

MARCH 15-16, 2018

Sessions Attended by Suzanne Hanchett (note writer)

1. Successful Projects in Five Countries, PPSEAWA (Mar. 15)
2. Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP - For private companies), Secretary General's Office, CSW, UN Women (Mar. 15)
3. Indigenous Women/Groups (Mar. 15)
4. Rural Women's Empowerment (Mar. 16)
5. Cooperatives and Other Best Practices for Empowerment of Rural Women (Mar. 16), Dominican Republic

Topics Covered

Supporting women's access to agricultural training and marketing help; Local production for local consumption; Girls missing school because of menstruation; Helping girls with school tuition; Women learning new skills; Solid waste management and recycling; Women volunteers in East Asia;

Persuading large corporations to support Women's Empowerment Principles; Businesses supporting rural infrastructure improvements; Micro-lending to rural women; Sexual abuse and harassment; "Gender lens investing";

Indigenous women's connection to natural resources; Informing indigenous women about laws and policies; Threats posed by mining companies; IFAD program in 13 countries; Indigenous women's need to address issues of "development"; Need for national leaders to address rural women's issues; Challenging rights violations in courts;

Agricultural and cooperatives as a means of sustainable development in the Dominican Republic;

Memorable Quotes

INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONDITIONS

- No agency looks after women's interests. We need international labor standards. (Geraldine Byrne Nason, Mar. 15)
- People (in business) are not always aware of how much they discriminate. Someone has to point it out to them. (Lise Kingo, Mar. 15)
- A labor force model that isn't working for everyone isn't working. (Representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Mar. 15)

SPECIFIC PROGRAM APPROACHES

- Specific stories and situations should be documented. We can learn from these experiences. (Comment in Indigenous People's session, Mar. 16)
- We have been able to eradicate harmful practices. Forced marriage in two communities, for example. For

five years now, there have been none. (Sizane Ngunane, Mar. 16)

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Investing in women's education is smart. (Geraldine Byrne Nason, Mar. 15)
- Disadvantaged children can have post-traumatic stress syndrome from their rough and deprived lives. Shanti Bhavan in India provides counseling as well as education. (Amber Nystrom, Mar. 15)
- We may be seeing the fifth industrial revolution. The rise of technology is affecting every sector. (Amber Nystrom, Mar. 15)
- Every Japanese prefecture has an agricultural polytechnic school. Formerly only men from farming families attended, but now women and non-farmers are enrolling. More young, educated couples are now interested in farming. (PPSEAWA member, Mar. 15)
- We believe in bringing the technology to the women, rather than bringing the women to the technology. (Kathrine Lucey, Solar Sisters, Mar. 15)
- Teach boys that "real men are compassionate." Masculinity isn't the same as aggression. (Padma Lakshmi, Mar. 15)

#### LAND-GRABBING AND INVESTMENTS THAT DISPLACE LOCAL POPULATIONS

- In the name of national development, our resources are used, and we are displaced. Our efforts to empower ourselves are "criminalized." (Joan Carling, Co-convenor of the UN Indigenous People's Major Group, Mar. 16)
- We need to take back the land that the state has given to mining companies. (Indira Vargas, Ecuador, Mar. 16)
- When pension funds move, investors listen. Let your fund know that you care about this. (Diana van Maasdijk, Mar. 15)

#### THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Companies with gender balance do better. (Diana van Maasdijk, Mar. 15)
- Our company has established a women's leadership academy, and a mentorship program too. (Scott Mitchell, Sumitomo Chemical, Mar. 15)

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Climate change affects rural women, but they are not just sitting and getting left behind. (Alice Lesepén, from Kenya, Mar. 16)

#### INCREASING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE

- Quoting Bella Abzug, who said that women entering decision-making bodies: "It's not about women entering a polluted stream. It's about cleaning up the water." (Pam Rajput, Mar. 16)
- Once women learn about policies, they feel stronger. (Alice Lesepén from Kenya, Mar. 16)

- Economic empowerment is good, but we need to reach decision making positions, if we are to have a real impact on society. (Colombian woman, with group We Empower, Mar. 16)
- Now there are 50% women in Indian village councils. This is 1.4 million women. Once they cross the boundary, there is no going back. They are questioning the patriarchal system, asserting their position. (Pam Rajput, Mar. 16)
- We want to be who we are, but we don't want our children to go out in the world and be persecuted. Some years ago we (indigenous people) used to say we didn't want to talk about "development." But now we need to. (Tarcela Rivera Zea, FIMI President and UNPFII Expert, Mar. 16)

#### RURAL LIVELIHOODS

- Cooperatives don't get enough attention as a means of sustainable development. (Ms. Van Leur, ILO, Mar. 16)
- Women's constraints to land ownership limit their access to agricultural cooperatives. (Ms. Van Leur, ILO, Mr. 16)
- We need to integrate the homeland in our livelihood strategies instead of constantly leaving to find work elsewhere. (PPSEAWA program moderator, Mar. 15)
- Most of the basic food crops in the Dominican Republic, such as rice and beans, are varieties locally obtained. "We do not import any seeds." But the seed law has generated conflict. (Luz Adelma, Mar. 16)
- I see the fish so happy when I feed them. I feel as happy as they do. (Woman in a Dominican fish culture cooperative, featured in a video, Mar. 16)

#### GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT

- The President of the Dominican Republic makes surprise visits to cooperatives on Sunday. (Janet Camilo, Mar. 16)
- Cooperatives are getting much support from the Dominican Republic Vice President's office. Food security has improved. (Altagracia Suriel, Mar. 16)
- We must involve governments in our planning as much as possible. "Leaving no one behind" is our principle. (IFAD representative, Mar. 16)
- We shouldn't depend on the colonial past as an excuse for bad behavior. We want our governments to do things in a better way. (Comment by a woman from Africa, Mar. 16)

#### SOCIAL CHANGE STRATEGIES AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- In rural areas, one must work with whole communities – men and women both. Women can't be separated out. (PPSEAWA Sarawak chapter member, Mar. 15)
- One cause of success is cooperation, involving the whole society. But success isn't caused by only one

factor. (Japan PPSEAWA member, Mar. 15)

- Indigenous women's development isn't about money. It's about integrity. (Eleanor Dictan-Bang-On, formerly with IFAD, Mar. 16)
- We have found that real change occurs when change is not imposed from the outside. (A person working on cooperatives in Latin America, Mar. 16)
- The SDGs are focused on economic growth more than on spiritual and human values. (Joan Carling, Mar. 16)
- Alone you go fast, but together you go far. (Ms. Van Leur, ILO, Mar. 16)
- Alone we are invisible, but together we are invincible! (Janet Camilo, Mar. 16)