



IFUW

December 2005

Young Members Newsletter

Women from all countries



Building a new world...

My *Dream* of Completing University Education - By Yimy Leong - International Member from Malaysia. Currently residing in Scotland, UK. Contact: yimy_99@yahoo.com

About 15 months ago, I was still working as client servicing executive in a local TV station of Malaysia. My main duties and responsibilities were to develop new advertising accounts by meeting monthly sales target consistently and to assist clients to advertise or promote their products and services via TV. I enjoyed my work very much that I always stayed back until late hours in the office trying to finish as much work as possible. Even though I was very contented with my position and felt grateful to have good relationships with friends, colleagues and family, but I felt a strong desire to live out of the routine lifestyle and this had prompted me to think seriously about fulfilling my dream of completing university education.



thought about it for almost every year since I left secondary school. Though I was offered a chance to continue my study at higher level i.e. STPM (equivalent to GCE) locally after completing

secondary education but I refused to accept the offer simply for the reason that I was not given the option to study subjects that I like. This was because I was in science stream and therefore not allowed to switch to commerce or art stream. Looking back into the situation at that time, I realized that I was very lost without knowing what to choose in terms of courses



offered by private institutions. I knew that studying subjects of my choice in overseas or in some private institutions was too costly for my parents to bear at that time and also, I wasn't sure of

what to do. I tried to seek for advice, but unfortunately I was not able to talk to the right people. A teacher who taught me English before advised me that I should consider accounting course, as I am good in Mathematics. I asked for his opinion about taking a marketing course but I was discouraged. He thought I might not be able to cope with the course, as my command of English was not good enough. English is not the main medium of teaching used in schools and it was not widely used in the place where I was brought up. Though I scored good grade in English but I wasn't good in speaking the language at that time. After few months of hesitation and confusion about whether or not to take up a vocational marketing course, I decided to gain some experience through working in a sales position and because of this first step of trying; I established my sales career and subsequently gained my confidence to take up a marketing course on part-time basis. Since then until my latest job before pursuing higher education in a university environment, I had worked for about 9 years in different sales and new business development positions of different industries that include publication, life insurance, multi-level

marketing, furniture retailing and advertising. My decision to complete my university education in UK was possible mainly because I could afford it myself using all my savings and on top of that, I had to work on part-time basis whilst studying full-time in order to cover my living expenses. Emotionally, it was a very difficult decision as initially none of my family members encouraged me as this involved lots of money that they think I should have used it to buy a house or on other investment purposes. The discouragement did not stop me from pursuing my dream. Instead, I kept working on achieving it silently and turned to friends and colleagues for advice and sharing of my dream. Many friends and a neighbour of mine gave me tremendous encouragement by sharing with me their experiences and also their aspirations in achieving the same ideal. Though I was hurt and agitated by the responses received from those who are closest to me, but I did not blame them as I realized that the reason they discouraged was because they had no confidence in me in pursuing a dream that I believe will bring positive changes to my future. I was disappointed by the fact that I failed to gain confidence from them. Despite having to struggle inside to be strong in dealing with family relationships through a tactful way, I had to be very clear of what I really wanted and stay focused in pursuing my dream. I was tested on this when my employer at that time offered me pay rise and promotion in order to retain me. It made me hesitated for a while but it failed to change my mind. Looking back from now, I feel very glad to have made the decision of furthering my study in UK. It was painful to make such decision of going



abroad, away from my familiar home which is good in protecting me, but the value of improving myself personally and professionally which helps me to realize more of my intellectual competency is far more greater than the price I pay for the pain. It is not that I do not like my families or stay near home, but it is about breaking through the conditioning of living within the limitation created or imposed by others. Certain values of the belief system that are being passed on to us may not be appropriate, e.g. the value of living a materially comfortable life as the measurement of happiness and success.

I proved my capability by completing my study and had graduated in Dec 2005 with a Masters Degree in International Business from the Robert Gordon University, UK. I was then accepted into a graduate leadership development programme working as business development manager with a Northern Ireland company based in Taiwan for a short period and have recently decided to return to UK to do a research degree

in England. I am very glad that my family is very supportive now with what I plan to do and they have never been so confident before with me in my ability to decide my own future.

Through this experience, I have learned that actually no one can ever tell us whether or not we are capable of doing anything until we try it and persist in achieving all our goals and dreams. Having faith and confidence in ourselves in doing things that we think is beneficial to ourselves or others is more important than expecting others to encourage or support us as the people around us including our closest family members may be wrong in what they think we should be doing. Being financially independent is crucial in my attainment of higher education, as without this, I wouldn't have achieved it. Another positive effect for being financial independent is that I feel more relaxed as I didn't have to burden my parents or anybody at all. By strengthening my confidence and improving my knowledge and skills, I am more ambitious than before in looking forward to contribute my skills and experience to others and the society, as well as improving myself through learning from others. It is for this reason that I have joined International Federation of University Women after I read about it from a research-funding guide found in my university.



As ending, I would like to present to all of you a poem as follows:

When you *dream* you have *hope*

When you have *faith* you'll be shown to the *direction*

When you *try* you gain *experience*

When you *persist* you are *half way there*

When you *achieve* you know more of your *ability*

There is no other meaningful thing than *discovering our own potential*

For the benefits of ourselves and others in the *society*

" Great people are those who make others feel that they, too, can become great."

♣ Mark Twain ♣

**Meeting of the Young Members of the Dutch VVAO and German DAB. Contact details: URL: www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/bonetzmentoring
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An exciting weekend in Arnhem

On the last weekend of October 2005, the first meeting between the young members of the Dutch VVAO (Vereniging van Vrouwen met hogere Opleiding) and those of the German DAB (Deutsche Akademikerinnenbund e.V.) - the latter were mainly represented by BoNetzMentoring – took place in Arnhem in the Netherlands. The major aim was to get to know each other more closely and to exchange experiences. Already on the first day we felt certain that this was definitely not our last Dutch-German meeting, for the idea took shape that we organize a workshop for the UWE conference in The Hague 2006 and the one of the IFUW in March 2007 respectively.

The first contact between Marion Minis and Regina van Oorsouw (VVAO Young Members) and Eva Nagel (BoNetzMentoring) had been made at the national DAB assembly in Hannover in April 2005. The invitation to the neighbours' visit to the Netherlands followed almost immediately.



The young members of the DAB were mainly represented by the members of BoNetzMentoring, which is a subgroup of the local DAB group from Bochum, Germany. Altogether, about twenty women participated in this meeting.

After a warm welcome by Ans Baars, the chairwoman of the local VVAO group from Arnhem, the DAB members first of all learned something about the structures of both the VVAO itself and the European (UWE) and international (IFUW) organizations. Then, the members of BoNetzMentoring gave an overview of our Young Members group, which was founded only about a year ago.

A walk along the Rhine and through the old town of Arnhem as well as the dinner in the evening offered a good opportunity to get to know each other more personally and to informally exchange experiences.

In the bright and surprisingly warm autumn sunshine, we began the second day with a walk through the beautiful and spacious park in Arnhem, which included visiting a small castle.



Afterwards we were very pleased to meet Jans Gremmée, one of the founders of UWE and its first president, who told us more about the history and the work of UWE.

Finally we discussed various options of how the Young Members of the VVAO and the DAB could cooperate in future. One project, we decided on, is a joint workshop for the next UWE and IFUW conferences, in which topics that have a great impact on the lives of university women – young members in particular – will be discussed.

These two conferences as well as the national DAB conference in Dresden April 2006 offer an excellent opportunity to establish contact between young members from all over Germany. Since there has not been a separate Young Members structure within the DAB so far, we from BoNetzMentoring are very much looking forward to establishing contact to women who are interested in expanding the young members network in Germany. Moreover we would like to participate in more activities at an international level.



To put it in a nutshell, we had a fantastic weekend with the VVAO members in the Netherlands in which we learned a lot from and about each other. In particular, we would like to thank Pieke Hoekstra, who organized most of the weekend, as well as the entire Young Members group from Arnhem.

We have already invited the VVAO members to Bochum: We are planning to meet in either March or April 2006 and one top of the agenda besides cultural activities and personal exchange is, of course, to prepare the workshops.[Janine van Eymeren, Eva Leschinski, Eva Nagel, Regine Scheder, Sandra Zeidler]



Which is...

The most beautiful day? **Today**
The greatest obstacle? **The fear**
The easiest thing? **To be mistaken**
The root of all evils? **Selfishness**
The most beautiful distraction? **The work**
The worse defeat? **To become discouraged**
The best teachers? **The children**
The first necessity? **To communicate**
What makes me happy? **To be useful to the others**
The worse defect? **Badly humor**
The worse feeling? **The resentment**
The most beautiful gift? **The pardon**
The most essential? **The home**
The most pleasing sensation? **The inner peace**
The greater remedy? **The optimism**
The greater satisfaction? **To do our duty**
The most powerful force of the world? **The faith**
The most necessary people? **The parents**
The most beautiful thing of the world?

The Love!

MOTHER TERESA of CALCUTA

The Nobel Peace Prize 1979

Message:

Chères amies francophones,

Le groupe des "Jeunes Membres du FIFDU" (the IFUW Young Members) sont en train de réaliser une Mailing List pour contacter toutes les jeunes membres qui en sont intéressées. La langue employée pour les discussions sera l' Anglais.

Pour les francophones il existe à l'Internet des "sites traductrices". On écrit son message en français et la traduction en anglais vient après et vice versa. Essayez alors:

<http://www.epals.com/translation/translation.e>

<http://www.freetranslation.com/>

<http://www.tranexp.com:2000/Translate>

(+Dutch; important to choose keyboard)

 **For articles towards next edition,** 

Please contact !!

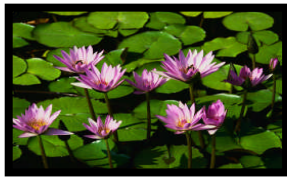
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WORLD PEACE THROUGH TRUER EDUCATION
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The world's education system seems to have gone out of alignment as there is increasing ambiguity and confusion towards the truth of what's happening around us. The meaning of peace has been reversed in today's much developed society and education system should be re-adjusted to provide 'truer education' that prevents the downfall of human civilization and any future man-made disasters.

Peace is defined as freedom from or cessation of war (Oxford Dictionary, 1998) and therefore world peace can be defined as a world that is free from war. However, war has been claimed and used as



means to bring peace to the world even in this much developed society. The reverse of the meaning of peace has obviously shown that the value of what we have been taught (education) has been disrespected or regarded with contempt. The world is in need for a 'truer' education system.

According to what we supposedly have been taught in education, to be educated means to be trained or instructed mentally and morally. 'True' can be defined to be in accordance with fact or reality that it even includes the nature or meaning of being loyal, faithful, genuine, accurate, balanced, exact and confirming to certain type or standard. Out of the meaning of being 'true' would mean out of alignment (Oxford Dictionary, 1998). There is nothing wrong with the existing knowledge or values that are being taught through education system, but the society seems to have missed out something which is more fundamental or which is the core to what education is. This missing core can be restored to reinforce the true meaning of education and therefore 'truer education' means education that can train us mentally and morally to be more in balance, accurate, genuine, faithful, loyal and confirming to the appropriate, righteous and noble standard.

The lack of tolerance, compassion and understanding in each other, and being ignorant in making selfish decisions according to low level of morality in humankind are the reasons why there are still wars or killings of each other in this ironically called 'civilized world'.

This shows the lack of balance between the material aspect of societal advancement and the moral or spiritual aspect of development. This gap can be closed by emphasizing more on the righteous and independent thinking ability for wisdom than just the

obtainment of knowledge in the education system. The former aspect should be emphasized more as it's more important than the latter towards ensuring a well-balanced attainment of education. It is education that forms our thinking, our values, our ways of life, and the current state of society with complex problematic issues. Therefore, any opposite effect to what education is supposed to aim for reflected or being experienced in the society would imply that there is 'out of alignment'.

Bridging the gap in our education system for 'truer education' should not be confined to only the formal training in schools, colleges or universities, but it should be redefined to a higher value of meaning that is more valid for achieving not just prosperous but well-balanced and healthy society. It should also be promoted to people at different levels of intellectual development.

The lack of wisdom in us has either deferred us or discouraged us from seeing the truth outside.

Though it's not difficult to find any religious centres regardless of any religion which are important in upholding the right standard of lifestyle and moral values in humankind, but the world still seems to remain in Stone Age as people are still killing each other for solving problems. I believe many of us are wise enough to know why.

Why can't we extend our hearts to see our country as the same country - 'one world'?

We have our own right to build and conserve a better world for ourselves and our next generations, but why are we not making use of this right to make positive changes to the current regressive political situation of the world?



We are responsible for this planet which is the only place that we can stay now and it gets smaller and smaller as we advance in many aspects especially in technological field. Though each country is managed separately, but if we could just extend our hearts to see our country as 'one world' that comprises of all countries, then world peace would be possible. Citizens of this planet should be awakened to reckon that all of us individually as well as all countries are connected together.

If any of our brothers or sisters are doing harm to someone else or vice versa, we will be affected in certain degree regardless of whether we are supporting them or not. If we do not wish the situation to worsen further, the solution to prevent this from happening is to remind our brothers and sisters to realize their mistakes, repent and compensate for whatever harm they have done. This will be the way to

solve any conflict or reduce the level of hostile tension between each other.

There's a serious root problem in the society that is resulted from a lack of 'truer education' and this might have in some ways blurred the minds of many of us to lose their discerning power or their clarity in identifying what's right and what's wrong.

The need for 'truer education' in enabling people to have higher level of consciousness to live life more meaningful and more participative in and effective in the enhancement of world peace is crucial.

The selfish pursuits in personal goals and ideal lifestyles in the aspect of gaining societal status, and material gain and comfort have overwhelmed people so much that many of us have become either less concerned, less interested in finding out the truth of the societal problems or less aware of what actually is happening around us. We might get ourselves too much engaged in some kind of entertainment like watching TV, clubbing, gossiping etc during our free time instead of contributing our bit towards improving our world to be a place of peace and loving kindness.

It might be that most people have been cultivated or influenced by their surroundings of various factors in a very unbalanced way that have made them to be complacent and live their life according to what the society of unbalanced values expects them to be doing. The various factors that form the unbalanced influential force may come from the main stream media, the imperfection of education system and immoral or inappropriate standard of lifestyles and practices adopted.

'Truer education' in this context can also be described as education that enables us to gain or develop wisdom or intuitive power and it should aim to build high personal quality of nobility and morality which reflects the value of being 'true', i.e. well-balanced, faithful, accurate etc.

It is argued by the author that the intuitive power and wisdom are the more valuable qualities that should be aimed to gain from education than purely intellectual understanding and application of knowledge.

The future of this planet on whether it will be a better or worse place to stay, or whether there will be more sufferings or not, it's in our hands and 'truer education' is the key towards achieving world peace through elevation of human morality, spirituality and development of human hidden potential or wisdom.

It's time for people to wake up and realize that it's not only the leaders who have the right to change and be responsible for it, but all of us are responsible for it. We must get involved in deciding the fate of our future

planet by thinking deeper inside for wisdom or developing our intuitive power, so that we can discern and influence to have the right decisions made to our planet.

The wisdom or intuitive power that is believed to be gained through contemplation and deeper thinking can be defined not just as common sense of knowing something immediately or insight, but the answer that comes directly from our noble and righteous judgemental ability which is made independently from what we have learnt from the societal education system. This ability of knowing the answer by ourselves to different situations, events or timings is more worthy to be called the qualification than just the knowledge itself that is gained from the current conventional education system.



REFERENCE:

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1998. Oxford Colour Dictionary, Revised Edition by Maurice Waite, Oxford University Press, pp.711 & 201.

The British Federation of Graduate Women Under 40s Network Zinthyaganeshpachan Coordinator

The Under 40's Network is the forum for the young members of the BFGW. It comprises of young women from diverse educational, social and cultural backgrounds across the UK. The network is co-ordinated by Zinthyaganeshpachan, a Doctoral Student researching Women and Conflict attached to the Loughborough University.

Since the beginning of the academic year 2005/2006 among its activities the network have initiated a weblog for survivors of violence and sexual abuse



named horizons. We have also actively participated in the National consolation on IVF treatment for lesbian women and the right of parents to select the sex of the babies. The Network together have put forward a workshop proposal for the 2007 Conference in Manchester and are looking forward to meet other young members from around the world who will be visiting the UK in 2007.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. [Aristotle](#)

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The time is now

I'll wait until the kids grow up
I'll wait until I'm married
I'll wait until I'm divorced
I'll wait until I lose weight
I'll wait until I finish my education
I'll wait until all my bills are paid
I'll wait until somebody helps me
I'll wait until somebody goes with me
I'll wait until times get better
I'll wait until there are no obstacles
I'll wait until the weekend, my birthday, vacation or retirement
I'll wait until I have more time

He Who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ - Phil. 1:6



The time is now.

Things in life won't get better until you get better
Don't out your happiness on lay-

away

Don't wait to wear your best only on special occasions
If you have to go somewhere alone, it's alright. Just show up!

If you have to work on your education, new business, dream or hobby part-time, then do it part time, just get started

If you don't start fulfilling some of your needs and dreams, you'll start to feel resentment, depression, anger, sickness and frustration. Today is a great day! You are still breathing and alive. But have your dreams died? Has hope, faith, trust and love in God died?

Stand up right now where you are...open your mouth, scream, dance, move, sing, smile, look all around you, take a deep breath...snap out of it! snap out of feeling in a rut. Stop feeling deprived, feeling sick and tired, feeling inadequate, feeling stuck, feeling hopeless, feeling unhappy. It's not too late, it's not that bad! Life's not that hard, we make it hard.

Stop waiting "to get ready." If you want something out of life, go for it now. It's a process, one step at a time. You get ready by taking action. Don't waste another day putting your life, goals, happiness, gratitude, love, actions, dreams, forgiveness, praise, thanksgiving, leaps of faith, ideas and self-care on hold. "The more you wait, the more you lose."

Go on. The time is now!

◆◆◆◆◆ "A true friend is someone who is there for you – when he'd rather be anywhere else." ◆◆◆◆◆

~ Len Wein ~

