Rising to the challenge - Radvancing the Status of Women Worldwide



8th Biennial INTERNATIONAL District Conference

Special Supplement

30th September 2005





PRESIDENT Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Message

I am very happy to learn that Zonta International District XXV comprising of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka will host their District Conference to be attended by Zontians in the district on September 30, 2005. This is a timely conference which depicts the sentiment to adhere to the spirit of harmony among the peoples.

The theme of the conference - "Rising to the challenge - Making a difference" for advancing the status of women and their changing role in socio-economic development in the third world countries is much timely. Within this purview, their massive participation in nation-building activities can be conceptualised into a mission that will lead and instil the ideas and knowledge of the women for understanding their position in the society and taking part in development activities.

Services to the underprivileged is, no doubt, a noble task. As a social service organization Zonta Clubs have earned a reputation by serving the distressed people in different areas of the country. I am confident that these clubs will intensify their efforts for the welfare of the teeming millions and continue to serve the humanity with its professional beliefs. I extend my best wishes to all Zontians on the occasions of their 8th district conference.

I wish the conference all success. Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.



Professor Dr. Jajuddin Ahmed



8th Regional Conference of Z. I. District 25 and President Zonta Club of Dhaka I

Message

Zonta Interna onal is a service organization of women leaders who have not only accomplished for themselves the highest professional success but also have rendered services for the upliftment of women. The 8th Regional Conference of District 25 is being held after a year marked for natural calamity- for us floods in 2004 and for South and South East Asia the devastation of life and property caused by tsunami. Bangladesh cotinues to survive the natural disasters-we could be role models for the rest of the world in areas such as service, disaster management and women's enterpreneurship

We are grateful to our Hon. President for his kind presence and message and Hon. Prime Minister for her kind message and contribution to the improvement of status of women. I am grateful to Zonta International Club, District 25 Governor and her team and members of Dhaka Clubs for their untiring contribution towards the success of the Conference. Let us rise to the challenge and try to improve status of women in Bangladesh and

Ztn Hasna J. Moudud

8th Regional Conference of Zonta International District 25 and President Zonta Club of Dhaka 1



The organizing committee of the 8th District Conference, jointly hosted by the Zonta Clubs in Dhaka, have skillfully sketched out a conference programme, adlhering to the Conference theme, "Rising to the Challenge-making a Difference", to give a better life to women worldwide "as we know that a better world for women is a better world". I sincerely hope the three-day conference programme will enable us to mingle and set up a more permanent network to fulfill our Zonta missions and goals. Zonta networking is positive, productive and communicative. It is surely not a mechanism for tobbying or gossip. It will facilitate our abilities to initiate or maintain friendship and understanding. provide information and knowledge, and let us continue to grow in Zonta spirit.

Since the formal call to conference made by the District Governor, Zn Dilruba Ahmed, in October 2004, I achieved a unique experience while working along with the Conference Organizing Committee, I am grateful to the District Governor Dilruba Ahmed for her untiting inspiration and guidance to me and the members of the organizing team to successfully implement our tasks.

I take the opportunity to further extend my profound thanks to patrons, friends and members of Zonta for their generous contributions, thoughtful messages and continuo support and thus enabling us to host this memorabe occasion.

I welcome our delegates and honorable guests to attend the 8th District Conference to experience the bondage of friendship and understanding, caring and sharing, faith and love, wihin and without Zonta.

Enjoy the Zonta experience,

I remain as yours in Zonta Friendship,

Nilufer Zafarullah ZI District 25



Mission statement

Zonta International is a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women.

Background and

Founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, USA, Zonta takes its name from the Lakota Sioux Indian word meaning "honest and trustworthy."

Zonta International is incorporated under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act, State of Illinois, USA, with headquarters established in Chicago.

Zonta Internatinal endorses the values expressed in the United Nationas Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Zonta International supports ratification of the UN-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and of the Optional Protocol to the

Zonta International is committed to the principle that women's rights are human rights.

Theme

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide.

VISION AND GOALS

Vision

Zonta Internatioal envisions a world in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are ensured for all women and the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professioanl rights of women are not restricted because of gender.

Goals

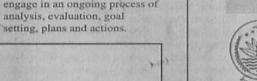
During the forthcoming biennia, we will emphasize three specific goals. Zonta International will work towards:

1, ensuring that women receive basic education and health care 2. ensuring that women have access to higher education on equal terms with men

3. eradicating all forms of discrimination and violence against women through prevention and through development of innovative approaches to eliminate abuse.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In order to realize our vision and implement our objects, we will engage in an ongoing process of analysis, evaluation, goal





Zonta International President 2004 - 2006

Message

Dear Zontians and Honored Guests,

On behalf of the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Zonta International Boards, congratulations on what I know will be a most successful conference. I am sorry that I cannot be at every conference, but I am delighted that a member of the International Board, Annetle Binder can be there as the International Representative.

The biennium thus far has been both busy and fruitful. A task force of members of the Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Boards has been working with the management staff at headquarters to draft a strate to plan for Zonta International and the Foundation, which will be a guide for the next several biennia and provide a vision as we look toward our hundredth anniversary in 2019. And the world will need Zonta to advance the status of women in 2019, just as it does now

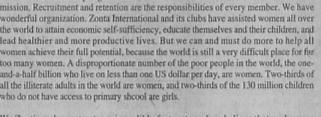
Zonta is a membership organization, and without members we cannot achieve our mission. Recruitment and retention are the responsibilities of every member. We have wonderful organization. Zonta International and its clubs have assisted women all over the world to attain economic self-sufficiency, educate themselves and their children, and lead healthier and more productive lives. But we can and must do more to help all women achieve their full potential, because the world is still a very difficult place for far too many women. A disproportionate number of the poor people in the world, the one-and-a-half billion who live on less than one US dollar per day, are women. Two-thirds of all the illiterate adults in the world are women, and two-thirds of the 130 million children

We Zontians, by cantrast, are incredibly fortunate and we believe that we have an obligation to those who are much less fortunate than we. We enjoy professional success

That is what Zonta should and can be the organization for those of us who appreciate our own success and who realize the importance of a helping hand, a listening ear, a

We know that a better world for women is a better world. Working together, we can

Mary Ellen Bittner Zonta International President 2004 - 2006



and we have an obligation to those for whom such success is still only a dream.

thoughtful mind, and a caring heart.

make our world much better indeed.

I am positive that this conference will pave the

way towards a brighter and better community

as we work to create a society where power

and courage are honoured both in men and

women, and where both have the opportunity

Derived from a native American word -

Born out of a legacy of women's struggle for

equality Zontians have emerged as new woman. We are proud of Zonta's milestone

women's history. Margaret Thatcher as the first

woman Prime Minister of Britian in 1979.

Freanch Minister of Health, Simone Viel

becomes President of the European

Community. Amelia Earhart Disappears over

the Pacific during her first around the world

flight. In 1963, Soviet Cosmonaut Lieutenant

Valentine Tereshkova Becomes the first woman to

circle the globe in outer space on board the

becomes the first woman President of the

Philippines. Ella Grass becomes the Governor

of Connecticut, U.S.A. Leenen Forde, Zonta

International President becomes the Governor

of Oueensland in Australia. Iceland elects.

women head of state. In Bangladesh Sarwari

Rahman was appointed Minister in President

Ziaur Rahman's Cabinet who was also the

Governor for District 25 Rokia Rahman was

appointed as an Advisor to the Care Taker

Government. Many more Zontians are daily

Let us today man and woman, girl and boy the

young and matured unite in advancing the

status of women worldwide by 'Rising to the

achievers. Our tributes to them.

Challenge; making a difference'.

May Zonta be the way of life

Z.I. District-25

Zonta means 'honest and trustworthy

to reach their full potential.



Khaleda Zia

I wish the Conference all success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad,

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MODEL IN

Sideone Hossein Khoka sa Dhaka City Corporation

Message

It is a great pleasure and a pleasant opportunity to be involved with the Zonta members who are working to give our community a better tomorrow. I send my greetings to each and everyone attending the Rally and the District-25 Conference and extend a hearty welcome to the City of

PRIME MINISTER

Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am pleased to know that the 8th Biennial Conference of Zonta International District 25 is going to be held in Dhaka in September this year. I would like to extend my

greetings and best wishes to all members of Zonta international attending this event.

Zonta's commitment to advance the status of women all over the world including

South East Asia is quite commendable. We all recognised and value humaniterian organizations like Zonta International, which is dedicated to make a difference in the

lives of women throughout the globe and there by contribute towards uplift of

As you all know, our government has been attaching top priority to women's

empowerment in our social, economic and political arenas and we have already achieved some successes in this field. I am optimistic that this Biennial Conference will add to Zonta's understanding of the needs of our women through communication

and networking, provide insights on various issues, play an important role in raising awareness about the concerns of women and children and devise ways and means to

address their needs. I am confident that this regional gathering would contribute

positively towards raising the status of women in South East Asia.

Government of the People's

On behalf of the City of Dhaka, I commend the members of Zonta District 25 spread over in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka participating in these events as you come together with a shared commitment to improve the quality of the lives of women and children throughout the world. Your exemplary organization has played an important role in creating awareness to the burning issues and concern of women and children and finding solutions to the problems. I congratulate you for your

The city of Dhaka is delighted and honoured to host this Regional Conference and I am glad that you have chosen us as your host city. We hope you have the opportunity to take advantage of some of our city's outstanding heritage, sites and social offerings including stay at Dhaka and my best wishes for a meaningful, informative and enjoyable Conference 2005.

(Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP)



Message

It is with great pleasure that I will be attending your District Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, In my role and responsibility as the Zonta International Representative I will assist the District during this Conference and learn about your special demands, ideas and wishes. As Liaison to the Zonta International Board getting to know you will benefit our close cooperation to continuously work for our mission: Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide.

This District Conference will offer a great experience about the demands of your communities, the chances you have to improve society and the global impact of Zonta International. As Zontians we believe that by improving the status of women, we improve society as a whole!

Hamburg, September 2005



Workshop Committee

Message

HIV Aids, human trafficking, and dowry abuse are now very important issue in this region (Bangladesh, India and Srilanka). Our forthcoming workshop is an expression of Zonta's commitment to continue to resist such violence against human beings, particularly women, to address the issues arising out of such violence, and to work for the empowerment of the victims. I hope our efforts will be a success.

Dr.Shireen Huq

It is gratifying that Zonta International District 25 is moving forward with an Agenda for action at their 8th Biennia Regional Conference at Dhaka from the 30th September

At this time Zonta has become an operational word for concerned citizens in their struggle to break down gender barriers, advocating new language new standard that women's rights are rights; spreading the word advocacy and legislative awareness, outlawing violence agalinst women and children, measuring the issues, making commitment and calling for

Zonta's International mission is to advance the legal, political, health, educational and conomical status of women. Zonta members locally and globally are serving as advocates for the women of their communities, bringing the issue of violence to government bodies. Education access to nutrition and health the environment, disasters, economic self sufficiency, trafficking, child and domestic labour eradication of all kinds of violence against women and children...all are issues to which Zontians are deeply committed. The projects are creative, ground breaking, indispensable and too numerous to give justice in this limited space. Yet, whether by raising lending expertise or performing personal service, the service programs and projects of local and clubs in the District have far reaching effects in improving the status of women worldwide - one neighbourhood at a

Each Zorsa member with the power of one focuses on each individual Zontian, and of Zonta International as an organization to make this world more secure for future generation. Each individual Zontian has contributed the most valuable resource - the sum total of life experience, career expertise level of compassion, and capacity to share the richness of these unique qualities within Zonta and for the befefit of mankind.

There is also a growing need of our commitment on a global scale.

We are increasingly aware of the ravages of natural disasters with human, stock, crop and infrastructure loss, environmental pollutions,



Z.I. District-25

GOVERNOR



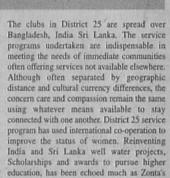
wars with political and human injustice, innocent victims of crime, illicit trafficking, destitution and despair, loneliness and life threatening illnesses, personal tragedies and powerlessness in the face of adversity. It is Zonta that has extended help with other agencies and bodies together we have created a truly focused resourceful high energy Organization to face the challenges of this

Zubeida Munawwar

Zonta International began working for economic, social education, legal health and political equality of women in Buffalo, New York during the 1919 U.S. campaign for women's rights.

Today Zonta International has 34,000 members in more than 69 countries and regions of the world. Members are architects, lawyers, business owners, corporate executives, doctors, artists, pilots, engineers, professors, educators, bankers government officials, scientist and more.

Throughout its history Zonta International has supported women's efforts to become leaders, explore new fields of study and otherwise stretch the current definition of women's roles in society.



Zonta District 25 clubs can proudly claim that their services have enabled to address some of the most crucial and pressing issues affecting women in areas of gender bins, trafficking, micro credit, improvement disaster management, girl child education, health awareness and innovative approaches to eliminate all kinds of violence.

For its outstanding international service, Zonta is granted consultative and N.G.O. status by the United Nations. In 1986, Zonta became the first and largest N.G.O. contributor to the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).



Fahmida Karim



Najma Islam President, Zonta Club of Dhaka II President, Zonta Club of Dhaka III President, Zonta Club of Dhaka IV

It is an honour & priviledge to host the 8th Biennial District Conference in our city Dhaka, Bangladesh. This conference will cement the ties of friendship not only between the 3 countries-Bangladesh, India & Sri Lanka but also across the international While we works to advance the status of women we are ever

mindful of including the men & the youth to come forward & lend their support in building a secured & progressive society.

Nevertheless, our main objective remains on elevating the status of women, educating & empowering them. This we feel, will go a long way towards poverty elevation.

Warmest regards to all.



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