

Women Leaders Network of APEC: A Vision for the Future

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Why are We Here?

'If you say that globalization is hurting women, it is because you are not preparing her. I see the potential, how I can ride the crest of the wave and not submerge myself under it...I think a bigger world is where women have a better chance.'

Muhammad Yunus
Co-Chair, State of the World Forum
2006 Nobel Peace Prize

Increased Recognition!

- ‘Forget China, India and the Internet: economic growth is driven by women’ (*The Economist*, April 2006)
- ‘...there is a business case for expanding women’s economic opportunities: it’s called smart economics.’ (The World Bank Group, September 2006)

Background

- Indonesian Institute of Science and Technology, January 1996
- Experts' Meeting, March 1996
- NCRFW, Strategy Workshop, April 1996

Instrumental Supporters

- Philippines – host, 1996 National Commission for the Role of Filipina Women (NCRFW)
- Canada – funding provided by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- UNIFEM

Manila, 1996

- Network of Senior Women Leaders from APEC Economies, 1996
- ‘Gender, Trade and Investment Liberalization, and Economic and Technical Cooperation for Sustained Growth and Equitable Development
- 60 women leaders by invitation only

Women Leader's Network

From APEC Economies



MANILA, OCTOBER 1996

"The implementation of our economic cooperation agenda is based on a genuine partnership to which all APEC economies contribute. We direct our ministers, working in partnership with the private sector, to identify ways to encourage such participation by all APEC economies. In addition, we ask that they put special emphasis on the full participation of women and youth."

— Paragraph 17, Manila Action Plan Agenda of the 1996 APEC Summit

Purpose

- ‘To seek ways and develop strategies so that women’s concerns are heard, their aspirations considered, and their involvement firmly established when decisions and policies are made within APEC.’

Specifically, to:

- Foster regional cooperation to advance the status of women in Asia and the Pacific
- Formulate a framework for gender considerations to be included in developing human resources and in pursuing sustained growth and equitable development in the region

..... continued

- Organize a pool of experts to serve as partners and whose expertise could be tapped in identifying the gender dimension within APEC
- Orient the participants about APEC and its structures and how these can be maximized as possible points for policy intervention

The Challenge...Call to Action

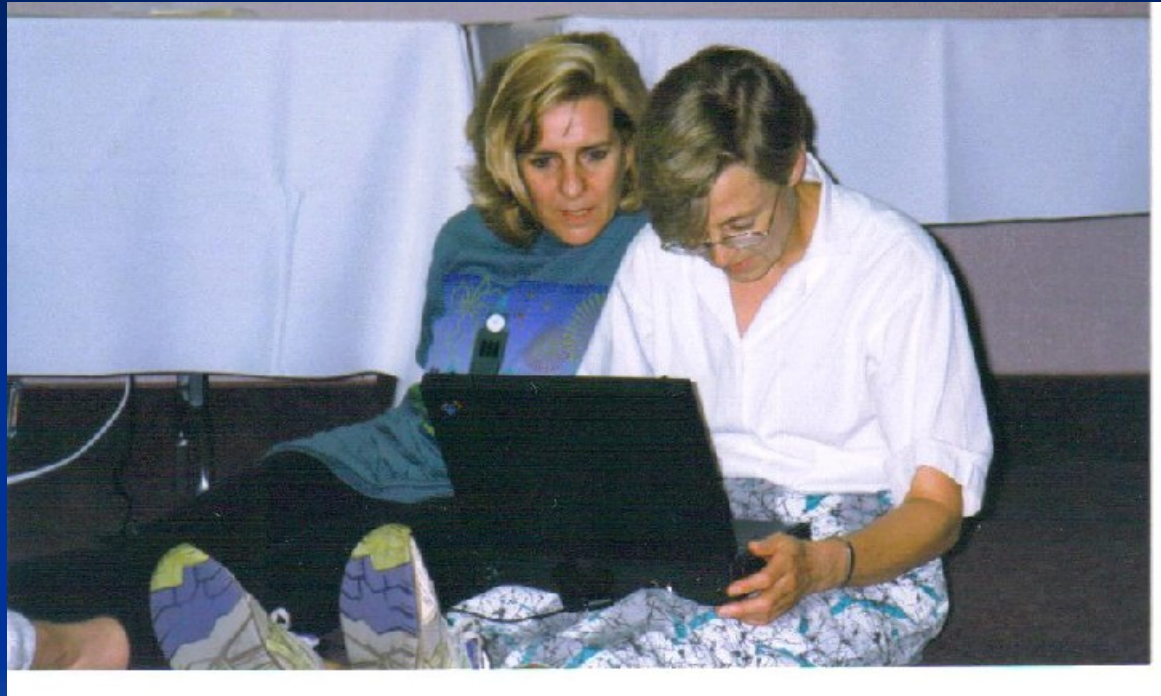
- Recognize and integrate gender as a cross-cutting theme in APEC
- Develop a partnership with the Network to identify mechanisms to achieve this objective
- Recognize the Network as a flexible, consultative forum and a strategic partner toward achievement of the APEC vision, goals and action agenda

Ottawa-Hull, 1997

- Now called Women Leaders Network of APEC
- ‘The Economic Impact of Women in the APEC Region’
- Co-chairs:
 - Huguette Labelle, President, CIDA
 - Dr. Lorna Marsden, President and Vice-Chancellor, York University
 - Andrina Lever, President, Lever Enterprises

Ottawa-Hull 1997

- 200 invited women leaders representing 16 of the then 18 APEC economies
- Corporate sponsors as partners
- Four government ministers
- Anti-APEC protesters – we had arrived!
- Media coverage!
- Late nights and early mornings!



12th APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) Meeting

Port Douglas, Australia

25-27 June 2007



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Women Leaders' Network

From APEC Economies



*The Economic Impact
of Women
in the APEC Region*

Ottawa-Hull

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Declaration

- ‘From Action to Implementation’
- Overarching recommendations
- SMEs
- Academia
- Science and technology



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Other WLN Hosts

- 1998 – Malaysia
- 1999 – New Zealand
- 2000 – Brunei
- 2001 – China
- 2002 – Mexico
- 2003 – Thailand
- 2004 – Chile
- 2005 – Korea
- 2006 – Vietnam
- 2007 – Australia

Future Hosts

- 2008 – Peru
- 2009 – Singapore
- 2010 – Japan

Structure

- Multi-sectoral approach
- High-level commitment
- Host economy commitment
- APEC secretariat role
- Continual commitment from WLN participants
- Adopt APEC structure: past, present and future chairs collaborate

Achievements!

- Launching with support of APEC leaders
- Creating awareness
- 11 years of meetings
- Two Ministerial meetings for Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs
- AGGI
- Gender training / Gender Focal Point Network

• **APWINC**

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More Achievements!

- Best practice recognition at the OECD
- Access to Ministers
- Participation and Education of more than 4 500 women
- 1999 – Indigenous Women Exporters in Business Seminar
- Recognition of ‘unique contribution of Indigenous women’ 1999, New Zealand
- Creation of MESWG of SMEWG
- New micro-enterprise development project

Where we still need to work!

- Need to continue to grow
- Need to develop and agree upon a vision
- Need to develop more continuity
- Need to mentor the next generation
- Need to attract and retain women of the highest influence
- Need to improve coordination
- Need to establish a Secretariat
- Need to secure core funding
- Need to create central archives
- Need to shake up APEC!

Vision

- Build on past achievements
- Establish a Secretariat
- Maintain our database and archives
- Breathe life into all sectors
- Set actionable goals
- Develop teams
- Welcome the next generation
- Keep the dream alive!

During this WLN meeting

- Come with your vision – what would you like WLN to be?
- Come with ideas – what can we do?
- Come with commitment – what can you do?
- Come with energy – what can we do together?

Looking Forward

- Troubled times
- Women have a role to play
- Now is more important than ever
- WLN is all of us!

In closing – another quote

‘They [women] don’t have to suffer as much since they can integrate and join forces with other women, build support, build networks, and eventually build themselves up.’

Earth News, Rabya Nizam

And when I read the following:

'The issue of inequality relates centrally to the disputes over globalization. A crucial question concerns the sharing of the potential gains from globalization, between rich and poor countries, and between different groups within a country.'

Amartya Sen

1998 Nobel Prize in Economics

To our hosts

- Thank you for your support and commitment to ensuring that the 12th meeting of WLN is a success
- Thank you for your hospitality
- Thank you for your vision and thank you to our colleagues from Peru for taking us forward next year

Thank You!

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