

Greetings from the IAWJ! Since we saw some of you in Panama at the IAWJ's 9th Biennial International Conference, we have heard wonderful comments from many of you. Members who were able to participate continue to let us know how much they enjoyed the program, the opportunity to be with other IAWJ members, and the venue as well. We are delighted that the conference was a success. We now have the full program and many of the presentations up on the IAWJ website (www.iawj.org) for all of you to be able to read and learn from your colleagues. Very shortly the new edition of the IAWJ newsletter, CounterBalance International, will be available on the website as well, and hard copies will be sent out too to those who still wish to receive the hard copy. The lovely color photos online give you a sense of the energy and vitality of our days in Panama.

This week the IAWJ received information about an opportunity to attend a quickly approaching conference in Nantes, France. Although the IAWJ will not officially be attending this conference and has no affiliation, we wanted to extend this information and opportunity to our members in Europe in case you might be interested in participating. We do not have experience with this Forum, but know that it has received support from several UN agencies and other official organizations.

The Nantes Forum will hold the **3rd World Forum on Human Rights**, from Monday, June 30 to Thursday July 3rd, 2008, upon the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At a previous conference in 2006, 1200 delegates from 70 different countries attended.

The Forum will focus on transforming universal principles into local actions by providing a meeting space for open dialogue on issues related to human rights implementation and protection. It features plenary sessions, round tables, conferences, cultural events, and exhibitions. The first day's topic is Human Rights-Between Globalisation and International Solidarity and a possible topic for roundtable discussion includes "women's rights worldwide, evolutions and regressions". The second day's topic is Which Europe for Human Rights? Which Human Rights for Europe? The third is Local Governance and Human Rights: Effectiveness Within the Reach of Citizens?

More information and registration can be found at <http://www.spidh.org/>. Registration is free of charge, but mandatory. Discount transportation as well as accommodation opportunities may also be found at this address. If, by chance, you decide to participate, please let us know and let us hear about this forum.

All of us send our best wishes to you. We hope that you will find time to relax and enjoy some of the summer days ahead.

Warm regards,

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