

# Women ON THE MOVE

First, the good news: all over the world women are increasingly assuming leadership positions. Every profession is benefiting from women's talents at the highest levels — somewhere in the world. But hardly everywhere in the world, for reasons all too familiar. In many places educational and professional advancement is simply not a serious option for women. When applying for international scholarships, women from developing countries too often face the prejudiced view that, for them, such scholarships would be a “waste.” Others are confronted with strong opposition from family or employers, or hurdles in the application and selection process.

To identify and encourage specific strategies to increase women's participation in international training programs, the Ford Foundation supported an IIE research project. Over three years this effort produced several important publications: a study — the first of its kind — of how women are recruited, selected, and retained by nine major scholarship programs; a comprehensive guide to funding for U.S. study that includes a special index on resources for women; and a “how-to” booklet with tips for women that was made widely available around the world. IIE and Ford co-chaired a working conference where an action agenda was jointly developed by program staff, donor agencies, and alumnae from 11 countries.

IIE has long worked to build women's leadership skills, particularly through its close relationships with universities, government agencies, and NGOs in the U.S. and abroad that are dedicated to women's advancement. The Institute currently administers several programs specifically for female leaders, most recently for Asian women.

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“This is education for liberation. The program gave me the knowledge and skills I need to make changes. I will return with a renewed commitment to serve my community.”

Alumna from the South Africa Career Development Fellowship Program sponsored by USAID and the Ford Foundation



More than 15,000 copies of this booklet, produced by IIE for the Ford Foundation project, were distributed to hundreds of USIS posts, Fulbright Commissions, International Centers for Research on Women, and other educational resource centers. It is also available on IIE's World Wide Web site.

“Many of our new leaders will...be women...[with] more than a little to teach us about values and standards and priorities... Women leaders will reach out to each other in instinctive solidarity as the similarities of approaches worldwide become evident...promoting self-help groups and networks, harnessing their energies to promote ‘bottom up’ rural and urban regeneration.”

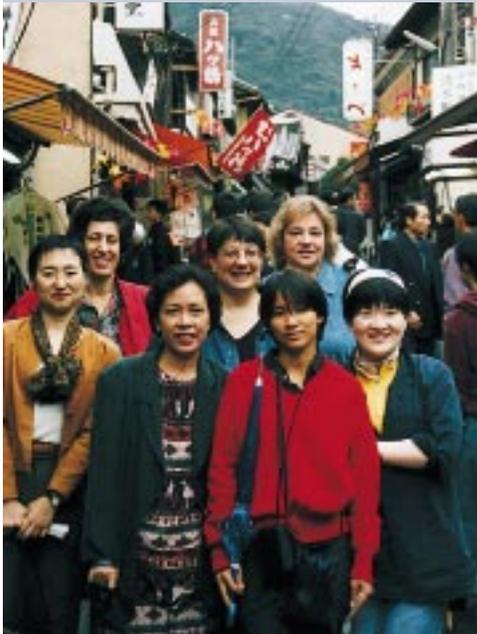
Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, in a speech marking IIE's 75th anniversary

## WOMEN ON THE MOVE

■ The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program (a USIA-sponsored Fulbright activity, administered by IIE) brings mid-career professionals from developing countries, East and Central Europe, and the NIS to the U.S. for a year of intensive study and professional development. Now almost 20 years old, this program has trained more than 2,200 leaders from 139 countries, with the current class comprising almost 40% women. Fellows work in many fields and are committed to public service and equal opportunity. Pictured (l to r) are Lakeita Henriques from Jamaica, Karen Sorby from Fiji, and Loice Sibanda from Zimbabwe.



Christina Thomson



Shawn Martin, top and right

NGO DEVELOPMENT

## ASIA PACIFIC WINGS

Throughout the Pacific Rim, women NGO leaders are working on many issues that cross national borders. Among the most urgent are international migration and AIDS education/prevention. To support this important work, IIE and the Japan Center for International Exchange developed Asia Pacific WINGS (Women in the NonGovernmental Sector). This special NGO management training program pairs U.S. and Asian NGOs to foster dialogue and professional development among women leaders working in common areas. WINGS is supported by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, The Freeman Foundation, and Levi Strauss, KK.



**Left top:** IIE Vice President Peggy Blumenthal in Kyoto with program participants from Thailand, Japan, the United States, and the Philippines.

**Left:** American Diane Cottman with two of her Japanese counterparts, Yoshiko Kuze (l) and Keiko Tanahara (r).



Ken Levinson

ENVIRONMENT

### CHINESE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Environment and the community was the focus for the 1996 Elisabeth Luce Moore Leadership Program for Chinese Women. The Henry Luce Foundation supports month-long study tours for NGO women leaders from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to exchange ideas and strategies with their counterparts across the United States. Pictured are program participants with Henry Luce III.

### U.S. STUDENT FULBRIGHT FELLOW

## Mary Packard-Winkler

Anthropologist Mary Packard-Winkler, a U.S. graduate student at American University, studies how married people in Thailand cope with the threat of AIDS. Explosive rates of HIV infection in Thailand put wives and children at particular risk because of the prevalence of multiple partners among some Thai men. Interviewing Thais on these topics is sensitive and complicated, but being a foreigner who is married with small children eases Ms. Packard-Winkler's entrée into women's lives. To explore these personal issues, she spends many hours with Thai families, building trust and developing friendships. In addition to her formal research, Ms. Packard-Winkler volunteers at an HIV/AIDS education organization in Bangkok, and when she finishes her degree she intends to work in AIDS prevention.



Ira Wexler

ENGINEERING



Traditionally, the engineering field is dominated by men. But there are signs of change: this year nearly half of the applicants to the Global Engineering Education Exchange were women. This innovative program, supported by the National Science Foundation, the AT&T Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education, provides study opportunities for promising engineering students around the world, placing them at nearly 50 institutions in the United States, Europe, East Asia, and Latin America.