



**Intercontinental Think Tank Meeting**  
**Sunday 16 July 2023,**  
**12.00 to 1.30 pm UTC**

**NOTES**

1	<p><i>Welcome to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zonta International President Ute Scholz and Vice President Fernanda Gallo Freschi.</li> <li>• District Governors, District Advocacy Committee Chairs and first-timers.</li> <li>• For the first time, the Think Tank had been publicized by Zonta International, and over 130 Zontians had registered for the meeting, and 50 attended on the day.</li> <li>• This month, we featured 12 July as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms. This is the newest event on the UN Calendar and was proclaimed on 8 June 2023 by the UN General Assembly.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><i>Actions from the June meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up with Zonta International on the progress of the three surveys and leaflets.</li> <li>• Report on the progress of collated ideas from frameworks/discussions to date.</li> <li>• Create a quiz about the Global Plastics Treaty.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><i>Guest speakers:</i></p> <div data-bbox="279 1444 678 1668"> </div> <p><i>Mari Delos Santos and Bing Carrion Zonta Club of Makati Central Business District Philippines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mari and Bing described how the climate is changing in the Philippines with increased mean temperatures, more cyclones and changing rainfall patterns across the country.</li> <li>• Bing is the Chairperson and Senior Adviser on Government and Public Private Linkages for the Climate Change Commission. She provided an overview of the National Framework Strategy and the National Climate Change Action Plan.</li> <li>• Mari highlighted 'Be the salt and light of the earth' – a rural solar electrification program of the Zonta Club of Metro Ortigas.</li> <li>• Zontians work collaboratively with other community organisations, such as Rotary and Rotaract to promote climate action and participate in recycling (Project MARS) and coastal clean up projects, tree planting, and webinar/seminars to raise climate awareness.</li> <li>• Mari and Bing described some simple actions to take to be 'a responsible human being'.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><i>Guest speaker:</i></p>



*Errick Elavia, Zonta Club of Bombay I, India*

- India is now the most populous country on Earth, and Errick took a human perspective on the impacts of climate change.
- Two short videos eloquently described some key issues around cyclones and heat and these left a lasting impression on members.
- Thousands of people were moved into shelters for a recent cyclone and we saw a mother with a 3-day-old baby whose entire life had been at the shelter. While people's safety was certain, their future was not, as they did not know if their homes were still there.
- Women are more susceptible to the health impacts of extreme heat. If there are no toilets available, women dehydrate quickly, as they don't drink as they don't want to go to the toilet outside. We saw women painting the roofs of houses to reflect the heat.
- India is a developing country and is trying to increase industry and jobs to help get people out of poverty. To do this, India needs more energy. The government is trying to balance its use of fossil fuels with its climate targets and aims to keep the per capita carbon footprint lower than developed nations.
- Errick described why women are essential for climate action and showed photographs from an art competition undertaken in District 25, where art teachers submitted paintings on the theme of climate change. The winning paintings were stunning.

*Other business*

- 5.
- The links to the speakers' videos and slides of their well-researched presentations may be found at <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/>
  - At the June meeting, a request was made to develop a quiz on the Global Plastics Treaty. This has been posted at: <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/2023/07/10/quiz-global-treaty-on-plastic-pollution/>

*Actions from the July meeting*

- 6.
- Share draft Action Guides
  - Circulate Surveys after Zonta International Strategy has been released.
  - Promote the Zonta Says NOW Framework for Action leaflets that are on the Zonta International website.

*Next meetings* – please put these dates in your calendar.

- 7.
- Sunday 20 August 6 to 7.30 pm UTC
  - Sunday 17 September 12 to 1.30 pm UTC