

# ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi)

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## To All Affiliates/State Units/Members

Dear Comrades,

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - CELEBRATIONS**

The international women's day coincided with the 10<sup>th</sup> triennial conference of AIBOC. As a curtain raiser to the inaugural session and to commemorate the day a seminar on 'Marginalisation of women in work place' was organised at Thiruvananthapuram on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.

The seminar held at Olympic Auditorium, Thiruvananthapuram, drew wide participation and enthusiastic response. The exuberance of young new recruits was palpable in the air. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. T.N.Seema, member of Rajya Sabha and State Secretary of All India Democratic Women's Association, Kerala and the topic of the seminar was presented by noted Malayalam writer Ms. K.R.Meera. Mr. R.Radhakrishnan, well known intellectual and activist of Kerala Shastra Sahithya Parishad moderated the discussion.

Com. Harvinder Singh, General Secretary, AIBOC welcomed the gathering and reiterated the commitment of AIBOC to the women's cause and exhorted women to realise their powers and fight for their demands. He also assured them full organisational support in pursuing their genuine cause.

Mr.R.Radhakrishnan in his introductory remarks traced the evolution of international women's day and reminded the audience that it was the suppression of women workers in Newyork in 1908 which led to the subsequent declaration of March 8 as International Women's day.

Prof. Seema in her illuminating inaugural address drew attention to the fact that the problem of marginalisation of women at work place can be tackled only if more basic issues of marginalisation in other walks of life like cultural, political and family are addressed. It is these aspects which ultimately reflect as marginalisation in work place. The problems of women working in unorganised sector is much worse than situation prevailing in organised sector The liberalisation of economy has worsened the problem . Even provisions in the Factory Acts are being flouted with impunity. Basic amenities like urinals are not being provided at work places. Initiatives like opening of Mahila Bank and DBT can have only cosmetic effect. Though allocations have been made for various welfare programmes for women no money has been actually spent. She requested that banks support empowerment of women. She pointed out

how women perform 'invisible work' especially at home and how such work is never rated or factored in. The change should take place both within the family and outside.

Ms. K.R Meera while presenting the subject pointed out how after conducting so many seminars on women's equality still they are abused. She recalled her close association with banks and recalled how her first ever felicitation on winning an award was done by a bank. A bank officer can do much more than an IAS officer to help the down trodden, she added. She touched upon some important aspect women should bear in mind to preserve their independence. Comments on their dressing and appearance by others should be ignored. One's dream should not be ignored and should not allow the value system to be over turned by others. If you do not protect your space your personality will be lost. If you say you live only for your family you are undermining yourselves. She traced the evolution of women's movement starting from great depression of 1930s to Second World War and how the events shaped the progressive attitude of women. She advised bank officers to understand the change and intervene effectively. She cautioned about the danger of insensitivity to the problems of lower strata of society as such problems will come to haunt the middle class later. If marginalisation at work place is to be addressed the basic problem of poor has to be tackled by addressing imbalance in political power structure. The solution for marginalisation will emerge only when women organise themselves to assert on issues confronting them.

Com. Harshvardhan Madhabushi, President, AIBOC while proposing vote of thanks, pointed out that the conduct of inaugural session on International Women's Day was reflective of the commitment of the organisation to the women's cause and assured that AIBOC would fight shoulder to shoulder in fighting injustice against women.

The seminar was a thundering success. The overwhelming participation, especially of young lady comrades, was heart-warming indeed and the thought- provoking session struck the right note for raising curtain for the 10<sup>th</sup> triennial conference.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



(HARVINDER SINGH)  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**