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INVITED GROUPS AND PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of the following groups will participate in a "Western Tour" organize and facilitated by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW).

Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)

AAWORD is a pan-African, non-governmental organization devoted to the critical appraisal of research and issues pertaining to the multiple roles of African women in the continuing struggle for change in African society and in North-South relations. Since its inception in 1977 AAWORD has facilitated the establishment of networks amongst women carrying out research in all regions of Africa.

AAWORD currently has 500 individual members and 15 national groups and affiliates in 13 countries. Ndeye Sow, who serves as the association's Deputy Executive Director would be one of the invited participants from this association. As someone who is intimately involved in the day to day operations of AAWORD she will be in a position to share with us how AAWORD determines its priorities, through what means it communicates its research, as well as the association's perspective on action research as a vehicle for positive change in relation to the position of women in African society.

As Ms. Sow is a francophone the second participant from this bilingual association will be an anglophone. She will be a member of the Kenyan national group which is one of the most active national groups in the association. The coordinator of the group is Dr. Shanysia Khasiani of the University of Nairobi. She will not, however, necessarily be the representative on the "Western" Tour. The group will decide amongst its members who is best suited to participate.

SPINNING LOCAL THREADS WEAVING GLOBAL FEMINISMS

CRIAW/ICREF welcomes representatives from the following organizations to CRIAW's 15th annual conference in Edmonton: **GABRIELA** a women's umbrella organization from the Philippines - represented by Petite Peredo and Carmen Deunida; **AAWORD**, Association of African Women for Research and Development - represented by Ndeye Sow and Rosedell Muthoni Kareje; **UBINIG**, Public Research for Development Alternatives from Bangladesh - represented by Shima Das and Shahinoor Begum; and from the Rose Hall project in St. Vincent Anesta Rodney. These women are participating in a Western tour which will culminate at the Edmonton conference.

The objectives of the tour are to facilitate linkages between Canadian women's groups and women's groups from other countries focusing on similar issues and challenges, to share strategies to build capacities for community action and participatory research, to exchange communication tools and to broaden the definition of development. Prior to the conference the women visited Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon.

It is hoped that Canadians meeting these women will have the opportunity to learn from them and their experiences. With the theme of this year's conference, *Global Vision/Local Action* women who are active in women's groups from various parts of the world will have the possibility to reflect on what this concept means and how it can strengthen women's work on a global level. **These women's work will be the subject of the plenary on Sunday morning as well as a round table (case studies) on Saturday afternoon.**

**We thank the Public Participation Programme
at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
for their financial contribution.**

Français au verso →

TISSER LA TRAME D'UN FÉMINISME MONDIAL À L'ÉCHELLE LOCALE

L'ICREF/CRIAW se réjouit d'accueillir les représentantes des organisations suivantes à son 15^e colloque annuel qui aura lieu à Edmonton : **GABRIELA**, une organisation cadre de femmes des Philippines, représentée par Petite Peredo et Carmen Deunida; **AFARD**, Association des femmes africaines pour la recherche sur le développement, représentée par Ndeye Sow et Rosedell Muthoni Kareje; **UBINIG**, Recherche pour une politique alternative en développement, du Bangladesh, représentée par Shima Das et Shahinoor Begum et la représentante du projet Rose Hall à Saint-Vincent, Anesta Rodney. Ces femmes participent à une tournée de l'Ouest qui se terminera au colloque d'Edmonton.

Cette tournée a pour objet de faciliter la création de liens entre les groupes de femmes canadiennes et ceux d'autres pays qui s'intéressent à des questions et à des défis semblables afin d'établir des stratégies d'action communautaire et de recherche participative, d'échanger des outils de communication et d'élargir la définition du développement. Avant le colloque, les femmes ont visité Winnipeg, Regina et Saskatoon.

Nous espérons que les Canadiens et Canadiennes qui rencontreront ces femmes sauront tirer des leçons des expériences dont ils entendront le récit. Grâce au thème du colloque de cette année, *Vision mondiale/Action locale*, les femmes qui travaillent activement au sein de groupes dans les diverses régions du monde auront la possibilité de réfléchir à ce concept et à la façon dont il peut apporter le soutien nécessaire au travail des femmes partout dans le monde. **Le travail de ces femmes sera l'objet de la séance plénière du dimanche matin de même que d'une table ronde (études de cas) le samedi après-midi.**

**Nous remercions le Programme de participation du public de
l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI)
de sa contribution financière.**



Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)



AAWORD is a pan-African Association based in Dakar, Senegal. The Association which was founded in 1977 by a few African women expanded gradually in terms of its scope. To date, its membership includes 540 women and covers almost every country on the continent. Women researchers who used to be isolated, kept in the background and denied every opportunity of recognition became increasingly aware of the need to articulate their own realities and to join the search for alternative development strategies.

Hence, the general objective of AAWORD is to promote multi-dimensional development, that is development in the service of political awareness, as well as the economic, social, cultural and psychological fulfilment of African people, and to make governments, public authorities and research centres sensitive to the need for de-colonising research and addressing gender issues.

The specific objectives are:

- to undertake research which is sensitive to issues of gender;
- to reveal, reinstate and emphasize the presence of women throughout history and in all cultural, social, economic and political processes of change;
- to call for crucial and conscious participation of women in the decision-making process and the formulation, realisation and evaluation of development priorities and projects;
- to create and develop lines of communication among African women on the one hand, and others who are concerned by problems of development in Africa, and in Latin America and Asia and elsewhere in the world;
- to evaluate and reexamine methodology and research priorities, the applications of which should be in the service of the Africa people.

AAWORD has fifteen (15) national research groups set up in twelve (12) African countries.

The main thrust of AAWORD's activities has been on research and publication. Since its inception, the Association has undertaken a number of research projects and organized seminars and workshops on the main themes of interest to women.





Association des femmes africaines pour la recherche sur le développement (AFARD)

L'AFARD est une association pan-africaine, non-gouvernementale. Créée en 1977 par une poignée de femmes, l'Association a progressivement pris de l'importance et couvre actuellement presque tous les pays du continent.

Les principaux objectifs de l'AFARD sont:

- Entreprendre des activités de recherche nécessitant la participation des femmes et mettant l'accent sur leur présence dans tous les processus de changements politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels.
- Créer des réseaux de communication entre les femmes africaines chercheuses et les personnes concernées par les problèmes de développement en Afrique.
- Encourager la formation professionnelle et la création de groupes nationaux de recherche en liaison avec les centres nationaux de recherche.

L'AFARD est un important défenseur de la reconnaissance du rôle essentiel des femmes africaines dans leurs sociétés. Grâce à ses réseaux actifs de communication à l'échelle nationale, régionale et internationale, l'AFARD apporte une contribution essentielle concernant le point de vue des femmes dans la formulation des positions de l'Afrique et du Tiers-Monde.

Depuis sa création, l'AFARD a organisé des ateliers et des séminaires sur les principaux sujets d'intérêt concernant les femmes.



UBINIG - Policy Research for Development Alternative

UBINIG is a policy research organization directly involved with the people. Society is not a "research object" to us to be seen from a distance or to be manipulated in the light of a presumed model ideological prejudice. We live in it, and share equally its trauma and glory. We let ourselves be a voice for our people because the policy makers usually do not listen unless it is told in the language they understand or written in a bureaucratic format. We resort to any form we find handy to reach the policy makers such as campaigns, advocacy, meetings, demonstrations, seminars, workshops, networking, etc.

The way we grew

UBINIG originated in 1981 in the form of a series of study circles. In 1984, we decided to form a research organization through which we could be more effective. The formation of such an organization was necessary in order to be able to develop an institutional base and a team trained with a progressive frame of mind, perspective and methodological orientation. We work collectively, share our thoughts collectively and therefore the accomplishments are also shared in a collective manner.

The way we think and act

We strongly advocate our views based on what we learn from our research, but we never hesitate to embrace the wisdom of others. We carry out research independently or in cooperation with other organisations sharing similar objectives. We share our ideas and findings with policy makers, planners and implementors of governmental and non-governmental organizations, national and international development agencies and concerned groups and individuals. We also try to demonstrate our research findings by pilot projects and development programmes. They also in turn become the source of new information and experience.

At present we have five major projects: a) Weaving and women in the context of rural industrialisation b) Community clinic c) Children's school d) A trade union education and cultural centre for the industrial workers, and e) Prawn seed nursery culture.

UBINIG also runs the first and only feminist book store in Bangladesh - Narigrantha prabartane.

The major activities of UBINIG

We are broadly involved in the following types of activities:

1. research and survey
2. monitoring and evaluation
3. documentation and information collection
4. publication
5. campaign on social issues
6. workshops, seminars and conferences
7. development programmes

In research we cover a broad area. We are, however, mainly concerned with health - women's health in particular, problems of industrialization, agriculture in the context of agrarian relation, environment and ecology, education for the children of the slums and disadvantaged rural areas, ethical questions in biomedical research, etc.

UBINIG

Recherche pour une politique alternative en développement

UBINIG est un organisme de recherche en matière de politiques qui s'implique directement avec le peuple. La société ne nous apparaît pas comme un «objet de recherche» qu'il faut regarder à distance ou manipuler à la lumière d'un présumé modèle idéologique. En effet, nous vivons au sein de cette société et partageons ses traumatismes et ses gloires. Nous voulons être la voix de notre peuple parce que les décideurs n'écoutent habituellement pas le peuple, à moins qu'on ne leur parle en un langage qu'ils comprennent ou qu'on leur écrive dans un style bureaucratique. Nous prenons tous les moyens dont nous disposons pour atteindre les décideurs, par exemple nous lançons des campagnes, nous faisons des pressions, nous tenons des réunions, nous faisons des manifestations, nous organisons des colloques et des ateliers, nous créons des réseaux, etc.

Notre cheminement

UBINIG a vu le jour en 1981 sous forme d'une série de cercles d'études. En 1984, nous avons décidé de créer un organisme de recherche de façon à être plus efficaces. Cette mesure nous apparaissait nécessaire si nous voulions établir une base institutionnelle et créer une équipe formée à des idées progressistes et ayant des perspectives d'avenir et une orientation méthodique. Nous travaillons ensemble, nous échangeons nos pensées et nous partageons nos succès.

Notre façon de penser et d'agir

Nous faisons valoir les opinions issues de nos recherches, mais nous n'hésitons jamais à faire nôtres les propos sages d'autrui. Nous faisons notre recherche indépendamment ou en collaboration avec d'autres organismes qui partagent nos objectifs. Nous faisons part de nos idées et de nos constatations aux décideurs, aux planificateurs et aux responsables des organisations gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, aux agences de développement national et international, de même qu'aux groupes et particuliers intéressés. Nous essayons également de faire connaître les résultats de notre recherche au moyen de projets pilotes et de programmes de développement qui, à leur tour, deviennent la source de nouvelles informations et expériences.

Nous menons actuellement cinq grands projets : a) le tissage et les femmes dans le contexte de l'industrialisation rurale, b) la clinique communautaire, c) l'école des enfants, d) le centre syndical d'éducation et de culture pour les travailleurs et travailleuses de l'industrie et e) l'élevage des crevettes.

UBINIG gère également la première et seule librairie féministe au Bangladesh - Niragrantha prabartane.

Principales activités d'UBINIG

Nous participons activement aux activités suivantes :

1. recherches et sondages
2. vérification et évaluation
3. documentation et collecte d'information
4. publication
5. campagnes sur les questions sociales
6. ateliers, colloques et conférences
7. programmes de développement

Notre recherche couvre plusieurs domaines, mais nous nous intéressons surtout à la santé - la santé des femmes en particulier, les problèmes inhérents à l'industrialisation, l'agriculture dans le contexte d'une relation agraire, l'environnement et l'écologie, l'éducation des enfants dans les quartiers pauvres et les régions rurales défavorisées, les questions d'éthique en recherche biomédicale, etc.

GABRIELA

A national women's coalition of organizations

GABRIELA is involved in education and skills training among urban poor women; establishing credit schemes for rural women to undertake social and economic activities; organizing prostitutes and setting up shelters for battered women; and creating popular commissions on issues such as human rights, violence, the family and health to bring poor women and professional women together to share their knowledge and skills.

In addition to providing support to more than 100 member groups to implement these programs, GABRIELA co-operates with other sectors and movements in common advocacy work, and particularly to involve the women's movement in the national struggles.

What is SAMAKANA?

The Samahan ng Malayang Kababaihang Nagkakaisa (SAMAKANA) or the Organization of Free and United Women is a mass-based women's organization which brings together women from different slum communities in the country.

Founded on September 14, 1983, it views poverty and women's double oppression as part of the national oppression and foreign control over the country's economy, politics and culture.

SAMAKANA'S main role therefore to enhance women's awareness and understanding of their situation, building and strengthening the unity of urban poor women, and moving women to action towards attaining their goal of empowerment and bettering their lot.

GABRIELA

GABRIELA s'intéresse à l'éducation et à la formation des femmes pauvres en milieu urbain, à l'établissement de programmes de crédit à l'intention des femmes rurales à des fins d'activités sociales et économiques, à l'organisation des prostituées et l'établissement d'abris pour les femmes battues et à la création de commissions populaires chargées de questions comme les droits de la personne, la violence, la famille et la santé, de façon à réunir femmes pauvres et femmes professionnelles et de les amener à partager leurs connaissances et leurs compétences.

En plus d'assurer du soutien à plus de 100 groupes membres désireux de mettre en oeuvre de tels programmes, GABRIELA collabore avec d'autres secteurs et mouvements dans des domaines communs d'action sociale, particulièrement la participation des mouvements de femmes aux luttes nationales.

Qu'est ce que SAMAKANA?

Samahan ng Malayang Kababaihang Nagkakaisa (SAMAKANA) ou l'organisation de femmes libres et unies est un groupe de femmes de la base issues de divers quartiers pauvres au pays.

Fondée le 14 septembre 1983, cette organisation considère la pauvreté et la double oppression des femmes comme étant un aspect de l'oppression nationale et du contrôle étranger sur l'économie, la politique et la culture du pays.

Le principal rôle de SAMAKANA est donc de sensibiliser davantage ces femmes et d'amener les femmes pauvres des milieux urbains à s'unir et à participer à la réalisation de leur objectif d'accès au pouvoir et d'amélioration de leur sort.



CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
INSTITUT CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES
SUR LES FEMMES

SPINNING LOCAL THREADS WEAVING GLOBAL FEMINISM

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women has received funding from CIDA's Public Participation Program to coordinate and facilitate a "Western Tour" of representatives from women's networking organizations in the Third World who are engaged in action-research. The following organizations will be participating in the Tour: DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), Gabriela (a women's umbrella organization from the Philippines), AAWORD (Association of african Women for Research and Development) and UBINIG (Public Research for Development Alternatives from Bangladesh). Two representatives from each organization have been invited, one who has greater involvement at the organizational, regional level and another who has greater contact at the local, more grassroots level. (Description of groups attached)

The objectives of the tour are to facilitate linkages between Canadian women's groups and women's groups from other countries focusing on similar issues and challenges, to share strategies to build capacities for community action and participatory research, to exchange communication tools and to broaden the definition of development. Representatives of AAWORD and UBINIG will visit Winnipeg and Regina while the representatives from DAWN and Gabriela will visit Calgary and Edmonton. All of the women will participate in CRIAW's 15th annual conference in Edmonton.

It is hoped that Canadians meeting these women will have the opportunity to learn from them and their experiences. With the theme of this year's conference, *Global Vision/Local Action* women who are active in women's groups from various parts of the world will have the possibility to reflect on what this concept means and how it can strengthen women's work on a global level.

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

DAWN is a network of Third World women promoting development alternatives with women for a new era through a programme of research/analysis, training, advocacy, communications and publications. The DAWN secretariat was set up in Brazil in 1986 and transferred to Barbados last year. For this three year period, DAWN's research will focus on the following themes:

1. Alternative economic frameworks
2. Reproductive rights and population
3. Environment

As in the past, Dawn will concentrate its efforts on analyzing and conceptualising these issues from the perspective of poor Third World women.

Jacqueline Pitanguy of Brazil will represent DAWN at the Organizational level. Ms. Pitanguy is presently the occupant of the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglas College, Rutgers University. The second delegate from DAWN has not yet been confirmed.

GABRIELA (Philippines)

GABRIELA is involved in education and skills training among urban poor women; establishing credit schemes for rural women to undertake social and economic activities; organizing prostitutes and setting up shelters for battered women; and creating popular commissions on issues such as human rights, violence, the family and health to bring poor women and professional women together to share their knowledge and skills.

In addition to providing support to more than 100 member groups to implement these programs, GABRIELA co-operates with other sectors and movements in common advocacy work, and particularly to involve the women's movement in the national struggles. We do not yet have the names of the representatives from Gabriela.

UBINIG(Bangladesh)

UBINIG is the abbreviation of a Bengali name which in English means Policy Research for Development Alternatives. Since its inception in 1984, UBINIG has been a policy research organization directly involved with the people. Development is seen in the context of social change. UBINIG is broadly involved in the following types of activities:

1. Research and survey
2. Monitoring and evaluation
3. Documentation and information collection
4. Publication
5. Campaign on social issues
6. Workshops, seminars and conferences
7. Development programme

Ms. Shima Das Shimu and Ms. Shahinoor Begum will represent UBINIG during the tour. Ms. Shimu has extensive experience in field work in Bangladesh and is presently working with the female industrial labours in Dhaka City.

Ms. Begum is the women's programme coordinator in Tangail. She has been working with the weaver community for several years. She has organized village women and conducted adult education classes for women. She also runs a health centre.

The presence of representatives from Third World women's organizations will help women in Canada see how local issues have global manifestations and will demonstrate how Third World women's issues and strategies have relevance for Canadians.

La présence des représentantes d'organismes de femmes du Tiers-Monde permettra aux Canadiennes de voir les liens entre les questions locales et les questions globales. Les échanges qui auront lieu nous permettront aussi d'apprécier les stratégies qu'utilisent les groupes de femmes dans diverses parties du globe.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Invited Groups and Participants

Representatives of the following groups have been invited to participate in the Western Tour.

Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)

AAWORD is a pan-African, non-governmental organization devoted to the critical appraisal of research and issues pertaining to the multiple roles of African women in the continuing struggle for change in African society and in North-South relations. Since its inception in 1977 AAWORD has facilitated the establishment of networks amongst women carrying out research in all regions of Africa.

AAWORD currently has 500 individual members and 15 national groups and affiliates in 13 countries. Ndeye Sow, who serves as the association's Deputy Executive Director would be one of the invited participants from this association. As someone who is intimately involved in the day to day operations of AAWORD she will be in a position to share with us how AAWORD determines its priorities, through what means it communicates its research, as well as the association's perspective on action research as a vehicle for positive change in relation to the position of women in African society.

As Ms. Sow is a francophone the second participant from this bilingual association will be an anglophone. She will be a member of the Kenyan national group which is one of the most active national groups in the association. The coordinator of the group is Dr. Shanysia Khasiani of the University of Nairobi. She will not, however, necessarily be the representative on the "Western" Tour. The group will decide amongst its members who is best suited to participate.

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

DAWN is a network of Third World women promoting development alternatives

with women for a new era through a programme of research/analysis, training, advocacy, communications and publications. The DAWN secretariat was set up in Brazil in 1986 and transferred to Barbados last year. For this three year period, DAWN's research will focus on the following themes:

1. Alternative economic frameworks
2. Reproductive rights and population
3. Environment

As in the past, Dawn will concentrate its efforts on analyzing and conceptualising these issues from the perspective of poor Third World women.

DAWN will decide amongst the members of its Executive who will represent the group at the organizational level. Christine Henry from the group Red Thread in Guyana will reflect DAWN's work from a local perspective. Red Thread is a woman's development programme inaugurated in late 1986. It now involves 170 women in three rural and semi-urban communities. Its name and logo reflect the belief that women can use their undervalued "women's skills" as a basis for organizing to transform their lives and consciousness. Red Thread integrates income-generation with personal development with community development. Its members are also involved in skills training and the use of popular theatre for consciousness-raising and group-building.

GABRIELA(Philippines)

GABRIELA is involved in education and skills training among urban poor women; establishing credit schemes for rural women to undertake social and economic activities; organizing prostitutes and setting up shelters for battered women; and creating popular commissions on issues such as human rights, violence, the family and health to bring poor women and professional women together to share their knowledge and skills.

In addition to providing support to more than 100 member groups to implement these programs, GABRIELA co-operates with other sectors and movements in common advocacy work, and particularly to involve the women's movement in the national

struggles. GABRIELA will provide the names of the two representatives by the end of July.¹

UBINIG(Bangladesh)

UBINIG is the abbreviation of a Bengali name which in English means Policy Research for Development Alternatives. Since its inception in 1984, UBINIG has been a policy research organization directly involved with the people. Development is seen in the context of social change. UBINIG is broadly involved in the following types of activities:

1. Research and survey
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4. Publication
5. Campaign on social issues
6. Workshops, seminars and conferences
7. Development programme

On a recent visit sponsored by INTER PARES the Executive Director of UBINIG, Farida Akhter, agreed to have her organization participate in the Western Tour. Two women working in participatory research and in organizing village women will participate. Their names will be forwarded to CIDA as soon as possible (see note below).

4.2 Western Tour

The following groups have been identified as groups which would be in a position

¹It is impossible to provide all of the names at this time. In order to avoid that the women who are invited are not those who are "better known" and those who have had the opportunity to participate in international exchanges we have asked the invited organizations to be consultative in their selection process. The groups have been asked to provide the names of their representatives by the end of July at the latest.

~~Ly~~
Ndeye Sow francophone / speaks eng.
acting exec. dir of AAWORD
historian Dakar General, Africa

Rosedell Muthoni Kareja (english)
editor Nairobi, Kenya

Galvinda Petite Peredo Sec. General
Phillipines (english)
Carmen Deunida (little english)

Sunday night

two more arrive Thurs.: from Bangladesh

interviews : Mon. morn. , Mon. 4-6
10:30 - 12:00 Tues.
Wed 3-4 maybe check @ Sheila

vendredi 1'heure de dîner