

SVJETSKI UNIVERZITETSKI SERVIS BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE (SUS BiH)

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**WOMEN'S WORLDS CONGRESS '05: EMBRACING THE EARTH: EAST &
WEST, NORTH & SOUTH**

Application deadline: 30 December 2003

The Ninth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (WW05) will take place in Seoul, Korea from 19-24 June 2005. It is being organised by the Organising Committee for WW05.

The Women's Worlds Congress is an international, interdisciplinary congress on women held every three years focusing on gender research and interdisciplinary scholarship. The first Women's Worlds Congress took place in 1981 in Israel. Since then, other Congresses have taken place in the Netherlands (1984), Ireland (1987), USA (1990), Costa Rica (1993), Australia (1996), and Norway (1999). In December 2002, the Korean Association of Women's Studies (KAWS) reached an agreement with Ewha Woman's University to co-host the congress by setting up the Organising Committee and secretariat at the Asian Center for Women's Studies, Ewha Woman's University in Seoul. The goal of the Committee, which set out with "addressing gender and development/globalisation issues from an Asian perspective" as the foremost of its initiatives, is to contribute to realising gender mainstreaming and peace building in Korea.

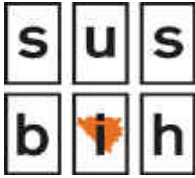
Korea, the first Asian country to host the Ninth International Congress, offers a unique environment for exploring the ways in which fast-paced industrialisation, during the past decades, changed the lives of women and the manner in which women have mobilised development and globalisation for their own national feminist causes. The distinct advancement of women's social and economic status and their quality of life, achieved in the midst of negotiations with entrenched patriarchal and paternalistic values and struggles with the continuing tragedy as a divided people in Korea, inspired the WW05 congress theme, "Embracing the Earth: East & West, North & South." Organisers would like to especially bring to the attention of international minds the diversity of the historical manifestation and evolution of patriarchal rule, given the historical and cultural diversity of the Asian region.

WW05 is organised around the theme "Embracing the Earth: East & West, North & South." This theme provides an opportunity for a broad reflection on the changes in the traditional boundaries of North-South/East-West and how women's lives are interwoven, as well as kept separated, by the increasing economic disparity between the North and the South and the contesting values between the East and the West. This theme also brings to attention the phenomenon of the deconstruction and reconstruction of the North-South/East-West boundaries with the newly-emerging forms of international conflict and war, and the prominent rise of the U.S. as the sole hegemonic state since 9-11. It also lays out the foundation for examining how this phenomenon is transforming the lives of women around the world and how the women are coping with their changing circumstances.

Other subjects of interest in line with the Conference theme are the "Third World," which is being newly constructed within the Northern West, or what used to be the centre of politico-economic power, and Asia's "new middle class," the appearance of which is posing a threat to the traditional geopolitical imaginations about Eastern Asia. Organisers are hoping for serious inspections on the influences of the diversification and complication of the North-South/East-West boundaries on women's lives and the challenges feminism has to face. WW05 will look at the contrasts between East-West perspectives, and perhaps more

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importantly, try to give participants from all around the world a better look at the cultural backdrops, social movements, identities and policy-making efforts that are specific to the Asian context.

The special focus areas will be topics arising from the history of Asia as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multilingual region which has long been represented as "the East," therefore, "the Other" by the West which has imposed various kinds of colonial domination. Secondly, the organisers are now looking for programme contributions related to "Asian women's identities," as they deal with the complexities of their own changing status following the impact of globalisation and various types of feminisms. Thirdly, considering women's deteriorating living conditions in the processes of modernisation and globalisation in Asia as well as in other regions, programme contributions are invited on such issues as sex trafficking, child prostitution, feminisation of poverty, and women's human rights related with war and other forms of violence, political unrest and instability.

The organising committee also announced a call for papers and proposals, **the deadline of which is on 30 December 2003**. Proposals on a broad range of material that constitutes the subject of Women's Studies are invited. In keeping with the theme of the Congress, proposals that address coalition building, collaboration, and connectivity, particularly across barriers that have proved significant in feminism's past, such as those of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, sexual identity, and religion are being welcomed. Also welcome are proposals that investigate the application of Women's Studies beyond the classroom, such as internships, service learning, and community activism.

Encouraged for submissions are cross-cultural and interdisciplinary proposals as well as proposals from all fields in the humanities, the natural and social sciences, the creative and performing arts, health, law, social work, education, community development, and other professional and paraprofessional fields. The intention is to have a combination of both scholarly texts, as well as popular synopses of works by activists, advocates, and development practitioners in the field of women and gender.

Proposals may be submitted for individual papers, panels, workshops, round tables, short lectures, posters and the artists, film, and writers' series.

For more information, please contact:

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