

The report of the activities of the various countries in the Asia Pacific is as under.

### **BPW Thailand:**

BPW Thailand has increased its members from 16 associations to 17 last year and expect to increase to 19 in 2008. Through Five O' Project, it has been helping with the fishery and clam farms for the Tsunami victims. Its Women development project that constitutes e-business and Business consulting has improved the ability of its members and female villagers to do better and more profitable businesses. Its occupational training for the female inmates and under privilege women has indeed helped the women to upgrade their skills. It is involved with education projects by giving scholarships to needy children. It has various activities to help preserve the Thai culture and heritage. It has contributed medical equipment, clothes, food, blankets and necessities for inmates, flood victims, orphanage and poor in remote areas. It has helped in preventing the violence against women by teaching the women raising awareness and organized many trips to China , Laos and Vietnam to promote friendship and do the business matching.

### **BPW Pakistan:**

The Pakistan Federation has very active program. It has upgraded the school owned and run by the Federation This school is registered with the Government Education Department. A computer center for children from a very poor locality has been opened. 16 students are already registered. The Industrial Home, which was only a teaching institution has now become commercial and opened a sale center. Its Hyderabad branch has started a working women's hostel. Most of it was financed by the Government. A government school has been adopted by them and almost 20 million rupees have been spent renovating the building and providing new furniture . In Islamabad it has opened the hostel for workingwomen and girls have started registering. A seminar to observe Pakistan Day was held and very well attended. The other projects running in this complex are free clinic, a maternity and Child Welfare Center and Industrial Training Center .Peshawar has now started classes for Beauticians. Their health center and handicraft training centers are giving training to a large number of needy girls. Their hostel has about 20 working women. They are seeking to increase this capacity. Its Lahore Branch is one of their best centers. They are running a large number of training centers in a locality, which is not only poor but also very difficult. Their job placement center, gives training and finds them employment. About 118 persons have been placed so far. Their women's training and development center at Yaki Gate trained 2000 women. Their Health Centre at Faisal Town has employed a full time Health visitor, who also deals with maternity cases. Pakistan Federation is very active in welfare work. They have now decided to start a research center for women in employment and entrepreneurs, and to become an authority on working women.

### **BPW Australia:**

BPW Australia appointed current Executive and Council in October 2004 and are due to retire in October this year. It has been much more member focused with a strong emphasis on marketing and promotion. An accurate member list is now available and is also accessible online by all members of the Executive. They have prepared a new website, new brochure, standardised Badge and quarterly newspaper to bring members together and promote the activities of the Clubs across the country. They had helped Tsunami victims by raising a considerable sum of money .Through their work with one

of the major women's secretariats they constantly lobby government on local issues affecting working women. They have received Grants from the Government for in excess of \$A210,000 in the last twelve months for projects including the Security for Women Secretariat, the Young BPW Program, and a project focusing on issues of Fertility. **Membership** has stabilized over the three year period which is disappointing given the effort put into marketing and member support. Two new Clubs have been formed in Western Australia. **Young BPW** continues to grow with an increase in the number of young women joining the organisation. The Young BPW Board project has been outstanding and has won the "Empower the Youth" Award to be given at this Conference. **Leadership** has been planned on running the Individual Development Program at their National Conference in October, and it is being tried in June in Western Australia. BPW Australia continues to support the Security 4 Women project and Clubs continue to inform and inspire their members by producing informative speakers to the meetings and other activities. BPW Western Australia members launched a book of their history titled "60 years of BPW in Western Australia" that highlighted achievements such as the fight for increased State funding for women's health programmes, national wage case, superannuating, and involvement in local community issues.

### **BPW Japan:**

BPW Japan have been taking an active part under the national unifying theme "*New Dimensions of Leadership*", as same as international theme these two years. The 41st Annual Conference of BPW Japan was held on Feb.17-18, 2006 in Tokyo. Keynote Lecture was titled "To lead as standing on the podium as an conductor of Orchestra" by Ms. Yoko Matsuo who is the first female conductor. In 2006 it evaluated the partnerships between BPW-Japan and the local government and also evaluated mayor of Shinjuku-ward. During the conference it held several workshops whose theme are "Diversity, women's working style in the future", "New Leadership" "Legal approach for working women, reality and advocacy" and "Activating for the membership of BPW-Japan". In addition to this, it is actively involved in various National and International activities.

### **BPW New Zealand:**

BPW New Zealand launched the "P" topic which is in the forefront of the community today and is part of huge substance abuse problem in many NZ communities. An annual Extramural Study Award is offered by the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs to assist women who have been studying extramurally towards a first bachelor's degree in any discipline at Massey University. The award is available to women with New Zealand citizenship or New Zealand

Permanent Residency. One scholarship of \$1,500 is awarded annually to assist women who have been studying extramurally towards a first degree to complete their final year of study and is based primarily on the candidate's academic attainment. Many BPW Clubs offer local study awards of a similar nature. Its chapter BPW Mana launched "Project 2006 - When Disaster Strikes". This project was run in collaboration with the local Civil Defense organization to raise awareness of women about what to do in the event of a civil disaster. A series of informative and demonstration events were arranged by the Club with the co-operation of the local Civil Defense Officer. Posters advertising the exercises and BPW were distributed and a comprehensive photo record was kept. There is the possibility of carrying on the project in other parts of the city next year. Its BPW Auckland Refugee & Migrant Women Support Project is running shopping and cooking classes for them. This helps the women get to know local shops and NZ foods, as well as giving them the opportunity to practice their English language. This project has now evolved into English conversation groups run by the women themselves with support from Club members. Its BPW NZ Lobbying Projects is working on various impacts on women relating to legislation.

### **BPW Sri Lanka:**

The progress and shortcomings of on BPW Peace Villages Illukpitiya, Plliyagodella. It was observed that there were definite improvements in the lifestyle of the village as they had already begun to do home plots and sell vegetables & home products. 50 overhead water tanks were given by BPW members to the houses built by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing under the ministry of Dinesh Gunawardena for Tsumani Victims. President Rohini Cooray organized a moon light picnic at Blue Waters Wadduwa and BPW Sri Lanka International candle lighting ceremony was also celebrated, it became a grand dinner indoors. Health Camp at Madirigiriya was a great success. One thousand People visited the health camp for treatment. BPW members with the help of other different organization assisted them. "Music for a Cause" Classical Concert funds for Water Project Global was organized in the Peace Village in Illukpitiya, Polonnaruwa.

### **BPW Singapore:**

BPW Singapore has developed various strategies to recruit members like referrals from existing members, reaching out to young women graduates, Conducting seminars / conferences for all business and professional women, interest group activities and working with women MPs/NMPs and giving feedback on issues pertaining to women. Their SBPWA (Mandarin Chapter) has Strong links with China and it uphold Chinese traditions and Customs . Its Interest Groups are Singapore Women in Technology (SWIT), Singapore Women in Mentoring (SWIM), Singapore Women in Finance (SWIF) and Young Business & Professional Women (YBPW)

## **BPW Hong Kong:**

### 1. Rape Crisis Centre's threatened closure

We have made 2 submissions (Nov 05 and June 06) to Hong Kong's Legislative Council Social Welfare Committee urging a reluctant government to support Hong Kong's only one-stop rape crisis centre. We have appealed for public donations to prevent its closure. In April 2007 the centre was granted funding for a further year by a local charity.

### 2. Huge Female Prison Population

We visited 2 women's prisons in May and June 2006 - Hong Kong has the world's highest ratio of female prisoners of whom 66% are illegal immigrants from Mainland China. We believe these women are victims, some probably trafficked. With 10,000 such women being detained a year the legal system 'bundles' their cases together and each defendant's case takes on average 3 minutes.

We have held 2 public meetings and written to the government and the press to raise public awareness of possible breaches of Human Rights.

### 3. Networking with other NGOs

We regularly attend meetings with other organisations in Hong Kong to try to find some solutions to the problems mentioned above and to address the issues of discrimination against non-Chinese racial groups, against Mainland women, against victims of domestic violence and against sex workers. We make representations to the Hong Kong government when proposed legislation or policies fail to address these issues.

## **BPW Nepal:**

Most of the activities such as women literacy, skilled trainings for rural and urban women, Saving / Credit activities, cooperative activities , Micro credit Programmes are conducted by the chapters of BPW Nepal . Supervision and technical assistance of Day Care centers are done by the respective chapters.

**Capacity building training** was conducted in different phases for displaced women by conflict.

After the completion of 3 years project of '**Poverty Reduction through socio economic activities**' conducted in Chapali Bhadrakali VDCof Kathmandu, Sirutar VDC of Bhaktapur and Thecho VDC of Lalitpur district, now it will be conducted in Biratnagar ( Morang district ) and Birgunj ( Parsa district ). The programme is funded by Cardinal Leger Foundation, Canada for 4 years (2007-2010)

Under **Five O' Project** for the last project approved in April/May 2004, covered the area of 3 disticts in Kathmandu Valley. Three districts were Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. The villages were Manamajju and Tokha in Kathmandu district, Duwakot in Bhaktapur, Tachpal (under metropolitan city) in Bhaktapur and Patan (metropolitan city)

of Lalitpur districts. The duration of the project was one year but it continued to August 2006.

**Have not received reports from the other countries.**