

VII

GENERAL
BODY
MEETING

DEC. 29, 1995

REPORTS
FROM THE PRESIDENT,
GENERAL SECRETARY
AND THE TREASURER

1993 to 1995



Indian Association of Women's Studies

Statement By the President to the
7th General Body Meeting of the
Indian Association of Women's Studies,
December 29, 1995, Jaipur

Fellow Members,

It gives me great joy to stand before you at the General Body Meeting which coincides with the VII National Conference of the Indian Association of Women's Studies.

From April 1981 when a decision was made to launch an Association for Women's Studies we have modest account of growth in numbers, programme thrusts and our perception of the complex milieu in which we work. During this period both Women's Studies and Women's Movement have been witness to newer dilemmas.

The details about the action taken during the two year period of the Executive Committee and the financial picture will be presented by the General Secretary and the Treasurer respectively. I will make a few observations with regard to some of the new activities undertaken by the EC during this period.

We are meeting after the crucial Beijing Conference. In spite of the occasional ridicule by the Press we have to recognize that it was a momentous meeting and decades of hard work succeeded in putting women's issues at the centre stage. It has raised crucial issues especially about the role of the State vis-a-vis women's issues.

The present meeting as it has been mentioned time and again has been an effort at experimenting on organizing a conference in a different manner. It has further taken up challenges of dialoguing on a vital theme of Alternative Visions where not much work has been done though there has been a nebulous

feeling in the minds of all of us with regard to the future we want to have. Treading on a new path has its problems but the thrill of searching something new and 'doing it in a different way has its own rewards. We hope all of you found the experience exciting.

The Association, during its two years tenure took few steps to ensure larger and meaningful participation of the members. One such effort has been to encourage regional level organizations. During the tenure of the previous EC The Maharashtra Stree Abhyas Vyaspeeth came into existence. It recently held a successful second conference in Konkan region. Similarly the Gujarat Forum For Women's Studies and Action was formed around 1993 though it has been active since 1994 starting with organizing a workshop on Women's Movement in Gujarat and launching a newsletter. I am happy to inform you that there is a move to start such regional organizations in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Of course what would be the nature of the link between the National and the Regional body needs to be spelt out but what is important is the desire for local initiative and local participation.

Recognizing the imperative need to grapple with various aspects of the sub-themes we mooted the idea of organizing pre-conference workshops. We were able to organize three such workshops; one relating to the State and Women's Movement in India, second on issues before the institution of Family and third on Feminist Economics. We are grateful to all the organizers of the workshops. The reports are available at a very nominal price.

While working on this relatively unchartered field we realized the need to have an overall coordinator who can critically and sensitively oversee the sub-theme organizations. A background volume which could put together some of the thinking and action which has gone in the past pertaining to the future visions could be very useful for long term action. We were fortunate in having a sensitive feminist scholar Dr. Maithreyi Krishnaraj to handle these complex tasks. We are immensely grateful to Maithreyi for her valuable input.

Likewise we are thankful to AKSHARA for preparing a Resource Book documenting various type of material available on the sub-themes as well as the main theme.

You are all aware that the National Election is to be held soon. Some of the States have passed through the experience of 30% reservation for women in the local elective bodies. We felt that a National Organization like ours cannot remain outside the momentous event. We think that there is a need to build up a relationship with the voters. The Association realizing its limitations however agreed to participate in the awareness raising activity for women voters by providing information and enabling them to have space for discussion which could strengthen their power. The political strength thus gained could be used to press for issues and choices which women consider significant. It is with this objective that IAWS along with other bodies decided to initiate a National Campaign for Women Voters.

All the members of the previous ECs have constantly harped on the need to have some permanent office for the IAWS. With the kind cooperation of Jagori we have been able to have some terra ferma which has been of tremendous help in the efficient functioning of the organization. This time we were also able to have the office co-ordinator-Juhi Jain - helping in the varied organizational work. We offer our thanks to her for all she has done and still continues to do even though she has taken up another assignment.

The Editorial team this time brought out three issues of the Newsletter and the fourth one will be published after the conference. I extend my deep felt thanks to Nandita and her team. All of us who have been involved in organizational work appreciate the fact that no organization can work fruitfully without the full cooperation of its members. I would like to put on record the willing support given to me by all the EC members. I would however like to mention the untiring zeal, dynamic approach and resourcefulness of our young General Secretary Kamla Bhasin. The Vice President, the treasurer and all other members deserve a very warm appreciation for giving their time thus making my tasks much simpler. I specially would like to put on record our gratitude to FAO for not merely making Kamla available for all the Association work but providing full cooperation in raising resources, contacting participants for the South Asian Panel, helping communication with them which is so difficult when it is out of the country. In fact, considerable office time and services

have been provided by the FAO office. Without such cooperation efficient organization in these days of breakdowns would not have been possible. We express our grateful thanks to FAO.

Finally even at the risk of repeating myself I would say that we are here in Jaipur and have been able to pursue our deliberations and other activities comfortably and fruitfully because of the tremendous pains taken by the host women's groups, their supporters and volunteers. I extend my very best congratulations to the entire team.

The Association can only survive with the active participation of its members. In the coming years which are likely to be times of great trial, I am sure all of you will enthusiastically make the organization throbbing with women's concerns and action. Thank you.

NEERA DESAI
President

Statement and Report by the
General Secretary to the
General Body Meeting,
December 29, 1995, Jaipur

It gives me a great pleasure to greet and welcome all of you to the General Body Meeting and to this beautiful city, Jaipur. As a Rajasthani and as someone who did her college and University education in Jaipur I am happy that we were able to hold the VII National Conference and our General Body Meeting in Rajasthan, a State where patriarchy is particularly entrenched but where the women's movement has also been very strong, vibrant and creative. Women's activism here has been rooted in and emerged out of the harsh local realities. I take this opportunity to pay my tributes to the zeal and commitment of the women activists of Rajasthan and celebrate the close collaboration and solidarity established with many of them in the process of organizing this conference.

Friends, an important thing I wish to report to all of you is that in addition to being very hard work, membership of the IAWS Executive Committee has been an honour, a pleasure and a revival of the spirit of solidarity and hope. Like many others I know, I had this strong and painful feeling that fatigue was setting in, we were getting insular, isolated, confined to our own groups and activities. Increasing institutionalization was somewhere blunting the sharpness and the togetherness of the movement.

Working with the IAWS gave us the opportunity to be linked once again to a large number of activists, scholars from different parts of the country. To my mind IAWS is quite unique in its diversity. It has brought together people with different backgrounds, ideologies, activities to one organization, one platform.

The **Present Executive Committee** (EC) reflects this diversity as it has members from different parts of the country, who have different kind of experience of academia, activism and mobilization. We had the pleasure of having dynamic and young President Neera Desai and Vice President Pam Rajput, both stalwarts of the women's movement as well as the women's studies movement. Since this is the only time you meet your elected members I would like to name the other members of the EC as well. Kamla Bhasin, (yours truly) General Secretary; C.P. Sujaya, Joint Secretary; Rohini Gawankar, Treasurer; Nandita Gandhi, Editor; and as members we have Devaki Jain, Jai Chandiram, Neelam Ghore, Zarina Bhatti, S. Anandalakshmy, Manjit Bhatia, Ranjana Kakkar, Fatima Burnad, Rameshwari Varma.

The EC had **six meetings** during the last two years and most meetings were spread over two days in order to give adequate time for getting to know each other, for discussing things in detail, for planning newer activities. We also managed to hold these meetings at different places (Delhi, Bombay and Jaipur) where in addition to doing our work we met local members over dinner.

However, here I must report that the participation of members in the last elections was quite low. In two categories there was actually no election, because only as many candidates were nominated as had to be elected. If we want the IAWS to grow, to become stronger, to take on newer challenges, the members will have to be much more active, at least in selecting and guiding the EC which shoulders the main responsibility of shaping the direction, spirit and activities of the Association.

Friends, IAWS must be strengthened because the enthusiastic response to the IAWS Conferences each time shows that this Association enjoys a lot of goodwill, it fulfills a need for a national platform and has high reputation because of the large number of committed women who have built this Association over the years.

During the last two years, everyone we approached for taking on a responsibility joined us most willingly again proving that the network is strong and if fully utilized it can do amazing things. This spirit of togetherness needs to be cherished and nurtured and this can be done only if members become more active.

The **membership** of our Association has grown during the last two years. In November 1995 the total number of members was 738. The break-up of members in different categories is provided in the enclosed fact sheet. Since November many more have joined the Association, but we do not yet have the final figures.

In some States (eg. Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, H.P., Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh) we have very few members. We need to think and take some action to reach out to more people in these States and make more members.

On the definition of a student member we are proposing an amendment, the exact wordings of which were circulated to you. Let us please take a decision on this today.

Friends, the key word for IAWS during the last two years has been **collaboration**, joining hands with member organizations, individual members and potential members because we realized that the strength of a network like the IAWS lies in the strength of its members.

The first and most crucial collaboration was with **Jagori**, who agreed to share with us their premises. Jagori's premises are small, only three rooms, but as they say, their heart is large. Jagori gave us a room and the full support of an ongoing group and establishment, all for free and all for strengthening the movement. This was the first time IAWS had its own office and a full time office co-ordinator for 18 months. However for the last four months we have again been without a full time co-ordinator. If any one of you finds an EC member being over friendly please beware because she may be trying to lure you to work full time for the IAWS.

The **IAWS Newsletters** edited by **Nandita Gandhi** were published with the support of **Ritu Menon, Nandita Shah, Kavita Srivastava** and several others. The Conference brochure was brought out with the help of **Nandita Shah and Meghna of AKSHARA**, Bombay. The three workshops about which Neeraben reported were organized by us in collaboration with **Jagori**, New Delhi, the **Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation**, Bangalore, the **School of Women Studies**, Jadavpur, and the **Centre for Studies in Social Sciences**, Calcutta. Members who have worked on the three reports were

Kavita Srivastava, Nandita Gandhi, Abha Bhaiya, Ritu Menon, Maithreyi Krishnaraj, Jasodhara Bagchi and Nirmala Banerjee. A smaller workshop on Women and Media held in Bombay was organized by **Deepa Dhanraj, Ammu Joseph and Kalpana Sharma.**

This conference which is the main activity of the IAWS has been a totally collaborative effort and in addition to the EC members a **large number of members** have worked hand in hand. I would like to mention the work put in by the co-ordinators of the plenaries and workshops namely V. Vasudha, Aruna Roy, Kamla Bhasin, Ritu Menon, Nirmala Banerjee, Akhila Sivadas, Kalpana Kannabiran, Jasbir Jain, Maithreyi Krishnaraj, Chhaya Datar, Indira Hirway, Vina Mazumdar, Kumkum Sanghari and Gautam Navlakha.

In addition to co-ordinating a sub-theme **Maithreyi Krishnaraj** agreed to co-ordinate the co-ordinators i.e. provide necessary information to them and put together all the abstracts in a book form. On top of all this she organized a workshop and wrote its report and compiled and introduced a background volume for the conference. Maithreyi really worked hard and did a tremendous job. We are truly sorry that because of a knee injury she was not able to be with us. We are missing her at every step.

The **Other India Book Store** and **Rajasthan Mahila Sangathan** collaborated and shouldered the responsibility of the book exhibition, **Kumkum Shrivastava** has handled the crafts mela.

While we were still looking around for a suitable location we approached **SEWA, Ahmedabad** for being our major partner in hosting the Conference in Gujarat. SEWA promised total support and co-operation and together with them we explored several possibilities but unfortunately did not get a suitable place for the conference. We deeply appreciate the support offered by SEWA.

We acknowledge and appreciate the support provided by Fr. Augustine the Principal of St. Xavier's School, dozens of women's groups, NGOs, colleges, schools, government organizations like the HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration, Jawahar Kala Kendra, the Tourist Hostel and by a large number of individuals.

Friends, the **Co-ordinating Committee in Jaipur** has done us proud by making the process of organizing this conference a solidifying and empowering one. Instead of one organization or one centre putting up the whole show, several organizations and women's groups pooled in their resources, energies, skills and ideas to organize this conference and while doing that reaching out to schools and colleges, local women artists and media persons, the citizens of Jaipur and to a large number of groups and individuals in other parts of Rajasthan.

For the first time in the history of IAWS, information about women's studies, IAWS and the conference were translated into a national language and made accessible to non-English reading and speaking people. Films focussing on women's issues were shown at different places at Jaipur and through these film showings information was provided to people about this conference. The Rajasthan group used this conference very effectively to strengthen the women's movement and the women's studies movement in Rajasthan.

To my mind it has been a truly synergetic and feminist way of organizing and relating and I can tell the Rajasthan group that by being different and innovative you have created new paths, opened up new opportunities and challenges for our future conferences.

Another important and productive collaboration we have had is with **AKSHARA, Bombay** who produced a very useful Source Book on the theme and sub-themes of the Conference and printed the book of abstracts for us.

Our interaction with feminist scholars and activists in our neighboring countries continued during the last two years. In my capacity as the General Secretary of IAWS I served as the Vice President of the **South Asian Association of Women's Studies (SAAWS)** and participated in two of their meetings. We invited all the members of the Executive of SAARC to come to Jaipur. I wish to acknowledge, the support provided to SAAWS by **UNICEF's** Regional Office for South Asia, particularly by its Deputy Director, Ruth Finney Hayward who is with us at this conference.

I also wish to acknowledge the efforts made by **Bina Pradhan** and **Mina Acharya of Nepal, Hamida Hussain and**

Khushi Kabir of Bangladesh and Nigar Ahmad of Pakistan to inform women in their countries about the conference and help them mobilize resources to participate in it. The IAWS is committed to the creation of a peaceful South Asia hence always keen to promote co-operation and solidarity between people's organizations, women's groups, NGOs in different countries of South Asia.

The work we have been able to do has been greatly facilitated by the **financial support** provided by the **Ford Foundation, Swedish International Development Agency, EZE and UNICEF**. The presence of committed people in these organizations made for a fruitful and friendly co-operation. We are very grateful for their support.

An area in which the present Executive Committee could do very little is that of **publication of papers** presented at earlier conferences. Those who had taken the responsibility of editing these volumes were not able to fulfill their commitments due to some valid and other not so valid reasons. We have had no choice but to abandon the idea of printing those volumes, partly because the papers are quite outdated and partly because no one else can work on them now. In future we should ensure that whatever is to be edited and printed is done within six months of the event.

THE FUTURE:

We have received some **suggestions** from our life member **Bina Agarwal** about the organization of the conferences and selection of EC members. We appreciate the fact that she devoted time to thinking about the Association. I hope you have had a look at her note which was circulated to all of you along with the report. We should take up her suggestions for discussion.

Elections of the next EC are due soon. Divya Pande has agreed to be the Returning Officer. The schedule of elections is enclosed. Please participate actively in the election of the next EC.

As someone who has now been very closely associated with the IAWS I have **two concrete suggestions**. I feel a national association like ours can and should take up some **national campaigns** on crucial issues. With a large membership located

in different parts of the country we can make a dent on whatever issue we take up. Devaki Jain has initiated a campaign on Women's Political Empowerment, a much needed and timely campaign but a campaign which can succeed only if many of us get involved. I would urge you to give serious thought to this campaign and participate in it. Other members can initiate similar campaigns on issues which need to be addressed urgently.

My other suggestion is that IAWS organizes a series of **workshops** for younger activists, research scholars and students on some important issues. If different member organizations or individual members with expertise and experience take up the responsibility of organizing one such workshop a year we can have 10-12 well thought out and well run workshop/training programmes. The issues I have in mind are - feminist research methodology, feminist methodology of gender trainings, feminist analysis of media, feminist literary criticism, documentation, feminist concepts, feminist analysis of SAP, feminist organization etc. There can be many more issues. There are organizations and individuals who are capable of handling all these issues and there are lots of people who need such trainings and academic inputs.

Let us think about these and many more ideas and let those who are willing to take the initiative come forward. The Association is waiting to be used for good and necessary initiatives and resources can be mobilized for all worthwhile programmes.

Friends, finally I wish to say that the present EC and particularly me, who ran the office in Delhi might have failed you on many occasions, not responded immediately, or made some other mistakes. I beg for your pardon for all lapses.

We in the EC tried... and I hope we were able to contribute something to the strengthening and enlarging of the Association. The outgoing EC wishes the Association and all of you many years of creativity, solidarity and joy.

KAMLA BHASIN
General Secretary

Fact Sheet

Current Membership	738
Associate Members	4
Corporate Members	10
Five Year Members	112
Friends of the Association	5
Institutional Members	23
Life Members	461
Ordinary Members	92
Student Members	31

Election Schedule

Last date for membership for eligibility to vote	30 September 1995
Last date for returning nomination forms to the Returning Officer	5 February 1996
Last date for withdrawal/ confirmation by candidates	12 March 1996
Last date for completed ballot papers to reach the Returning Officer	18 April 1996
RETURNING OFFICER	DIVYA PANDE, Bombay

IAWS Publications

1. *Struggles of Women at Work*, Sujata Gothoskar (Ed.), Vikas, 1992.
2. *Participation of Women in Politics*, Susheela Kaushik (Ed.), Vikas, 1993.
3. *The New Economic Policy and Women*, IAWS/TISS, 1993.
4. *Women and Law*, Lotika Sarkar/B. Sivaramayya (Ed.) Vikas, 1994.
5. *Conference Papers of the VI National Conference of Women's Studies (9 Volumes)*, IAWS, 1993.
6. *Remaking Society for Women: Visions Past and Present*, Maithreyi Krishnaraj (Ed.), IAWS, 1995.
7. *The State and the Women's Movement - Report of a workshop by Kavita Shrivastava/Nandita Gandhi/Abha Bhaiya/Ritu Menon*, IAWS, 1995.
8. *Feminist Approaches to Economic Theory - Report of a workshop, by Maithreyi Krishnaraj*, IAWS, 1995.
9. *Re-examining the Indian Family - Report of a workshop by Nirmala Banerjee/Jasodhara Bagchi*, IAWS, 1995.
10. *Women, Ecology and Economic Globalization*, Keynote presentation by Vandana Shiva, IAWS, 1995.
11. *In Search of Feminist Visions, Alternative Paradigms and Practices: A Source Book*, compiled by Lakshmi Menon, IAWS and Akshara - A Women's Resource Centre, Bombay, 1995.
12. *Women and Violence*, Radhika Coomaraswami, IAWS, 1995.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the year 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 were audited. Copies of the audited statement of accounts are enclosed.

A central office of the IAWS with a full time office co-ordinator was set up with financial assistance from SIDA. SIDA provided a grant of Rs. 4,40,000/- for the financial year 1994-95 and Rs. 4,40,000/- for the financial year 1995-96. This grant towards administrative and capital investment has enabled IAWS to run a full time office, appoint a full time office co-ordinator and helper and a part time accountant to look after the day to day activities of the association. The IAWS now functions in a more efficient and sustained manner.

Financial resources for the Association during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, consisted of membership fee, Royalty from the publications, Interest and dividend from FDRs and UTI. All this income amounted to a sum of Rs. 70,271.82 and Rs. 81,411.20 for the two financial years.

From the Ford Foundation grant of \$50,000 sanctioned to IAWS for five years Rs. 313,676.30 were received. This money has been used for the executive committee meetings, pre conference workshops and some conference related activities.

All donors of the IAWS and the VII National Conference are gratefully acknowledged here.

The major expenses of the conference are being met by a generous grant of approximately Rs. 15,000,00/- from EZE, Germany.

The All India Association of Christian Higher Education has agreed to contribute Rs. 5000/- towards the conference expenses.

The Treasurer's report is placed before the General Body for information and approval.

ROHINI GAWANKAR
Treasurer

Indian Association of Women's Studies : New Delhi

Balance Sheet as on 31-3-95

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>Amount</i>
CAPITAL FUND	68,585.00	FIXED ASSETS	
LIFE MEMBERSHIP		Furniture & Fixture	7,561.52
Bal. as per 1st. yr.	1,15,250	Computer	68, 585.00
Add. during the yr.	20,070	ADVANCE	10,600.00
—————	1,35,320.00	AMOUNT RECEIVABLE FROM	
CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP		Ministry of Education	7,500.00
Bal. as per 1st. yr.	32,500	Dept. of Science & Tech.	3,055.25
Add. during the yr.	—	I.C.S.S.R.	2,630.00
—————	32,500.00	Unit Trust of India	37,240.00
PUBLICATION FUND		Security Deposit	500.00
Bal. as per 1st. yr.	29,602.81	Fixed Deposit Receipts	83,193.00
Add. during the yr.	483.40	T.D.S.	5,174.00
—————	30,086.21	Int. accrued from int. on FCR	—
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXP.		CASH & BANK BALANCES	
Bal. as per 1st. yr.	4,43,069.04	Cash in hand	5,410.29
Add. Exe. of		New Bank of India	10,000.00
income over		State Bank of India	10,418.86
expenditure	4,37,498.65	B.O.B. Ltd.,—S.B. A/C-5011	5,91,771.80
—————	8,80,567.69	5257	—
SUNDRY CREDITORS	10,506.90	5010	—
EXPENSES PAYABLE		Cent. Bank of India-14523	34,451.19
Audit fee	—	14524	2,52,517.59
Salary	6,500.00	BANK AT BOMBAY	33,223.90
		BOMBAY INTEREST	233.40
	11,64,065.80		11,64,065.80

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 30-11-95

TREASURER

For R.K. SHARDA & ASSOCIATES
(Chartered Accountants)

(R.K. Sharda)

Indian Association of Women's Studies : New Delhi

**Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ending 31-3-95**

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Publication Expenses	60,151.92	GRANTS	8,28,676.30
Travelling Expenses	25,372.60	(As per Annexure 'A')	
Printing & Stationary	16,561.95	MEMBERSHIP FEE	
Honorarium	5,000.00	Ordinary	
Postage Expenses	12,989.00	Member Fee	3,840.00
Audit Fee	5,000.00	Student Mem. Fee	735.00
Professional & Legal Expenses	—	Institution	
Conveyance	2,321.25	Member Fee	7,728.00
Boarding & Lodging	—		12,303.00
Bank Charges/Commission	414.56		
Misc. Expenses	62.26	Donation	—
Freight	—	Delegation Fee	—
Telephone Expenses	5,082.84	Publication/Royalty	21,610.03
Salary	92,800.00	Interest Received	41,965.17
Staff Welfare	—	Dividend from U.T.I.	5,533.00
Guest Entertainment	—	Misc Income	—
Donation	150.00		
6th National Conference Exp.	—		
Computer/Printer	68,585.00		
Contingencies	4,679.95		
Meeting/Workshop	1,60,688.72		
Newsletter	9,130.60		
Books & Periodical	3,598.20		
Depreciation	—		
Excess of Income over Exp.	4,37,498.65		
	9,10,087.50		9,10,087.50

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 30-11-95

TREASURER

For R.K. SHARDA & ASSOCIATES
(Chartered Accountants)

(R.K. Sharda)

To the Executive Committee and
other IAWS Members
Indian Association of Women's Studies

Dear Friends,

Almost fifteen years have passed since the First National Conference on Women's Studies was held in Bombay in 1981. A great deal has been accomplished since. Also many new and younger researchers and activists have joined the IAWS, working to better understand and improve women's situation nationally and cross regionally.

As someone who has been associated with IAWS since its inception, served on its Executive Committee at one point, and been a life member of the Association, I feel it is now time for some changes in our process of conference organizing.

So far, the selection of the conference theme, of the panel topics and coordinators, and of the keynote speakers has been done by the IAWS Executive Committee. This was perhaps necessary in the early stages of the Association's life to give the conferences some direction. However, it now appears to be the right moment to introduce a more open, democratic process for these selections. I am giving below some suggestions for the consideration of the executive committee and the wider IAWS membership.

Selection of Panels

I suggest that about a year or more prior to the conference, the IAWS issue a "call for panels" in its newsletter and also advertise in the Economic and Political weekly and the Indian Journal of Gender Studies. In the advertisement, members could be asked to submit panel proposals consisting of an outline of half-a-page or a page on the overall theme, and a list of speakers on their proposed panel. From the submitted panels, the Executive Committee could make a selection.

An open call for panels would give everyone who wishes to coordinate a panel a chance to make a bid to do so, and would make the process of selecting coordinators more transparent and democratic. In particular, it would allow lesser known scholars and activists to coordinate panels. Many such persons would be unknown to the Executive Committee and would therefore have little chance of being selected under the procedures currently being followed.

Issuing a call for panels is in fact a common method by which many international conferences seek to ensure the broadest based participation in setting the conference agenda.

In addition, for people who want to submit papers but have not been invited to do so as part of the panels submitted, that is, for those who submit “contributed papers” one of the following alternative procedures could be followed:

- (a) Either 2-3 panels could be designated “open panels”, and a selection of the “contributed papers” (selected on merit by someone designated by the Executive Committee) could be placed in those panels and/or in roundtables;
- (b) Authors of “contributed papers” could write to the selected panel coordinators for possible inclusion in their panels.

On the Conference themes

Sometimes pre-selecting a theme is helpful, at other times it is quite constricting. One way out would be to have a theme only for every alternative conference. When there is a theme the “call for panels” could ask for submissions on the theme. This could be followed by the next conference being open-ended and allowing panel submissions on any theme.

Keynote Speakers

Similarly, in selecting keynote speakers, IAWS members could be asked to nominate persons, with a paragraph justifying the nomination. This need not preclude the Executive Committee from considering additional suitable persons if necessary. From among the submissions and its own list the executive could make a selection.

On the selection of the Executive Committee

Again in the interests of enlarging participation in the IAWS decision-making I would suggest that (a) no person be able to seek re-election to the Executive Committee for more than two terms, and there be a gap of at least three years before a person who has served two terms seeks re-election.

I would appreciate these suggestions being circulated and discussed by the Executive Committee and by other IAWS members at the Annual General Meeting on December 29, 1995.

Yours Faithfully,

(BINA AGARWAL)

Prof. of Economics, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Designed and produced by

Systems Vision

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