

The 2007 APEC Women Leaders' Network – over four hundred women leaders – met in Port Douglas from 25 to 27 June 2007 to discuss issues that are critical to building a sustainable future, including:

- climate change;
- sustainable trade;
- technology and business practices; and
- strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs.

Womonomics is now a recognised phenomenon. As *The Economist* said in April 2006, forget China, forget India – it is women that are the driving force behind economic growth in the Asia Pacific, and women need to be at the table when decisions are made.

The research is clear: economies that do not capitalise on the full potential of half of their human resources - the female half - are compromising their competitive potential.

Climate Change

WLN must immediately be fully engaged and consulted in the positive work being undertaken by APEC economies to meet the challenge of climate change, ensuring that women are fully integrated in the development of their strategies and solutions.

Ensuring women benefit from the Trade Liberalisation Agenda

Ministers are asked to ensure that research on the nature and extent of any differential impacts on women of Regional Trade Liberalisation and Free Trade Agreements within the APEC region is prioritised and urgently progressed in consultation with the WLN Chair. The timeframe for reporting the outcomes of this research should coincide with the 2008 WLN and APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meetings.

Women and Labour Mobility

WLN will discuss with ABAC the issue of labour mobility and ensure that ABAC's recommendations to the 2007 APEC Leaders meeting takes into account the implications for women, in particular the protection and safeguarding of the rights of migrant women.

WLN calls on APEC Ministers to favourably consider the development of a common accreditation system for skills recognition that would facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications across the APEC economies.

Facilitating the full participation of women in business

The WLN calls upon responsible Ministers to identify opportunities for women and to identify and to overcome any barriers to women in Micro, Small, Medium and Large enterprises accessing business development opportunities, ICT, financing, markets and any other forms of assistance within their economy. One of the measures for evaluating the quality of the business environment in an economy must be opportunities for women.

Facilitating the full participation of women in business (continued)

Further, the WLN urges leaders to ensure that, by 2010, their economies have identified, funded and implemented gender-responsive programs and policy models that will assist women-owned and/or women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Formal written reassurance is sought from responsible Ministers, by December 2007, that they will ensure that the SME Working Group maintains a strong focus on Micro-Enterprise.

Digital Divide

To ensure that women are able to take full advantage of developments in ICT, and are not left behind, APEC Ministers should ensure:

- improved infrastructure and access;
- skills development targeted at women's needs;
- gender-disaggregated research and sharing of best practices; and
- that women-led businesses are fast-tracked into the global value chain.

WLN within APEC

WLN asks APEC Leaders to:

- grant the WLN guest status at the meetings of all APEC working groups from 2008;
- appoint at least one woman to each economy's APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) delegation from 2008, to begin to address the striking gender imbalance currently evident within ABAC;
- include the presentation of the WLN recommendations by the Chair of WLN as a standing ABAC agenda item at the APEC Leaders Dialogue from 2008; and
- ensure the continued attendance of ABAC at the WLN meetings each year.

The way forward for WLN

Each economy focal point is committed to establish and maintain effective communication and consultation with her economy's APEC Senior Official.

The WLN will integrate similar events in its future programs under the pillars of: Trade; Micro-Enterprise; Small and Medium Enterprises; Information and Communications Technology; and Education.

The way forward for WLN

The WLN will continue to take all reasonable actions to:

- establish a Secretariat in the Philippines; and
- establish a web portal as a major means of awareness raising and communication.