

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES (IAWJ)
AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ARUSHA , TANZANIA



26TH – 29TH AUGUST, 2009

CONFERENCE UPDATE INFORMATION
From the Tanzania Women Judges Association

Introduction:

Tanzania Women Judges' Association (TAWJA), (the organizers of the Conference) is affiliated with The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). TAWJA was formed in 2000. Before then some TAWJA members had been attending IAWJ Conferences as individuals.

The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization of more than 4,000 members at all judicial levels in 90 nations. Formed in 1991, the IAWJ unites women judges from diverse legal-judicial systems who share a commitment to equal justice and the rule of law.

The World wide objectives of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) are:

- Develop judicial leadership and encourage judicial independence.
- Increase the number of women judges at all levels.
- Organize and strengthen women judges' associations.
- Conduct legal research on gender equality and human rights.
- Exchange information on issues of critical concern to women.
- Uproot gender bias from judicial systems and promote women's access to courts.

The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) is divided into the following regions: Africa, North America, Asia, South America & Europe.

The IAWJ meets biennially and regions meet between the biennial meetings.

In such meetings the members share experiences and best practices in such areas as violence against women, international child abduction, and gender bias in the courts. The Association also conducts judicial education programmes for both male and female judicial officers aimed at advancing human rights and eliminating discrimination on the basis of gender and make courts accessible to all.

The Conference:

This year in August, 2009, Tanzania is hosting the Africa Regional Conference. The main theme of the Conference is "Access to Justice" which will provide many opportunities for the presentation of crucial affiliated sub-themes related to:

- Discrimination, Gender violence and HIV/AIDS
- Property Rights.
- Child Justice
- Trafficking in persons
- Technology & Crime

The Conference will provide a forum for female judges and magistrates from African countries to learn and exchange experiences in the administration of justice.

It is expected that evidence will be presented to influence leaders, including key policy makers, development partners and the public to increase their commitment to the enhancement of access to justice and be more accountable to the realization of an equitable society where human rights are respected and promoted.

About 200 participants are expected to attend the Conference, 100 from outside the country and 100 residents. Countries invited include Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Cameroon, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Mauritius, Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia as well as all individual members of the IAWJ from the Africa Region.

The intention of the TAWJA and the IAWJ is to have as many countries as possible participate in the expectation that this will have an impact on the administration of justice in the continent.

Conference Venue: Arusha International Conference Center (AICC)

Costs:

Registration fee: Before 1st June, 2009 – USD \$300

Thereafter: USD \$350

Registrations will be made directly to the Tanzania Women Judges Association. More information to follow.

Accommodation:

Participants will make their own hotel arrangements. Suggested hotels include:

- Arusha Hotel
- Naura Springs Hotel
- Impala Hotel
- East African Hotel

Hotel rates vary between:

USD \$120 and USD \$200 Bed and Breakfast per single room and between USD \$160-\$250 per double room.

More information will be posted on the IAWJ website (www.iawj.org) and the TAWJA website (www.tawja.co.tz)

Flights:

The nearest International Airport to the Conference venue is Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA). KLM, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airways fly directly to KIA.

Come early and plan to visit other parts of Tanzania, including Zanzibar! There are flights to KIA from Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam.

Watch for more information to follow.

