

## The Grassroots Women's International Academy (GWIA)



**The Grassroots Women's International Academy (GWIA) is an international transfer mechanism created by grassroots women's international networks, to upscale their good practices.**



GWIA's objective is to redefine governance and development roles and reframe the use of knowledge and resources from the perspective of what works on the ground.

GWIA is a methodology for harvesting and replicating the best practices of grassroots women's groups in improving everyday life conditions for their families and communities. GWIA provides targeted spaces to grassroots innovators, particularly women, who often lack opportunities to articulate and share their experiences and develop the tools to disseminate them. GWIA aims at making the work of grassroots women both visible and influential in public policy and practice. It does so by enabling the creation and reproduction of a body of knowledge that is owned, nurtured and replenished by grassroots women.



The GWIA format includes opportunities for peer learning as well as for vertical transfer and up-scaling of grassroots practices. It is a place for community leaders and movement builders to meet and exchange experience, in order to harvest and frame grassroots knowledge and innovation from their own perspective. Conditions for replication and transfer are analyzed and linked to mainstream debates in a strategic way.

So far 11 GWIA's have been held, which have contributed to a powerful exchange and transfer of best practices, from North to South, from South to North, from East to West and vice versa as well as between groups in the same region, who were, previously isolated from each other.

The Dubai prize will be used to make the next GWIA possible, which will be held in June 2008 in Barcelona, Spain on the subject of dissemination of the Mother Centers methodology.

- **The Nest! Foundation** has the objective of compiling grassroots knowledge on community building, stimulating the recognition of grassroots knowledge and making it transferable. In order to realize this objective, the Nest! foundation organizes programs, projects and activities to make grassroots knowledge accessible, and to network with like minded organizations. As such the **Nest! Foundation** harbours the coordination point and archives of the GWIA. Recent publications on the field of the **Grassroots Women's International Academy** (or GWIA) are the GWIA handbook and the GWIA website [www.GWIA.net](http://www.GWIA.net).

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