

Women and the Environment

wider scope. Thus, this issue includes excerpts from papers presented at the Asian Women Institute Triennial Conference entitled "Women in an Age of Technology" which took place in Kobe, Japan in September 1991. These papers discuss controversial perceptions of the role of women in the issue of environment and related technology. On another level, locally active students and scholars also contributed to Al-Raida by sharing information and knowledge they have acquired from their research. In order to contribute to preservation measures, we also present tips and methods for women/men to use in housekeeping chores.

As the saying goes "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness". Hopefully the information, data, ideas and tips presented will serve that purpose •

Randa Abul-Husn

Women tend to be more dependent than men on trees and forests as a source of income, and the money they earn may be critical to the family (Trees for Life)

Worldwide, women produce more than 50 percent of food; in Africa they are responsible for 80 percent. An important proportion comes from trees (Trees for Life).

230 million women in the developing world have malnutrition anaemia (from "Women and the Socio-economic Cultural Environment in Today's World," panel discussion at AWI conference on Women and the Environment in an age of technology).

graphic taken from *Women of the Whole World Issue #1, 1991*, Journal of the Women's International Democratic Federation



The Middle East

October 14, 1992 is the declared date of the Arab Day for The Environment.

October 16, 1992 is the declared international day for the FAO.(Trees for Life, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

An estimated 628 tons/km² of sewage and solid waste material are dumped into the Lebanese shore each year (al-Safir daily newspaper, January 1991)

An electricity generator of one horse power and burning one Kilogram of fuel/hour, commonly used in Lebanon and other Middle Eastern regions and third world countries, leads to: absorbing and burning 18kg of pure air; discharging 3kg of CO₂ and CO; Discharging 2.5 kg of Nitrogen; Discharging varying amounts of Carbon and oils; Generating 60% of the heat to the surrounding air; And increasing noise pollution up to 100 decibel(db) (The Environment in the Media, Lebanese Media Syndicate, 1991) •

- (1) See "Industrial Pollution, Agriculture, Farming, Water Pollution, Food, Air" by Dr. Julinda Abu Nasr and Rima Zankoul.
- (2) Progress Report on UNRISD Activities 1990/1991
- (3) Progress Report on UNRISD Activities 1990/1991, Ibid.
- (4) The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system established to promote research on the social dimensions of development throughout the world.
- (5) See "The seed and the Earth" by Dr. Vandana Shiva, p.
- (6) Women News, Published to promote the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.