

2012 IAWP International Recognition and Scholarship Officer



Abida Sultana
Additional Superintendent of Police
Bangladesh Police

Co-Chairs Cindy Shain and Linda Mayberry and members of the IAWP International Scholarship Committee are very proud to announce the recipient of the 2012 IAWP International Scholarship, Additional Superintendent of Police Abida Sultana, Bangladesh Police. The process was very competitive this year. Twenty-nine applications for the award representing police women from 18 countries around the globe were submitted from a very impressive and professional group of police women.

Abida Sultana is presently working as the Additional Deputy Police Commissioner (ADC), Planning Research and Human Resource Development of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police of the Bangladesh Police. Through a competitive Civil Service process, she joined the Police service in 2003 after completion of her MSS degree in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Throughout her 8 ½ year career with the Bangladesh Police, she has served as Contingent Commander three times of the Bangladesh National and Independence Day Parade and once as Deputy Parade Commander in the yearly Police week Parade. She has been recognized for her service to the police as recipient in 2011 and 2012 of the **Inspector General Good Service Badge**. She is the first Commanding Officer in Charge of the first female Armed Police Battalion of Bangladesh, which was commissioned in June 2011 – a true milestone on the empowerment of women in the Bangladesh Police service. She also volunteered as a trainer on Gender Sensitivity, Woman Empowerment and the Woman Rights in the police training centers as a guest lecturer.

Additional Supt. Sultana was first assigned to the district police of Comilla as Assistant Superintendent of Police, upon completion of her basic training in 2005. From 2005-2008, she worked as an Assistant Director in the Intelligence Wing of the Rapid Action Battalion, where she participated in special operations involving the arrest

of interrogation of religious extremists and other dangerous criminals. She served a year-long peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009-10, working as a Logistics Officer in that newly formed mission. Between 2010-11, she served in the Industrial Police in Bangladesh as a Senior Assistant Director for Administration and Training, where she organized training programs on Human Rights and Women Rights issue for about 500 police officers. Ensuring the safety and security of the women labor community was her primary focus during this assignment, since women constitute 80% of the total labor force in the Readymade Garments sector of Bangladesh.

Additional Supt. Sultana's passion is in upholding the dignity and professionalism of Bangladesh police women. She serves as a willing role model for other women interested in joining the police service. She desires to narrow the gap between the male and female ratio of Bangladesh Police. She serves as an initial member of the Bangladesh Police Women's Networking (BPWN) Organizing Committee. She aspires to emerge as a change agent for the distressed women and children in Bangladesh. She is married and mother of two daughters.

When Additional Supt. Sultana was notified of her selection for the IAWP Scholarship, she wrote to International Scholarship Committee Chairs, Cindy Shain and Linda Mayberry:

It is great honor to be the owner of this scholarship and to attend the 50th annual Training conference which will be held in St. John's and Labrador, Newfoundland, Canada. It brings great honor for my country Bangladesh. I am so happy that may be I can't express it in appropriate words.

The IAWP International Recognition & Scholarship is a scope for me to be introduced with my international colleagues of police officers from different countries. This international exposure brought the chance to contribute to the cause of gender balance and equity in Bangladesh Police Service.

I would like most sincerely to thank the IAWP Scholarship Award Committee for selecting me as a recipient of this year's award and is looking forward to attending the conference and interacting with women police from around the globe. "This will be my lifetime experience and ever inspirational.

I am proud to announce that this year two women from Bangladesh won the world's highest peak the Mount Everest, like them I also like to dedicate this Scholarship to all women in Bangladesh. After coming back from attending the conference I wish to share the experiences with my colleagues in Bangladesh Police through the "Bangladesh Police Women's Network" (BPWN) and through other professional networks and hope this is the beginning of Bangladeshi women in Policing in International Arena.