



International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities

Press Release: June 15, 1997

Finding, Obtaining, Retaining & Creating Jobs to be Forum Focus, June 19

Just as with other marginalized and disadvantaged sectors of society, the situation of disabled women in the labor force is grim---in countries where data is available, it is clear they are employed at far lower rates of participation and pay than other workers. On June 19, emphasis will be placed on new approaches to employment, job training and job creation which offer opportunities for women with disabilities.

Main addresses in the morning will be given by: the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; Pauline Winter, the chief executive officer of Workbridge, a national approach to employment of people with disabilities in

New Zealand; Susan Daniels, the Associate Commissioner for Disability, U.S. Social Security Administration and a spokesperson for disabled women's employment issues; Ruby Gonzales Myers, a disabled entrepreneur from the Philippines; and Evy Messell, a women's labor expert from the International Labor Organization, based in Geneva.

Workshops

Thursday afternoon's six concurrent workshops are: income generating models, featuring projects providing employment on a small business basis; employment legislation or policies on the national level; training and job counseling initiatives; business planning & fundraising projects; approaches to obtain jobs with large employers; and an exploration of how accessible transport can contribute to job success for disabled workers. Speakers are from the following countries:

Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Trinidad & Tobago, El Salvador, Kenya, New Zealand, Nepal, Russia, Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Guatemala, Senegal, Philippines, Malaysia, Finland, Nicaragua and the USA.