



International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities

Press Release: June 15, 1997

Disabled Women & Educational Opportunities to be Forum Focus, June 17

Around the world disabled girls and women are denied entry to schools and opportunities for education and training. Forum sessions on Tuesday, June 17 will examine this situation in-depth and showcase countries and projects where innovative approaches are being applied to increase the numbers of disabled females in literacy programs, schools and universities, and in development assistance programs designed to help disabled children and adults in Third World countries.

Forum participants from 80 countries will hear provocative keynote speeches in the morning from: U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley; Brigitta Andersson,

head of a Swedish assistance group working in Africa and Asia; Marca Bristo, Chair of the U.S. National Council on Disability, responsible for development of domestic & international disability policy; Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education and a pioneer in disabled women's issues internationally; and Yukiko Nakanishi, Director of the prestigious Asia Disability Institute.

Workshops

The six concurrent workshops for Tuesday afternoon will explore: mentoring for disabled girls and peer education programs, development assistance models in various countries, research & disability studies concerning women, innovative strategies for educating disabled girls and women, access to higher education and literacy projects. Presentations will be from: Peru, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Jamaica, Russia, Canada, Namibia, Brazil, Mexico, El Salvador, Barbados, Vietnam, Kenya and the USA.

For further information contact the Forum Secretariat: Third Millennium Events, 71 Brent Road, Rockville, MD 20850; tel 301 838 3031; fax 301 838 3029; e-mail RBBieler@aol.com