



# WORLD WOMEN

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## Ribbon sows seeds for lasting ties

by Shi Lihong

"Women, peace, love, forever!"

Chanting this slogan, a team of women paraded a 1,000-metre-long ribbon from the Asia-Pacific Tent to the Willow Club at the NGO Forum site in Hualou yesterday afternoon.

The ribbon was formed from several hundred banners brought by women from all nations and sewn together in Hualou. As it wended its way through the streets, admired by passers-by who joined the chant, it brought a cheerful end to the unprecedented project, Women Weaving the World Together.

The project was first proposed 17 months ago by a group of Asia-Pacific women organizations meeting in Singapore to prepare for the NGO Forum in Beijing.

The parade was led by a dozen Cambodian women who first began work on the ribbon.

"There are many sisters who cannot come to Beijing, so we bring their voice here," said Cambodian Nomum Pring in her limited English.

Word of the project spread to more than 100 countries



Yang Shizhong

Cheering women from Laos lead the unveiling of a 1,000-meter ribbon in Hualou yesterday.

where women's organizations made banners to lead hand-dance banners to the Forum.

Each banner tells about women's life, their sufferings, their struggles and their dreams. Sewn together, the ribbon represents unity, strength and diversity.

"This is the voice of women all over the world. This is our strength and power," said Sochua Leiper, founder of the Cambodian Women organization.

Approximately 100 women

danced and sang to celebrate after the ribbon was displayed at the Willow Club.

The ribbon will be displayed on Great Wall on September 7, Leiper said. She also encouraged participants to make use of the ribbon in campaigns for women in their countries.

"Women can do everything if they want," declared Leiper firmly to the cheers of the excited crowd.

Only hours earlier, Robin Ledwiew from Lumby Commu-

nity Service Centre in Canada, was helping to sew pieces of the banner together.

She said that she was working with pieces sent by other groups rather by hers and she just wanted to contribute to the shaping of the banner.

Members from her group made five banners within a week of departing for Beijing. One ribbon depicts the earth surrounded by hands. "It's symbolizing the longing for a better life, a better future," Ledwiew said.

## Press prepped for opening

Organizers of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) held a special gathering yesterday for the press in preparation for the event which will open on Monday. More than 400 journalists attended. Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of FWCW, Cian Cuhua, head of the Chinese Government delegation, Basma Bint Talal, Princess of Jordan, and N.K.A. Rawlings, first lady of Ghana, spoke at the session.

The speakers reiterated the conference call for action. They called on governments to respond to the conference with legislation.

"From the World Conference on Women held in Mexico in 1975 to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be convened soon in

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will not attend the September 4 opening ceremony of the Fourth World Conference on Women because of illness.

Conference spokeswoman Theresa Gastaut announced yesterday that he will send his senior adviser, Iamat Kittani, Under Secretary-General, to represent him at the Beijing International Convention Centre.

Meanwhile, Boutros-Ghali "has to cancel his planned official visits to China, Japan and the Republic of Korea."

Ghali was scheduled to arrive in China yesterday. He was forced to change his plans by an illness involving high fever, Theresa Gastaut told reporters.

"He has done so on the strong advice of his doctors not to undertake such a long trip at this time," said the spokeswoman, who did not specify when Boutros-Ghali would come to Beijing.

Beijing, the course of the past 20 years has clearly shown that the advancement of women is an important mission that history has assigned to the United Nations," said Chen.

According to Gertrude

Mongella, the efforts under way for women's equality, development and peace are historic and must be continued for a long time. She pointed out that the worldwide women's movement has

come to a turning point and this conference should not be restricted to "mere analysis" of women's problems but should take action to solve them.

Problems women face vary according to country, but worldwide trends were identified by the speakers as targets for action.

Low educational levels and a narrow range of occupational and career choices are two major factors that expose women to poverty, according to Mongella.

"Legislation, in general, can be an effective tool in promoting women's self-reliance," she said, adding that "promoting women's self-reliance needs a concerted effort on many fronts." (Xinhua)

## What's inside

### Global economy

NGO's third plenary session focused on women's role in global economic development.

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### Friendly place

Hualou has become a melting pot, uniting participants of every race, from all over the world, in friendship.

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### Higher education

College and university staff strive to put equality into education.

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## WEATHER

Weather forecast for 12 major Chinese cities for the next 24 hours from 20:00 yesterday to 20:00 today issued by China's Central Meteorological Station at 17:00 on Saturday.

City	Max(°C)	Min(°C)	Weather
Beijing	21	24	drizzle
Shenyang	17	24	clear
Tianjin	21	29	overcast
Xi'an	25	26	cloudy
Chengdu	24	32	cloudy
Kunming	15	22	drizzle
Shanghai	27	36	clear
Wuhan	29	39	clear
Hangzhou	28	37	clear
Taipei	26	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	33	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	32	cloudy

(Central Meteorological Observatory)



High Standard Residences

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I choose - Greenlake Garden to Mongella.

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## Bus service picks up on the road to Huairou

by Hou Liyue

The shuttle bus service, which was causing problems two days ago, is now running on track.

Hotel shuttles were running on time yesterday. And a new shuttle line has been established between Beijing's Worker's Stadium and Huairou's Longshan Hotel.

Delegates who miss the morning hotel buses can take a city shuttle to the stadium and transfer to a Huairou bus there.

Buses shuttle to and from the stadium every 20 minutes, more frequently at peak times, from

7:30 am to 10:30 pm. Passengers can catch buses at either end.

The new line has 180 buses capable of transporting 2,500 to 3,000 persons every day.

Cynthia Joe from the United States said that the buses were now coming on time.

An official who is in charge of the buses said that an unexpected number of delegates are staying in Beijing. The accommodation situation is changing all the time. In addition, language differences are causing problems.



Wang Wenlan  
NGO Forum participants from Africa get into a taxi in front of the Beijing International Convention Centre.

### Forum summary

On the fourth day of the NGO Forum, 385 workshops, seminars and panel discussions are scheduled.

Peace and human security are topics at 57 of the meetings. Human and legal rights will be discussed at 56 sessions, education at 52, economics at 47, governance and politics at 45, health at 37, and arts and culture at 26.

Also scheduled are 16 sessions on race and ethnicity, 14 on the environment, 13 on spirituality and religion, and 11 each on media, science and technology. (WW News)

## Officials assess forum progress

Officials from the Facilitating Committee of the NGO Forum and the Chinese Organizing Committee (COC) both expressed confidence in the forum's success during a meeting yesterday morning in Huairou. Huang Qizao, director of China NGO Forum Committee and vice-chairperson of the COC, said in a telephone interview with World Women.

The meeting was held between Khunying Supartha Masdit, Convener of the forum and

COC's vice-chairperson Xu Zhijian and Huang, at the suggestion from the Facilitating Committee.

In a friendly and harmonious atmosphere, the two sides exchanged views on providing better transportation service, service for the disabled participants and maintaining good order at the forum venue, she said.

Officials from both sides pointed out that the forum was proceeding satisfactorily,

Huang said, quoting Supartha Masdit as saying that most of the forum activities have gone well.

Both sides reiterated that they would continue to co-operate with each other as they have done over the past few years.

Commenting on reported ultimatum by the NGO Facilitating Committee, Huang said, "To my knowledge, what a member of the committee told the press yesterday afternoon was groundless." (WW News)

### EXCHANGE

Market Exchange Rates in RMB Yuan set by the People's Bank of China (September 1)

Currency	Unit	Intermediary	
US dollar	100	831.93	
Japanese yen	100	8.4612	
HK dollar	100	107.40	
German mark	100	560.88	
Bank of China exchange rates in RMB			
Currency	Unit	Buying	Selling
US dollar	100	829.93	833.26
HK dollar	100	107.19	107.69
Swiss franc	100	654.28	667.03
Australian dollar	100	627.06	629.57
Canadian dollar	100	619.37	621.85
Singapore dollar	100	562.23	564.57
French franc	100	163.70	164.86
Macao dollar	100	103.86	104.36
Dutch guilder	100	601.79	603.90
Norway krona	100	128.86	129.38
Swedish krona	100	113.06	113.52
Danish krona	100	144.91	145.49
Japanese yen	100	8.4463	8.4781
British pound	100	1281.81	1286.94
ECU	100	1055.27	1059.60
Belgian franc	100	27.8667	27.4764
Malaysian ringgit	100	332.04	333.64
Philippine peso	100	32.04	32.20
Thai baht	100	33.00	33.25
Austrian schilling	100	80.04	80.36
Finnish marka	100	188.89	189.64
Italian lira	100	511.7	513.8
IDR	100	—	—

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# Women key to economic development

by Chen Ya

Globalization of the economy was the focus of the NGO Forum's third plenary session yesterday.

Some 2,000 participants gathered at the Huiuro International Convention Centre and gave warm applause to Duan Cunhua, the keynote speaker from the Samstar Group Corporation in China.

Duan gave an enthusiastic speech entitled "Women—A Powerful Motivational Force for the Development of the Global Economy." "Women's involvement generates new managerial concepts and diversifies management forms," said the corporate president.

She listed many facts to support her view that women are of great and unique value to sustained environmental and economic development:

— In 1990, women accounted for 45 per cent of China's working population. Employed women furnish half of China's GNP and tax revenue every year.

— Fifty to 60 per cent of China's gross agricultural output is generated by rural women.

— In Malaysia, employment of women rose from 37 per cent in 1970 to 47 per cent in 1990. In Bangladesh, the rate of female employment has reached 41 per cent. In Singapore, 51 per cent of the able-bodied women had jobs in 1994, and 45 per cent of the married women continued working.

"Equally significant is the improvement of the quality of

female employment," Duan added. In 1970, women accounted for only 4.3 per cent of those working in high-tech fields in Southeast Asia. The figure rose to 35.9 per cent in 1990.

"Therefore, low efficiency in economic operations has nothing to do with women, nor have women been a burden that hampers economic development and social progress," said Duan.

Yet, women face new problems while helping advance global economic development, she said. Employment for women remains limited to relatively few fields, and there is only a tiny percentage of women in management positions. Moreover, many women are victims of unequal pay for equal work, and women have limited access to training and education.

Duan called for UN women's organizations to make global economic development a major subject for study and give all-out support and encouragement to women's involvement in economic development.

Helen O'Connell from Europe, Esther Ocloo from the Sustainable End of Hunger Foundation in Ghana and Marcia Rivera from Clasco & Dawn in Latin America also made speeches at the plenary session.

They stressed that during the globalization of the economy, many international financial companies and organizations have monopolized trade, credit, production and even communication. People in poverty and women in particular are the victims, they said.

## Ban Bian Tian (Holding up half the sky)

Li Jianhua



## Finding ways to fund change

by Li Wensha

The organization Women's World Banking (WWB), celebrating its 20th anniversary at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, is looking to expand its business in East Asia.

Established during the first World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975, the non-profit financial institution has played a significant role in encouraging low-income women's economic participation in Latin America and South Asia.

"Now we're very interested in expanding in East Asia," said Nancy Barry, president of the WWB. She is especially interested in China, where small businesses are becoming more popular.

With 52 affiliates in 41 countries, WWB is a network opening access to finance, information and markets for women entrepreneurs, Barry said.

Barry relates a few of the organizations' success stories: Kenyan women who started out growing vegetables are today exporting them. Latin American women who started out with one sewing machine



Nancy Barry

have formed an enterprise with hundreds of women workers.

In these cases, financing not only provides a way out of poverty for one woman, but for others as well, Barry said.

Nancy Barry worked in the World Bank as a division chief before becoming WWB president in 1990. She said the WWB is a "very decentralized model, where in every country women leaders in the banking business and financing organizations figure out what low-income women need and how best to open up their access to financing, information and markets."

"We share the value that low-income women are the change agents in their own society. And we also share the belief that we need to build institutions that are businesslike, that are not charity organizations but that provide women good service, treat them with respect and we believe their loans should be repaid."

"And we see women around the world respond to this and repay their loans," said Barry.

WWB now has 500,000 clients, about 90 per cent in developing countries; 200,000 loans averaging \$300 each and a 95 per cent repayment rate.

Barry believes economic participation is the most important of all women's issues.

"If you look at the NGOs that are here in Beijing, of the 25,000 accredited NGOs, only maybe 100 are dealing with women's economic issues," she said.

To promote women's economic participation, WWB will host several panels that focus on the mechanism necessary to build sustainable financial services for low-income women.

## 胡同游览

Failing to take a trip into Hutong, you have not seen Beijing

## To The Hutong

No sightseeing could make you absorbed in the old and real Beijing, except the Hutong Culture Tour. This Hutong Tour provides you an opportunity to plug into the small narrow streets, the hutongs, to learn about the history and the culture of the old Beijing and to step into the quadrangles, the typical courtyards with old houses, to learn about the daily lives of Beijing residents.

Duration of the tour: 3 hours.

Price: ¥180 per person.

Reservations: 5254263, 5248482.

Fax: 5249357



北 N  
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地安门西大街

W. Di An Men St.

胡同游出发点

Departing Point of Hutong Tour

王府井大街

W. Di An Men St.

王府井大街

W. Di An Men St.

## Buyers enjoy silk luxury underfoot

Chinese hand-woven carpets have attracted attention for years because of their delicate workmanship and their beauty. Today visitors as well as Chinese add these carpets to their homes as a touch of elegance.

Silk carpets, in particular, are sought after. However, they require painstaking work. Weaving the intricate designs is done with a paper pattern behind the loom. Threads are matched to the pattern and woven into the carpet. The weaver looks through the thin silk lines and flying spindles to match the pattern, ensuring the thread on each stroke.

Most of the weavers are young women, and they generally only do a few carpets before their eyes are not so sharp enough for the detailed work.

The thinner the silk line, the finer the carpet feels, but the harder it is to see the tiny threads clearly. Prices for these labour-intensive carpets are high. For instance, a 2.54 metre silk carpet, which takes half a year to weave, is priced at around 6,000 yuan. Even with such prices the carpets sell well.

Outlets in the capital sell both wool and silk carpets and tapes.

### Some carpet outlets:

**Golden Peacock Art World**  
Location: Zhuanjiaolao,  
Heping, Chaoyang District  
Telephone: 413-6411

### The Friendship Store

Location: 17 Jianguomenwai  
Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Telephone: 600-3311

### Beijing Lufanba Young Shopping Centre

Location: 52 Liangmaolu  
Telephone: 525-1819



Wu Zhen  
Left: Ms Sheets expresses good wishes to her classmates.

Right: Two NGO participants talk in the International Tent, Hualou.



A woman from Peru shares her views on women's issues.

## Huairou, small town goes international

by Pang Xiaoli  
Handshakes, embraces, smiles and clicking cameras are everywhere in Huairou. Filling the clean suburban town with an overwhelmingly friendly atmosphere.

At the forum, arguments and discussion might well be serious, but outside of the workshops everyone appears amiable. A surprise encounter with a former acquaintance always brings a burst of laughter and a light embrace, followed by a long exclaim that "Everyone is looking for familiar faces. School teachers look for former students and overseas students try to spot old schoolmates. But to most of the participants, the forum is a golden chance to meet new friends.

"We've had good discussions

with Japanese delegates on issues concerning protection of coastal areas. The talks have been fruitful. And it's nice to talk with people from the same continent—Panama's Christmann from Thailand.

The impressions of the hosts and guests toward each other have also turned out to be good. "I've been here for three days, but the atmosphere in my hotel and the staff in the conference centre is so helpful and friendly. It's been wonderful," said Candice J. Pitts from the United States.

The local Huairou people are excited and proud to host so many foreigners from so many different places.

"They appear quite polite, smiling at you always. But I can't

speak their language. They seem to be nice people," said local resident Liu Shaojun. The language-international atmosphere of the small town is an eye-opening experience for many.

In the venue, Li Guojun of Mao Nationality in the southwest province of Yunnan, steals the limelight. In front of the Huairou International Convention Centre, Li and two fellow country women wear their colourful, traditional clothing and attract attention from nearly every passerby.

One by one, curious NGO members—Japanese, Danes, Americans, Swedes—stop to take pictures with them. They were also helped by handcrafts displayed by Jin and her fellow.



Yang Shuang

## Tea culture is reborn in Beijing teahouse

by Tian Lijun  
Beijingers flock to tea like birds flock to water. Hot or cold, green or black, scented or unscented, as long as it's a brew that'll gratify in the gullet. Capital dwellers sip the brew from huge mugs at work, gulp it with their supper and won't be caught on a train without a jar of chu.

But so many as their love affair with the drink has been, Beijingers have been without a spot to really express their devotion to the brew.

Wafa Teahouse recently opened to offer just such a space, a special place to do nothing but drink tea. Located on Di'anmenwai Dajie, the second floor of a shop that sells various teas.

It is different from the traditional Beijing teahouses and the Western bars of big hotels," says the 24-year-old General Manager Yuan Yunguo. "To my knowledge, this is the first teahouse that focuses on tea and the culture of tea."

A quiet sanctuary high above the bustle and bustle of the city, the teahouse has almost a mystical air. Tables dot the wooden floor, separated by bamboo screens for privacy. Customers take their seats and sit cross-legged, Japanese style, on the chairs. Don't be fooled by Japanese looking and sitting habits.

Though China is known as the motherland of all tea, and true tea connoisseurs will know from the soothing tea and special services that this is a truly modelled after Taiwan teahouses.

It takes its name, Wafa, from the five happinesses Chinese wish upon others: fortune, health, morality, longevity and peaceful death.

Manager Duan explains that tea was born in China, probably at the time of the Western Zhou Dynasty (106 BC-AD 24). It wasn't until the Tang Dynasty (618-907), though, that tea drinking became daily routine. During its evolution, tea was established as a part of the religion, politics, literature, art, medicine and science, and the tea and the culture of tea came into being.

The tea and the customs surrounding it were soon exported to Japan, Korea and as far as Britain—all of which created a tea culture of their own.

As these tea cultures flourished, China's slowly eroded away to the point where today most tea drunk from left-over bag jars.

The Wafa Teahouse aims to change that and revive the ancient culture. The establishment offers four varieties of sitting tea, which is grown in Fujian Province and tastes rather bitter and more Beijing-style. The tea prices range from 60 to 100 yuan for a small, real barbed leaves. Once the tea has been selected, a soft-spoken waitress begins the ceremony.

The first step is to warm the delicate teapots and cups. Then she pours the first round of water brew, finalizing the most important step.

The true flavour of the chiu doesn't come until the second round. Customers are instructed to sip the tea and savour its unique bitter sweetness. After the first or four sips, the flavour becomes lighter again, until the waitress brings a new pot and the ritual begins again.

Location: Wafa Teahouse, 184 Di'anmenwai Dajie, Xicheng District  
Telephone: 488-9648



Yang Shuang

NGO Forum participants walk and talk on a street in Hualou.

## Musicians say it with jazz

by Hone Lyjue  
The Nordic band April Light Orchestra will perform for the NGO Forum in Hualou on September 4.

"We would like to express our ideas with music," said Mette Olesen from Denmark who plays clarinet in the band.

On explained that through their music the band is able to meet other jazz musicians on equal footing.

"The number of men who play these instruments is more than women. We will explain our equality with our playing and singing. We women also can do a good job in this field."

All the songs are sung in English, and the selection of jazz fusion and pop music are all composed and arranged by women.

The 20 group members are from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

The only man in the ensemble is Nils Ekser from Denmark who is the band's music producer in charge of their travel arrangements and some public affairs in Beijing. He said that working with the band is so different from working with men's bands, "because they are all professional musicians."

The group came together for the inauguration of 1994's

"Nordic Forum Women Conference" in Finland. They look forward to bringing their message to this venue.

"We want to meet sisters from all over the world and play for them, especially the Chinese," said OI.

Concerts at the NGO:

Date: September 4  
Location:  
1 Nordic Room, Building of Economic Trade Commission Hotel (MTV), Hualou  
Time: 2 pm  
2 Hualou International Convention Centre  
Time: 8:30 pm



Liu Kanran

Women musicians from the April Light Orchestra, a Nordic band, perform enthusiastically.

## Beauty shines in cloisonne

by Shi Lihong  
A visit to Beijing Arts & Handcrafts Factory will show the intricate process of making cloisonne items.

Each piece goes through six processes.

This copper plate is moulded into desired shapes. Then flower and leaf designs made with this copper wires are glued to the moulds, which are then heated until the wire bonds to the moulds.

The most labour-intensive part of the process is when coloured enamel is applied to the object. Each colour must be applied separately and fired in the bond

enamels and copper. Finally the cloisonne items are ready for polishing and gliding. The end result resembles a jewelled mosaic.

"Each piece will be baked at seven times, in addition to the repeated polishing and modification."

Those interested people who have been to the Beijing Arts & Handcrafts Factory.

The most labour-intensive part of the process is when coloured enamel is applied to the object. Each colour must be applied separately and fired in the bond

blue at the time, it was named after the blue of Jingdezhen. Contemporary cloisonne has not only inherited the traditional skill, but has developed new styles and techniques.

Those interested people who have been to the Beijing Arts & Handcrafts Factory.

The conference F-shuttle will leave the Beijing International Convention Centre for the same tour at 9:00 am on September 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 15.

## Music will fill the air

Women Drumming An evening of singing, dancing and fun is planned for all ages on September 4, when women who have a drum with them will perform.

When: Kuanbo Stage, 19:00-21:00 Monday  
Where: Singing together "Your Voice Will Carry."

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# Tibetan response silenced

by Xiong Lei

Most of us came to the NGO Forum with good wishes. But a few didn't. They are taking the advantage of the forum to tell lies, spread rumours and make trouble. When people try to expose their lies with truth, they don't let them speak.

This happened at a workshop given by a group of Tibetans in exile. Among the presenters were some young Tibetan women who speak fluent English and two westerners, including one from Amnesty International. They pictured Tibet today as dark, deplorable and stifling.

Sitting in the workshop were several participants from China's Tibet Autonomous Region who listened to the presentations through whispered interpretation from their fellow participants. They waited patiently till all the presentations were done and open discussion began.

## Views and Opinions

Zhoga, a Tibetan who is now a member of the Tibetan Association for International Cultural Exchanges, was the first to stand up and raise two questions. But she was not allowed to speak on the platform in front of the audience, because she was "not an invited presenter."

When she started to ask questions, she was told to cut her comments short. Some people, including a few westerners, tried to silence her, telling her she could not orate, she could only ask questions.

When Yangyin, Zhoga's colleague, told the audience that "we can come to Beijing to attend this forum because we have human rights in Tibet today," the workshop hostess hissed that her state-

ment was "propaganda."

When the Tibetan women finally managed to make her remarks, the workshop hostess and her group, together with the few westerners, walked out of the room.

They didn't give a different viewpoint a chance. They shied away from truth. So what's their point in coming to the forum?

Dawa of the Tibetan Women's Federation told me, "I was really angry today. What they (the exile Tibetans) did were nothing but lies. My fellow participants from Tibet and I myself could show the whole world through our personal experience what's happening in Tibet today. They were born and grew up abroad but we have always been in Tibet. We are the people who are the best qualified to talk about Tibet."

Dawa said she was angry also because "some westerners are

using, or abusing the forum to violate the equality of the conference. Isn't that one of the themes of the conference?" she asked. "But you don't see equality in this workshop."

Qimei, a member of the Tibetan Women Entrepreneurs Association, found even the Tibetans in exile were not treated equally by the westerners with them.

"I was glad to see my compatriots from abroad and wanted to talk with them in Tibetan on several occasions," she told me. "But every time they were stopped by the westerners who came along with them. I don't understand why they cannot talk with me."

It is obvious that there is a black hand in this forum. Perhaps that is why those exiled Tibetans cannot talk to their fellow Tibetans, and the truth from Tibet is denied by some people.

# Open school aids rural people

by Xiong Lei

Zahida Suddad Qazi has spent her professional life working to bring secondary education to rural Pakistani women.

"In Pakistan, 75 per cent of the women cannot read or write and only about 5 per cent receive education beyond the eighth grade," she says. "Our programme, called Alimulqab Open University, which was launched in 1974, aims at taking education to the doorsteps of women who for some reason could not continue their education after middle level."

One of the keys to the programme is its flexibility, allowing women to study at home while continuing their work. The women need only go to a nearby study centre twice a week for lessons and coaching over audio cassettes. The school work is directly linked to their daily life, and the lessons are conducted in their local languages.

The decentralized education programme has made changes possible for rural Pakistani women, said Qazi. "In the past it was hard for us to send teachers from cities to those remote areas," she said. "Now these women, who have received some informal education, are providing formal education to their fellow villagers. They also encourage their daughters to go to school and enter college."

The programme offers courses on health care, environmental protection and other topics related to the experience of most of the women it reaches. Qazi says that this kind of focus is helpful to women's development.

The network of centres employs more than 100 people and thousands of volunteers. Most of them are women, according to Qazi.

"I've stayed in this programme for so many years because in this job you can see the result of your work with your own eyes," she says. "There is satisfaction in it."

# Violence survivors share their stories

by Cai Hong

A loud yell brought the 1,500 waiting participants to attention and applause.

The Arabic Zahrauds "Yu Yu" call is a traditional women's signal to gather for grieving, protest or celebration. Yesterday in Huarou it opened a session on women and violence.

The public hearing offered women the opportunity to express their anger, anguish and suffering, said Corinne Kumar from the Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC), which organized the hearing.

Speakers at the gathering told stories of their violence they had encountered. The incidents included wartime rape, assassination in Rwanda, female circumcision and trafficking of women.

Refugee Soud Srour El Murai approached the stage with walk-

ing sticks. She survived an attack in a Lebanese refugee camp. Her father, two sisters and three brothers died. She was raped and beaten several times by Lebanese soldiers.

Her story was choked by tears, her own and her listeners'.

See Wong Chung, a former Korean Comfort Woman during World War II, spoke out against the crimes of the Japanese army in that war.

"Please continue to work together on this issue and never give up," See said.

In response, a Japanese woman stood up with a banner reading "The Japanese Government must apologize to and compensate directly each of the comfort women."

Armonita Balajadia, another comfort woman from the Philippines, called for stopping war whenever it occurs.



NGO Forum participants from India protest violence against women in front of a workshop

Bai Yilan, vice-chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, said the problems these women explained were typical in the world.

"These issues deserve much attention from the international community," Bai said.

The gathering of women in Huarou shows the strength and power of women all over the world, Bai added.

"We have the responsibility to establish a more caring, compassionate and just society for all," Bai said.

## ENGLISH TV AND MUSIC ON THE RADIO

### Sunday, September 3 Television

- C Channel**  
10:00 A Glimpse of China: The Terra Cotta (in English)  
10:10 China Investment Guide (in English)  
12:00 The Conference News  
12:20 The Story of Tibet (in English)  
12:45 Variety Show (9) Chinese Traditional Instrumental Music Pieces (with English subtitles)  
13:00 World Reports (in English)  
13:15 Service Information (with

- Chinese and English subtitles)  
13:20 Beijing Landscapes (in English) — Yuanmingyuan  
13:30 Chinese Mothers (in English)  
14:05 Women (in English)  
14:35 Variety Show (rebroadcast)  
15:00 Window of China (in English)  
16:00 Women in the World (3) (in English)  
16:30 China TV Week: Foreigners in China (in English)  
17:00 The Conference News  
17:10 China Through Foreigners' Eyes (in English)

- 17:40 Music and Dance (with English and Chinese subtitles)  
18:00 Brief Introduction to Beijing (in English)  
18:10 Service Information (with English and Chinese subtitles)  
18:15 A Glimpse of China — The Story of the Ghost City (in English)  
18:25 The Theme Song of the Conference  
18:30 Beijing News  
19:30 Women (6) (in English)  
20:00 TV Play: Soong Chang Ling and Her Sisters (4) (in

- English)  
20:50 Chinese Mothers (4)  
21:10 Variety Show (7)  
21:30 News in English  
22:10 Special Programmes for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (in English)  
23:30 Chinese Movie in English  
**Music on Radio**  
AM 640 kHz  
10:00 Pop Music 40 Years  
17:00 American Country Music  
AM 720 kHz  
09:00 Music World: Chinese Songs

- 17:00 Chinese Songs by Famous Singers  
**FM 90.2 MHz (all stereo)**  
12:35 Chinese Songs  
14:00 A Music Masterpiece  
16:30 Foreign Light Music  
19:00 Concert on Sunday  
21:00 Music Magazine  
22:00 Selected CD Music: Light music by James Last and his Orchestra  
**FM 97.4 MHz (all stereo)**  
14:00 Hi-Fi Hour  
17:00 Music Classroom  
20:00 Sunday Entertainment  
22:00 Music Fair

# Universities don't pass the grade

by Zhang Xia

"Ying, why don't you want to be a nurse or a secretary?"

Professor Wang Ying was asked this by a colleague when she went to Canada as a guest researcher. She was surprised by the question.

"Why should I? There are smart female nurses and secretaries in China, but we do have the right to choose our own jobs. I like oceans, I like forests, I like travel. Thus, I

chose marine geology for my post graduate studies."

At that time, Wang, a professor from Nanjing University, realized that even in a developed country like Canada, there is gender discrimination.

Wang told her story in a workshop on women in higher education yesterday in Huiouan.

Wang's words received active responses from other participants.

"It seems to have a pyramid

shape. The higher the level of education, the fewer women."

said Ingunn Aagard, equal opportunity adviser with the University of Trondheim in Norway.

"In Norway, each university has an adviser like me, working to guarantee equality between women and men in all areas of the university," said Aagard.

To enroll more girls in universities, extra points are given to them in examinations. Af-

ter graduation, special funds are collected for female graduates to stay at colleges and do research work, said the adviser.

Aagard and her counterparts in other universities in Norway are working hard to make the scientific community have at least 40 per cent women.

In Wang Ying's university, women account for 33.7 per cent of the staff, but woman professors account for only 8.7 per cent of the total and

Ph.D. tutors only 6.5 per cent.

In New Zealand, some highly educated women have formed their own organizations to seek equal opportunities, according to Dianne Glenn, vice-president of the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women.

"Apart from our efforts, a policy is urgently needed from the government to improve women's economic, political and social status," Glenn said.

Li Tahang



Ten-year old Zheng Xiaju in central Henan Province reads in a new classroom built with the help of the Project Hope.

## Girls are important, elementary concern

by Xiao Xia

China, like all countries, faces a challenging situation in bringing equal education opportunities to its young boys and girls.

State Education Commission statistics from 1993 show that among the 2 million children aged 7-11 who were not attending school, girls accounted for 66 per cent.

"Parents are far more likely to allow boys to attend school because male heirs are generally considered more important than female offspring," said Zhou Wei in a workshop on challenges of women and education for the 21st century.

Zhou is from the Institution of Scientific Education in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

However, helping hands from all over the country have reached out to these girls. In 1992, a programme called Girls' Education in Northwest China was launched to try to enroll more girl students in impoverished areas.

"Economic backwardness was the main cause of a high drop-out rate of girl pupils," said Zhou. Peasants in these areas are struggling to feed and clothe themselves. A child is an extra pair of hands to help the family grow food.

Neelam Gorhe, from Women Sup-

port Centre in India agreed with Zhou. "It is quite popular in India for girls to drop out of school. The main factor can be attributed to poverty," said Gorhe.

"Another reason is that in India, local tradition encourages girls to get married at an early age — from 17 to 19," she said. If a girl receives more education, no man would be willing to marry her, she added.

The same problem exists in some areas of Northwest China, among various minority nationalities, according to Ma Yuqin, also from Ningxia, China.

Therefore a programme was established to introduce a more vocational education system and devise a special curriculum in accordance with the interests of girls of different nationalities, their culture and ethnic traditions.

Domestic science and crafts such as embroidery, weaving and dress-making are included. And flexible class hours are available. Girls can attend morning, afternoon or evening classes. This leaves time for them to help their parents do housework.

The programme has been implemented in 22 primary schools in 16 poverty-stricken counties and has achieved initial success, according to Zhou, who is in charge of the programme in Ningxia.

## Rural illiteracy is difficult foe

by Xiao Zhang

By the year 2,000, illiteracy among rural women will be wiped out, says the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000.

To many developing countries, this isn't an easy job.

In China, for example, women account for nearly two thirds of an illiterate population of more than 100 million.

Analysts attribute female illiteracy to poverty, traditional feudal ideas and rapid population growth.

To wipe out illiteracy among adult women, China has launched a series of campaigns. Various literacy classes and

evening schools have mushroomed.

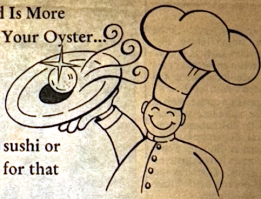
In World Women's interviews of NGO members from other developing countries, the illiteracy rate among rural women is also high.

The governments of some countries, such as India, have also launched similar campaigns to wipe out illiteracy among rural women.

Many women, however, complain that they are burdened with too much housework, occupied from 6 am to 8 pm daily, so they have little time and energy to take part in classes.

Locked into the realm of kitchen and small plots of cultivated land, rural women don't understand the necessity of acquiring knowledge.

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## If you need it, Huairou's got it — for rent

by Shi Lihong

South Korean Misuk Seo needed some desks and boards for the NGO Forum.

He was able to rent them — several desks for 15 yuan each and wooden boards for 5 yuan each per day — through the rental and service desk in the bustling Global Pavilion in Huairou.

"The price is a little expensive, but that's O.K.," she said after signing the rental contract.

The service officially started at 8:30 am Wednesday but urgent requests from some participants were filled earlier, said Yan Ying, an official of the China Organizing Committee.

The service desk can provide electricians for \$30, technicians for \$130, typists for \$20 and porters for \$10 a day.

The service officially started at 8:30 am Wednesday but urgent requests from some participants were filled earlier, said Yan Ying, an official of the China Organizing Committee.

The service desk can provide electricians for \$30, technicians for \$130, typists for \$20 and porters for \$10 a day.

Meanwhile, it also leases cars and mini-buses for 2-8 yuan per kilometre.

"We're prepared for even the most unexpected requirement from the participants," Yan said.

A score of volunteer interpreters were waiting behind the desks. All of them are third- and fourth-year college students from three major foreign language institutes.

They speak seven languages — English, Japanese, German, French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

Some 280 volunteer interpreters served in Huairou in the past few days and 400 more arrived yesterday morning, Yan said.

Interpretation service can be provided immediately, and other services such as installing electronic apparatus or arranging exhibition rooms will be provided within four hours."

The organizing committee had called for volunteer workers from all the institutions, governmental departments and workplaces in Beijing. Some 400 volunteers have registered as electricians, carpenters and porters. If more are needed, they are readily available.

Prices for rentals and services have been set by the organizing committee.

# Children speak through art

by Chen Chunmei

"The conference aims to make sure that men and women, boys and girls, live peacefully," said Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the conference on women, yesterday at a Sino-foreign children's gathering.

More than 2,500 Chinese and foreign children in Beijing took part in the event at Zhongshan Park, where approximately 1,000 children were cited in an artistic competition.

The young artists produced a 100-metre long mural and presented it to Mongella and the conference. It will be hung in the Beijing International Convention Centre during the conference, September 4 to 15.

"The conference is for women and also for all of us — you will grow up and be mothers and fathers," Mongella told the children.

Mongella thanked China for the preparations of the conference and thanked the children and their teachers who performed for her.

Chen Muhua, Vice-chair-



Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, visits an international children's art exhibition in Beijing yesterday.

person of the Chinese People's Congress and Chairwoman of the All-China Women's Federation, also addressed the event and ex-

tended her best wishes for the children.

"You are the future," said Chen. Jackie Schade, an event

organizer, said that the conference is also concerned with the well-being of children. "We want to make sure the children are cared for."



NGO participants dance gaily at the end of a workshop yesterday.

Yang Shizhong

## Dance echoes body's energy

"Breathe, hold..."

Put 'h' in front of 'a', and say ha-ha-ha..."

This was how Nana Korantemaa, director of Asona Aberade Shrine Inc, taught spirit dance yesterday during an NGO cultural project. About 100 participants followed Nana's instructions with great interest.

A part of African culture and religion, the spirit dance balances inner-self, breath consciousness and perceptions of sound and movement.

Nana said spirit dance celebrates the human body's energy. She said it can echo heartbeats and other sounds corresponding to each part of the body.

"With it, we can make a different world and promote our state of being," she said.

(Xinhua)

The only wrist watch Souvenir of the Fourth World Conference on Women of the United Nations

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### STYLE I: NOAH — Great Wall — Side View Creative Design

- Swiss made gold — plating movement
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- Gold — plating of 10 microns thickness using 18k gold
- 5 natural diamonds inlaid on the upper part of the beacon tower — like watch case
- Cloisonne enamel handmade watch box designed and manufactured under the supervision of Mr. Zhang Tongji who is a national master in the area of cloisonne enamel arts and crafts.

\*Command Post of Souvenir Watch, Reception Centre: 1/F, International Convention Centre, Beijing Asian Games Village

\*The Government's Shopping Area for PFWWC: Stand No.24, 8, Square in front of CATIC Grand Hotel

\*Shopping Area for NGOs: No.8 and No.9 Stands, 2/F, Training Centre of Beijing Sports Commission, Huairou County

### STYLE II: NOAH — Great Wall — Abstracted Creative Design

- Swiss made gold — plating movement
- Steel/gold double coils, 18k gold and refined steel #316
- Beacon tower — like 18k gold circle on the watch crust together with wall — like watchband
- 12 natural diamonds inlaid on the dial plate and the crown
- A gold conference emblem inlaid on the watch case
- Another conference emblem imprinted on the dial at 12 o'clock point
- Scratch — resistant synthetic sapphire watch glass
- Carved lacquerware handmade watch box designed and manufactured under the supervision of Chinese famous lacquerware artist Mr. Wen Qiangang

\*Hengdell and Hengdell famous brand watch stores, CIVIC Shopping Centre, Lufthansa Shopping Centre, Guyao Mansion, Urban and Rural Trade Centre, Friendship Store, Shuang'an Market

\*The Commodity Departments of the hotels for the PFWWC representatives

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