

# **International Conference on Empowering Women in Developing Countries through Information and Communication Technologies**

## **Venue**

**JAYPEE UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (JUIT),  
WAKNAGHAT, DISTRICT – SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA**

**1-3 June 2013**

## **ORGANISED BY**



**Centre for Science & Technology of the  
Non-Aligned and Other Developing  
Countries (NAM S&T Centre),  
New Delhi, India**



**JUIT Centre for Women Studies  
(Dept. of HSS), Jaypee University  
of Information Technology (JUIT),  
Waknaghat (HP). India**

## **In collaboration with**



**READ-India**



**Initiatives: Women in Development**

## Introduction

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has dramatically changed the world. It is a powerful driver that has enhanced the living conditions and opportunities for the nations around the globe. The ICT sector has become a key economic factor for the developed as well as the developing countries alike and has opened the channels for new ways of working, interacting and learning for both men and women, but it has been observed that the involvement of women in ICT sector is highly inadequate, particularly in the developing nations. The Report of the UN Division for Advancement of Women on 'Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women through ICT, Women 2000 and Beyond' highlights that while there is recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, a 'gender divide' has also been identified, effected in the lower numbers of women accessing and using ICT compared with men. Unless this gender divide is specifically addressed, there is a risk that ICT may exacerbate existing inequalities between women and men and create new forms of inequality. The existing persistent gender discrimination in labour markets, education and training opportunities, and allocation of financial resources for entrepreneurship and business development, negatively impact women's potential to fully utilise ICT for economic, social and political empowerment. If the gender dimensions of ICT in terms of access and use, capacity building opportunities, employment and potential for empowerment are explicitly identified and addressed, these can be a powerful catalyst for economic, political and social empowerment of women, and the promotion of gender equality.

In order to gain insight and deliberate on the above issues, the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and the JUIT Centre for Women Studies, Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Wagnaghat-Solan, India jointly announce the organisation (in collaboration with READ-India & IWID) of a 3-days **International Conference on "Empowering Women in Developing Countries through Information & Communication Technologies"** during 1-3 June 2013 at JUIT-Wagnaghat, District Solan (HP), India with a focus on discussing the status of women's participation in ICT and policies in NAM and other developing countries and to provide an opportunity to the specialists, experts and representatives of various countries to discuss their country specific problems and exchange ideas and expertise on the subject. It is expected that the Conference would come out with concrete suggestions and recommendations which would be shared with policy makers for accelerating the process of empowering women through ICT in the developing countries.

## Objectives of the Conference

- 1) To understand critical gender equality issues related to ICT in developing countries.
- 2) To discuss the importance of ICT in empowering women in developing countries and to explore potential opportunities for women's economic, social, health and political empowerment.
- 3) To understand reasons for under- representation of women in ICT sector in the context of social and institutional barriers.
- 4) To emphasize on the roles and responsibilities of corporate and academic institutions to encourage women participation in ICT related disciplines.
- 5) To overview government policies on ICT integration in women's education and employment
- 6) To highlight role of NGOs in addressing issues related to women empowerment through ICT with special focus on rural women.
- 7) To focus on research, strategies and tools to address the gender digital divide in national and international contexts.
- 8) To share and analyse best practices on gender equality and ICT.

## **Venue**

The Conference will be organised at Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Wanknaghat-Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India.

## **Participants**

This Conference has been primarily designed for policy makers, government officials, representatives of Women Studies Groups, academicians, corporate world, ICT advocates and practitioners, UN organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) dealing with women and ICT in developing countries.

## **Resource Persons**

Resource persons for the Conference will comprise eminent experts from India and other countries.

## **About the Organizers**

### **NAM S&T Centre**

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)) is an inter-governmental organization with a membership of 46 countries spread over Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set up in 1989 in New Delhi, India in pursuance of recommendations of various NAM Summit meetings for the promotion of South-South and North-South cooperation in science and technology. The Centre undertakes a variety of programmes, including organization of workshops, symposiums, meetings and training courses and implementation of collaborative projects and offers short-term research fellowships to the scientists from the developing countries in association with various Centres of Excellence. The Centre also brings out technical books and other scientific publications in different subjects. These activities provide opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interaction; familiarizing participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas; identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance; locating technologies for transfer between the members and other developing countries, dissemination of S&T information etc. The Centre also encourages academic-research-industry interaction in the developing countries through its NAM S&T-Industry Network.

### **Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT)**

JUIT was set up by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, India in 2002. It has a vision to become a Centre of Excellence in the field of IT & Related emerging areas of education, training and research comparable to the best in the world for producing professionals who shall be the leaders in innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and management. The University is spread over 25 acres of lush green picturesque slopes of Wanknaghat, in District Solan of Himachal Pradesh, creating a tranquil environment that can heighten the spirit and energy level of all learners and inspire them to optimise their learning efforts. JUIT Centre for Women's Studies was established at JUIT Wanknaghat in 2010 and is working towards women empowerment with focus on research, field studies and community development.

## **About the collaborators**

**Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID)** is an initiative of a group of women activists across India. As an advocacy; lobbying and resource organization, IWID is focused on commitment towards the empowerment of marginalized women both within NGOs and in the context of larger society. This is accomplished through capacity building of NGOs, gender-sensitive policy advocacy at national and international platforms, creation of space and opportunities within NGOs for empowerment of women. IWID in special consultative status with UN ECOSOC serves as a strong advocacy and lobby center at the UN level and acts as a link between grass root level and policy making bodies.

**Rural Education and Development (READ) India** is a registered non-profit Organization working in India since 2007. READ India is an affiliate to READ Global having its headquarters in San Francisco, USA. READ believes empowering rural communities is critical to alleviating poverty. Their proven and replicable model focuses on Community Library and Resource Centers (READ Centers) as a vehicle for social and economic transformation. Apart from setting up libraries, READ Centres focus on ICT, women empowerment, multimedia & communication and capacity building for women and children in health, education, adult literacy, computer proficiency and livelihood skills. READ Global started its interventions in 1991 in Nepal. Having 51 Centers in Nepal, READ Global, with the support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, replicated the model in India in 2007, having 8 Centers in India and 5 in Bhutan, reaching 1.93 million rural communities and serving 166 villages through its intensive programmes.

### **Submission of Application**

Scientists and professionals desirous of participating in the Conference, **excepting those from India**, should submit their Nomination Forms (**enclosed**) directly to the NAM S&T Centre as early as possible, but latest by Monday, **29<sup>th</sup> April 2013**.

The applications from India however should be submitted only to the local organisers in JUIT (Contact Person for Applications from India: Prof. Nirupama Prakash - Contact details towards end of this brochure).

The Form should be completed in all respects, typewritten or in clear handwriting in capital letters, and no column should be left blank. The following documents must be submitted along with the Nomination Form:

- i) An extended (about 2 pages) abstract (**in MS Word format**) of the paper that would be presented at the Conference,
- ii) A short (maximum two pages) CV (**in MS Word format**),
- iii) Copy of the relevant pages of the passport (not applicable for Indian applicants).

**The documents at (i) and (ii) above in .pdf or image formats will NOT be accepted.**

### **Selection Criteria**

The selection of the participants will be strictly based on merit and the quality of the extended abstract submitted with the completed Nomination Form.

A pre-condition for participation in the Conference is that each participant will present a country status report and / or a research / scientific paper on any of the themes appropriate to the Conference. After the Conference these papers will be compiled and an edited publication that may also contain some articles contributed by eminent experts in the field will be brought out by the NAM S&T Centre. Therefore all participants are required to submit the manuscripts (**in MS Word**) of their full country reports or scientific / research papers well in advance, but at least 15 days before the commencement of the Conference (i.e. **before 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013**).

### **Local Hospitality and Travel**

**For Foreign Participants:** The foreign participants will be received at the Delhi International airport by the NAM S&T Centre and transported to Solan, Himachal Pradesh (venue of the Conference) by road (306 km, ~6 hrs. journey) and back. The hosts **JUIT-Waknaghat** will provide free local hospitality, including accommodation and meals to all the foreign participants during the Conference period (May 31 to June 3 at JUIT Solan; and May 30<sup>th</sup> / June 4<sup>th</sup> at Delhi). The foreign participants will have to make their own arrangement of stay beyond these days and therefore they should arrange their flight schedules accordingly.

**For Indian Participants:** A Registration Fee of Rs.2500/- per head will be charged from the Indian participants. This includes Conference Kit, lunch, snacks and Conference Dinner. Indian Participants will have to make their own board/lodge and transport arrangements. The organisers

will be happy to help the Indian participants in locating an appropriate accommodation on single- or twin-share basis. Demand Draft should be in favor of 'JAYPEE UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY' payable at Shimla (H.P.) Due date for receipt of registration fee is Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.

### **Financial Arrangements for Travel**

This is being conveyed separately to each member country of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries.

### **Entry Formalities, Immigration and Health**

Participants at the Conference must be in possession of a current passport or any other internationally recognised travel document. These must have a period of validity of at least six months beyond the time of stay allowed in India and must be endorsed for travelling to India.

Participants should have a valid visa for entry into India. The Indian diplomatic mission located in the country of participants should be approached for obtaining an entry visa. If required, the organisers will facilitate the issuance of visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

### **Note**

- The governments / institutions of all the participants will be required to bear the following costs:
  - All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passports, required medical examinations, vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to the airport of departure in the home country.
  - Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the period of the Conference.
  - Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of participation in the Conference.
- The organisers will not assume responsibility for the following expenditure in connection with the participant's attendance in the training:
  - Expenses incurred with respect to any insurance, medical bills or hospitalisation fees.
  - Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.
  - Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.
  - Other costs, including airport tax and excess baggage.

## **Contact Persons**

### **NAM S&T CENTRE**

**Prof. Dr. Arun P. Kulshreshtha,**

Director and Executive Head,

NAM S&T Centre,

Zone-6A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003, **INDIA**

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**Website:** [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)

**Mr. M. Bandyopadhyay,**

Senior Expert & Administrative Officer,

NAM S&T Centre,

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### **JAYPEE UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (JUIT), WAKNAGHAT-SOLAN, INDIA**

**Professor Nirupama Prakash, Ph.D**

Head, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences,

Coordinator, JUIT Centre for Women Studies,

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Waknaghat P.O.,

District Solan 173 234 (Himachal Pradesh), **INDIA**

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**E-mail:** [nirupama.prakash@gmail.com](mailto:nirupama.prakash@gmail.com), [nirupama.prakash@juit.ac.in](mailto:nirupama.prakash@juit.ac.in)

## **ORGANISERS**

**Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Wahnaghat,  
Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India**

### **Chief Patron:**

- **Shri Jai Prakash Gaur**, Founder, Jaypee Group

### **Patron:**

- **Shri Manoj Gaur**, Chairman, Jaypee Group

### **Advisory Committee:**

- **Dr. Y. Medury**, COO, Jaypee Education System
- **Prof. Ravi Prakash**, Vice Chancellor, JUIT
- **Brig. Balbir Singh**, Director & Registrar, JUIT
- **Prof. T.S. Lamba**, Dean A&R, JUIT

### **Convenor of the Conference**

**Professor Nirupama Prakash**, Head, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences and Coordinator, JUIT Centre for Women Studies

### **Collaborators:**

#### **Rural Education & Development (READ-India)**

**Ms. Geeta Malhotra**, Country Director

Website: <http://www.readglobal.org/about-us/people/read-india>

Ph: **0124-4365428** Email: [geeta.malhotra16@gmail.com](mailto:geeta.malhotra16@gmail.com)

#### **Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID)**

**Dr. Neelavalli**, Executive Director,

Website: [www.iwidindia.org](http://www.iwidindia.org) Ph: 044-24799855 E-mail: [iwid@vsnl.net](mailto:iwid@vsnl.net)

#### **Organizing Committee - JUIT CWS/ Dept. of HSS**

Dr. Anil Sehrawat, Asst.Prof.; Dr. Anupriya Kaur, Asst.Prof.; Dr. Amit Srivastava, Asst.Prof.;

Dr. Tanu Sharma, Sr..Lect.; Ms. Rashmi Sud Chaudhary, Sr. Lect.; Mr. Puneet Sood, Sr.Lect.; Ms.Triambica Gautam, Sr.Lect.; Ms. Neena Jindal, Associate Lect.; Ms. Neha Aggarwal, Associate Lect.; Mr. Daler Singh, Associate Lect.; Res.Scholars: Ms.Sakshi Khanna and Ms. Abhilasha Chauhan

**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE  
NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**International Conference on  
Empowering Women in Developing Countries  
through Information & Communication Technologies**

**JUIT-Waknaghat, Solan, India, 1-3 June, 2013**

**NOMINATION FORM**

*PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK CAPITALS;  
NO COLUMN SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK)*

Affix  
Recent  
Photograph

**SECTION –A**

(To be filled in by the applicant)

- 1 Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms):.....  
(As in Passport)  
**(Please enclose a copy of the relevant pages of your Passport)**
2. Father's/Spouse Name: .....
- 3 Designation (Position held):.....
4. Nationality:.....
- 5 Date of Birth:..... Place of Birth (City) ..... (Country).....
- 6 Passport No: .....Place of issue: .....  
Date of Issue: ..... Valid up to: .....
- 7 Name of the Parent Institution (Employer):  
Full Address (Office):.....  
.....  
Phone: ..... Mobile: .....  
Fax: ..... E-mail: .....  
8 Full Address (Home): .....  
.....  
Phone: ..... Mobile: .....  
Fax: ..... E-mail: .....  
9 Educational Qualifications: Highest Degree: .....  
Year of Award: ..... University:.....  
Field of Study: .....



- 10 Brief Bio data (CV): .....  
[Maximum two pages (**in MSWord Format**) to be attached on separate sheet]
- 11 What in your opinion qualifies you for the participation in this Conference?  
(To be attached on separate sheet)
- 12 Title of your paper proposed to be presented in the Conference  
[An Abstract of the Paper (**in MSWord Format**) – **about 2 pages** - to be attached on separate sheet]

Date: ..... Signature: .....

## **SECTION -B**

### **ENDORSEMENT BY NOMINATING AUTHORITY**

(The Applicant in a member country of the NAM S&T Centre may get the following endorsement signed by the Focal Point of the Centre in his/her country, *if he/she wishes to take advantages accrued to the official nominee of the country*. For the list of member countries and names/addresses of the Focal Points please visit Centre's website [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org))

Signature:.....

Name (in full): .....

Designation:.....

Date:.....

**SEAL**