

Dr Catherine Adeya-Weya, ATPS Research and Training Manager attends the Feminist Tech Exchange Training, Noordhoek, South Africa, 9-13 November 2008

Dr Catherine Adeya-Weya attended the Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) Training at the Monkey Valley Resort in Noordhoek, South Africa from 9-13 November 2008. The FTS training was a precursor to the '11th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development' held in Cape Town, South Africa from 14-17 November 2008.

Over 100 women attended the Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) Training and over 2000 attended the AWID forum.

The main objectives of the FTX training were to discuss where communication rights fit into women's movements and how to reclaim technology for women's empowerment. More specifically the FTX aimed to:

- build the skills of feminist and women's rights movements in the creative and strategic use of ICTs;
- provide a space for open discussions on the connections between information and communication technologies (ICT) issues and women's rights agenda, as well as on feminist politics and practices of technology;
- create partnerships between advocates working on women's rights and feminism with those working in the field of ICT to sustain movement-building;
- develop a community of trainers who can continue to support knowledge and skills building, even after the exchange.

The FTX was organized by the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC-WNSP) and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). The local hosting partner was Women'sNet, a South African feminist organization working on gender and ICT.

The training was organized in five ICT capacity building workshops running in parallel, these were:

1. Digital storytelling for transformation
2. Social networking technologies for activism
3. Wireless and mobile technologies for advocacy
4. Audio for action
5. Video for justice

Dr. Adeya-Weya also shared her publications on Wireless Technologies and Development in Africa; she also shared the experiences of ATPS in communicating science to policy makers and the wider audience and how the skills garnered from the workshop may help delegates communicate better with policymakers. One of the highlights of the training was the opportunity to blog daily with like-minded people on the issues of ICTs especially for women.

ATPS participation in the training workshop was fully funded by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC).