

## 8<sup>th</sup> Historic teaser: The 9th decade: MWIA – a strong advocate for Gender Mainstreaming (1999-2008)

In 1994, at the 4th International Conference on Women's health in Beijing the topic of gender mainstreaming was discussed and MWIA decided to choose gender mainstreaming as one of its top priority topics. Therefore, experts and the MWIA Executive met at a **workshop at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy and developed a Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in health in 2001**. The picture to the right shows some MWIA leaders and experts in Bellagio (Courtesy Gaye Casper, Australia). **It was published in 2002** and updated in 2013 (<https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/TrainingManualonGenderMainstreaminginHealth.pdf>).



Later MWIA stood up to its role as an educator once again and **published a Training Manual For Adolescent Sexuality in 2004**, which was updated 2013 (<https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/TrainingManualforAdolescentSexuality.pdf>).

MWIA also continued on fighting for a better health care for children and women. **Of the projects conducted four are to be listed her:** *One on Widowhood rites in Nigeria* by Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi; *Pain relief in cancer patients* in Calcutta by Dr Judith Goh; *Urinary incontinence after genital tract fistula repair* in Ethiopia by Dr Tulsi Basu and *Emergency healthcare for women and girls released from rebel lines in Sierra Leone* by Dr Dinah Jarrett. After the HPV vaccination was approved, MWIA strongly advocated for every young girl receiving this vaccination!

But not only great projects were conducted, it was **time to celebrate the Indian Medical Women's Association 100 Years Anniversary in 2006** as well as **the reaching of 10.000 MWIA members in 2004!** MWIA now consisted of 47 National Associations at the end of the decade as compared to the two when it originally was founded in 1919.

Another achievement was the **foundation of a special interest group for medical students and young doctors in 2007**. It served as a replacement for the young forum which was dissolved in 1998. At the International Conferences a special program was put in place for them such as poster sessions or study hospital visits.

### **MWIA Meetings**

**2001:** 25<sup>th</sup> MWIA Congress, Sydney, Australia. *Women's Health in a Multicultural World*

**2004:** 26<sup>th</sup> MWIA Congress, Tokyo, Japan. *Medicine in a New Life Style*

**2007:** 27<sup>th</sup> MWIA Congress, Accra, Ghana *Women in the World of Medicine*

This congress marked another milestone. It was **the first Congress in Africa!**

**The MWIA presidents of that decade** were Lila STEIN KROSER, USA (1998-2001), Shelley ROSS, Canada (2001-2004), Gabrielle CASPER, Australia (2004-2007) and Atsuko HESHIKI, Japan (2007-2010).

And as MWIA always keeps up with the times, it **introduced a MWIA updates newsletter via Mail** in this decade!



MWIA Congress, Sydney, Australia 2001



Cruise: MWIA Congress, Tokyo, Japan 2004.



MWIA executive at 27<sup>th</sup> MWIA Congress, Accra, Ghana 2007.



Congress, Accra, Ghana 2007.

## Sources

Ward, Dorothy, They cure in a motherly spirit. History of the Medical Women's International Association, Glasgow, Fledging Press, 2010

Photos: Courtesy of Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus.