

## Dr Meera Bondre, Biodata for the UWA PUNE Website (2025-27)

Dr Meera Bondre, an Ecologist and Hydrobiologist by education, was the only member of IFUWA and GWI, to be invited to the UN Global Assembly, “Women and Environment: Partners in Life”, from the Asia Pacific Region, to present her work of preserving Pune’s ecologically unique lake in Miami, USA in 1991. This Conference was preparatory to the famous Rio Earth Summit (UNCED) of 1992 which came out with the Agenda 21 document describing the norms to be followed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by human beings in general, and different stake-holders in particular. Thus she brought UWAP, IFUWA, and GWI on the international scene of Sustainable Development and contributed in her own way to the Agenda 21 Process..

Dr Bondre is the Vice President of the Graduate Women International (GWI). GWI is our parent body, the head office of which is located in Geneva. In the past Triennium as the Convener of the Membership Committee of GWI (2019-2022) she carried out with her team, several interesting online activities to keep the members engaged and connected from the 54 member countries across the world. She continues to implement the tried out good practices and add to them other innovative programmes, during the current Triennium, as the GWI Vice President, Membership.

She has played a pivotal role in reviving UWAsia and SAARC GWI. She was a successful Convener of the NFA to NFA Stream of the GWI Membership Marketplace, where joint projects are encouraged and conducted between two or more National Federations and Associations (NFAs). Now she is planning to have a programme involving all the 8 Associations in the countries like Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand which form UWAsia.

Dr Bondre received the **Bharat Jyoti Award** for her work in the areas of Scientific Research, Green Education, and Women’s Empowerment in 2003. She was also honoured by the Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (IFUWA) as **the ‘IFUWA Centenary Icon’** in 2020, during the Centenary celebrations.

She has been a member of UWA Pune for the past 45 years. Besides serving as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Convener of various Committees, and also as the Managing Trustee, she has started two on-going activities- The Environment Cell and Chhandarang (Hobby Hues), at UWA Pune. She has been instrumental in involving some of our members in international programmes as well. The **TEACHEx** project is worth mentioning where countries like Bangladesh, Brazil, Germany, India, South

Africa, Tanzania were involved in a Global Teaching Learning Experiences. The outcome was published in the book “Learning to Take Action” ( 2010).

She is also a Founder Trustee of the NGO Arbutus founded in 1976, which works in the field of Environment Protection, Culture, and Education for Sustainable Development. Arbutus is registered in the “Directory of NGOs In Enviroment”, a publication of 1984, by the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Dr Meera Bondre

GWV VP Membership, SAARCGWV VP, IFUWA Convener Asian Matters,  
Trustee UWA Pune