

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

APEC 11th WOMEN LEADERS' NETWORK MEETING 19-22 SEPTEMBER 2006

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, HANOI, VIETNAM

SECOND PLENARY SESSION : WLN IN THE FUTURE

SUB-THEME 3 : **WLN THE SECOND DECADE:
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

DATE : **20 SEPT. 2006, 8:30-11:00 a.m**

CHAIRPERSON : **MS. HEATHER GIBB, CANADA**

RAPPORTEUR : **MS. MARGARET HO POH YEOK
MALAYSIA**

The second plenary session was excellently chaired by Miss Heather Gibb with superb comments and suggestions from seven speakers on this important agenda of the 11th WLN Meeting. To recommend the strategic direction of WLN in the next decade most of the speakers touched on the strengths, achievements and challenges of WLN. Among them are;

- i. WLN has been influential in shaping APEC's Gender Integration Policy particularly through recommendations to GFPN and SMEWG and finally to APEC Leaders and Ministers;
- ii. Despite the lack of secretariat support and funding, WLN has consistently organized annual meetings on the side of APEC;
- iii. WLN as a multi stakeholder forum of government, business and academic representatives has implemented significant projects in APEC such as APEC e-Biz Training for Women Entrepreneurs and the 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs as well as the new initiative, APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women; and
- iv. WLN played a substantial role in successfully organizing two APEC Ministerial Meetings on Women.

PRIORITY ISSUES

The priority issues highlighted by the speakers include the following;

- i. 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;
- ii. need to continue providing gender expertise to APEC fora and Ministerial Meetings;
- iii. support and promote gender integration projects in APEC;
- iv. foster the development of networking through common goals and exchange of good practices;
- v. enhance capacity development throughout the APEC economies;
- vi. visibilization of the contribution of women led businesses to economic development and trade; and

vii. renewed commitment from members of WLN to move forward in the next decade.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Speakers and delegates provided excellent comments and suggestions. Among the key recommendations are;

- i. Continue to provide APEC fora with support to integrate gender in all its policies, programs and projects;
- ii. Capacity development as a key strategy for women's empowerment within APEC;
- iii. Conduct research, strategic studies and collect sex disaggregated data to provide evidence-based research to support policy recommendations and project proposals;
- iv. Establish a secretariat and website for WLN and in this regard, the Philippines offered to host the secretariat;
- v. Canada volunteered to monitor the impact of WLN recommendations.
- vi. Two project proposals were suggested;
 - 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.
- vii. Support GFPN in organizing the 3rd Ministerial Meeting;
- viii. Identify male champions to work with WLN; and
- ix. 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.

In conclusion, it was a challenging task to beat the clock to submit this report to the distinguished delegates who are present at this meeting today. I hope that I have adequately summarized and highlighted the rich wealth of information and recommendations of the speakers and delegates.

Thank you for your attention.