Training, upgrading for staff

WAND continues to place strong emphasis on staff upgrading via training and educational exercises. In this regard, Programme Coordinator Jeanette Bell has started quarterly gender training sessions for staff. The sessions include discussions, viewing videos and reading from the vast array of documents available in our library. In recognition of the wider relations being developed within the English-speaking region with other language groups, plans are being made for staff to acquire some competence in Spanish.

And as the Unit prepares to set up its radio production studio sponsored by UNESCO, Media Coordinator Veronica Gaston received training in Radio Production in September at CNIRD in Trinidad.

Women and IT workshop Nov 19-20

A two-day workshop on Women and the New Information Technology is planned for November 19 and 20 in Barbados. It is part two of a workshop held in July, when WAND staff and representatives from associated agencies attended sessions about the Internet, conducted by staff of Internet service provider Barbados External Telecommunications Ltd (BET) and the Computer Science Department of the UWI Cave Hill Campus. In the first session, among other things, participants were exposed to searching for and gaining access to the resources available to women on the Internet in the areas of academics, women and development and business.

Tutor-coordinator attends leadership meet

A group of public and private sector executives as well as UWI academics participated in the first annual international working conference in the Caribbean, “Leadership Encounters and Transformation” held August 15-20, in Tobago.

WAND’s Tutor/Coordinator, Dr Judith Soares, was among the 16 participants in the “Encounter”, offered by the UWI’s School of Continuing Studies (SCS) and the International Forum for Social Innovation (IFSI), Paris.

The conference focused on group dynamics, systems theory and institutional transformation as means of developing and fulfilling one’s leadership role and exercising authority in institutions “in a responsible manner”. In this respect, aspects of institutional life such as authority, primary task, systems and subsystems, role, organisation, management, leadership and followership were critically examined.

Premised on the view that rational analysis by itself is insufficient to allow for a full understanding of the fundamentals of human and social behaviour, this non-traditional experiential learning process guided participants on a path of exploration and interpretation so that they could discover in themselves, their own capacity for leadership and authority.

Meet some of the WAND staff who have been keeping the unit functioning efficiently and increasing their knowledge about Women and Development issues to achieve even higher levels of performance. From top, secretary Cecilia, receptionist Debbie and accounts officer, Mona Barrow.
Programme Coordinator attends CARICOM ministerial conference

Programme Coordinator Jeanette Bell attended a sub-regional Ministerial Conference, a Post Beijing Encounter, in Georgetown, Guyana, August 6-8. The meeting of ministers with responsibility for Women’s Affairs was intended as a review of progress in the region since the Sixth Regional Conference and the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 1995.

The meeting reviewed the government’s progress since 1995 and examined current needs in the CARICOM region in the process of the implementation of the Platform of Action, taking into account the priority areas identified by the region prior to Beijing.

The meeting, which ended with the acceptance of the Georgetown Declaration, was attended by the ministers, heads of bureaux of women’s affairs throughout the CARICOM region and Cuba, women’s NGOs and representatives of the UN and other agencies operating in the region such as CIDA and the OAS.

UNIFEM begins project design activity

A Project Design Workshop organised by UNIFEM and the British Development Division in the Caribbean, was attended by Programme Coordinator Jeanette Bell, June 25-26, in Barbados. The meeting was part of the post-Beijing follow-up and brought together representatives from many regional women’s organisations, CARICOM, and development agencies operating in the region.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop a project which would be based on the priority areas identified by the region in the preparations for Beijing, to be implemented in the post-Beijing period. These areas were: poverty reduction, violence against women and women’s access to decision-making.

The workshop discussed the organisational arrangements that would be established to implement the regional action plan and agreed on a structural arrangement. The structure is made up of a steering committee linked to three task forces on the priority areas by a project coordinator. The UNIFEM Regional Programme Advisor will act as the chairperson of the Steering Committee, which will select those who will serve on the various task forces.

Looking towards 2000

Tutor/Coordinator Dr Judith Soares participated in a symposium, “The Caribbean Towards 2000: Models for Multicultural Arts Education” at the Creative Arts Centre, UWI, St Augustine Campus, August 4-7. She presented a paper reflecting on the role of religion in education in the post-Emancipation period up to the 1920s.

Thought and Action

“One of the marvels of personality is its resistance to prediction. One man’s paralyzing trauma is another’s indication to take control of his life. One woman’s grounds for insanity is another woman’s ground for dramatic shaping of the self.”

Rosellen Brown, American writer (born 1939)

WAND training programme for ART

A course in Gender Sensitivity and Gender Analysis Training was designed for and delivered to Grenada’s Agency for Rural Transformation (ART), in September.

The course was developed and led by Programme Coordinator Jeanette Bell, after ART approached the unit for assistance.

In its role as a national development agency in Grenada, ART targeted pre-school and infant teachers, agriculture extension officers and religious leaders for the training.

The aim of the programme was to sensitise these professionals to the concept of gender and to increase their awareness of gender issues in their professional lives and the roles they played in the community.

This awareness training was seen as particularly important because of the contact and influence that they have as community leaders who came in frequent contact with boys, girls, men and women in their work.

In the three workshops, participants reflected on their own socialisation experience, examined their own thinking on the changes needed in the way boys and girls were socialised and simple measures they could adopt in their own work.