Women’s Political Empowerment Day Celebrations

25-26 April 2011

Venue:
Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

Theme:
Panchayats, Women and Safe Drinking Water
Since its inception in 1985, the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, has been working for strengthening Panchayati Raj in the country. When the 73rd Constitutional Amendment with the provision of not less than one-third seats reserved for women became Part IX of the Constitution on 24th April 1993, the Institute took the initiative to celebrate this historic day as “Women’s Political Empowerment Day” at the national level every year. The goal of the Women Political Empowerment Day is to bring about the awareness, advancement, and development of women. The Institute has also initiated an annual award for the Outstanding Women Panchayat Leaders since 1999. The award is being presented on Women’s Political Empowerment Day 24 April every year.

From 1994 onwards, the Institute has been bringing together more than 600 elected women panchayat representatives on 24 April to Delhi from all over the country to celebrate women’s political empowerment day. Each year these celebrations focus on a specific theme. This year’s theme is: Panchayats, Women and Safe Drinking water and the celebrations will be held on 25th and 26th April 2011 at Viswa Yuvak Kendra, Circular Road, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Last year’s Women’s Political Empowerment Day was celebrated on 24th and 25th April 2010. The Chief Guest of the celebrations was the Honourable Smt. Gursharan Kaur, social activist and the wife of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. More than 750 women elected representatives from across the country participated in this programme.
25 April 2011

10.00 am: **Inaugural Session**

*Chief guest*
Agatha Sangma
*Hon'ble Minister of State for* 
*Rural Development, Government of India*

**Guests of Honour**
1. Patrice Coeur-Bizot  
   *UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative*
2. Aslak Brun  
   *Minister Councillor/BCM*  
   *Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi*
3. Anne Stenhammer  
   *Regional Programme Director, UNWOMEN*

**Greetings**
1. Lourdes Baptista, *Chief Executive, Water Aid India*
2. Ash Narain Roy, *Director, ISS*

“*Outstanding women panchayat leaders awards 1999-2010:*” AV Film

**Honouring Outstanding Women Panchayat Leaders 2011**

12.00 pm: **Plenary Session 1**

*Water Management Challenges and Capacities of Panchayat women to manage safe drinking water*  
*Chair:* Rita Sarin, *Vice President and Country Director, The Hunger Project, India*

02.30 pm **Special Address by**
Wu Quing, *Professor, Rural Women’s Training School, Beijing, China*

03.30 pm **Film - Aorahan, followed by discussion**
*Anchor:* Abhilasha Kumari, 
*Research Consultant*

04.30 pm **Address by**
Caitlin Wiesen, 
*Country Director, UNDP India*

05.30 pm **Cultural Evening**
*Presentation by* 
Gavaniar (Rajasthan)
26 April 2011

10.00 am  **Open Session**
Safe drinking water scheme in the villages – Innovations and Success Stories
**Speakers:**
1. Asha Devi, Zilla Panchayat Member Fagi, Rajasthan
2. Salahuddin Saiphy, Sehgal Foundation, Mewat, Haryana
3. Sadhna Gupta, ABSSS, Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh
4. Rakhi Suryaparakash, The Sunshine Millennium, Tamil Nadu

11.45 am  **Plenary Session**
Health impacts of poor water quality and its impact on women
**Chair:** Indira Khurana, Director, Policy and Partnership, Water Aid, India
**Speaker:** Bir Singh, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

02.30 pm  **Plenary Session**
Open Session - Reflections
Role of Panchayats in Water Quality and water Safety Plan
**Chair:** Sushma Kapoor
**Deputy Regional Programme Director, UNWOMEN, India**

03.30 pm  **Valedictory Session**
**Chair:** Mohini Giri, Guild of Service, New Delhi
**Valedictory Address:**
Syeda Hameed
Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi

For more details contact:

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