

## WHAT ARE MWIA'S ACTIVITIES

MWIA activities can be divided into national, regional and international.

### National and local level

Many of the activities of the organization are conducted at country level where national associations address identified priorities in the country in different ways as appropriate. For example, this could take place through lectures, scientific conferences or provision of medical services. Activities are diverse. To highlight but a few activities:

1. The West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India (AMWI) runs a Mission Hospital in Calcutta.
2. The Philippine Medical Women provide public service in the form of lectures, immunization clinics and provide medical missions.
3. The Federation of Medical Women of Australia have written a book on long-term survivors of gender based violence, entitled *Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors*.
4. The Brazilian Medical Women have translated the MWIA Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health into Portuguese so that it can be used to train health care providers in that language.
5. The Medical Women of Ecuador have started a project to prevent teenage pregnancy and programs to allow those who are pregnant to continue their education.
6. The German Medical Women have developed a national mentoring program.
7. The Hong Kong Medical Women advise and volunteer for Rain Lily, an organization helping sexual abuse victims.
8. The Japan Medical Women have written a book in both Japanese and English for Emergency medicine for Children.
9. The Medical Women's Federation of the United Kingdom has developed a Buddying Scheme to support members through a form of mentoring.
10. The Swedish Medical Women have been leading a campaign to place the blame on the purchaser of prostitution rather than the victims themselves.
11. The Swiss Medical Women held a conference in 2012 to discuss Women in political conflict situations – what are female physicians doing?
12. The Taiwan Medical Women have a project for school children to promote smoking cessation, acting as no-smoking angels.
13. The Dutch Medical Women have been promoting female doctors and social media.

14. The American Medical Women's Association has a campaign against obesity and is very much involved in health care reform.
15. The American Medical Women's Association has partnered with the American College of Women's Health Physicians to create Sex and Gender Women's Health Collaborative. The website is [www.sgwhc.org](http://www.sgwhc.org)
16. The Danish Medical Women remain active in the fight against female genital mutilation.
17. The Federation of Medical Women of Canada originated a Smear Campaign to encourage women without regular doctors to have an annual Pap smear, which now has both the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Cancer Control Agency of British Columbia on board. FMWC advocates for boys as well as girls to receive free HPV vaccination.
18. The Tanzanian Medical Women are advocating for reproductive health rights for women.

## **Regional Level**

During the triennium, each of the eight regions holds scientific congresses on topics relevant to the region.

**Northern European Region** May 19-21, 2011, Breukelen, The Netherlands  
The theme was **Women on the Move**.

**Central European Region** June 29-30, 2012, Batumi, Georgia  
The theme was **Actual Topics on Women's Health**.

**Southern European Region** November 19-20, 2010, Paris, France.  
The theme was **Gender Based Violence**.

**North American Region** April 13-15, 2012, Miami, Florida, USA  
The theme was **Achieving Success as Women in Medicine, Strategic Career and Personal Development**.

**Latin American Region** October 17-20, 2012, Guadalajara Mexico  
The theme was **Transition in Medicine and the Repercussions on the Family**

**Near East and Africa Region** November 20-22, 2012, Cairo, Egypt  
The theme was **Women's Health and Quality of Life**

**Central Asia Region** October 7-9, 2012, Chiang Mai, Thailand  
The theme was **Women and Health in the Challenging World**

**Western Pacific Region** May 26- 29 , 2011, Tokyo, Japan  
The meeting was cancelled due to the tragic Japan earthquake and tsunami

## International Level

MWIA organizes international congresses every three years in different countries.

International congresses have two parts: the statutory General Assembly at which MWIA business, including election of office bearers, is conducted and secondly, the scientific sessions. The theme of the scientific sessions reflects the triennial theme of the organization and is the climax of the activities of the outgoing MWIA executive.

The congresses give MWIA members a chance to discuss resolutions on various health-related topics. These can be found on the MWIA website at [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net).

Recent international congresses were held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in October, 1998, in Sydney, Australia, in April, 2001, Tokyo, Japan in July, 2004, Accra, Ghana in July 2007, and Munster, Germany in July 2010. The Munster Congress was the 28<sup>th</sup> International Congress, with the theme **Globalisation in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities**. The last International Congress was held on July 31, to August 3, 2013, in Seoul, Korea. The theme was **Medical Women Advance Global Health**.



group picture of some attendees at the Munster Conference

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