

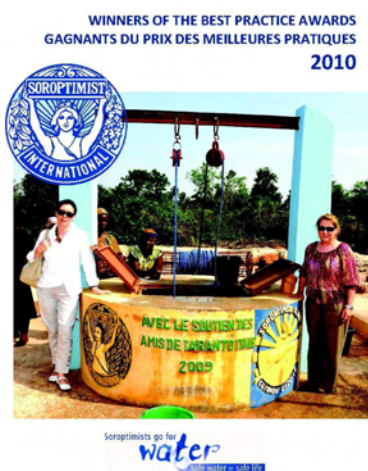
PROGRAMME NEWS

No. 9, July 2010

Dear Soroptimists,

Enjoy yet another issue of the Programme News that brings Programme related information to you! Spread the news and disseminate it widely to your friends and colleagues!

Best Practice Awards 2010



The second annual Best Practice Awards were given at this year's Governor's Meeting in Ghent, Belgium on July 3rd. We received many excellent applications this year in all the Programme Focus

Objectives! Keep up the great programme work and congratulations again to all the winners! You can download the Best Practice Brochure from www.soroptimisteurope.org

And here are the winners:

PFO 1: Eliminate poverty and gender discrimination through ensuring women's full social and economic rights

RWANDA, SI GISENYI: The project "FORMATION DES JEUNES FILLES ET FEMMES EN METIERS" improves the economic well-being of women through literacy and entrepreneurship training, formation in a trade and micro credits to begin a business.

PFO 2: End human trafficking and all forms of violence against women and girls

DANISH AND ROMANIAN UNIONS: "STOP TRAFFICKING" involved both fundraising and education programmes aimed to prevent young people from becoming involved in trafficking.

PFO 3: Ensure access to health care for women and girls

ITALY, SI SONDRINO: This project, "PAP SMEAR SOLOMON ISLANDS," provided pap tests for the first time to women in the Solomon Islands.

PFO 4: Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases

FRENCH UNION: "ALZHEIMER: L'AIDE AUX AIDANTS" financially supported activities for Alzheimer patients that will help increase their cognitive awareness.

PFO 5: Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources. Two awards were given:

Hands-on service:

SWISS UNION: The project "LAMBANI TRIBAL VILLAGE TOILETS PROJECT IN SOUTH INDIA" built eco-friendly sanitation facilities in a remote village in India where there previously were none.

Advocacy:

RUSSIA, SI ST. PETERSBURG: "IMAGE OF WATER IN THE ARTS" created awareness about water issues through student art projects.

PFO 6: Mitigate the effects of climate change and integrate sustainability into personal choices and government policies and programme

TURKEY, SI KARADENIZ EREGLI: "STOP USING PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS" was an awareness campaign seeking to enhance public knowledge on the environmental hazards of plastic shopping bags.

PFO 7: Meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflict and disasters

SAN MARINO: "RWANDA: A JEWEL IN THE GREEN" created a partnership to apply traditional basket weave techniques to jewellery making to be sold worldwide.

PFO 8: Promote peaceful conflict resolution, inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn genocide and terrorism

TURKEY, SI GAZIOSMANPASA: The project "MEETING OF CULTURES" provided workshops for young people to enable them to meet children of other cultural backgrounds and enable them to be culturally tolerant.

PFO 9: Ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan

FINLAND, SI TAMMEROSKI: "FROM FIRST AID TO FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE MOTHERS" was developed to diminish the drop-out rate of young single mothers and offer them vocational training and encouragement to increase their economic stability.

PFO 10: Assure women's advancement in management, politics and decision-making

MADAGASCAR, SI ANTANANARIVO DOYEN:

The project "MISE EN PLACE D'UN CENTRE D'ACCUEIL DENOMME 'MAISON DE LA FEMME'" offers women vocational and literacy training, as well as health, legal, and professional services to increase their overall well-being and ability to be economically self-sustained.

International Day of Cooperatives, 3 July 2010

Each year since 1995, the United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives in the first weekend of July. This year's theme was "Cooperative enterprise empowers women".

Cooperatives are associations of individuals who collaborate to have a jointly owned and mutually controlled enterprise.

The UN has recognized cooperatives as a means to reducing economic hardship. Cooperatives can provide women a feeling of confidence in their environment to manage risks and to empower them in their decision-making. They also give women access to markets and enable them to get credits and insurance.

For more information on cooperatives or to find out ways to support cooperatives, you can go to the website of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives: <http://www.copac.coop/index.html>.

Atelier Rwanda

The Republic of Rwanda will participate for the first time in the 12th International Exhibition of Architecture at the Venice Biennale with a dual exhibition situated near the Claudio Buziol foundation (opening 27 August) and by the Magazzini Ligabue (opening 28 August). The exhibition is the fruit of the multi-year project Atelier Rwanda, that is, a series of workshops realized in the Research Center for design innovation and formation in Africa arising from the collaboration between the Claudio Buziol Foundation of Venice and the Kigali Institute of

International Day of Co-operatives
Journée Internationale des Coopératives
Día Internacional de las Cooperativas
2010



Science and Technology, Soroptimist International and the University of Venice. Through "Atelier Rwanda" the Soroptimist Centre of San Marco in Kigali has gained an increasing international reputation. The exhibition *Möbius* set up at the Claudio Buziol Foundation presents the first line of jewellery created by the Rwandese artisans, specialized in the technique "uruhindu" in collaboration with European designers. This is the result of two years of experimentation (2009-2010) by Atelier Rwanda that involved 42 young designers and architects. Please email rwanda@fondazioneclaudiobuziol.org to receive a personal invitation.

UN Women & GEAR Campaign: New website

On July 2, the General Assembly voted unanimously to create a dynamic new entity. The new body, called UN Women, will merge four of the UN agencies and offices focusing on gender equality: UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW).

The Global Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign is a collaborative initiative of over 300 women's organisations and human rights and social justice groups seeking to support and encourage the rapidity of this new entity's formation. The GEAR campaign was launched in 2008 to gain support for the new agency. The GEAR campaign has just launched a new website which can be found at <http://www.gearcampaign.org/>. You can utilize the website to learn more about the GEAR campaign and the work it is doing to influence reform of the Gender Equality Architecture within the UN and also to sign your name to the campaign.

Governors' Meeting 2010

This year's Governors' Meeting was held in Ghent, Belgium from 3rd – 4th July 2010. With a high turnout of the Board members, Governors and Presidents, the meetings proved to be very productive and successful. Next year's Governors' Meeting will be held in **Palermo, Italy** from **May 28-29, 2011**.

Please send your comments directly to Suba Parthiban at suba@soroptimisteurope.org