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W O M E N
L E A D E R S '
N E T W O R K
M E E T I N G

1-2 September
Kuala Lumpur 1998
MALAYSIA

DECLARATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

“Dynamic Partnerships And
Co-operation Towards Capacity Building
For Sustainable Economic Growth”

PARTICIPATING ECONOMIES

Australia • Brunei Darussalam • Canada
• Chile • Chinese Taipei • Hong Kong
China • Indonesia • Japan • **Malaysia**
• Mexico • New Zealand • Papua New
Guinea • People's Republic of China •
Peru • Republic of Korea • Republic of
Philippines • Russia • Singapore •
Thailand • United States • Vietnam

Organised by



FEM

FEDERATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION MALAYSIA

In Collaboration with:



Ministry of Entrepreneur Development Malaysia
Ministry of International Trade & Industry Malaysia (SMIDEC)
Ministry of National Unity & Social Development Malaysia (NACIWID)

WLN Past Themes : Manila WLN '96 – “A Call to Action”
Ottawa-Hull WLN '97 – “From Action To Implementation”

1998
WOMEN LEADERS' NETWORK
MEETING

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
September 1-2, 1998

**"DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION
TOWARDS CAPACITY BUILDING
FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH"**

DECLARATION

1. We, the **Women Leaders' Network from APEC Economies**, met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to reaffirm our commitment to work together in partnership to meet current challenges, as well as challenges in the new millenium to contribute towards achieving sustainability in our regional economic recovery, prosperity and development.
2. We met during a period of financial and economic turmoil in the APEC region. We are seriously concerned by the disproportionate economic, financial and social impacts on women, and we believe that the full impact of the crisis on women and women's livelihoods has to be fully understood and addressed.
3. We welcome the Leaders' Declaration of 1997 when they agreed to "take specific steps to reinforce the important role of women in economic development"; and, to hold a Ministerial Meeting on Women "to take stock of the progress to date in involving women in APEC's agenda and to determine the next steps to integrate women into the mainstream of APEC activities".
4. We call upon APEC Leaders and Ministers to accelerate the implementation of our recommendations from the first WLN meeting in Manila in 1996, and the second WLN meeting in Ottawa-Hull, in 1997.
5. We encourage APEC to continue integrating gender throughout it's work. We emphasize the importance of eliminating barriers to the full participation and contribution of women to our respective economies.
6. We have examined issues related to the current economic crisis and its impact on women and women's businesses. We also discussed micro-, small and medium enterprises, industrial science and technology, and human resources development. We are pleased to submit, in an annex to this Declaration, the key recommendations.
7. We congratulate the Confederation of the **Women's Business Councils in APEC Economies on the occasion of its launch** as a catalyst to facilitate and enhance business networking and partnerships among women entrepreneurs.
8. Finally, we reaffirm the mandate and unique nature of WLN as a diverse network comprised of women in business, government, academe and civil society from all the economies of APEC. We further emphasize the importance of ensuring that WLN remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances, and continue to be a source of expertise to enhance the work of APEC.