

# Women's Worlds 2005

Volume 3

<http://www.ww05.org>

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

## Grand Prelude Commences the 9th IICW

Over 2,000 guests, including First Lady Yang-suk Kwon, President of the Pan-African Parliament Gertrude Mongella, and the Presidents of Ewha, Yonsei, Sogang and Sookmyung University attended the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Congress yesterday amidst an atmosphere of anticipation of the event.

The combined visual art and live electro-acoustic performances, based on the theme "Embracing the Earth," kick started the ceremony which promised a series of speeches from selected guests.

Pil-wha Chang, the Congress Convenor delivered the opening address emphasizing peace and environmental security as necessary concerns for all members of the society. Following the opening address, Hyae-kyung Lee, President of Korean Association of Women's Studies and In-ryung Shin, President of Ewha Womans University delivered their welcoming messages.

Also on the list of guest speakers were First Lady and Congress Patron Yang-suk Kwon, and Chair of the Women's Affairs Committee of the National Assembly Ae-sil Kim. Both congratulated the opening of the



Photo by You-jin Cho

**The finale of the Opening Ceremony was enriched by the melody of united souls.**

ceremony and event as a whole. Kwon said, "I welcome all distinguished guests to Korea. Along with the establishment of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, the present administration has put forth effort to achieve gender equality in Korea. I am so happy that this congress is being held here in Seoul, and I thank the Organizing Committee and all the

volunteers for their commitment to this event."

The Ceremony closed with the theme song "Embracing the World" in which guests were invited to participate. The filling of the stage with children and guests holding hands ended the ceremony on a festive note.

by Bo-mi Kim

## Mongella Refuels Millennium Development Goals

President Gertrude Mongella of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) gave the keynote speech, "Leadership in the International Women's Movement to Achieve Equality, Development, and



Photo by Ji-sun Kim

**Gertrude Mongella**

Peace" at the Welch-Ryang Auditorium (Daegangdang), and she did not fail to inspire all those who attended.

Mongella first thanked the government of Korea, the WW05 Organizers, Ewha, and the 2,000 participants who contributed to the hosting of the event. Throughout the speech, she paid tribute to the significance of the

Beijing Conference's holistic approach towards international women's issues, which contributed to the liberation of global women and partnership between all men and women. She described the magnitude of the task of promoting gender equality and development to women by saying, "I never get tired of repeating that we, women of the world, are held accountable for the rights of women."

Mongella redefined the eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through a feminist perspective: 1. eradicate extreme poverty, specifically by promoting the global trade of women; 2. educate girls; 3. re-examine roles of women in leadership; 4. improve maternal health before, during, and after birth; 5. combat HIV/AIDS; 6. debate globalization whether it is an opportunity or trap for women; 7. increase women leadership in

information/communication technology fields; 8. actively participate in funding in order to solve major problems of conflict regarding women. The audience applauded each of the goals and her insightful suggestions and ambition for the development of women.

Following her speech, Mongella was given an honorary doctorate degree by Ewha Womans University for her deep commitment to human rights issues and development and justice for women. She personally thanked her husband and children for understanding her position as an active feminist and said, "I want to share it aloud with the women of the world. I don't deserve to say I worked alone. I worked with everybody and I want to share this honor with all of you."

by Soo-hyun Kim

Today's Schedule

**08:30-10:20** Plenary Session  
(Welch-Ryang Auditorium/Daegangdang)  
**13:00-18:00** Subsessions

Invited Speakers Sessions

**10:30-12:00**  
"Japan's Economic Crisis and Hollowing Out of the Social Safety Net" Mari Osawa (POSCO Building rm. B161)

"The Paradoxes of Globalization and the Politics of Costs and Benefits for Women" Young-Suk Yi (POSCO Building rm. B151)

"What's God Got to Do with It?: Reflections on the Place of Religion in a Women's Studies Curriculum" Namsoon Kang, C. Julia Huang, Naomi Goldenberg (POSCO Building rm. B152)

**13:00-14:30**  
"Women's New Life in Eco-Community" Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen (POSCO Building rm. B161)  
"Writing from the Womb, Mothering the Story" Nora Okja Keller (POSCO Building rm. B151)  
Ueno Chizuko (POSCO Building rm. B152)

**14:45-16:15**  
"Gender Issues in Information Society from the Perspective of Academia and International Agency" Eva M. Rathgeber, Eun-ju Kim, Hiroko Hashimoto (POSCO Building rm. B151)

**16:30-18:00**  
"Women and Differences" Griselda Pollock, Taeko Tomiyama (POSCO Building rm. B151)

**Film Series Session**  
12:30-13:40 "I Always Dream of Tomorrow"  
13:40-15:00 "Tears-Blossom"  
15:00-16:30 "SALT"  
16:40-17:20 "Women for Equal Treatment"  
17:30-18:00 "Going Together"  
(POSCO Building B1)

**Special Programs**  
2005 Korean Association of Women's Studies  
10:30-12:00: Panel 1 "Korean Patriarchy in Globalization Age"  
13:00-14:30: Panel 2 "Gender, Nation, and Globalization"  
14:45-16:15: Panel 3 "Korean Feminism in Globalization Era"  
(LG Convention Hall)  
WOWS Meeting  
10:30-12:00: "World Wide Organization of Women's Studies Do We Have a Future?" (POSCO Building rm. 454)



Photo by Ji-sun Kim

Plenary sessions will be held every morning from 8:30 to 10:20 at the Welch-Ryang Auditorium (Daegangdang).

## Women Aim for a Safer World

Today's plenary session will proceed under the theme, "Violence, Intolerance and the Culture of Peace."

Hei-soo Shin (Korea), visiting professor of Kyunghee University, will discuss her paper, "Aimed Conflict, Violence and Justice: from sexual slaver to the ICC." As the head of the Korean Hot Line, she led the nationwide campaign in the 1990s to pass legislations on sexual and domestic violence. She is currently the commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission in Korea and also a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of the Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Cynthia Enloe (U.S.), Research Professor at Clark University, will speak about her paper "Demilitarizing Cultures after 9/11: A Feminist Perspective," which advocates a gradual demilitarization process which will entail the difficult cultural and political endeavor of transforming the admirable and respectable forms of masculinity and femininity. She will talk about the hardships of pushing back the pressures of militarizing femininity and masculinity in the "post-9/11" era, since each idea is tightly bound by the bonds of "national security."

Monica Munoz (Chile), former Chief of the LA-Caribbean division of UNIFEM/Chile, will discuss her paper, "Changing the Culture of Violence Against Women," which aims to introduce the positive results of the process of Eradication of Violence Against Women (EVAW) in Brazil over the past 15 years. She notes that despite the fact that women's voices have been heard,

giving violence against women visibility, and changing policies, the amount of violence against women has not decreased. Munoz will evaluate the past process of EVAW in Brazil, assessing both the positive gains and stumbling blocks within the time of implementation. These assessments will be used as guidance to set sustainable strategies for gender equality in the LAC area. She hopes that this year's IICW will be a time to interchange experiences, push on in the movement which aims to create a safer world for women.

Joanna Bigfeather (U.S.) will present her paper, "Indigenous Women and Social Change Through Art." Bigfeather's past reflects a legacy of work involved in indigenous art, and some of her work can be seen in places such as Smithsonian Institution, Heard Museum, Brooklyn Museum and Institute of American Indian Art Museum. She is also currently active in the United Nations Indigenous People's Forum.

Charlotte Bunch (U.S.), Founder and Executive Director for the Center for Women's Global Leadership, and Professor at Rutgers University, will speak about her paper, "NGO Leaders Influence Global Change - Lessons Learned." Bunch has been recognized for her contributions to women's human rights with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in 1999 and the National Council for Research on Women's "Women Who Make a Difference Award." She has also been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

by Eun-a Lee

## Gender and Biotechnology

June 21, 16:30-18:00 at POSCO Building rm. 351  
Speakers: Dickson Kanakulya (Uganda), Joan Haran (U.K.) and Joo-hyun Cho (Korea)

Ever since the mapping of the genome and the successful cloning of animals, bioengineering has made rapid progress. Such rapid developments of bioengineering have caused a controversy over the relationship between science and ethics. In the session, "Gender and Biotechnology" the related topics will be discussed by Dickson Kanakulya (Uganda), Joan Haran (U.K.) and Joo-hyun Cho (Korea).

In Dickson Kanakulya's presentation "Postmodern Biotechnological and Gender Discourse: The Case of Ethics in Africa" she will discuss the way in which advancements in technology re-shape gender discourse. Her focus will be on Africa, where officials do not thoroughly understand the concepts of technology and the discourse around it, which has social and ethical implications for both theory and practice concerning gender issues.

In the paper titled "Naked Transparent and Dis-Located: Representing Women in the Stem Cell Debate, a Study of the UK and Korean Media," Joan Haran will focus on how women's bodies are featured and represented (or are absent) in debates about new developments in genomic biotechnologies, especially in stem cell research involving in vitro fertilization (IVF). She points out that the related debates focus on embryos but not on women. She will examine how the Korean and English media portray women as sources and suppliers of eggs, or embryos, and where feminists stand on this issue.

Joo-hyun Cho will analyze the IVF technology in Korea (with the recent breakthroughs in genetic engineering), and its effects on women, family and nation, through case analyses of people who have gone through the IVF treatment process in her thesis "Biotechnology in Trans/national Discourse: The Case of Korea."

by Bo-mi Kim

## Feminine Side of Media and Technology Visualized in Ewha

June 21-30: Indoor Art Center Special Exhibit  
June 21-23: Outdoor Media Exhibition  
Venue: Ewha Art Center, Daegangdang

The Ewha Media Art Presentation is where technology, women, and Asia, intersect to seize Asian women's media art culture through the special characteristics of Asia and women's gender identity. Although the focus is on Asian artists, the exhibition also includes works of women artists from North America, South America, and Europe to fit the theme, "Media in 'f.'"

From the display of artworks, viewers can see how Asian artist's feminism ideas are portrayed in the media and how they are dispersed in reality through interpretation of today's technology.

There are two separate exhibitions; one outdoor, and the other, indoor. The outdoor exhibition shows the artwork of both Western and Eastern artists while the indoor exhibition only shows artworks of Korean and



Video documentaries are screened at various locations around campus.

other Asian women artists. After the exhibition, a round table discussion will take place to evaluate the artwork.

The letter "f" in the theme "Media in 'f'" symbolizes female, femininity, feminism, flux, flowing, fleeting, fluctuating, fantastic, fabulous, and fragmentary which adds to the feminine character of "f." Small letter "f" speaks for women's transformation, and the stages of transformation.

## Women in the Military

June 21, 10:30-12:00 at POSCO Building rm. 361  
Speakers: Orna Sasson-Levy (Israel), Tsejeard Bouta (Netherlands), and Hai Wen Gu (China)

They say since colonial times there have been odd parallels between the United States' attitude toward the military and the military's attitude toward women in the military. Both are celebrated in theory but mistrusted in reality. Ambivalent attitudes and contradictory behavior towards women in the military is a global phenomenon, often resulting in a severe infringement of basic human rights. The session titled "Women in the Military" will concentrate mainly on gender equality in the military. Speakers for this session will be Orna Sasson-Levy (Israel), Tsejeard Bouta (Netherlands), and Hai Wen Gu (China).

Orna Sasson-Levy will present the paper "Can Gender Integration Bring about Gender Equality in Military?" It will discuss the transition of the 'gender-regime' in Western militaries during the last decade. Given the masculine character of the military it is questionable whether the changes are a "feminist revolution" which brings egalitarian gender conceptions.

Tsejeard Bouta highlights women in conflict as combatants in (ir)regular armies. In her thesis "Women in (Ir)Regular Armies: Roles, Relations, and Responses," she will focus on gender-specific roles of women and men in (ir)regular armies: This refers to, specifically, women as combatants and dependants of male switching gender relations in (ir)regular armies, which on the one hand empowers women, and disempowers the other.

Hai Wen Gu will discuss predominant female military generals who have played significant roles on the capacious grand military stage in her thesis "Viewing Women and War from a Gender Perspective." She also will elaborate on her comprehensive survey from the period before Qin to modern times.

by Rhie-young Lim

Often, technology is referred as men's specialty resulting women to be neglected and be ignored in the arena. However, technology is not a field where only men can be good at. Techno-feminism states that oppression of women in society and technological reign over women have connection. Therefore, for women to fully step into areas of technology, technology-art needs to be reformed in women's point of view.

The technology-art displayed in "Media in 'f'" presents a new exit for women to overcome gender inequalities in art. The artworks prove how women's peculiar ingenuity is important in contemporary art. Feminine character is a new paradigm in art.

Women's femininity can transform female media art into a political tool. Feminine media art works offer women to view the male dominant technology art critically. This is why the development of female media arts is important and this exhibition is significant.

by Tae-yeon Kim

## Paradigm Shift for a Better World

### *Market-free Economy in Place of a Free Market Economy*

The Gift Economy: An Economy Based on the Female Norm was the topic introduced by presenter Genvieve Vaughan (U.S.), presenter Angela Miles (Canada) and chair Linda Chistiansen-Ruffman (Canada). Discussions centered on theorizing the "gift-economy" as an alternative to the current exchange economy which has its roots in patriarchal society and where the action of free gift-giving is denied due to the measurement of exchange in giving. The gift-giving economy however, is based on the theory that giving is natural to humankind, and that humans are only fully themselves when their needs are directly met.

Vaughan elaborated on the shift of focus in viewing women as becoming the norm, ultimately allowing for the creation of a different world free of alienation and exploitation of the economy. She pointed out that one must understand that in order to create a gift-giving society, a paradigm shift from the current exchange economy is essential.

The discussion involved the comparison of the two economic paradigms. The gift-giving economy allows the direct giving to satisfy one's needs from one person to another, and vice-versa, creating bonds and when conducted in an egalitarian society – positive bonds where we recognize the existence of others. As opposed to this "other-oriented" paradigm, the exchange economy is based on the idea of equal exchange on the terms of some subordinate value, which when not met with is regarded as an exploitative exchange. Thus, the exchange economy creates parasitical behaviors of exchange in order for it to sustain itself, and makes one focus on how much they are receiving rather than giving.

The session also discussed ideas about the natural order of the



Photo by Ji-sun Kim

Vaughan and Chistiansen-Ruffman present at the panel session.

world and the tainting of the free-giving of the earth's natural resources have been by excessive commodification. It also stressed that value can not be measured by wealth and challenged attendees with the questions, "Think about what you value most in society?" and "Think about what you least value in society?" followed by a third question, "Calculate the cost of each."

In the discussions which followed the presentation, validation of the gift-economy was questioned. "Powerful, radical, paradigm shift with deep spiritual undertones for women everywhere," were the comments of Maryann Pearson (U.S.), a participant who attended this session.

by Eun-a Lee

## Democracy Needs a Feminine Touch

Discussions in the session entitled "Feminism and Politics" centered around the relationship between democracy and the patriarchal family organization. The discussion, led by Hae-sook Chae (U.S.) and moderated by Jane Bayes (U.S.), involved relating feminism and politics in the private sector with the emergent assertion that women's liberation from the family is a pre-requisite to the development of democracy.

Chae's presentation began with a challenge to the position taken by Jean Bethke Elshtain, a contemporary American political theorist which may be summed up in the statement that: "developing a communitarian consciousness within the family is crucial in creating a more democratic society and practice of mothering in the traditional family is the primary source of the communitarian consciousness." Chae drew on examples from the Korean context – the usage of language, familial structure

and aspects of voting culture – to argue that communitarian consciousness is deeply embedded in the minds of Koreans and that, "communitarian consciousness derived from the traditional family can generate unanticipated consequences, namely less, and lead to degrade democracy."

For example, Chae pointed to the usage of the Korean term "uri," which means us, we, ours, instead of Korean terms which means 'me,' 'I' or 'my,' in describing the family to illustrate the communitarian consciousness evident in the daily lives of Korean people. She further argued that such consciousness is also evident in their voting style. Since Koreans value regionalism, they vote for politicians who are from their region, and reject outsiders. According to Chae, Koreans compromised public benefits for the sake of public benefits, yielding a negative effect on democracy.

Bayer argued that in order to develop

democracy, families need to change. "Men need to be cooperative and women need to be independent," said Bayer. She and Chae both believe that the family is a political place and a training ground for women to learn their "rights to say." According to this logic, as women become more independent from the family and regain their rights, individual politics can take place among men and women, resulting in people to consider the public benefits first instead of their own benefits. Chae's thesis was agreed upon by various participants from other Asian countries.

The discussion concluded with Bayer's statement that "putting women in work is changing the culture." This is the opposite of Elshtain's model of democratic citizenship which imagines that communitarian consciousness – necessarily entailing that women stay at home – has a positive effect on democracy.

by Tae-yeon Kim

## Empowering Women Through Academic Discourse

Linda Christiansen-Ruffman (Canada) gave an explanatory session titled, "Feminist Conceptions, Women's Movements and Feminist Methodologies: Knowledge by, for, about, and with women," with Berit Aas (Norway) who presented, "Circles of Knowledge and the Women's University in Norway," on June 20. Due to economic problems, other panel speakers were not present. However, both lectures were more than enough to make up completely for the ninety minute panel session.

First, Christiansen-Ruffman discussed the evolution of women's studies regarding Sociology. Because the paradigms of sociology have been created and constructed by males and interpreted from a perspective which did not suit the reality for women, the theories could not be applied in a literal way. Thus, Christiansen-Ruffman explained there was no life in them. Only after studying Sociology from a gender sensitive perspective was she able to become captured in the study and work to lessen the gap between academics and reality.

Exemplifying the "Global Campaign Against Poverty," and noting the efforts



Photo by Yoo-mi Park

Aas and Christiansen-Ruffman

made in the U.S. through Beijing Plus Ten and Canada she emphasized the notion that methodologically, theoretically, and politically, general problems cannot be resolved without the empowerment of women.

Next, Berit Aas presented the "Seven Interlocking Circles," which stood for women's culture; feminist ethics, peace, and solidarity; ecology and eco-feminism; holistic health; feminist economy and social justice; alternative sustainable technology; and solidarity empowerment in politics. As she mentioned the interaction of these seven aspects, she stated the importance of dialogue among women scholars of all different fields of study to

combine and understand each of their different contents under a common goal of developing women's studies. Aas also argued that women should critically analyze the patriarchal social structures created by men, find how to arrest them, and discuss what models of feminism should be created.

The two speakers also introduced the Women's University, which was founded by Aas to form a multi-centered feminist institution in order for females of diversity to gather and uncover their problems to create feminist movements. They related to the audience saying, "Women's Universities should be Feminist Universities."

After the lectures were given, there was a heated debate on whether feminism should broaden its field into the mainstream male dominant forms of study in order to promote more acceptances from not only homosexual but heterosexual males. The speakers concluded by expressing their hope for dialogue, engagement of women and people of diversity to further advance women's studies.

by Soo-hyun Kim

## Changing for Improved Quality of Life of South Asian Women in the Era of Globalization

Participants discussed the possible means of improving South Asian women's quality of life in the session titled "Women and Civil Society in Globalizing South Asia." The workshop discussed in detail the guiding principles for improvement, identified target groups, possible modes of intervention and methods for evaluation of progress. The workshop included four sessions: Women's Status in Asia: Where Does Pakistan Stand?; Globalization and Democratization: The Experience of Women in India; Self Help Groups for Women's Empowerment: A Powerful Tool for Change; and Changing Gender Relations and Growth of Women's Organization in Southeast Asia.

Darunee Tantiwiranond (Thailand), the speaker of the topic "Changing Gender Relations and Growth of Women's Organization in Southeast Asia," focused on the varied activities and contributions of women's organizations and their role in promoting women's leadership and participation in civil society in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. According to her analysis of three countries, women's organizations' active participation in social movements has increased the national level of women leadership in Southeast Asian countries. The role of the governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations in aiding women's organizations in forming regional

networks and addressing national and international issues was also mentioned. She stated that the mere supply of resources to women who are not educated to survive in capitalistic systems is not an effective solution to their problems. Organizations such as women's organizations should exert much effort in providing the right means of women's empowerment according to their cultural and historical needs.

Tantiwiranond also pointed out the challenges that women organizations confront. She said, "Although women are potential agents in the organization, there are still too many political and social constraints that they should overcome. They should shift from just project to movement with new discourse."

During the Q&A session, Valsala Kumari (U.S.) asked Tantiwiranond on the new discourse of women's organization. Tantiwiranond asserted that for women organizations to be heard internationally to the public, they should not only be donor-driven, but at the same time, they need political agendas of their own to engage in political and legal areas. She added that theories of Western countries need to be localized and ingrained in mentalities in envisioning a better life for disadvantaged people – women in third world countries particular.

by Na-hyun Kim

## Human Rights Movement Embraces Feminism

A member of the National Women's Hall of Fame and laureate of the White House Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, Charlotte Bunch is one of the biggest names in the history of feminism. She has dedicated her entire adult life to the feminism movement, received numerous awards for her contribution to society, and has directed several women's rights organizations and centers.

Not surprisingly, she comes from a family of strong social conscience. Her father, who had been a small country doctor, had initially wanted to become a missionary to China. However, when World War II broke out, he became a doctor for rural states in the U.S. instead. Her mother was a social worker, who later founded New Mexico's first community mental health program. "I would say they were more of 'civic activists,'" said Bunch. "Although they were not very political, they had a very strong sense of civic social obligations." So from a small age, she grew up believing that she was destined to make the world a better place.

Her activities began early in the 1970s. She started as a student activist at Rutgers University, in which she had been a fervent supporter of the University Christian Movement, to "a key player in the international human rights movement for women." Her first activities included combat against racism. She worked to achieve racial equality, and participated against racism among Caucasians. She also took part in civil rights marches and demonstrations against war.

Then she moved on to the field of feminism. As a self-claimed

lesbian and a feminist, she was involved in a number of activities for securing the rights of lesbian feminists. But she refused to limit her activities to just lesbian feminism. She addressed a wide range of issues on women, from violence to global issues.



Charlotte Bunch

Her most distinguished works include the women's human rights movement. It began in 1983, when she was organizing a workshop against trafficking of women. At the time, she began to realize that victims of trafficking were not treated as human rights victims, but as women, who were seen as the problem themselves. As a solution to the problem, she and her colleagues began a movement in raising awareness of human rights for women, which came to be known as the women's human rights movement.

"We are trying to take a gender perspective on human rights," explained Bunch. "Really, it's an outgrowth of feminism, because it's still a feminist issue." Bunch believes the movement has influenced feminism by showing that one can use the international human rights system, the United Nations, or other mechanisms as tools for the advancement of women's rights. "This is an example of how you can bring women's issues into other spheres of life."

And she says that is exactly the message she wanted to convey. "I don't believe that women's issues or the feminist movement are two separate problems. Women are part of every issue."

by Mi-ri Kwon

## Curious Feminist Shares Her Feminist Identity

"A woman with a big smile" was how Korean-American feminist In-sook Kwon described Cynthia Enloe in her essay book "Choices." Cynthia Enloe is a Research Professor and Director of the Women's Studies Program at Clark University, the author of widely-celebrated books like "Curious Feminist," and a distinguished figure in the field of feminism; but above all, she was a person full of curiosity and animation.

Like many feminists of her generation, she was not initially aware of her identity as a feminist. In the late 1960s when Enloe was in college, there was no talk about feminism. "Most of my friends got married right after graduation," said Enloe. "But I just wasn't interested in marriage. I found it confining, that it would limit my chances," said Enloe. "I didn't even know what I wanted to do." So instead of settling down, she pursued her academic career as a political scientist. Enloe received her Ph.D. from Berkeley, and became an associate professor of political science at Miami University.

The late 1970s was a new era of feminism. Many feminists began to actively take part in the social movements. She made friends with

people who were involved in the movement. Moreover, she began to get "suspicious."

"In my life, I happened to be the first woman to do a number of things," said Enloe. In high school, she had been the first woman to run the student government office. Later in Berkeley, she was the first woman to be the head teaching-assistant in her department. For some, this might have been a glorious achievement; to Enloe, it was no cause for celebration. "I started wondering, why hasn't any other woman done it before?" And this got her thinking about the woman's stance in the world on a more 'realistic level.' So she went out and subscribed to the very first issue of the Ms. Magazine. She then began to see herself as a feminist.

Enloe also founded the Women's Studies Department at Clark University. However, she says she had not started anything. "It was definitely from bottom-up," said Enloe. "One day, a group of female students came to the dean's office and asked to have lunch with the women faculty." The students demanded a course in women's studies. "All this was so exciting," said Enloe, "and that's what I love about feminism; it's always full of excitement."



Cynthia Enloe  
Photo by You-jin Cho

Since then, she has won three "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" awards and was named the University Senior Faculty Fellow for Excellence in Teaching. She continues to lecture on feminism, but she says her main job is to learn – from students, working women, the illiterate, and those who do not necessarily have the means to voice out their opinions. "Just because we can't hear them, it doesn't mean they do not exist," said Enloe, "and that is why we should always look at the world from a critical perspective, and become a truly 'curious feminist.'"

by Mi-ri Kwon

## Sustainable Development: Everyone's Mission

"Sustainable Development," the concept which emerges from the intersection between feminism and ecology, was first coined by Irene Dankelman (Netherlands), a Dutch ecologist and head of the sustainable development program at the Radboud University Nijmegen. For over 25 years, she has worked with national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), government agencies, academia and the United Nations (UN) focusing on the relationship between humans and the environment, and the relationship between gender and sustainable development.

Dankelman thinks of herself as both a feminist and an ecologist. She relates human development with ecological development that results in sustainable development. She says, "Feminism starts from the awareness of your personal situation, when you start to see differences between men and women in society. To address and challenge those issues which are about personal women's issues or issues related to women and the society, or women and family, is feminism." She believes that women should be critical in

their private and public spheres and be alert.

Sustainable development started as a feminist concept concerning both the private and public sectors of women's lives. According to Dankelman, "Sustainable Development is dealing with the reality of life. It relates to all systems of human action. People should not only mind development on a social level or on an economic level, but also on an ecological level since human beings are a part of this ecosystem." Always aware of the importance of the issue, Dankelman practices sustainable development in her life. She uses a bicycle and public transportation instead of a car.

Many people blame the government or society for the damage of our ecosystem, but Dankelman points out that it is both men and women's responsibility to keep our environment sound. She believes that everyone needs to be educated to become critical and selective consumers. People should inform themselves of environmental issues and understand how our daily behavior as humans and as components of the society matter.

Irene Dankelman is also the advisory board member of Women in Europe for a



Irene Dankelman  
Photo by You-jin Cho

Common Future (WECF), the senior advisor of Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) in New York, the senior advisor of International Commitments on Gender/Poverty/Water, and was the co-chairperson of the Netherlands' Platform in Johannesburg, 2002.

by Tae-yeon Kim

## Women's Studies Produces Fruitful Outcomes

The Asian Center for Women's Studies (ACWS) at Ewha played an essential role in the organization of the congress. This Center will hold a symposium titled, "Theorizing the Experiences of Asian Women's Studies in Globalizing World" on June 22 from 14:45 to 18:00 in rm. 253 of the POSCO Building. The symposium will be a theoretical approach in replacing Asian women's status in the academic area of women's studies. The 10th anniversary of the Asian Journal of Women's Studies (AJWS), which ACWS and Ewha Womans University Press publish, is significant in this symposium as an academic journal as it aims to develop women's studies in Asia and expand the horizon of Western-centered women's studies.

AJWS was first published in 1995 as an annual publication but has been published as a quarterly journal since 1997. It is an interdisciplinary journal, publishing articles pertaining to women's issues from a feminist perspective. The journal aims to share and disseminate information and scholarly ideas about women's issues in Asia and all over the world from an Asian perspective.

On June 23 from 10:30 to 13:00 at the LG Convention Hall of Ewha, ACWS will hold a publication party of eight women's studies textbooks in English titled, "Women's Studies in Asian Series: Women's Studies Textbooks in Eight Countries" with the coordinators and authors of the textbooks.

ACWS has published it as part of a broader cooperative project among women's studies institutions and practitioners in eight Asian countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand. These textbooks, designed for upper-undergraduate and graduate level readers, offer English materials in many cases for the first time on a wide range of themes including



Women from Asia reaffirm their commitment to cooperation.

family, work, sexuality, culture, law, women's movement, religion, and the body and health.

Most women's studies programs in Asia have used predominantly local or Western materials due to a lack of sources in translation. This led to limited knowledge on women's issues and socio-political histories in the Asian context. The publication of textbooks will provide broader access to international readers about knowledge produced by, about, and for Asian women. These textbooks will also serve as a foundation to develop more context-related theories, drawing on the common and diverse experiences of Asian women, and open up possibilities for comparative and collaborative works.

by Na-hyun Kim



1. In "She is Coming," the performance for the Welcoming Festival, ballerinas and differently abled performers danced together to create a harmonic scene.

2. A quilting performance by Jiyul Sunim (Korea) titled "Quilting a 'Green Resonance' on Behalf of a Salamander" hangs inbetween the first and B1 floor at the POSCO Building.

3. At the Student Union Building Lobby, "Silent Crying Voices of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" is exhibited from June 20 to 24. The exhibition was organized by the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan.

4. International Coordinator Soon-young Yoon speaks to Plenary Session Speakers and Invited Speakers in a briefing at the Hanwoori Dormitory.

5. Two participants discuss a panel session in front of the cafe "Ewha Sarang" at the POSCO Building.

Photo by You-jin Cho, Ji-sun Kim



**Ewha Voice Staff**

Ewha Womans University, 11-1 Daehyeon-dong Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea 120-750  
 Tel: (02) 3277-3169 Fax: (02) 313-5194 Email: [evoice@ewha.ac.kr](mailto:evoice@ewha.ac.kr) Homepage: <http://evoice.ewha.ac.kr>

Publisher: Organizing Committee of Women's Worlds 2005  
 Editing Coordinator: Seo-my Kang / Editor-in-Chief: Sook-young Park / Senior Editors: Mi-ri Kwon, Chae-gyung Jun, Youn-seung Lee / Editors: Bo-mi Kim, Soo-hyun Kim, Eun-joo Lee / Staff Reporters: Na-hyun Kim, Tae-yeon Kim, Eun-a Lee, Rhie-young Lim / Cub Reporters: Ji-young Kim, Hye-won Song, Keum-jo Shim, Kyurhee Lee / Photographers: Yoo-mi Park, You-jin Cho, Ji-sun Kim  
 Copy Editors: Hannah Chang, Johndre Jennings