

Mdm. Mary Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia)

Date and place of birth: 17 September 1939, Malaysia.

Working languages: English.

Current position/function:

- (a) Since 1993: Director, International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-Asia Pacific), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- (b) Since 1986: Executive Committee Member, National Council of Women's Organisations of Malaysia
- (c) Since 1984: Executive Committee Member, Women's Aid Organisation of Malaysia.

Main professional activities:

- (a) Founder of IWRAP-Asia Pacific, a regional NGO that collaborates with various entities in several Asian and Pacific countries to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the CEDAW Convention.
- (b) Trainer on State obligations under the CEDAW Convention and other matters related thereto for the Governments of Cambodia, Iraq, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia and Thailand as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Pacific Island states.
- (c) Facilitator and coordinator for training programmes on UN human rights system, women's rights and CEDAW Convention at national, regional and international levels.
- (d) Observer at the Meetings of States Parties of CEDAW for the past 12 years, and has consistently provided inputs, inter alia, to the development of general recommendations and negotiations leading to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

Educational background:

- (a) MA in Gender and Development, University of Sussex, United Kingdom, 1991.
- (b) MA in English Literature, University of Madras, India, 1962.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the CEDAW:

- (a) Personal Consultant to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2000-2001, and Consultant to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, August 1999,

- on women-related issues for East Timor and women-related issues in general respectively.
- (b) Adviser/Consultant on various women- and CEDAW-related issues to the Governments of Bangladesh, 1995-1996, and Malaysia (1993-2001).
 - (c) Member of the Delegation of Malaysia to the Inter-Ministerial Preparatory Meeting of the Asia and Pacific Region for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Jakarta, 1993 and at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995, including all the Preparatory Meetings in New York in 1994 and 1995 and the UNGA Special Session (Beijing+5) in 2000.
 - (d) Visiting Lecturer, Law Faculty of the University of Hong Kong, April 2002.
 - (e) Co-opted Member of Task Force on the Status of Women, Federation of Family Planning Associations of Malaysia, 2000-2002.
 - (f) Vice President, Women's Aid Organisation of Malaysia, 1999-2001.

List of most recent publications:

- (a) "Building Capacity for Change: Training Manual on the Application of the Principles of the Convention to Promote Women's Rights", (IWRAP Asia Pacific, 2003).
- (b) "The Status of CEDAW Implementation in ASEAN Region and Selected Muslim Countries", (National Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, 2003).
- (c) "Effective Legal Strategies", (Seminar on Promoting Gender Equality to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children, Bangkok, 2002).
- (d) "The Application of the CEDAW Convention to Trafficking in Women", (ESCAP, Bangkok, 2002).
- (e) "Discrimination Against Women and Its Implication for Women's Capacity for Self-Determination in the Areas of Reproductive and Sexual Health", (UNFPA and Office of HCHR, 2001).