

RAPORTEURS REPORT

APEC 11th WOMEN LEADERS' NETWORK MEETING 19-22 SEPTEMBER 2006- International Conference Center Hanoi, Vietnam

THIRD PLENARY SESSION	: “Towards a Dynamic Community – Enhancing the Competitiveness of Women Business for Sustainable Development and Prosperity”
DATE	: 20 September 2006
TIME	: 14:00-16:30
CHAIRPERSON	: Ms. Ton Nu Thi Ninh Deputy Head of External Relations of Vietnam National Assembly
RAPORTEUR	: Dr. Ramona Ines Bustamante - Rañeses Philippines
TIME STARTED	: 14:10 pm

The third plenary session chaired by Ms Ton Nu Thi Ninh started with the presentation of the Outcome Reports by the three (3) rapporteurs on the three (3) sub-themes, followed by the discussion of common issues and ended with the Chairperson's Summary.

The strengths, achievements and challenges of WLN. were identified. It is acclaimed as an achievement that WLN has been influential in shaping APEC Gender Integration Policy particularly through recommendations to GFPN and SMEWG and finally to APEC Leaders and Ministers; WLN has consistently organized annual meetings on the side of APEC; inspite of lack of funds. it has implemented significant projects in APEC such as APEC e-Biz Training for Women Entrepreneurs, the 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneur and APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women; and WLN played a substantial role in successfully organizing two APEC Ministerial Meetings on Women.

The following priority issues were highlighted by the speakers namely:

The sustainability of WLN in the next decade and the importance of being relevant in the context of engendering trade and investment in APEC economies; (b.) need to continue providing gender expertise to APEC fora and Ministerial Meetings; support and promote gender integration projects in APEC; foster the development of networking through common goals and exchange of good practices; enhance capacity development throughout the APEC economies; visibilization of the contribution of women led businesses to economic development and trade; and renewed commitment from members of WLN to move forward in the next decade.

The following recommendations were advanced:

Continue to provide APEC fora with support to integrate gender in all its policies, programs and projects; Consider capacity development as a key strategy for women's empowerment within APEC; Conduct research, strategic studies and collect sex disaggregated data to provide evidence-based research to support policy recommendations and project proposals; Establish a secretariat and website for WLN. The Philippines offered to host the secretariat; Canada volunteered to monitor the impact of WLN recommendations.

Suggested two project proposals like:

- Joint HRD Programme on E-Women Leadership Development Training Network (E-WLTN)- Thailand
- APEC Strategic Framework for Women in Business, from Micro Enterprises to SMEs and Large Women Enterprises.

Support GFPN in organizing the 3rd Ministerial Meeting; Identify male champions to work with WLN; and Identify focal points within WLN to lead discussion on the establishment of the secretariat, new project proposals and to assist in developing the content for the 3rd Ministerial Meeting.

Discussion of Common Issues

Some participants raised the following salient points:

Vietnam: Hanoi women face difficulty in management. They need contacts to market their products. There should be regular contacts with members through the email. They need legal counseling. They need more training in ICT.

USA: I have been attending WLN meetings for so many years and it is only in this meeting that am most impressed because for the first time we are able to come up with many concrete recommendations:

- a. Philippines proposing to organize a WLN secretariat
- b. Canada to monitor the recommendations
- c. Korea - I am delighted this is a successful meeting.
- d. Chinese Taipei: We appreciate the e-biz training but we must also teach them how to use the skills and how to maintain the computers. . Let us tap the potentials of local universities.

Korea: Discussed the importance of the e-biz training

USA: Reiterated the Strategic Framework

Canada: We need good data. Good research

New Zealand: We are committed to pursue the WLN programs and projects.

Japan: What is good data research? It differs from economy to economy.

USA: We will change the world by how we move for the next ten years.

Chairperson's Summary

Based on the theme, "Towards a Dynamic Community: Enhancing the Competitiveness of Women's Business for Sustainable Development and Prosperity," the chairperson singled out four key concepts: dynamic, committed, sustainable and prosperity. To meet the goals and objectives, she clearly underscored four important concerns, namely:

1. Research

We need to have sex disaggregated data since we want to integrate gender. We must decide on whether we must push with the research – Korea is the initiator of the practical recommendation.

2. Capability Building

We need the following for capacity building:

- a. ICT

- b. access to different types of finance
- c. Skills

This requires networking, mutual support and

- a. Lobby with the nine other economies that are not included in the list of economies to be involved in the e-biz training, namely: Singapore, Chinese Taipei, New Zealand, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Mexico, Brunei and Russia. Before we network with ministers we must network with ourselves. We need a holistic approach to capability building and networking part of that holistic approach.

3. Submit proposals to funding agencies

- a. Identify how we impact. Let us be ready with data and statistics are very important tools to catch attention of leaders
- b. Monitor and promote our existing initiatives
 - Identify the Australian implemented projects
 - Monitor the Korean projects
 - Monitor the uncompleted projects.

USA committed to keep the momentum going by holding online fora for the above cited concerns.

Before the session was put to a close, the body approved to undertake the following actions:

- a. To establish a WLN Secretariat in the Philippines.
- b. To conduct research related to sex disaggregated data
- c. To develop a holistic Strategy Framework for women's enterprise Development to build capacity and support the growth of women-owned and/or women-led enterprises.
- d. To develop a research agenda related to women's entrepreneurship and related funding proposals for presentation to APEC and other funding bodies.

The session ended at 16:30 in the afternoon.

Prepared and submitted by:

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