

**Moving Towards the E-Future of WLN**  
by  
**Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand)**

**Plenary Session II** : WLN in the Future

**Sub-theme III**: WLN the second decade : Where do we go from here ?

**Subject II** : Identifying priority concerns of WLN to better influence APEC agenda

**Date & Time**: September 20, 2006, 11.00 – 12.00 am.

***“Moving toward the E-Future of WLN”***

**Thailand’s proposal for WLN in the Second Decade**

**Abstract:**

Since its origin in 1996, WLN has been developing legacy through its annual meetings for a decade. Despite its status as an informal network in APEC, WLN has had many recorded and unrecorded successes and impacts on APEC agenda and outcome of meetings. Being among the founding member economies, Thailand has always been supportive to WLN, especially as the host of the 8<sup>th</sup> WLN in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Moreover, from the understanding of WLN as more than just an annual meeting, Thailand’s WLN focal point, namely the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWAFD), together with other related offices/organizations, have worked towards the implementation of WLN recommendations through a number of policies, programmes and activities.

Having identified the core priority concerns of WLN for the past 5 years as 1) supporting women entrepreneurs, 2) recognizing impacts of globalization on women and facilitating and encouraging women’s uses of ICT and 3) making APEC a better ‘gendered’ environment, it is now the time to consider the 4<sup>th</sup> concern, the future direction of WLN. In order to accommodate all WLN’s prime concerns, especially the latter one, Thailand proposes that member economies develop **a joint e-training programme on the development of young women’s leadership**, to build on the WLN legacy for the benefit of the new generation of women entrepreneurs. Being a web-based training programme, member economies can contribute as well as benefit regardless of location and time constraints. While the seed money could be requested from the APEC secretariat or interested APEC member economies, Thailand, as the host to **APEC Technology Foresight Centre**<sup>1</sup>, and with the support of **Thailand Graduate Institute of Science and Technology** (TGIST)<sup>2</sup> and Thai university’s groups on women’s studies, could provide technological and academic support for the programme.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.apecforesight.org>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.learn.in.th>