policy makers at international and national levels as well as of the private sector and NGOs with an array of policy suggestions and strategies of global and local significance for improving gender equity.

This study is designed to collect judgments about the answers to a list of questions. You may omit any questions you wish and you do not have to complete this list of questions in one visit. When you return to the questionnaire you will see your previous answers and may add to them or change them if you wish.

Your contribution is important, please take a few minutes to answer:

=> the questionnaire is at: < www.realtimedelphi.net >

=> Code for the Millennia 2015 study: < M15 >.

New UN Website

The UN recently launched a new website that will show how and where the world is succeeding or failing in meeting the Millennium Development Goals on ending poverty. The website is <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the site would, for the first time, present all the information on the goals in one place, allowing closer monitoring and helping identify places in need of greater attention. The site gathers statistics from around the world to give a snapshot of how each country is doing in meeting the eight goals, from cutting infant mortality to reducing hunger.

CONGO

The Council on NGO's invites all NGO's to register for the Geneva Component of Civil Society Development for 2008 in Geneva October 27-28, 2008. It will discuss the Platform for development countdown to 2015. Please visit the CSDF website at to register. Visit <http://www.ngocongo.org>.

3. GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION TO STOP CERVICAL CANCER

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) took an active part in the formulation of the ***Global Call of Action to Stop Cervical Cancer*** through participation at the London meeting of partners held in December, 2006. Subsequently, MWIA in collaboration with other partners launched the Global call during the YWCA Global Conference in Nairobi on July 6, 2007, and at the MWIA International Congress in Accra in August 1, 2007. MWIA is one of the initial signatories and is proud to stand beside other organizations who believe that women should not die from cervical cancer.

4. PATH

New online cervical cancer prevention resources

[Evidence of Support for Improved Cervical Cancer Prevention in Developing Countries](#)

Compiled by Cervical Cancer Action, the International Union Against Cancer, and PATH, this electronic dossier includes over 360 letters, video messages, editorials, and declarations in support of improved cervical cancer prevention for women throughout the developing world. In addition to these support documents, the dossier includes the names of over 1,200 individuals, representing nearly 700 organizations, who signed an online "Global Call to Stop Cervical Cancer" in 2007 and 2008.

5. WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the World Medical Association will be held in Seoul, Korea, in October, 2008.

6. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (EWL)



The European Women's Lobby is the biggest Coalition of Women's Organizations in Europe

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus represents MWIA on the EWL.

Key European and national women decision makers met in Brussels on 16th September at the invitation of the European Women's Lobby for the launch event of the Campaign **“50/50 No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality”**.

The European Women's Lobby wants to stress that there can be no modern European Democracy without Parity, the equal representation of women and men in the making of decisions that affect their lives.

Visit the website www.5050democracy.eu to express your support.

7. The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC)

ICEC is thriving scientifically and will change the world. The ICEC Annual Meeting was recently held in Washington D.C. Participants included industry, governmental and non-governmental, e.g. AMWA and MWIA, from every part of the world to discuss the progress of EC. New paradigms of education and new methods are being developed; accessibility and availability of EC around the worldwide is improving.

Two important issues from the meeting should be shared. For Levonorgestrel-only emergency contraceptive pills the evidence is clear. It inhibits or delays an egg from being released from the ovary when taken before ovulation; it may possibly prevent the sperm and the egg from meeting by affecting the cervical mucus or the ability of sperm to bind to the egg. Emergency contraception is not the same as early medical abortion. EC is effective only in the first few days following intercourse before the ovum is released from the ovary and before the sperm fertilizes the ovum. EC cannot interrupt an established pregnancy or harm a developing embryo. This research is well documented. The second important issue is the possibility of manufacturing fraud in poor countries. In several instances packaging makes the bogus inactive product non-identifiable.

The ICEC meeting included reports from both public and private sector around the world. Discussing availability, costs issues, specific country issues, future new products and paradigms for education. The future thanks to this collaboration is very promising.

For much more information go to the following website: <http://www.cecinfo.org/>

8. Women Deliver

Following the successful conference in London, UK, in October, 2007, the work of investing in women continues. Visit the website www.womendeliver.org to keep up with developments.

9. American Women's Hospital Service

AMHS was founded in 1917 during World War I by a group of New York physicians and patients who wanted to send an ambulance staffed by women physicians to the front in France. Today, AMHW provides essential services to numerous underserved communities in the US and overseas, including the MWIA Mission Hospital in Calcutta. Should you wish to donate contact info@amwa-doc.org.

10. WONCA Women

Congratulations to WONCA Women for compiling a monograph/literature review of stories of women in family medicine. It can be found at: www.womenandfamilymedicine.com Authored by Drs Cheryl Levitt, Lucy Candib, Barbara Lent and Michelle Howard this web publication is a summary of the key literature on women physicians and family medicines and covers important topics of women physicians in training; in practice; in academic medicine; in organizational medicine; caring for themselves and their families; and women physicians in the doctor-patient relationship

There will be a meeting in UK in 2009 (28 June - 3 July 2009) to plan WONCA WOMEN's preparations for Cancun and onwards into the next decade!

11. Sophia Women's World Conference: Women and Wisdom

The purpose of the conference is to illuminate and implement vital UN Living Documents especially MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment.

Of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform of Action, those of most interest to MWIA are;

- Women and Health
- Violence Against Women
- Women in Power and Decision-making
- Human Rights of Women
- Women and the Environment
- The Girl Child

For more information, please visit the website: www.sophia2010.org

12. UNIFEM

UNIFEM has just released their report, Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009 with theme of "Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability" (lead author Anne Marie Goetz). The release of the report has been accompanied by a useful interactive web site

<http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/index.html>.

Governments and Multilateral Organizations Must Do a Better Job of Answering to Women for Commitments Made, Says New UNIFEM Report
Stronger accountability needed to move from commitments to results, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Women must be included in all oversight processes; gender equality must become standard against which public performance is assessed.

13. International Federation of Medical Students (IFMSA)

IFMSA held a successful meeting in Ocho Rios, Jamaica August 7-13, 2008.

Please visit the website at www.ifmsa.org

14. International Talent Award (Project)

Al-Noor Foundation has pleasure to announce the launching of an award “International Talent Award” which is a first of the world unique and innovative initiative to undertaken by an Al-Noor Foundation (NGO) in Pakistan. The main objectives granting this award is to accord due recognition and acknowledge meritorious services rendered by eminent personalities having both national and international standing and repute and who have been serving the cause of humanity epically in the field of social welfare, education and health.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in December, 2008.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by November 30, 2008, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

□ □