

## 2010 IAWP International Recognition and Scholarship Officer



Chief Commissar Edlira Zoto

Albanian State 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 2010 IAWP International Scholarship, **Chief Commissar Edlira Zoto, Albanian State Police**. The process was very competitive this year. Forty applications for the award representing police women from 24 countries around the globe were submitted from a very impressive and professional group of police women.

Edlira Zoto is a five and-a-half year police officer, with the rank of Chief Commissar, serving in the Albanian State Police (ASP) – the national police of the Republic of Albania. She promoted to this rank the same day when she received notification of being the IAWP International Scholarship recipient. Her new position is Specialist of the newly created Quality and Diversity Affairs Section within the ASP General Directorate.

Chief Commissar Zoto began her career upon graduation from the Tirana Police Academy in 1997. She has served in a security role at the American Embassy in Tirana from 1998-2004. From 2004-2005, she served as a Specialist in the Analysis Directorate of the Albanian State Police, where she reviewed the data records system and improved the way information flowed within different levels of the agency. From 2005-2006, Chief Commissar Zoto served as a liaison in the INTERPOL office in Tirana, where she was responsible for a number of arrests involving wanted persons as a result of successful cooperation with other INTERPOL Offices in different European countries. Since 2006, she has served as an instructor in the Instructor Development and Field Training Officer Section of the Police Training Center, where she has developed programs for Instructors and FTOs and introduced new training methods and a high level of instruction.

Chief Commissar Edlira Zoto holds two bachelor degrees, one in the Police Management from the Albanian Police Academy and the other in Finance Management from the Faculty of Economic of the University of Tirana. It is her conviction that progress in our career should be dominated by the advanced concepts.

Chief Commissar Zoto enjoys promoting the values of female police and their significant role for police in Albania. She reads books in English about policing approaches in Western countries in order to “understand the role of female police officers within their own organizations and to apply the best experiences in the Albanian State Police.”

Chief Commissar Zoto is married to Artur Zoto, a former police officer. They have two sons. She believes in family values, which supported and inspired in her police officer career.

Chief Commissar Zoto plans to help establish an Association of Women Police in Albania and hopes that she will gain knowledge and expertise in building this organization from her participation and attendance of the 48th Annual IAWP Training Conference. Noting the theme of the conference in Minneapolis is “Strength Through Unity,” she states, “I would like to give my contribution to the international conference through sharing of experience and knowledge that I have gained so far as (a) female police officer in Albania.”

When Chief Commissar Zoto was notified of her selection for the IAWP Scholarship, she wrote to International Scholarship Committee Chairs, Cindy Shain and Linda Mayberry: “I am very happy and feel very honoured (to be) selected to take part in the 48th Conference of the IAWP. It will be a very big event for me and for all women of our police organization as well as for our ASP. Frankly, it endows me with a strong sense of pride and achievement. Moreover, I consider my participation in this remarkable activity as much a challenge to contributing to the further development of the IAWP as an opportunity to fulfill my aspiration to become an accomplished professional police officer.”