

Cooperation Facilitating the Capacity Building and Networking Development of WLN

by

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Distinguished Mme.Chairperson,
Distinguished Colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of the All-China Women's Federation, please allow me to extend my sincere thanks to the host-Mme. Ha Thi Khiet, the President of the Vietnam Women's Union and all the members of the Vietnam Women's Union for your considerate arrangements. I would like also to express my warmest congratulations to you on the opening of this meeting.

As the focal point of the WLN in China, we, together with all of you, have been much concerned about WLN's future development, and made our efforts to push it forward. My speech is focusing on the capacity building and networking development of WLN through extensive cooperation.

As it well known, along with economic globalization, the Asia- Pacific Region has become the most dynamic and prosperous one by its economic growth in the world for quite a long period. Under the situation women in APEC region have more opportunities and face more challenges as well. The goal of establishing WLN is to integrate gender mainstreaming in APEC process to enable women to benefit from the economic and technical development and contribute more to its prosperity. I will elaborate the issue from the two aspects.

First, Strengthening the capacity building

The Women Leaders' Network has exerted its unremitting efforts in achieving its goal in the first decade. We are convinced that capacity building of WLN has become a central theme in the recent years. In the light of our actual practices, we emphasize the importance of the establishment of the partnership of governments, business, academic and training institutions for both human capacity building and economic cooperation. In this context, WLN has brought the partnership in its activities. In 2005, APEC e-Biz Training for women entrepreneurs was organized by Asia and Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC), hosted by Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy of Korea. Over 30 women entrepreneurs came from 13 APEC member economies and 3 non-member economies attending the training courses. It was a good practice for enhancing women entrepreneur's competence.

In the light of our actual conditions, the All-China Women's Federation has endeavored to push forward the regional and inter-regional cooperation. For example, in 2004, ACWF held the 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs. Most of the participants were coming from the Asia-Pacific Region. Under the conference theme: "Women Entrepreneurship and Global Cooperation", they had the heated and in-depth discussion about the four sub-themes, such as: "Partnership in Globalization", "Developing Women SMEs and Promoting Women Entrepreneurship and Employment", "Inter-Regional and Regional Trade and Investment Liberalization" and "Financing and Credit for

Women Entrepreneurs". The conference provided the platform of sharing information, experiences and good practices, and establishing trade agreement and cooperation among women entrepreneurs. As a result, governments, business, science and education sectors have strengthened their links, and women entrepreneurs have tapped their potentials.

Second, Facilitating the networking development

We believe that WLN should initiate an effective program in the joint efforts as its key link in its consolidation and development. In this connection, we should carry out the appropriate projects and activities on the basis of mutual benefit, complementarity and extensive cooperation in order to help women surmounting their disadvantages in the access to education, training, credit, technology, information and services, and improving their competence in market competition. We acknowledge that each economy has its own advantages and resources with its valuable experiences in development process. It is necessary to concentrate our efforts on common concerns based on the relevant initiatives of economies; identify the priorities and follow-up projects through discussion and consultation; and conduct pilot projects with fund raising on a voluntary basis. It is emphasized on pilot projects for their effective demonstration and influence on empowering women. Thus, more and more women will be empowered in a practical way with their professional, managerial and technical talents, and contribute more to the pursuit of APEC vision of balanced, stable, harmonious and sustainable development on the basis of narrowing gap. We'll be cable to achieve our end of gender equality and human civilization.

In my conclusion, I believe, in the spirit of "Exchanges, Understanding, Trust and Cooperation", we will push forward the integration of women in APEC process with joint efforts. Women will be able to play greater roles.

Thank you for your attention.