

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To

All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

4th All India Women's Convention another Milestone in the History of AIEA

The 4th All India Women's Convention held at Bengaluru on 11th August 2019 has become another milestone in the history of AIEA. In spite of the battering rains in some parts of the country, around 500 women comrades including from Bangalore participated in the Convention and made it a thumping success. The Convention started with the flag hoisting by Com. Amanulla Khan, President, AIEA. In a significant gesture, he invited the Women Divisional Presidents present to join him in hoisting the flag amidst thunderous slogans. The backdrop in the hall and the choir songs presented by the women comrades of Bengaluru Division-I and II set the tone for the Convention.

The Presidium for the Convention consisted of Comrades Sangeeta Jha (Bilaspur-CZIEA), Manorama Mohanty (Cuttack-ECZIEA), Maitreye Mishra (Guwahati-EZIEA), Geetha Shanth (Bareilly-NCZIEF), Renu Kalra (Jalandhar-NZIEA), M Kameshwari (Vishakhapatnam-SCZIEF), K Thulasi (Chennai-II-SZIEF), Neha Mote (Nagpur-WZIEA) and Uma Maheshwari (Chennai-SZGIEA) conducted the proceedings of the Convention. Com. M. Vijaya kumari, Convener of Bengaluru Division-II delivered the welcome address. The Convention paid homage to Comrades N M Sundaram, R Govindarajan – the veteran leaders of AIEA, E M Joseph – former Vice President of SZIEF and Madhava - former President of Udupi Division and Vice President of Southern Zone; Deepa Sharma (Shimla – Northern Zone), JayasudhaRajan (Madurai Region – South Zone), Amudha (Vellore – South Zone) and S Lata (Bengaluru – South Central Zone) were in the Minutes Committee.

The renowned and celebrated journalist of the country Com. Parvathi Menon (The Hindu and Frontline) and author of books such as Breaking Barriers inaugurated the Convention. In her inaugural address, she recalled her association with AIEA since her student days and she lauded the organisation for its multifaceted activities. She congratulated all the delegates and observers who have gathered with enthusiasm and union spirit and solidarity. She drew the attention of the participants to the challenges faced today. She pointed out that because of new forms of work that are emerging in our economy, the organised sector is becoming a smaller island in a sea of sectors and groups that are Unorganised. She emphasized the need for equipping ideologically, intellectually and politically which is essence of the struggle. She gave an insight of the situation of women in the country and attacks that are being unleashed on their rights. She related the discrimination against women to the declining sex ratio and pointed out to the alarming situation in many States of the country. She also spoke on the sexual

harassment of women at work places and the nonfunctioning of the committees set up as a follow up of Vishakha case decided by the Supreme Court. She urged the women organised under AIIEA not to confine themselves to the issues of the industry but also to take lead in highlighting and agitating on issues relating to women in Indian society.

Com. M. Girija, Joint Secretary of AIIEA submitted the work report to the Convention on behalf of AIIEA, Twenty Eight comrades representing all the 8 zones and the General Insurance unit participated in the debate and enriched the report. They expressed their concern on the status of women in general and the working women in particular and placed their suggestions to carry forward the struggles for emancipation of women. The experience shared by our Comrades about their activities, viz., functioning of Media Response Committee, GEWECA committee, social activities, etc., enthused the participants.

Comrades J.Vijaya, A.D.Poornima from South Zone M.Kameshwari, P.Sujatha, V.Latha, T.Sunanda and H.R.Gayathri from South Central Zone, Manorama Mohanty, Sangha Mitra Sarangi from East Central Zone, Madhu Khandelwal, Neeta Singhal, Ritu Abaan and Neelam Sharma from North Zone, Manju Sheel, Geeta Pandit and Usha Parganiha from Central Zone, Fullara Talapatra, Arpita Ray and Shyama Bhattacharyya from Eastern Zone, Geeta Shant, Madhu Tewari and Pratibha Mishra from North Central Zone, Asha Velingar, Bhavana B. Baraiya and M. Varsha Deshmukh from Western Zone, Tapshi Mitra, Shikha Chadha and S.Shobhana from General Sector, participated in the debate.

Com. Amanalla Khan, President, AIIEA intervened and guided the Convention. In his address he said that the large participation in the Convention of AIIEA has reflected the growth of the organisation. He stated that society in which we live, the women are normally called weak. But, in AIIEA he said that the women comrades are our strength and certainly inspire our movement. He appreciated the large participation of women in the daily activities of the organisation and thereby getting involved in the decision making process. He said that women leaders in the various tiers of the organisation are not just the leaders of women, but the leaders of both the men and women. He pointed out the pathetic working condition of the regular wage earners in the country. Quoting the Labour Survey of the Government, he said 73% do not have a written contract, 54% do not get any paid holidays and 52% do not have any social security benefit. He said that the attacks on workers through codification of labour laws would further erode their life and living standards. He cautioned the audience about the attacks that are being unleashed by the right wing forces on the democratic and secular fabric of the country. He called upon the participants to further strengthen the organisation by implementing the decisions of the Organisation in letter and spirit. He emphasized that the issues of women cannot find solution unless the struggle of both the men and women work for a just, fair and equal society.

Com. V Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA summed up the discussions. He lauded the participation in large numbers and appreciated the women comrades for the various activities that are being carried out in their respective places. At the same time, he pointed out that in few of our Divisional Units, the women's sub-committee is yet to be formed, and emphasized the need to overcome this weakness. He also stressed that the Divisional Units should ensure that the Divisional level Women's Conventions and Trade Union classes exclusively for women comrades are conducted regularly. He also said that the Organisation would address a letter to The Prime Minister on the issue of 33% reservation for women in

decision making bodies. On the issues pertaining to women employees, viz., special leave for menopause related issues, crèche facility, representation for Class-III & IV in the Divisional level Committee against sexual harassment at workplace, etc., he said that AIIEA would pursue with the managements of LIC and the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies.

The Credential Committee with Com.Poonam Gupta (NCZ) as Convener and Comrades Vaishali Patel (WZ), Sangamitra Sarangi (ECZ), Gayatri Suri (Jabalpur-CZ) and Supriya Sen (Jalpaiguri-EZ) compiled the details pertaining to the delegates to the Convention.

The tireless and dedicated work of the volunteers from Bangalore Divisions went a long way to make the Convention a tremendous success. A large number of women volunteers along with the men volunteers were present at Airport, Railway Stations and Bus Stations to receive the delegates and observers. The venue of the Meeting was beautifully decorated. The backdrop placed at the stage summed up the entire theme and proceedings of the Convention. It read TRUST YOUR STRUGGLE FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. It is with this trust and confidence that the 4th All India Women Convention came to a successful close.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.