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THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S WOMEN IN POLITICS PROGRAM

**Highlighted Results
Fiscal Year 1995**

**Increasing Women's Political Participation
In The Asia-Pacific Region
Grant # 493-2750-G-00-3455-00**

**Prepared for
The United States Agency for International Development's
Collaborative Program with The Asia Foundation**

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results***B**ANGLADESH

- **F**irst-of-its-kind campaign training program developed and conducted for women candidates for national office and their staff; more women stimulated to run for national office, campaign management skills enhanced. Demand for additional training programs indicates training was deemed important.
- **M**Ps, political party leaders, and staff trained in gender awareness; recommendations made for mainstreaming women in politics and steps to achieve more gender-sensitive institutions and processes; recommendations included: an increased number of the reserved seats for women in the national parliament, political parties nominating at least 10% women for the general seats in national elections, including women's issues in manifestoes and programs of every political party, and integrating the women's movement with the contemporary political movement.
- **E**stablishment of CAC's WIP program in a volatile political environment is a significant accomplishment and is fostering emergence of NGOs that promote transparency and accountability in public policymaking.
- **P**artnerships with rural-based NGOs established to add women's political participation to their agendas; curriculum developed at regional workshops will be used to raise rural women's political awareness.
- **A**n important unexpected outcome from the pilot phase is the Centre for Analysis and Choice's (CAC) decision to establish a non-partisan women's political organization, the first-of-its-kind in Bangladesh.

CAMBODIA

- **F**irst-ever survey of Cambodians' attitudes toward women in politics conducted by newly established Secretariat of State for Women's Affairs; this research will form the basis of an action plan for legal and educational reform to advance women's equal rights and opportunities. Survey will be published for wide distribution that will inform WIP follow-up activities.
- **N**ew initiatives planned by State Secretariat for Women's Affairs to encourage women's participation, stimulated by survey on attitudes towards women's political participation.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **C**ooperation between leadership of the State Secretariat for Women's Affairs and women's organizations fostered.
- **L**eadership training program informed by survey on Cambodians' attitudes toward women in politics.
- **B**aseline data gathered to inform national plan of action for legal and educational reform to advance women's equal rights and status.
- **A**sia Foundation outreach to other Cambodian networks extended; WIP funds leveraged support from other donors.
- **C**apacity of SSWA to utilize research in public policy formulation expanded. This is significant, as there is a need for experienced researchers who will continue to look at different aspects of women's issues.

INDONESIA

- **T**elevision and radio programs developed and broadcast to raise awareness of Indonesians about how issues affect women; issues covered included family law, women's education, status of women workers, sexual harassment, family violence, and information about the UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Programs contributed to promotion of a more gender-sensitive citizenry.
- **S**uccessful television series produced by Open University on issues affecting Indonesian women that laid the framework for a new television series, including highlighting the achievements and challenges faced by women holding political office in Indonesia.
- **C**onvention Watch developed a questionnaire and strategy for field research that examined the actual implementation of Article 11 of CEDAW; research concluded it was important to go beyond providing information and raising consciousness, i.e., women needed to be part of the decisionmaking and negotiating processes.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **N**ational network of Convention Awareness Groups established within existing NGOs to monitor implementation of CEDAW; these groups are expected to play a key role in raising awareness about CEDAW across Indonesia and to draw attention to discrimination against women that is in violation of the Convention.
- **C**onvention Watch linked to other organizations in the region working on CEDAW; Convention Watch will organize a region-wide workshop on CEDAW in FY'96.

MONGOLIA

- **W**omen for Social Progress was the first organization ever to be granted permission to review minutes of Parliamentary deliberations in the archives of the State Ikh Hural; this led to development of a proposal to the Parliamentary Electoral Law for an open voting system to make Parliamentary debate more transparent and MPs accountable to the voters.
- **F**irst-ever seminar on women's rights held that brought women leaders together with government officials and the media; coalitions were fostered and suggestions incorporated in a first-of-its-kind manual on women's legal rights.
- **T**wo women's NGOs strengthened: The Women Lawyers' Association (WLA) and the Women for Social Progress Movement (WSP), have become leading independent providers of information to Mongolia's women and the electorate on fundamental rights and responsibilities in a democracy. WSP and WLA are developing a reputation as leaders not only in the women's movement in Mongolia, but also in the overall democratization of Mongolia.
- **F**irst national WIP workshop held to raise women's awareness of why they need to be involved in politics and strengthen the advocacy skills of women and women's groups. This led to the formation of the Women's Coalition that plans to serve as a non-partisan support organization to encourage women to run in the 1996 elections. APWIP expects to pilot test its new curriculum on training women to run for office in Mongolia in the spring of 1996.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results***N**^{EPAL}

- **C**urriculum developed and pilot tested to raise rural women's awareness of their legal rights and opportunities in a democratic society and to understand how to advocate for their interests.
- **L**egal rights and political literacy education and training in village, district, and national-level political processes conducted for grassroots women in rural areas of Nepal.
- **F**ive hundred copies of political awareness curriculum being circulated to NGOs and government centers to encourage greater awareness among women of how politics affects daily life and ways to be involved in political processes, including an English translation that will be distributed through the APWIP Network and made available to USAID.
- **A**dvocacy/coalition-building workshops held for rural women in the Western and Eastern Regions; capacity of the Women's Development Center strengthened to serve as a lead agency on women's advocacy issues; women's property rights targeted as key advocacy issue; national advocacy workshop for women leaders from different political parties conducted following the Beijing Conference focusing on legislative advocacy options to enhance women's economic rights.
- **D**idi Bahini, a women's NGO, established a column in *Sahachari*, a quarterly publication of Nepal's leading women's magazine, *ASMITA*. The publication for neo-literates focuses on civic education and women's empowerment. Didi Bahini's column highlights WIP program success stories, including a recent article that described how a group of rural women stood united against domestic violence in their community after participating in the field testing of the WIP curriculum.
- **F**ollowing an orientation on legislative advocacy by Dr. Socorro Reyes from the Center for Legislative Development in the Philippines, the Kathmandu Coalition (previously known as the National Coalition for Women) chose to focus advocacy efforts on the discriminatory Inheritance Act. The Coalition developed a strategy to draft a property and inheritance law that is equitable for women and is actively lobbying women parliamentarians to support this new bill when it is tabled.
- **D**idi Bahini held a public function to honor the two women who pursued their cases for equal property and inheritance up to the Supreme Court, which issued a verdict requiring all discriminatory laws be removed by August 1996.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **M**ajor barriers to women's political participation identified through a survey; barriers include lack of information, immobility, lack of basic education, lack of networks and lack of experience in taking joint action.

PHILIPPINES

- **E**xceptionally high quality resource materials to advance state-of-the-art in WIP programming developed and pilot-tested.
- **I**ssue fora, local legislative advocacy, and election training seminars conducted for women activists and potential women candidates to strengthen their advocacy skills, provide timely accurate information on key issues, and encourage women to stand for election.
- **T**hirty-five bills on women's issues monitored and related "Issue Briefs" produced to inform women and women's groups about upcoming and pending legislative bills that affect women; monitoring of bills helped media to analyze the performance of legislators on women's issues and raised awareness about pending legislation and how women would be affected.
- **A** directory of women elected officials published that will make it easier for women and women's groups to contact women leaders at all levels to present their views and needs.
- **T**raining for the media in analyzing elected leader's voting records on women's issues to encourage better coverage and promote an informed citizenry.
- **R**esearch on key factors influencing women's participation in elections and decisionmaking bodies conducted; seminar held to develop legislative skills of women politicians to make them gender-sensitive and enhance their ability to draft and pass legislation protecting women's interests.
- **P**re- and post-election activities conducted in three provincial cities that included encouraging women to run for local office, campaign management training informed by women candidates' prior experiences, and strategies developed to get out the women's vote.
- **D**evelopment of a provincial women's legislative advocacy network; women elected leaders joined networks following elections in recognition that women must work together to advance women's interests.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **T**rainning manuals on "How to Run and Win Elections," designed to strengthen the skills of women who are considering running for elected office; manual used to train prospective candidates in provincial areas.
- **W**omen candidates for elected office trained in how to run an issue-based campaign versus a traditional family-relationship campaign and other techniques for effective campaign management.
- **L**argest number of women elected to local and provincial office following candidate training in targeted province.
- **W**omen's advocacy coalition, LAWZON in Quezon province, strengthened through increased training capacity, LAWZON expanded its membership to include non-urban women and women from local government and greater networking on women's electoral advocacy.
- **W**orkshops in Quezon province raised the awareness of women legislators about women's issues and increased their understanding of and/or commitment to transformative or issue; based on interviews with the legislators following training.

SRI LANKA

- **P**articipation by representatives of women's NGOs in regional workshops to develop a curriculum on raising women's political awareness led to development of training modules on the history of women's participation in politics, in political parties, in the military, as voters, and in formal and informal decisionmaking positions to raise Sri Lankan women's awareness of traditions and options for their full political participation.
- **M**edia Watch project launched to monitor print and broadcast media for ethnic, racial, and gender bias initiated; statements of political and opinion leaders will be monitored for gender bias; new agencies are being encouraged to expand coverage of issues adversely affecting women.
- **F**irst multi-language tabloid on women in democracy launched to educate women on their political rights and potential roles, and highlight successful experiences of women affecting the policy process; women journalists and women in rural areas are being encouraged to contribute articles which are expected to heighten their interest in gender issues.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **A**dvocacy and political empowerment workshops, in North Western and Southern provinces, for rural women conducted; women leaders learned skills to develop village development plans which were presented to provincial council authorities to enlist cooperation; this experience provided a framework for sustainable development and a model for future workshops.
- **L**ocal government agencies exposed to village women's views and rural women gained greater awareness of their local political system at workshops in North Western and Southern provinces.

T_{HAILAND}

- **O**ne-hundred and fifty-eight women candidates in five northern provinces trained to run for Councilor positions in the Tambon Administrative Organization; 74 (46%) were elected; evaluation indicates that training doubled women's chances of winning.
- **M**ore than 1,000 women received political training in five northern provinces; of the 289 women who ran, two-thirds received training and 109 were elected; the number of women holding local office in these provinces increased from an average of 1%-before the elections to 14% after the elections.
- **F**irst-ever comparative study to evaluate women in local politics project generated valuable information on what aspects of the training were most useful to women candidates; this will be incorporated into future training programs.
- **P**ost-election assessment highlighted key qualifications of women in winning local elections; this will be used to inform future candidates about what factors are important to their candidacy.
- **33%** of women trained in Northeast Thailand stated that campaign training was the main stimulus to contesting elections; the number of women candidates standing for local office increased quadrupled following the training.
- **E**lection results analysis showed that low numbers of women in elected local office results from the low number of women running, not that women have less chance of being elected to office; this indicates the need to encourage more women to run for office.
- **T**raining of women candidates encouraged women to develop campaign slogans that they used successfully to promote their credentials and present a new image of women as leaders.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **P**re-Beijing Conference workshop held for women involved in preparation of the official and NGO conferences to meet with media workers and members of women's NGOs; information related to the UN Conference distributed; awareness of women media workers raised about the conference and about the particular issues of concern to Thai women; media workers responsive to having greater involvement in the women's movement.
- **R**adio programs broadcast encouraging women to vote in local elections, reporting on election results, and covering preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the conference itself highlighting the Thai Platform for Action emanating from the conference. This is expected to generate greater demand for accountability on government commitment made at Beijing.
- **W**orkshop on "Women in Local Administration" held for potential candidates for position of Provincial Councilor; participants established a fund to support a training course for women Provincial Councilors to enhance their leadership skills to be more effective in their elected positions, thus making the training sustainable and validating its usefulness.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **T**he APWIP publication, "Putting Gender Issues on the Policy Agenda: Strategies and Action from Asia and the Pacific," distributed at the NGO Forum, gained high visibility and opened the door for APWIP to play a leadership role in the region post-Beijing as a resource network.
- **T**he APWIP Network formalized its structure including instituting membership criteria, adopting a plan for outreach, establishing leadership and decisionmaking authority, and assigning functional areas of responsibility to further its goals; specific projects for the next year were agreed upon, and expanded responsibilities for the APWIP Secretariat were outlined including enhancing its ability to serve as a resource on women in politics on the Internet. APWIP Core Group members assumed responsibility.
- **A**PWIP Core Group members received Internet training as a tool to facilitate networking. Centre for Analysis and Choice (CAC) obtained Internet capacity to host the APWIP Secretariat and APWIP has made a significant commitment to fostering use of new telecommunications technology in the women in politics arena.

*The Asia Foundation's Women in Politics**1995 Results*

- **APWIP** used the "Putting Gender Issues on the Policy Agenda" models at the first women in politics workshop in Mongolia conducted by APWIP resource persons in conjunction with LEOS, a national women's NGO; the workshop culminated in the formation of The Women's Coalition, signed by twenty charter members representing several political parties and numerous women's organizations; the coalition created a "Charter Platform for Action" targeting specific action items for the upcoming elections in 1996.
- An APWIP regional workshop, "Women's Participation in Politics: Curriculum Development Workshop," produced a rich collection of models and exercises as part of a curriculum to train women in political awareness that is designed for use in any cultural/political system. The final curriculum will provide a significant value-added, not only to the Asia-Pacific, but to women around the globe as a first-of-its-kind compilation of exercises to raise women's political awareness. The APWIP Leadership Curriculum Development and Training Project has advanced the state of the art in women in politics resources.
- Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (APWIP) Network made a panel presentation at NGO Forum meeting at Fourth World Conference on Women in Budging on "Putting Gender Issues on the Policy Agenda"; APWIP member organization resource materials, APWIP newsletter, and APWIP brochure distributed to thousands of participants to encourage new members and outreach.
- APWIP Secretariat established in Centre for Analysis and Choice in Bangladesh with full-time staff and mandate to expand membership and services; Secretariat will continue to publish monthly newsletters providing WIP news from across Asia and the Pacific; each issue highlights one successful WIP organization or model.

Fax Cover Sheet

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION (D/C)

USIA

To: Amy Young
From: Fischman, Joel

Date: 1-26-96
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U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CALENDAR

January 26, 1996

NEXT WEEK

- *Jan 28 Tenth anniversary of explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger, in which seven astronauts died; the U.S. space program's worst disaster, Cape Canaveral
- *Jan 29-30 Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission, Washington
- Jan 31 Deadline for State Department submission to Congress of the *1995 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*
- Jan 31 Expiration of Mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- *Jan 31 U.N. decision about renewal or termination of MINURSO peacekeeping force in the Western Sahara, a territory that has been in dispute since 1975
- Feb 1 President Jacques Chirac of France State Visit to the U.S.
- *Feb 1-3 USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood to head U.S. Delegation to South Africa for the Southern African Development Community Consultative Conference on Trade and Investment
- Feb 1-6 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland

*New item
 **Revised item
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CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- Jan 22 - Mar 29 U.N.-sponsored Disarmament Conference winter session with agenda focussed on finalizing a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by mid-year (exact starting time to be announced), Geneva
- *Jan 25 - Feb 3 Secretary of Agriculture Glickman visit to India, China and South Korea

LOOKING AHEAD

- *Feb 4-6 USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood visit to Angola
- Feb 6 Former President Ronald Reagan celebrates his 85th birthday at a celebrity party at Chasen's, Los Angeles
- Feb 7 President Jean-Bertrand Aristide scheduled to step down and hand over to newly elected president, Port-au-Prince
- *Feb 7 International Press Center Atlanta officially opens
- *Feb 13 U.N. Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal reviews starting date for first trial, provisionally set for March 18; Defendant, Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic, is charged with murdering, raping and torturing Moslems at Omarska camp.
- *Feb 14-16 [Tentative] Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan visit to Washington
- **Feb 15 Date, according to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, that the U.S. Government "will require additional resources" to pay for its obligations; (Secretary Rubin has said that he can keep the government operating through the end of February, but cannot guarantee meeting a \$5.8 billion interest payment due February 29.)
- *Feb 17-25 Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown visit to Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Botswana
- *Feb 19-20 President Zhelev of Bulgaria Working Visit to Washington
- Feb 20-21 Eritrea Consultative Group Meetings, Paris; USAID to head the U.S. Delegation

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LOOKING AHEAD (cont'd)

- *Feb 26-28 WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, Geneva
- **Feb 27 - Mar 1 OAS Terrorism Preparatory Meeting, Washington
- *Feb. 28 First Day of Issue Stamp Ceremony and Fulbright Institute Symposium for the Fulbright 50th Anniversary, Fayetteville, AK; USIA Director Duffey will address the opening seminar on "Promoting Global Understanding."
- *Feb 28 Amir Al Sabahof Kuwait visit to Washington
- Feb 28-29 International Summit on Service to the Citizen, Denver
- Feb 28 - Mar 1 OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) 19th Regular Session, Quito
- Feb 29 UNMIH Mandate ends in Haiti; all U.S. troops expected to leave by April 15
- *Feb 29 According to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, the U.S. Government may not be able to meet a \$5.8 billion interest payment due this date.)
- *Mar 1 According to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, the government will run out of money on this date unless Congress approves new authority for the government to increase borrowing limits
- Mar 3-6 ASEAN Regional Forum Search and Rescue Inter-Sessional Meeting, Honolulu; Co-chaired by the U.S. and Singapore
- Mar 6 Target date for beginning of withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR)
- *Mar 7-10 National Council for International Visitors National Conference, Crystal City, VA; USIA Director Duffey to speak at official opening session March 8
- Mar 9-10 U.S.-GCC Economic Dialogue, Geneva
- Mar 11-12 UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York

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LOOKING AHEAD (cont'd)

- *Mar 14 International Management and Development Institute (IMDI) Annual Meeting, Washington; USIA Director Duffey will deliver the keynote address to a luncheon session at the Willard Hotel. His remarks will be on the record.
- Mar 18 Provisional starting date for first trial at U.N. Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal, The Hague; Defendant, Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic, is charged with murdering, raping and torturing Moslems at Omarska camp. Trial date subject to review on Feb 13.
- *Mar 18-22 Thirteenth Plenary of Preparatory Commission of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague
- *Mar 18 - Apr 26 U.N. Human Rights Commission, Geneva
- *Mar 27-30 Sister Cities International Western Hemispheric Forum, Punta del Este, Uruguay.
- *Apr 2 [Tentative] President Scalfaro of Italy State Visit to Washington
- Apr 7 World Health Day marked by World Health Organization, Geneva
- Apr 15 All U.S. troops expected to leave Haiti by this date
- **Apr 16-18 President Clinton State Visit to Japan
- *Apr 18-22 Conference on *The Changes Facing the 21st Century -- Coming Changes In Politics and the Economy*, Princeton; Former British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher gives keynote speech April 20.
- Apr 19-20 Nuclear Security and Safety Summit, Moscow
- Apr 20 - May 11 U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) four-yearly conference UNCTAD IX, Midrand, South Africa; Heads of state of 187 countries will be invited.
- Apr 24-26 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Annual Meeting, Sofia
- *Apr 28-30 *Partners for Prosperity*, the third in a series of trilateral educational conferences, Mexico
- *May 6-7 U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission, Mexico

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LOOKING AHEAD (cont'd)

- *May 9 President Stephanopoulos of Greece State Visit to Washington
- May 13-15 Conference of information, industry and communication ministers, a site near Johannesburg; Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown is expected to lead the U.S. delegation.
- Jun 3-4 NATO North Atlantic Council Foreign Ministers Meeting, Berlin
- *Jun 3-8 26th OAS General Assembly, Panama City
- *Jun 3-14 Habitat II Conference, Istanbul
- *Jun 5 WTO General Council, Geneva
- *Jun 13 President Robinson of Ireland State Visit to Washington
- *Jun 18 President Clerides of Cyprus visit to Washington
- Jun 27-29 G-7 Economic Summit, Lyon

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CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED ELECTIONS

Feb 6	Louisiana	[Tentative] [Republican caucus]
*Feb 10	Kyrgyzstan	[Referendum on constitutional powers]
Feb 11	Chad	[First round of voting for president. A runoff will be held three weeks later if no candidate emerges with a clear majority.]
Feb 12	Iowa	[Caucus]
**Feb 15	Bangladesh	[Parliamentary]
Feb 18	Cape Verde	
Feb 18	Poland	[Referendum on distributing state assets]
Feb 20	New Hampshire	[First primary in 1996 U.S. Presidential race]
Feb 24	Delaware	[Republican primary]
*Feb 25	Equatorial Guinea	
Feb 26	Sierra Leone	
Feb 27	Arizona North Dakota South Dakota	[Republican primaries]
Mar 2	S. Carolina	[Republican primary]
*Mar 3	Spain	[Parliamentary]
Mar 5	Colorado Connecticut Georgia Maryland Massachusetts Rhode Island Vermont	[Republican primaries]
Mar 7	New York	[Republican primary]

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CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED ELECTIONS (cont'd)

**Mar 8	Iran	[Parliamentary]
Mar 12	Florida Mississippi Oklahoma Oregon Tennessee Texas	[Republican primaries]
March 16 - 17	Zimbabwe	[Presidential]
Mar 17	Puerto Rico	[Republican primary]
Mar 19	Illinois Michigan Ohio Wisconsin	[Republican primaries]
Apr 14	South Korea	[Parliamentary]
Apr 28	Chad	[Parliamentary]
May 16	Dominican Republic	
May 19	Ecuador	[First Round]

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