



## AGENDA

### Friday, March 31

**8:00-18:00**

Communications Center open  
(Meeting Room 3)

**8:30-16:00**

Information/Registration Desk open

**7:45-8:45**

Breakfast Meetings: Pool Level

**8:45-9:45**

Annual General Meeting –  
2nd Session

**9:45-10:45**

Panel  
Women & the India Growth Story

**10:45-11:00**

Networking Break

**11:00-11:30**

Annual General Meeting –  
2nd Session (continued)

**11:30- 12:45**

#### Session 3 (Choose One)

*Working Together We Strengthen  
Our Club's FAWCO Connection for  
FAWCO Reps & Club Presidents  
Reversing the Culture Shock  
Open Resolutions &  
Recommendations Committee  
Meeting*

**12:45-14:00**

Lunch  
Regional Meetings

**14:00-14:45**

Annual General Meeting –  
2nd Session (continued)

## Women and Work in India

Our keynote speaker Roopa Purushothaman, founder of Avasara Academy addressed the theme of opportunity for India's women and girls. The enormous potential of India's economy caught the world by surprise because of the trend in long-term growth. Indian economic growth is significant and it stays higher over time for two reasons. The first is that India has a relatively low income per capita compared with other developed economies. The second is demographic; India has a young population and a high number of working people relative to the total population.

So the economy of India has a significant impact on the global economy. India needs 10 million jobs per year in order to absorb the available workers. Increased support for the education of girls and women is required to fill the ever-growing number of jobs and support the expanding economy. Why has women's participation rate in India's workforce fallen? There are two answers: the first is mindset. Many families do not support women leaving home or enrolling in higher education for cultural reasons. Second, there are safety issues. Half of India's women want to work but do not have access to the support they require to access transportation and education.

Here's the global context: India's rate of workforce participation peaks to 30% at age 30. We need to help find ways to increase workforce participation rates to enable women to enter and stay in the workforce. Roopa has data showing that women who are more highly educated actually work less than women who have not completed their education. The issue requires further study.

Girls in India die at a rate 50% higher than boys due to neglect and lack of healthcare. Only 1% of girls in rural India make it to the 12th grade. 50% of girls are not enrolled in secondary school at all. 45% of Indian women marry before the age of 18. The rate of female participation in education is not about income or class. It's not about wealth, it's about mindset.



Keynote Speaker Roopa Purushothaman  
Photo credit: My-Linh Kunst

## Women & Work, cont. from page 1

## When Displacement Becomes Personal

**Friday, March 31**  
**Agenda Cont'd**

**14:45-16:00**

**Session 4 (Choose One)**

Women through Indian History: A  
Kaleidoscope of Stories  
Target Fundraising: Get an  
Education  
Open Finance Committee Meeting

**16:00 -16:15**

Networking Break

**16:15 - 17:30**

**Session 5 (Choose One)**

FAWCO at the UN  
Gender Representation and  
Diversity in Children's Literature,  
Hints for Successful Grant and  
Award Applications

**17:30-19:00**

Optional Happy Hour  
and dinner in hotel

**18:00-22:00**

Optional Wellness & Spiritual  
Experience

**18:30- 22:30**

Optional Mumbai Street Food Tour

There are also issues of gender and inequality – specifically, the low value placed on young women compared to boys. In some families, young women represent a loss to the household to join a husband – therefore she's a burden.

The good news is that there would be a huge increase in the GDP of India if only a small percentage of Indian girls could stay in school. The challenge is to help Indian families understand what it means for them to keep the girls in school and educate them to reach their highest potential.



Biennial Conference Chair Meenakshi Advani  
Photo credit: My-Linh Kunst



Displacement workshop:  
L to R Tosin Arowolaju, Dianne Reed,  
Paula Lucas and Louise Greeley-Copley,  
photo credit Randi Debourg.

This was a touching, inspirational and motivational workshop. Louise Greeley-Copley talked about what displacement is and why we should prepare for it. Displacement can also include divorce or separation. It's very important to know what local laws in your country of residence are and how they can potentially affect you. Everyone needs to make timely and appropriate plans in case of emergency. Louise also talked about how to approach your family about making plans for displacement and/or death.

Tosin Arowolaju talked about types of displacement, who needs to make a plan for displacement and what your plan should include. Clubs can help members prepare to support each other in times of need.

Paula Lucas is celebrating her 18th "annis-scaperly" from her abusive husband. She talked about obstacles for domestic violence victims abroad and barriers she faced upon return to the USA. Paula has created a know-before-you-go program that is available online for American women abroad. There will also be a global safety app in the near future.

Dianne Reed spoke about her survival of a terrorist attack in which 22 people were killed. She said that knowledge, planning and the ability to discuss important issues in order to make emergency plans was very important. US citizens also need to sign up at the closest embassy or consulate in order to let the US government know that you are living overseas.

## Friday's Reminders

Frangipani and India Jones restaurants are on the lower level below the lobby. The Mexican Room is on the Pool level.

To get a taste of the Pre-Conference Tour, have a look at the album on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/47292825@N07/albums>.

If you have photos of the Conference you'd like to share, please contact Sallie Chaballier at

[vp-communications@fawco.org](mailto:vp-communications@fawco.org).



Photo credit: My-Linh Kunst

FAWCO President, Monica Jubayli in her butterfly shades  
Photo credit: My-Linh Kunst

## Photos from Thursday

This year's FAWCO Friendship Quilt: Four Walls with Tomorrow Inside was unveiled at Thursday's AGM session by FAWCO Foundation Counselor and Mistress of Quilts, Roberta Zöllner, and TFF Secretary Liz Janson.



## Selecting Women Speakers

Conference Coordinator Jodie Sovak from AWC Mumbai was responsible for choosing the keynote speaker, Roopa Purushothaman, and for choosing the women on today's panel "Women and the India Growth Story". Jodie has a personal connection to every-one she chose and she emphasized that all the women she included have a unique perspective on the topic. She chose Roopa because she "has the ability to use her knowledge of economics in order to help educate women and girls. Roopa also used her knowledge and education as her personal motivation. If you want to support girls, India is a good place to start."

Regarding the panel, "Women and the India Growth Story", Jodie said, "India is a bright spot for global investing. We're still exploring what investing in education for women and girls means in terms of opportunity and in terms of challenges these changes might represent."

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