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1979

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INCONET

The (IWTC) has received a financial commitment which will enable it to
host a small working group on information and communication networking
bringing together two or three individuals from Africa, Asia, the South
Pacific, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the United States.

During 1979-1980 there are a variety of information/communication activities
scheduled relating to women. The primary emphasis of all planned activities,
both research/report-oriented and workshops/seminars is on women and
the mass media. During the past five years other communication-related
seminars focusing on women have also been held. A brief description
of these past and planned events and reports will be circulated in the
near future. In the majority of instances, these workshops have produced
recommendations for action.

I have no problem with recommendations however the truth remains that
they never leave the printed page, in part because there is no
supportive network to encourage their growth, in part because of time
delays in securing funding. Certainly part of the problem also resides
in the fact that many of these recommendations "call upon" an outside
agency to take action and thus individual or group action in implementation
is non-existent.

As this is the first working group IWTC has hosted, it seems important
that events and preparations leading up to the workshop as well as the
workshop itself, reflect our underlying philosophy and over-all concern.
It would also seem important that we   identify both short-term and
long-range objectives, activities that could be undertaken during the
course of the workshop, preparatory materials and follow-up activities
that we may support. I think we have group consensus that we want an
action-oriented, productive workshop.

The primary concern as the moment is identifying participants and
planning a strategy that will lead us to the workshop we would like
to be involved in...we have lead time so we should take advantage of it.
We should also attempt to assess what we have appreciated in workshops
of the past in order to incorporate ideas/activities into this one.

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PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Participants will be two or three as yet unidentified individuals from Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the United States. Since this is a workshop in which each individual will be expected to contribute skills/information/experience and which follow-up activities can be undertaken, the following characteristics or balance within the group is being sought:

1. Gathers & disseminates information to women concerned with development activities and/or produces information related to development concerns of women.

2. From within the region, one individual should be affiliated with a regional organization and one with a group that works directly (or indirectly through training of trainers) with women in low-income urban areas or in rural areas.

3. Interest in use of media as it relates to field operations. In other words, we are not looking for women in the mass media unless they use their skills in direct relationship to women in rural areas, particularly radio programming with this emphasis, or other "development-oriented" means.

4. Organizational diversity within group as whole.

5. Experience or attempt to explore more innovative uses of media within the development context or to develop materials and activities dealing with sex-stereotyping or attitude changing emphasis.

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

1. Potential over-representation of organizations (what do you do with regional Council of Churches, UN WID centres, etc?)

2. Placement of many Western women in the information gathering-dissemination efforts in regions.

STRATEGY FOR INCONET

1st PHASE   18-30 October 1979

A. Identification of Participants & Questions to be Addressed
   a. List of possible pool of participants by region
   b. Participant profile
   c. Use of regional resource people to assist in identifying key
       individuals
   d. Development of initial set of questions to be posed per list
       of individuals in regions
   e. Development of form letters and effort to establish initial
       contact
   f. Begin list of basic reference or "idea" articles to be distributed
       to participants.
   g. Establish mailing/contact time-table
   h. Develop various indices or sources for information base for
       conference (i.e. questionnaire, results of other questionnaires)

2nd PHASE 1 - 30 November 1979
   a. Letters of invitation to begin accompanied with initial set
       of questions to feed into development of workshop
   b. Bulk order materials identified as particularly useful to be
       sent to participants
   c. Identify possible contributions/responsibilities which could
       be undertaken or shared by individuals
   d. Pull together reports and seminars dealing with women and communications
       and select out sections to be reproduced and disseminated...
   e. Discuss possible outcomes and activities of workshop based on
       response to initial set of materials
   f. Explore feasibility of WID book fair to be held on last day
       of gathering
   g. Explore visual presentation activities possible based on initial
       response to letters of inquiry
   h. Develop second set of questions to be posed in follow-up letter to
       participants