

Reflections



Everything Matters

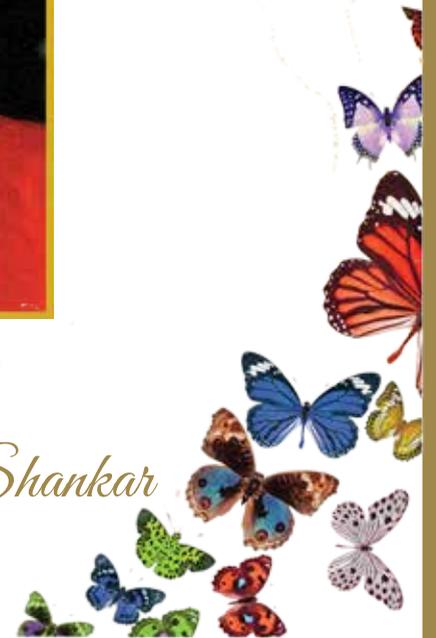
The Butterfly Effect



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



*Dedicated to the Mother of
His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar*





INTRODUCTION

The 7th International Women's Conference was held in Bali Indonesia and organised by IAHV, The Art of Living Indonesia, Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth and Vista India.

The conference was well represented by women from 31 countries. The unique inaugural webcast with Sri Sri was viewed by thousands from 700 locations in 41 countries around the world via webcast. This session sought solutions to some of the biggest challenges faced by world leaders including worklife balance, the issue of drug and sex addiction, the need to have more women on corporate boardrooms, the importance to have a shared vision and the skillful use of ethics in different aspects of leadership.

In the subsequent sessions eminent speakers addressed the delegates on the role of women in the fields of environment, peace and social media.

Apart from supporting the cause of education, the conference initiated planting of 500 trees in a Tree Planting Ceremony attended by dignitaries from the Government of Indonesia. In its continued support of environmental issues, a signature campaign was launched for the eradication of neonicotinoids which are the primary reason for the colony collapse of bees in North America. The banner will later be presented to the US Congress.

Delegates and speakers also enjoyed the Art of Living programs viz; Sri Sri Yoga, Happiness Program and Sahaj Samadhi Meditation.

The theme of the next International Women's Conference, "Life a Mystical Journey" was unveiled at the Valedictory Session.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY H. H. SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

Om Swasti Rastu. Women should dominate. A family dominated by women is much happier than a family dominated by men. You know the reason? When a man dominates, the women become unhappy. When they become unhappy there is nothing that can make them happy and so they make everyone around them unhappy. So it is better that she dominates. In her dominance the family becomes happier.

Women need to dominate in politics too. Wherever women are dominating in politics the country is prospering. Ibu Yohana and the Honourable Mayor of Surabaya are examples. When women dominate corruption decreases. I have heard several stories of how Surabaya has prospered and how living conditions have improved in the past few months. When women dominate in politics there will be less war in this world.

Women should also dominate in the economic field. There are very few women who are taking lead in the economics. I am happy there are some here on the stage and some in the audience. Iman is one such woman here who has started her own entrepreneurship and I am glad you are all setting an example.

Women should also dominate in the religious field. Perhaps if women come forward in the religious and spiritual field there will be less violence, conflicts and terrorism in the world. One more thing that women have to note is the intellectual dominance that is needed. Family, emotional sphere, economic sphere, political sphere and the intellectual sphere. These are the five areas where women must take their due positions. And don't ask men to empower you or anyone else to empower you. You have the power. You simply have to assume it. You simply have to walk with it and do what is needed.

Intellectual dominance is in the field of science and arts, architecture and literature; here women have to come forward. They are not yet in the level of competition. Though there are pockets of excellence here and there, generally women are more emotional. They are more into arts but not so much into the literary field.

These days the old concept that is gone, 'Men are from the Mars and Women are from Venus' no longer holds good today. Today it has become a unisex world. Men have the qualities of women and women have qualities of men. It is a shared world of shared of shared values today.

Why I say dominance is because on a practical level when we see women as the boss of a family, generally people are happier. She has the skill to bind everyone together. And if the unit of the world, the family, becomes stronger and family values are well founded, then we will find that the happiness factor also is on the rise. Today it is not just the GDP, it is the GDH that matters a lot - Gross Domestic Happiness. All this hooliganism, the problems that we find in the society is because of broken families. The mothers have not paid enough attention to their kids and those kids when they grow older they create havoc in the society and they themselves are miserable and make others miserable also. So I feel women have a big influence in building the character of a man.

Another aspect of leadership is the ability to listen. I think a woman has the natural gift of listening and to see things from the other person's point of view as well. Mind you, I am not saying that everybody has these tendencies or qualities, these are the potential in a lady. A lady has more potential and tendency to hear and listen and see the other person's point of view than men. So the emotional nurturing and the intellectual exaltation both is possible when right training, right guidance at the right age is made available. If opportunities are available women can be very good entrepreneurs. And again here I would say that don't sit and wait for someone to come and give you an opportunity. You take that first step and look for entrepreneurship. So be prepared to dominate at home, dominate in your workplace, dominate in politics and be in a dominating position in the religious and spiritual field because these are the four pillars, aspects of society. If any one pillar of the society is not strong then the society cannot be a happy society, a good society.





WELCOME ADDRESS BY SMT. BHANUMATHI NARASIMHAN CHAIRPERSON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Om Swasthi Rastu, Salam Datang. It is such a beautiful beginning for our conference, with the classical dance that we just saw. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all for the Seventh International Women's Conference, "The Butterfly Effect - Everything Matters".

I know you have all travelled from many parts of the world to be here and some of you have flown for thirty hours to come here and I really appreciate that. Your presence here matters to us. Thank you so much. And to the thousands of women watching us right now around the world live on webcast, a very warm welcome. Many people have been asking me why we selected this theme, "Everything Matters - The Butterfly Effect". Many of us must have heard of the Chaos Theory. A butterfly fluttering its wings in the Amazon forest can create an avalanche or hurricane in China. So if a small act such as the fluttering of a butterfly's wings can create such a climatic change, what about you and me? This is what we are going to discuss in the next two days through dialogues, keynotes and sessions; how we can move forward in this direction.

The role of Ethics in Leadership is very important and touches every aspect of our lives. In our Inaugural Session, we will hear from eminent world leaders, their perspective of the role of women in upholding ethics in different spheres of influence.

Technology has shrunk this globe into a village where communication is easier and faster and information travels instantly. Social media has connected people all around the globe and the basis of this technology is 'connectedness'. However it should be used to preserve and protect our world and not otherwise. I want to share with you, few weeks ago, our team launched a campaign called "Inspires Me", where women were invited to tweet about other women who inspire them. In three days, we had such a wonderful response with 22,000 positive inspirational tweets creating a huge wave of positivity in the social media.

Similarly, we also launched a campaign called the “Bee Campaign”. You must be all knowing that the bee is facing extinction. We should not allow this because 50-80% of our food products, are all influenced directly or indirectly by Bee Pollination. So we really have to do something. We will discuss how we can do something in this regard to save the bees from extinction. We will do this in our Environment Session.

I am quite sure we all have many stories to share and we are ready to hear your stories and learn from each other. The metamorphosis of a butterfly symbolizes the individual journey from one level of perfection to another. In a positive environment, evolution also happens. As leaders, influencers, homemakers and as pillars of our society, what can we as women do to create a positive environment in every sphere? Peace is our collective responsibility; for only with peace can we have more prosperity also. The butterflies are a joy to watch. Let us also remind ourselves of the connection to this beautiful planet and know that we are not alone and we are all one.

I once again welcome all of you to share and nurture each other, care for the planet. It is so wonderful to be with you all. Let us enjoy.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.





A DIALOGUE WITH SRI SRI

This event was held as a part of the 7th International Women's Conference entitled "Ethics and Leadership: Where Walking the Talk Matters". It provided the platform for a dialogue between eminent women leaders with Sri Sri to highlight solutions and add new perspectives to the challenges we face with a focus to understand how women can help to reinforce ethics in leadership today.

Ibu Yohana Suzana : Indonesia has a population of 150 million people out of which 51% are men and 49% are women. It is a diverse country with 586 cultures and multiple religions. We are living in the male dominated society where, for a man to accept a woman as a dominating factor of a family is not easy. So how can women approach men to realize that the woman is important and it is high time she is accepted as the basis of the family?

Sri Sri : That is for you to decide! You have already done that in a way and that is how women have reached where they are today. And you are the perfect example of how to manage the family life and politics together. In fact, Indonesia is already dominated by a lady president! Her Excellency Meghavati is the dominant force of this country. This means people have already accepted H.E. Meghavati's leadership. Women play a very crucial role in the family. Dominance cannot happen with aggression. Dominance means winning over people's hearts and minds. Dominance means winning people's attention, respect and confidence at home and playing a proactive role at home. And I think that is possible.

Honorable Leela Devi Dukun-Loochumun : In search of good governance there are times when we need to make tough decisions with regard to appointing people to key positions. How do we ensure that the situation is not

weakened by the choice we make while selecting people at these decision making positions?

Sri Sri : There are three things that need to be considered while making any political decisions.

- 1) The country and its people
- 2) Your Party
- 3) Your political career

You have to safeguard all the three. Unless you safeguard your political career you will not be able to do anything for the country. So at one end of the spectrum this is essential. The second is to safeguard the nation, which is the goal of being in politics. In between these two is the party. I would therefore say that in the larger interests of the nation, the nation comes first, then the party and then the self. It may sound a little too Utopian but if you see in the long run it is the best and yields the best results. Now I request you to go by your gut feeling. There are times when logically everything seems to be correct, but if your gut feeling says something you must trust it and go by that. Intuition is something that never fails. We must develop our intuition and this comes when there is clarity in mind, purity in our heart and sincerity in action.

Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, 1st Chairperson of SBI : In today's world women often end up setting aside their careers, dreams and aspirations for the sake of the family. Very often such women regret having done so when the families' requirements lessen over time. How should they cope with such situations and find a balance?

Sri Sri : There were times when you wouldn't see women riding a bicycle in India because it was inconvenient to do so in their attire like sarees or skirts. But today fashion has changed. Every woman knows how to ride a bicycle. If you know how to ride a bicycle you know how to balance life also. And that is exactly how you balance your work life situation. When you can do that extreme choice situations will not arise. You don't need to neglect your home at the same time you don't need to sacrifice your career for the sake of being a good homemaker. With the circle of technology expanding, we will soon have all opportunities needed for women to advance in the economic arena without much compromise.

Dr. Triritz Maharani : In Surabaya we closed down a lot of red light areas because of which there are several children who have taken to drug and other forms of addiction. We need advice and help to attend to these children and help them come out of this situation.

Sri Sri : Sure. We will see what we can do. We will definitely be able to extend some help in this direction. Addiction is a mental phenomenon, psychological phenomenon. It is important to learn to handle the mind because the mind is always craving for greater joy. When we can give this joy to these children with the experience of the breath and an altered state of mind or consciousness, then addiction for sex, drugs, alcohol can be minimized. And many times they get over these addictions very easily through these exercises. It is possible to train some youths to train others to get over addictions. Our volunteers at the Art of Living will surely help you with this.

Rajita : Sri Sri there is a question on the twitter feed. You have taught really life transforming breathing techniques, meditation tools to the whole world. How can this help us to become better women leaders?

Sri Sri : Meditation changes the structure of the brain. Have you heard, in the recent times I think about 4-5 months ago there was an article in the American Medical Journal- If you meditate for eight weeks the structure of brain changes and the grey matter in the brain increases and there are many such research that has proved today that meditation does help to integrate one's life, i.e. the left brain and the right side of the brain, i.e. logic and creativity, into one holistic personality. So meditation has many benefits - better health, more vibrancy, more energy, builds an environment which is more congenial and harmonious, like violence free and stress free atmosphere, disease-free body, confusion-free mind and inhibition-free intellect. You know there are a lot of people who walk around having a lot of prejudice against others. There are men who are prejudiced against women and women are prejudiced against men. There are prejudices against age groups, nationalities, social status...all these prejudice can be done with. This is what we need to work on. Prejudice-free society. Then we will be happy. Trauma-free memory. You know when a person experiences something traumatic in their life it gets stuck in their mind for a long long time. That does not allow them to look at life from a fresh and new perspective. So we need a trauma free memory and a sorrow-free soul, and to work towards this, breathing techniques like yoga and meditation are excellent tools.

Honorable Ibu Yanti Sukamdani : What kind of leaders especially women leader will be suitable in a country like Indonesia? I strongly believe that if all women are open to politics they can change the world.

Sri Sri : I agree with you. I am sure if more women are in politics we can have a better peace. Now I do not think Indonesian women are different from women in any other part of the world. Here you have the challenge of handling the fundamentalists who do not wish to give enough power to women. That is one issue perhaps that you could look into. Other than that Indonesia is a very young country with a lot of young population like India. You have young people between 20 to 40 years of age in large numbers. This means there is a large possibility of growth in every field. Today the world needs nurses, drivers, skilled and unskilled labour force; world needs technicians and entrepreneurs too. So young people have a variety of professions here they can choose from. Perhaps in Indonesia you need to have -

- Leadership training for women.
- Skills development for women, for example you can have women pilots, engineers, and architects. Skills training for women will do a lot of good. There is also a huge possibility of growth for women in the tourism industry.

Culturally women already have a dominant place which can be enhanced. But I already heard the women are taking charge in police departments, health ministry. It is very refreshing to learn that in a country like

Indonesia that has some religious restriction on women; women are coming up with great enthusiasm and are being accepted generally in society. Only thing you need to see that fundamentalism does not take over. Indonesia should remain with its own culture and not import culture from other parts of the world.



His Excellency Shirish Soni : It is lately being observed that people across nations are fighting for causes that hold a high moral ground, the level of integrity in the causes we fought for like democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism is lost. And alarming number of young women are being recruited to fight these wars. Your Holiness how can we avoid this recruitment?

Sri Sri : We have two terms in Hindi: 'Hosh' and 'Josh'. 'Josh' means you invoke a fierce passion in people to take up a war. Through this passion you can destroy the existing system to build a new system. 'Hosh' means awareness. So unfortunately what happens is that, the activism that generates the passion to destroy the old and start new, remains in the destructive mode and does not translate into a creative mode which is eventually needed. So when people fight for something they continue to fight with themselves because fighting becomes somewhat of an obsession. They forget what they are fighting for. Just the enthusiasm to fight remains. And here it is needed to translate that. And stress is one of the causes of distress in the minds of people. I find the same pattern in South Africa. They fight amongst their own people. They are carrying anger, dislike or hatred towards oppression. Now there is nobody one oppresses. You have to rise up. They forget the new situation today but after getting into that old pattern of opposing. Some people get into the pattern of opposing. They just want to oppose whatever it is. Whether it is good or not, they do not see it. So to see whether it is right wrong, what the effect of it is, you need 'Hosh' or awareness. And that needs to be created. Awareness can only come when there is no stress. Someone who is stressed and tense cannot be aware. That is very essential. I feel it is needed to bring that shift.

Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe : My question is much more fundamental. If you take it that various religion and international standards, national legislations and policies provide us with a framework to follow in terms of ethics then on one hand these are based on generalizations but when we face problems they are at a personal level. There are much nuanced aspects to problems so that in a sense we find the principles to be too rigid or too sweeping or too general for us to apply to these problems. On the other hand when we look at the problems in a more individual way we may use a case by case analysis. So I would just like to know if it is possible that there are ways in looking at ethics in which that does not have this kind of a contradiction. Ethics are normally general by nature, but there application in problems may differ from a case to case basis.



Sri Sri : Now. Ethics is something that you cannot remove from anyone's life. At the same time it may not be possible to apply it one hundred percent in the political or in the business sphere. But the degree to which you follow ethics that much you feel better. Because unethical means can give a rise but we must not forget that it will bring a downfall sooner or later. That risk is always there with unethical action of any sort. There is a beautiful story about ethics. You want to hear a story? Once Akbar Badshah, a famous emperor of India passed a law. He said that anyone who tells a lie will be beheaded. He announced this law and said that anyone who tells a lie in any field will have to go to the gallows. So what happened? There was panic in Old Delhi. All the lawyers of the city, got together in Chandni Chowk, the main assembling area of the town. "We may have to quit our profession", they said. 'What do we do?' They were thoroughly confused. They said this law is draconian. You know when some law cannot be applied they call it draconian. And then the doctors got together. They said that this is a draconian law, what can we do? We assure our patients that you will be alright. Tomorrow if he remains sick we will have to go to gallows. So doctors also started panicking. Then all the astrologers came together and said this is insane. The priest, the mullah, the pundits gathered together and they said that we assure people that god is taking care of them. Who knows? And then the business man said

that we tell people that this is the best product knowing very well that this is not the best product. So how can we survive? So they all went to a very wise man who was a court man in Akbar's court. His name was Birbal. They told him that, only you can save us. So Birbal rushed to the court. He went to the king's inner courtyard. The guards stopped him. When the guard stopped him they asked him "where are you going?". He said I am going to the gallows. I will be hanged. This news reached the emperor, Akbar. The king was so perplexed and confused. Who would put his favourite minister, Birbal into the gallows? If Birbal had not lied an innocent man would be killed and if he had lied and was not punished then the law would become redundant. So he called all the wise men and discussed what to do. They finally got rid of the law.

So the truth is not what you say. It is what is. You need skill to follow ethics. If your ethics are bringing in a lot of misery to a lot of people then it is better that you do not have the ethics at all. Ethics should always be that which brings long term happiness even at the cost of short term problem. That was the moral from that story. So for instance, your ethics say that you do not want someone to cheat you, you better don't cheat others. Then they made this law that a saint or a religious leader or a man of wisdom should not speak a lie at all, not even a bit. But a king is allowed to speak a little bit if it benefits the whole nation and a businessman is allowed a little bit more. How much more? Like the pinch of salt in the food. Not more than that.

Ms. Claire Chiang : Thank you Your Holiness for giving the world a clarion call for women to dominate the world. This is almost unusual for an opening piece at a Women's International Conference to have a personality as His Holiness to say, Women rule the world. I feel that such conversations are so important that more women conferences must include the men. My question is - That women being so great that you asked women to dominate. Why is then such a small percentage of women in corporate boardrooms? So what would you tell the men, why and how should they give up for women to dominate?

Sri Sri : You know men pose a challenge to women to come up. They say "Come on dominate. Come on Rise up." It is rather inviting women to come up on the platform to dominate. We should take it that way. Women should take it that way rather than feeling that you are being suppressed. You know whenever we feel suppressed we feel disempowered. And we expect someone else to empower us. I am of a different opinion here. I would say like in Chinese there is one word for opportunity and crisis. Right? So if you find it a crisis that men are not allowing women to dominate it is all the more an invitation for women to take up challenges and come up. And I feel that women have the ability to do that.

Ms. Claire Chiang : I would still like to know what you would say to the men for letting women dominate?.

Sri Sri : I think at home men are already being dominated so in business perhaps they want to preserve their domain! Treat women at par. Those days are gone when women were subservient to you. My message to men: In India it was always first women and then men. In India we do not say Mr. and Mrs. We say Shrimati and

Shri. Madame and then Mister follows. Women should be given their due place, they should be treated at par. Well I usually tell two secrets one for men and the other for women. You want to hear? First the secret for women is never step on the ego of a man. The whole world may call him brainless. But you should never call him "You are a vegetable, good for nothing". You should always say "You are the greatest". You must pump his ego at home. Women should always encourage men's ego. Because once his ego is destroyed he becomes good for nothing. So you must encourage his ego. You must say that the whole world says that he has no brains. You know what you must say "What does the world know? The fact that you do not use your brains does not mean that you do not have it. You do have a brain." You must encourage and pump up his ego at home. Then he will be of some use or whatever use in the society.

Now one advice for Men: Never step on the emotions of a woman. Encourage her emotions. If she complains about her family you do not join the chorus otherwise she may change the party. She wants to go shopping just give her the credit card and that's it. A woman's emotions should not be trampled upon. Her emotions should be protected and encouraged. And an advice for both to keep peace at home. Do not ask each other to prove feelings for the other. Their love for you. When we are asking for proof "Do you really love me?" that is when we are trying to undercut the relationship. When we ask for proof we undercut the relations, undercut the emotions between for each other. So women should be respected and given equal opportunities, should be treated as equals and should be treated as a partner rather than as subservient. This is one advice for a man which what you wanted me to say.

Ms. Shelly Porges : We are looking at a very difficult world. What can we all do to not just acknowledge the leaders in our life but what can each one of us do pursue our own vision and elevating others in our own life?

Sri Sri : In fact everybody pursues their own vision only. But if it is a shared vision then everyone joins together and that is how a movement starts. Like Mahatma Gandhi gave a shared vision to all freedom. Like Nelson Mandela gave a shared vision to people. Martin Luther King gave a shared vision, George Washington gave a shared vision. I think a leader should give a shared vision and then step back and allow people to move forward. Not ascertain ones leadership; and rather facilitate people to move forward and take responsibility. Empower them in whatever area they would love to do. Society has a variety of people with different tendencies. You know a leader needs to encourage people into whatever. Say someone comes with an idea of solar lighting, encourage them to go ahead take leadership. Say a women empowerment program - say no to female foeticide. This is one project we took. We found a lot of success in that. People at the ground level felt empowered. They felt that this is my project., this is my mission. When a sense of belongingness comes up with a vision, corruption goes away. See you can be corrupt only with those people you feel do not belong to you. Sense of belongingness can move people together. Now coming to that question of more women members in any corporate setup - I would say that you need a few men here and there. As women fight amongst themselves. The first enemy of a women is not men mind you, it is women themselves. They do not get along. It is not a general statement but more

as an observation what we found in many areas. Because women have intense feelings and one of the intense feeling comes with a letter “J” also. J means jealousy. You find this pulling women in different directions. So in small areas, women’s club functions very well for a little while and then they split into several groups. So here again we need to teach people that whether men or women, living in harmony in diversity and learning to accept each other person’s point of view with patience is essential for success in any endeavor.

H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh (Ambassador of India to Indonesia) : What often worries me is that too many leaders, around the world, including my own country, have had successful political careers and are great leaders but are very poor family men. So the opportunities they gave their people they did not give their own families. Now how do you balance this without domination, by going into a positive partnership both at the personal family level, or at the village level and moving upwards to the larger country? I ask this because this concept of partnership cannot be left only to a political coalition. It has to come down to families.

Sri Sri : You are absolutely right. It begins with the family. That is why I said that in a family where women have an equal role to play in the sense of domination, are happier families. Because when men dominate a family the women become miserable because he does not understand a woman. But a woman has the ability to steer the vehicle in the right direction especially the family unit. You know activism is essential to come out of deprivation.



So we use the word dominance so that an equal opportunity can be obtained. I am not saying that all men should be put down and women should stand on top of them. No. Here when I say dominance, I mean they have to own that domain. Dominance comes from domain. That means you are seen in that domain. Taking responsibility.

You are part of that domain. In that sense I feel that activism is essential only to emancipate. But later it should not remain as activism, it should be participation. There is a big difference between activism and participation.

Activism can destroy a particular set up but participation can co-create, can build a system and that is essential today.

H.E. Mr. Shirish Soni : I want to follow up with Ms. Chiang’s question. I refer to His Holiness as Gurudev. I would like to ask Gurudev - Please give us 4-5 practical things to be done by a husband to empower his wife.

Sri Sri : Well Shirish I am inexperienced in this field. I have been single all my life.

One I have already said -

- Never step on the emotions of a woman. I think that takes care of everything else.
- Encourage the women folks to come out of their comfort zone. Sometimes they like to be comfortable in their zones and not venture into new things. So encourage them to do things that are not in their routine.
- Ask them to do something creative and co-create with them.
- Indulge into some acts of kindness from time to time.

Take some time off and remain quite. You take time off and go for vacation where you keep on talking! Talking too much spoils the whole vacation. And then you come back tired and tanned and not with the vibrant energy. I would say take some time off and remain quiet. Observe the nature. Go for nature walk. Few moments of silence will be very good. You know when we are upset we keep mum. But when we are happy too if we learn to keep mum then our happiness continues. It doesn't get broken in between. Few moments of silence or meditation being with nature, together will all help I suppose. You can try all this. Tell me what works and what doesn't.

Deputy Governor Ketut Sudikerta : Women of Indonesia have shown a great success as leaders. However the numbers are very few. How can we inspire women in Bali to stop working immorally for easy money? How can we curb problems like prostitution?

Sri Sri : I do not know how you want to do this because it is an issue of the society here. But there are women priests here. What Bali can teach India is that there are women priests in Bali which we do not have in India.

Here in any Balinese temples you have both men and women priests and they have equal status. This is something that we can take from Bali to India. As far as trafficking of women and girls is concerned this is an issue in India, Nepal, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, almost in all of Southeast Asia. We need to tackle this from the Department of Child and Women Welfare. A thorough research needs to be done on this as to why they do it. I do not think they are doing it out of choice. Is it happening due to economic reason? If they are doing it as a compulsion for livelihood then it has to be immediately attended to. But if it is happening due to insensitivity or lack of cultural training to them, educate them about the reality. I am not qualified to comment on it. You will have to study the reasons for it. A sociologist who is qualified can conduct a research, present a paper. What we can do is we can give them skills training and some empowerment training so that will feel honored and they honor womanhood.

DAY 1 : SPEAKERS

ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP: WHERE WALKING THE TALK MATTERS



**Ibu Yohana Susana Yembise,
Minister of Women Empowerment & Child Protection,
Republic of Indonesia**

Synergizing and collaboration across all government sectors, communities, private sector as well as media are crucial to be able to realize gender equality and women empowerment, in national, regional and international levels. All of us here have a responsibility to change people's minds to become gender sensitive, for strong ethics and leadership.



**Ibu Susi Pudjiastuti,
Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia**

The only battles that someone can win without arms or soldiers are the battles run by women. We can conquer the world without our troops, because women naturally have special talents, charm and also can be very determined. All of you here are strong ladies around the globe and with your strength and influence you can change the world.



**Honorable Mrs. Leela Devi Dukun-Loochumun,
Minister of Education and Human Resources, Mauritius**

Education is the most effective vaccine against the deadliest diseases including HIV, AIDS, TB, Malaria and the like. It has also been observed that with every additional year of female education, child mortality reduces by 18 per thousand.



**Honorable Ibu Dra Wiryanti Sukamdani,
Member of Parliament, Chairman Tourism Promotion Board,
Republic of Indonesia**

A leader must have loving soul! Without love, war never stops, poverty continues and the environment is destroyed. Leadership without ethics is like a meal without salt.



**His Excellency Mr. Shirish M. Soni
Ambassador of Africa to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan,
Republic of South Africa**

The women's agenda of every country is not to be championed by women alone, men must be involved at all levels of promoting the women's agenda. The women's agenda must be driven by us collectively. It must be central to the higher purpose of any organization. It cannot be just another objective that allows us to achieve the higher purpose of our organization. It has to be the very reason why we exist.



**Professor Maithree Wickramasinghe
Founder Director, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya,
Srilanka**

Ethical conflicts arising from gender difference begin with motherhood and fatherhood roles. As women leaders we need to ensure that adequate moral value is attributed to the work traditionally performed by women, such as caring for children, families, the sick and the elderly and the differently-abled. Moreover the same ethical standard of care has to be demanded from men as well.

IWC DAY 1



Ms. Claire Chang,

CEO & Co- Founder, Banyan Tree Group, Singapore

At every stage in life, as long as women don't quit, women learn to marshal resources, leverage technology & all good qualities around us, to create the difference. So, lean in, do not quit and stay at the power centre.



Ibu Dr. Tri Rismaharini,

Mayor of Surabaya, Republic of Indonesia

(Has been nominated as the Best Mayor of the World for 2014)

More than 970 public libraries and reading centres have been made for children all over Surabaya. We also have global learning centres where children and women can get free internet training. We also prepare children and teenagers to face global economy teaching them 11 different languages at the training centres with the help of our volunteers.



Honorable Ms. Shelly Porges,

Global Entrepreneurship Advocate, USA

The four important qualities of a leader are:

1. Vision
2. Ability to take risk
3. Leaders adapt
4. Leaders elevate others

I hope to see many women rise to the top of their field by creating a vision, taking risks, adapting and elevating others.

IWC DAY 1

YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT: WHY CONCERN & CARE FOR THE PLANET MATTER



Ibu Helianti Helman,

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Javara, Republic of Indonesia

I think a lot of people still believe that food is a part of our physical existence, but we have forgotten our roots and the fact that bio-diversity of food and spiritualism have always been interconnected. It is sad to know that we believe that man can make better seeds than what god has given us.



Mr. D.K. Hari,

Conceptualiser and Founder of Bharat Gyan, India

The Butterfly has been given names associated with 'beauty' or 'kite' in all parts of the world since times immemorial. It has been considered a symbol of immortality, rebirth, and has been used as a means to monitor environmental protection as a "Butterfly Barometer".



Ms. Hema Hari,

Conceptualiser and Founder of Bharat Gyan, India

We need to keep changing continuously with the environment and look at this change as a celebration rather than as a revolution. 'The Butterfly Effect' is a celebration of change! We should learn from the butterfly, which starts as a caterpillar, and willingly accepts the metamorphosis process and undergoes the transformation to become the butterfly in itself, to please nature.

IWC DAY 1



Mrs. Savita Mahajan,

Deputy Dean, Indian School of Business (ISB), India

We need a very small and critical mass of people to think in a particular fashion for a change you note, to be very impactful just like a butterfly effect; from individual consciousness and then collective consciousness. You don't need everybody in the world to change, for the change to happen.



Mrs. Kavita Khanna

Barrister, Economist (LSE), Public Health, Animal rights

Director IAHV & World Forum For Ethics in Business, India

Time has come when we cannot treat any form of life as being lifeless and we most certainly do not have the right to subject animals to torture and pain for their entire life and then slaughter them in ways that are probably worse than anything that happened in any concentration camp.



Mrs. Kamal Khimji

Entrepreneur & International Faculty - The Art of Living Foundation

Global temperature is rising by four degrees every year and the water table is rising by six feet annually, that's what the research shows. It's high time we stop talking about global warming and act to reduce it. We need to make growing attempts each year to reverse the process of global warming.

DAY 2: SPEAKERS

WOMEN FOR PEACE - THE BASIS OF ALL THAT MATTERS



Ms. Alissa Wahid,

Family psychologist and Humanitarian, Republic of Indonesia

The world is more diverse and even more connected than before. Our cultures are dynamic and prone to conflict. The world needs more feminine values like, openness, integrity, honesty, synergy, relationship building equality, sustainability and adaption, in their leaders of today.



Ms. Iman Mutlaq,

Entrepreneur, CEO of Sigma Investments & Director of Ingot Brokers, Iraq

Peace comes from within. If you feel peace within you, you will find it and spread it wherever you go. When you give your 'time' to educate a women or to spread peace somewhere, you cannot get the 'time' back again and it is this 'time' that you give it from your heart.



Ms. Tania Amir,

Advocate of the Supreme Court, Bangladesh

We can only be sovereignties when we respect the dignity of other sovereigins. We teach each other as sovereignties that enlightenment can only come through the enlightened practices.



Ibu Veronica Colodam,

Founder/CEO at YCAB Foundation, Republic of Indonesia

Question yourself, about what did you do with the capacity god has given you? Until you make the best out of what god has given you, you will not fulfil the purpose of life. You have it all. Don't look at the problems on the way. Look through them and see what you can do to overcome it.

DAY - 2

SOCIAL MEDIA - WHERE YOUR VOICE MATTERS

**Ms. Koel Purie,
Actor & Anchor, India**

Women are using the media effectively already! There are huge communities online to support women who are not ready to speak out openly about issues that bother them. Social media is exceptionally good at disrupting a movement but it does not help us with what next. That is what we should act on.



**Mr. Alok Kejriwal,
CEO & Co-Founder, Games2win, India**

We all have a butterfly in us. It's nowhere else; it's in your heart. Let that butterfly go free.

Just start flapping your wings and other butterflies will join you. That's the Butterfly Effect.



**Ms. Desi Anwar,
Senior Anchor & TV Journalist, Republic of Indonesia**

Social media is the catalyst that enables a shift in consciousness by allowing everybody on this planet potentially to be able to have a say in everything. It is not only incredibly empowering but it is a showcase of how all of us here on this planet are contributing, changing and influencing the world. Educating ourselves and our children on the use of social media should be a part of the education curriculum!



BEES & BUTTERFLY DANCE





VISHALAKSHI AWARDS

The Vishalakshi Awards are instituted in the memory of the mother of H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. It is a tribute to the exemplary contribution of women across different spheres. The Vishalakshi Awards have been presented from the first International Women's Conference in 2005 and so far 84 Awards have been presented.

The Award is an honor given not only to a person but also the principles that the awardee embodies. The principle of human values - love, compassion, selfless service, a sense of duty and belongingness - that extends beyond the layers of caste, creed and religion.



Raakhee R Punjabi

- for wonderful support towards Upliftment of Women

Iman Mutlaq

- for dedication to Service and Excellence in the field of Business and Entrepreneurship



Sarika Chaudhary

- for connecting people and spreading the message of Love and Friendship



Shanta M Bahirwani

- for her commitment to serve and spreading the Light of Knowledge



#INSPIRESME CAMPAIGN



Winners of the Contest

Damini Thaker & Dr. Sharika Menon

As a tribute to women from all walks of life, a twitter campaign was launched by our chairperson Mrs. Bhanumathi Narsimhan on 8th March 2015, the International Woman's Day. The #INSPIRESME contest involved inviting people to acknowledge women who have inspired them in any way in their life by tweeting with the hashtag. The contest recieved an overwhelming response of more than 22,000 tweets in just 72 hours! Out of all the people who tweeted these tweets of support, gratitude and acknowledgement for the wonderful women in their lives, we selected two winners with the best tweets and gifted them a free trip to Bali to attend the 7th International Women's Conference!







BREAKOUT SESSION

6 X 6 WOMEN IN ACTION



Febriarti Khairunnisa :

“I wanted to live a life responsible towards nature and environment. The garbage bank helps solve waste problems in the communities and reduces sickness. It also empowers women by providing a livelihood and income that is generated by collecting, processing and selling inorganic waste”.



Lian Gogali :

“The concept of Women’s School is to bring deep empathy and change in the way different religious groups think and see each other based on their daily life stories, their version of post conflict trauma, and how they understand their position in society”.



Hotlin Ompusunggu :

“We provide health services and treatment in exchange of environmental care and protection of the forest and you can pay with seedlings, or with woven mats or baskets, or even with bags of manure”.



Titik Hartini :

“We believe that if we empower women in the economy, we also empower their families and the community as most of the women’s income is focused for the family, for the children, for the education, for health, not for the women itself”.



Siti Naureni (Emmy) :

“We don’t have proper internet access around in that area so we prefer to give some books to let kids know that your world is very large and you can find your dreams there. We want them to read books so we create home libraries”.



Ima Puspita Sari :

“We encourage young people in small communities to build their social media accounts to actually use that as a medium for them to speak out their views and feelings and connect with youth communities in Indonesia and abroad so they can share and learn from them”.







CONFERENCE OUTCOMES



EDUCATION

ON GOING SUPPORT FOR THE GIRL CHILD EDUCATION



The International Women's Conference has been supporting Girl Child Education ever since its inception in 2005. The number of students and the number of schools have been on a constant rise with the support of the seven International Women's Conferences held in the last 10 years. A special school for over 100 girls was started in Rajasthan in an area where girls are deprived of basic amenities and education, very recently. Around 4500 girls have received senior level education in 20 states out of which, 2 girls are now doctors, while others are pursuing higher education to become doctors, architects, lawyers, engineers, and many want to take the path of spirituality and become agents for social change.

GIFT A SMILE - LAKSHMI C. A.



As a project initiative of International Women's conference 2009, it was decided to support Ms. Lakshmi C. A. to pursue her dream to become an Ayurvedic doctor. Her personal economical status did not allow to study more than she already had. Our efforts to encourage and support Ms. Lakshmi C. A. have now frutified and she proudly graduated as a Doctor from Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and research in 2015.



CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

ENVIRONMENT

TREE PLANTATION

The 7th International Women's Conference in Bali began with a tribute to Mother Nature. Our Chairperson, Mrs Bhanumathi Narsimhan, the deputy Governor of Indonesia & the H'ble Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Welfare, Indonesia, Ibu Yohana Yembise, planted 500 trees, in support of the "Go Green" initiative of the Government of Bali. This initiative had support echoed by the entire IWC team, guest and dignitaries at the conference. Going with the theme of the conference, "The Butterfly Effect", this act of support for the environment was indeed a wonderful start to greater beginnings.





BEE CAMPAIGN

The 7th International Women's Conference highlighted the danger of extinction faced by the honeybee which has sustained food agriculture for over 4500 years. Experts talked about the extensive use harmful pesticides for agriculture and the resultant danger to the pollinators in the current times, in the conference. Discussions on environmental issues, Save the Bee signature campaign, and discussions on initiatives taken up by the Art of Living to Save the Bee in various parts of the world, provided a platform to form strategies that could help protect the bees from extinction. Educating people about endangered pollinators, harmful pesticides, various methods of bee keeping and honey production were concluded as imperative ways to save the bee.

BEE CAMPAIGN











COUNTRIES ATTENDED



| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Australia | Oman |
| Bahrain | Poland |
| Bangladesh | Russia |
| Brazil | Singapore |
| Cambodia | Slovenia |
| Egypt | South Africa |
| Fiji | Spain |
| Hong Kong | Sri Lanka |
| India | Tajikistan |
| Indonesia | Turkmenistan |
| Italy | USA |
| Japan | |
| Jordan | |
| Kazakhstan | |
| Kyrgystan | |
| Malaysia | |
| Mauritius | |
| Nepal | |
| Norway | |
| Argentina | |

10 YEARS OF THE IWC



10 Years
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**STRENGTH
INSPIRATION
LEADERSHIP**

**CELEBRATING
DIVERSE
CULTURES**

**HARMONY
DYNAMISM
JOY**

HIGHLIGHTS
 Supporting 100+ Educational Programs in the World East Focus on Rural Program
 Pledge to create the Economic Power Parity between Programs for Women

www.iwc.arts4living.org

10 Years
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

EDUCATION
 Since the 1st International Women's Conference we have Educated 4500 girls

450 Schools
20 States in India
39,581 Students

"Started in 2014 Exclusive girls school in the State of Rajasthan with 100 girls"

1 Vision
10 Years **7** Conferences
350 Eminent Speakers **6500** Delegates
100 Countries **Innumerable** Dedicated Volunteers

www.iwc.arts4living.org





CONFERENCE ANGELS



Ace Atrianingsih

Aman Gohal

Anamika Khosla

Anusha Bhagnani

Atika Dhandia

Bharathy Harish

Chandra Mahbubani

Chinky Sen

Darshana Mathur

Dewi A Suryaningtyas

Diksha lalchandani

Divya Kanchibhotla

Dreema Pathakji

Drishti Trivedi

Durvesh Shinde

Filiz Odabas-Geldiy

Harshal Jhadhav

Haseena Bharata

Ina Amannia

Innayat Khubchandani

Jaina Desai

Jenny Rachman

Kamal Khimji

Kamlesh Barwal

Kavita Khanna

Kavita Thulasidas

Khyati Khatri

Lala Tedja

Lavina Pandey

Madhushree Tejasvi

Mallika Krishna

Mallika Thakkar

Mamta Kailkhura

Mansi Dharmraj

Mawahib Shaibani

Mimi Sie

Mona Shah Joshi

Nazneen Khubchandani

Neelam Madaik

Neha Mrig

Nikita Bharata

Nirali Desai

Omegawati

Onnie Djatmiko

Pankaj Vij

Prajakti Deshmukh

Priya Jadhao

Raakhee Punjabi

Rajita Kulkarni

Ram Manwani

Rama Venkatesh

Ramanujam

Rekha Patel

Resha Patel

Rishi Pridhnani

Ritu Maheshwari

Roshan Ingole

Sameer Mehta

Shanta Bahirwani

Shanti Tolani

Sita Manwani

Snehal Dighe

Sonia Lakhiani

Sriram Chandrasekaran

Srividya Varchaswi

Sunita Lakhiani

Surya Tej Borra

Vasanti Iyer

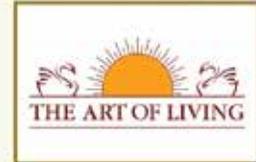
Vinita Patil

Vineet Sharma

Yazmeen Lakhiani



CONFERENCE PARTNERS





2005



2007



2009



2010



2012



2014



2015

We look forward to seeing you at our next conference...

Life a Mystical Journey



 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

February 2017



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