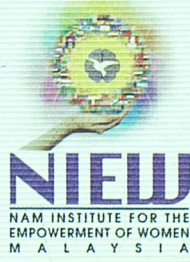


THE NIEW JOURNAL

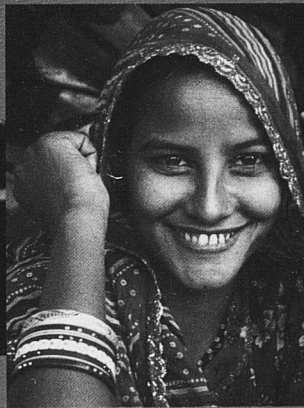
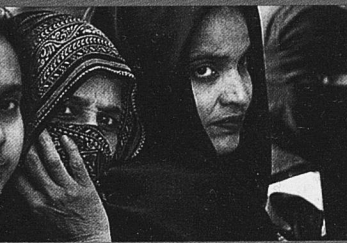
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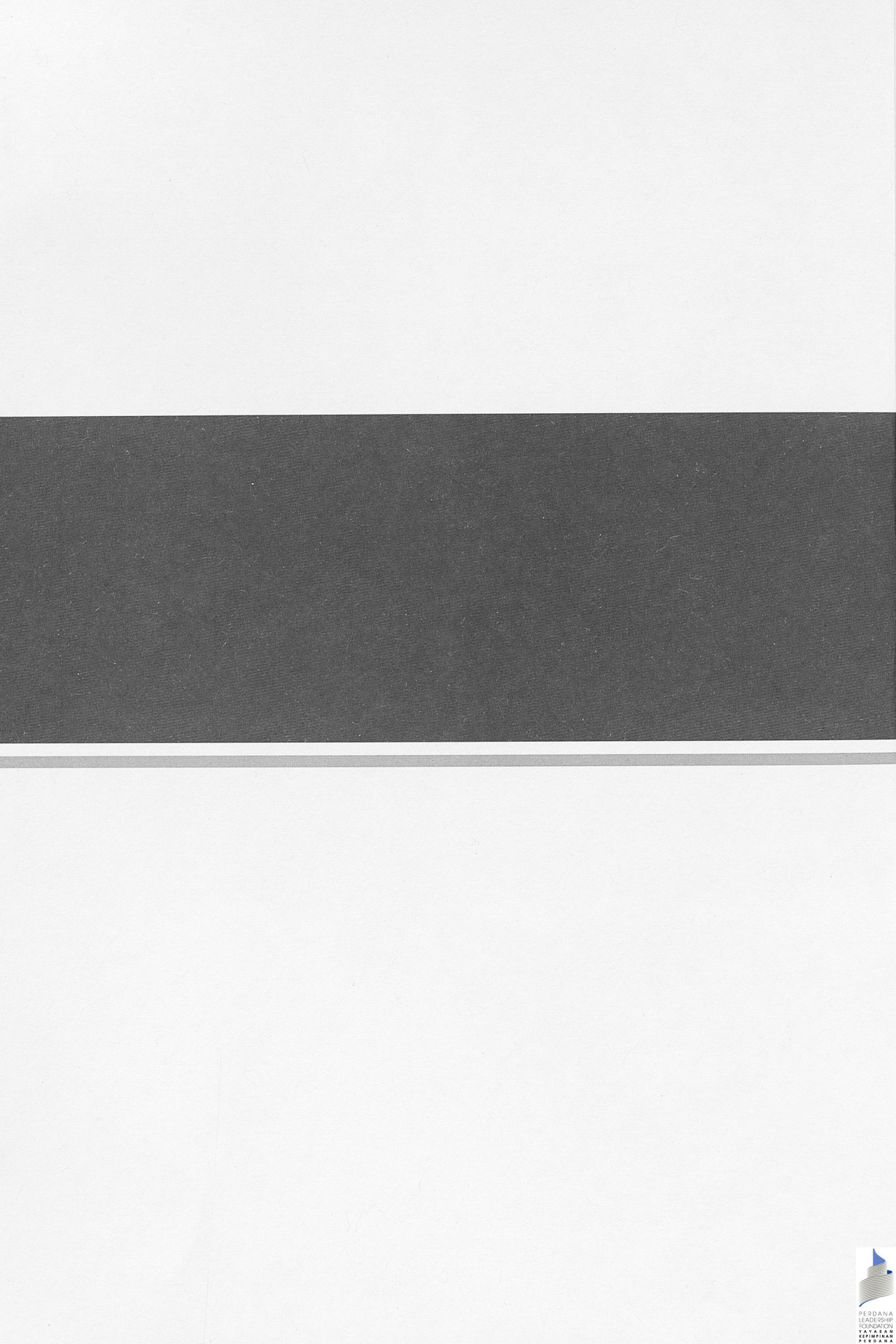
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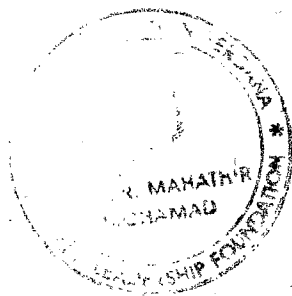





TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

THE NEW JOURNAL

THE VOICE OF THE NAM WOMAN



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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From The Editor

Datuk Rafiah Salim,

Director, NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women

The NIEW journal is an international journal with a broad mix of articles to reflect the culturally diverse nature of issues that influence NAM countries on a daily basis. It is published by our office in Kuala Lumpur. We hope to build upon the journal status as the central forum for debate and exchange of ideas on gender issues.

Both by design and by virtue of the research undertaken by the contributors, the NIEW Journal will provide an insight on contemporary dimensions of women's problems. Anyone interested in generating knowledge for action will find it a provocative and a practical tool. It will also be useful in keeping practitioners in touch with one another as well as for academics to stay in touch with practice.

At its inception, this volume captures the essence of NAM, NIEW and the status of women in NAM countries. Following this inaugural volume, the subsequent ones will thematically address issues underlined in the The 50-point Putrajaya Declaration - poverty, economic development, power and decision making, education, media, ICT, armed conflict, violence against women, disaster situation and gender mainstreaming.

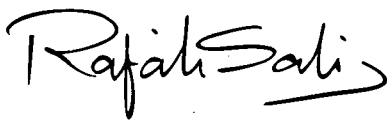
NIEW will also post its activities as well as update members of its seminars, talks, and forums in this journal.

With the same vision of engaging the NAM community, NIEW has recently launched its Online Social Network Platform to enable members to voice their opinions, share knowledge and continuously discuss issues. NIEW will send e-mails to all NIEW members registered on our database. Members will be able to play an interactive role by uploading their research, pictures and videos of events to generate involvement for upcoming NIEW initiatives.

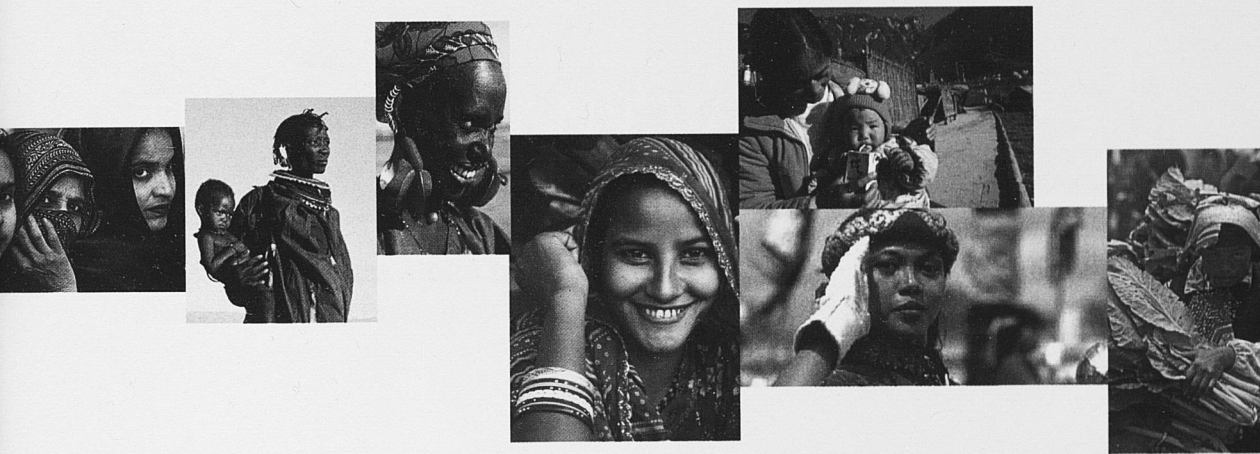
It is my vision and hope that a lot more sharing of information between women of NAM will materialize through this NIEW Journal.

Together we will yet make a difference to womenkind particularly our sisters in the NAM member countries.

Thank You.



Datuk Rafiah Salim





The Birth of NIEW

Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil,

Minister of Women, Family and Community Development

The NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW) marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of NAM and it is the manifestation of a collective decision that the role of women in development deserves more serious consideration.

In 2003, NAM leaders included women's issues as part of the permanent agenda for meetings of the movement. The momentum has been set for more concrete efforts for the promotion and advancement of women. Malaysia took one step further by proposing that an institute for empowering women through training and capacity building be established.

FULFILLING MALAYSIA'S COMMITMENT...MALAYSIA'S LEGACY TO WOMEN OF NAM

The institute is testimony to Malaysia's commitment to NAM and our legacy to women. Through NIEW, the Non Aligned Movement is making a statement to the world that we are relevant and we possess the political will to uplift the status of women of NAM. No longer can women's potential to be partners in the development of their countries be ignored.

The Government of Malaysia has always been proactive in providing a conducive environment for effective participation of women in the social, political and economic growth in Malaysia. In this context, the establishment of NIEW which was proposed at the first NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women hosted by Malaysia in 2005, underscores Malaysia's commitment to the issue of gender and development in NAM Member countries. The institute dedicated to empowering women through training and capacity building was also endorsed by the Heads of State or Government at the XIV NAM Summit in Cuba in 2006.

DIVERSITY IN NAM UNITED BY COMMON DESIRE TO IMPROVE LOT OF WOMEN

NAM member countries are enriched by their multifarious and diverse cultures, peoples, religions and languages. This diversity need not be divisive and inhibit our progress as a Movement but instead can provide the platform for sharing and learning. Malaysia is confident that commonality of interest among NAM member countries will be the driving force to empower our nations to develop and prosper.

NIEW – TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT, BUILDING NAM/NIEW WOMEN FOR THE FUTURE

NIEW is an empowering tool for NAM through its training and capacity building programmes. Whilst we work towards creating an environment that is completely free from violence, poverty and hardship we must also empower women to be ready to face situations which challenge their survival and well being. Equipping women with the right knowledge, tools and skills to make informed decisions is critical. This is the essence of human capital development. Malaysia through NIEW is providing this opportunity to all NAM women.

PRINCIPLE OF COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION - SHARING OF EXPERIENCES ON BEST PRACTICES

Just as NIEW is built on consensus, the principle of collaboration and cooperation shall be the basis of NIEW's work. As members of the Non Aligned Movement, we should share experiences and expertise on women empowerment legislations, regulations, policies and programmes so that we can learn from each other, to replicate success stories, to avoid pitfalls and more importantly we could adapt practical solutions that have worked in other societies.

Malaysia recognizes that some member countries of NAM are more advanced than others in their implementation of gender rights and equality. Some members may have the laws in place but enforcement mechanisms could be sadly lacking or inadequate. Malaysia is of the belief that the gaps between implementation and legislation could be addressed by NIEW, whereby the Institute can provide the forum and the space for us to collaborate, share our different areas of expertise and push the women's agenda of peace, development and equality forward.

SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPERTISE AMONG STAKEHOLDERS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF NAM

As an international institute promoting and acting as a catalyst for women's empowerment and development, NIEW promotes paradigm shifts in mindsets through lifelong learning. The continuous process of learning, relearning and unlearning cannot be the sole responsibility of training institutes or governments but it should be the shared responsibility among all stakeholders, regardless of affinities to any cause. Towards this end, NIEW will work closely with policymakers, scholars, experts, gender studies and research centres, training and academic institutions, civil society organizations and other interest groups. NIEW has also seen exchange of ideas and views from NAM member countries that has contributed towards improving the capacity building efforts and future work of NIEW.

In this context, as the Chair of the Advisory Panel of NIEW, I look forward to working with members of the Panel comprising those appointed from NAM member countries, many of whom are eminent persons known for their work in the women's cause.

CHALLENGE TO FULFILLING VARIED TRAINING NEEDS AND DEMANDS

One of the key challenges of NIEW will be fulfilling the demands and the varied capacity building needs of our stakeholders, namely the women of NAM. We come from multicultural, multi religious and diverse backgrounds, across the continents of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Nevertheless, Malaysia is confident that with continuing involvement, participation and support from all NAM member countries, the Institute will be a success.

NIEW BOOKS AND JOURNALS

NIEW has been conducting a series of talks on Gender Development in NAM countries. It has documented research and gender data including gender profiling which would be published and distributed to all NAM member countries for the purpose of planning, evaluation and monitoring of gender development projects and gender equality achievement.

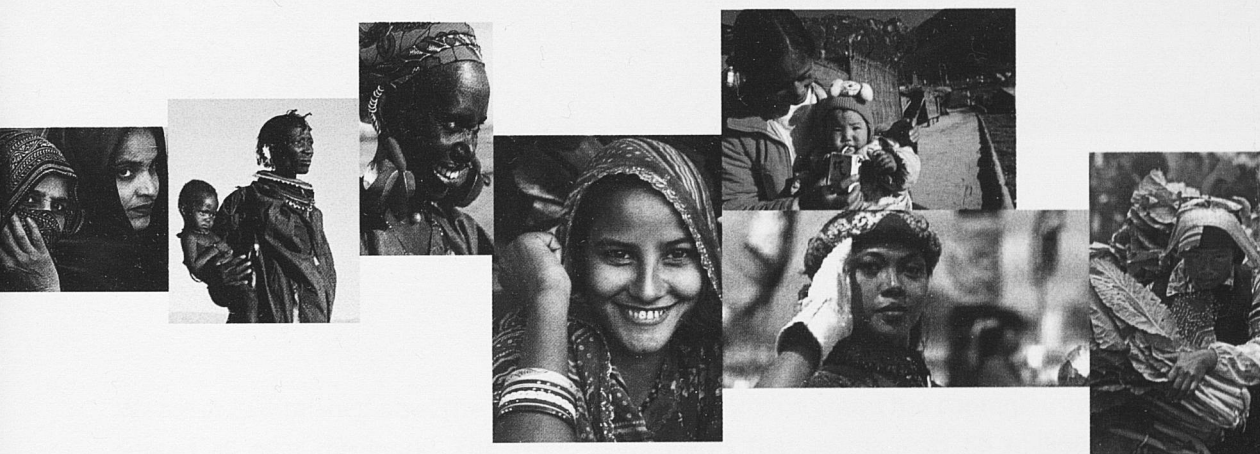
This Journal will resonate with some of the ideas that the women movement has flagged; the challenges that NAM women face and the way forward.

Finally, I do hope that NIEW will become the centre of empowerment for the women of NAM. NIEW's success will be an attestation that NAM can attain international recognition for its empowerment programmes. This will also reinforce the fact that the Non Aligned Movement has achieved its goal of unity, revitalisation and continued relevance in the world.

Thank you.



Senator Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil



Empowering Women: Perspective on Current Challenges Best Practices and Lessons Learned

H.E. Datuk Seri Rosmah Mansor
First Lady of Malaysia and the Chairman of BAKTI

We are at a watershed now. The financial crisis in the United States has contagiously spread all over the world. The World Bank warns that as many as 53 million more people could be trapped in poverty. About 100 million people have been impoverished by the food and energy crisis in 2008. Women being in the frontline will be the first victims to be affected by all sorts of crisis that goes beyond the usual results of war or natural disasters.

To mitigate the negative effects, we should have the political will at every level to establish gender specific solutions, and what better way than through our respective governments.

NAM INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NIEW)

Malaysia has always put emphasis on the crucial role women played in the economic development of the country. In recognition of their crucial roles, the government had also provided financial support and also advocated partnership and collaborative relationships with the NGOs. Eventually, to underscore the government's commitment, a special Ministry for Women – The Ministry of Women,

