

Presentation of the Statement and Recommendations of the 12th APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) Meeting

by

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As Chair of the 12th APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) Meeting, it gives me great pleasure to present the recommendations we have developed out of our 2007 meeting here, in Port Douglas.

Before I get into the 'nuts and bolts' I want to say how wonderful it's been to see all the heads of delegations and focal points working together so collaboratively to prepare these recommendations.

It's also been wonderful to have representatives from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) attend this Network meeting, and to have secured an invitation for the Women Leaders Network to be represented at the next ABAC meeting. We want greater collaboration between our two bodies, and that is reflected in these recommendations.

And, as you'll hear in a minute, these are no *ordinary* recommendations. They're recommendations with clout ... recommendations that are *practical, real and outcome oriented*.

How will we contribute to APEC's broader policy agenda?

How will we promote the critical role women play in the economic dynamism of the Asia Pacific?

While it's not possible, in the time permitted, to cover all recommendations in detail, it's well worth touching on each of them.

And before I do so, I can't help but note that the recommendations are the result of the considerable expertise in this room —expertise that stretches across small and large business environments, finance, trade, ICT and too many other areas to name.

We formulated recommendations under these themes:

1. Women and Trade
2. Strengthening Capacity
3. Women and Business

4. Global Challenges, and
5. Women and Information and Communication Technology.

On *Women and Trade* we ask APEC Ministers and Leaders to note the success of our first *Women in Export Trade* day and how it provided practical assistance to women exporters.

We've also asked them to note that the Women Leaders Network will host similar events in future years, where possible.

We also recommend that a stronger relationship between the Women Leaders Network and the APEC Business Advisory Council be developed.

And we recommend that the Women Leaders Network work with APEC to take forward the identified need for commissioned research on the differential impact of trade agreements on women.

On *Strengthening Capacity* we'll recommend that the Women Leaders Network establish a web portal.

This will be a comprehensive resource for research, training, tools and other information from across the 21 APEC economies. It will be invaluable in assisting women with entrepreneurship and trade activities.

On *Women and Business*, we recommend that the Network identify collaborative opportunities for 2008 with the Small to Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG).

And based on the hard evidence of the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, the World Bank and others —that involving women in advice and decision making makes sound economic sense —the network will recommend including senior businesswomen in APEC Business Advisory Council delegations.

We'll also recommend that women be included in the APEC Business Advisory Council Dialogue.

Turning to *Global Challenges* and the important role women play in all aspects of disaster preparedness and recovery, we have two recommendations:

1. In the first, we ask APEC Ministers and Leaders to note Indonesia's proposal — *Women in Times of Disaster* —which focuses on practical methods to integrate gender issues with disaster management and recovery.
2. In the second, we ask them to note that this year the Women Leaders Network held a forum on strengthening the capacity of business to meet the challenges of climate change.

We then recommend that APEC Ministers involve the Network in future work initiated by APEC in this area.

In *Women and Information and Communication Technology* we recommend that APEC Ministers note strategies developed through the 2007 APEC Digital Economy Forum for Women and also at this year's Network meeting about how women can better use digital technologies to enhance their businesses.

These recommendations have substance. They are meaningful. They have clout.

They have to be or they won't be taken seriously.

We shouldn't be surprised at what we've accomplished in 2007. After all, this is a large gathering of women leaders of influence from across the Asia Pacific.

And we've been supported by a fantastic line up of guest speakers, researchers and practitioners who have stimulated us to think —and think hard —about the outcomes we want from this meeting.

It's no wonder, then, that we've formulated a series of recommendations we can proudly present to APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in July, that we can pursue with the relevant APEC fora, and that we can also pursue within our own economies.

This has only been made possible because of your valuable input, and we thank you for your efforts.

In closing I want to remind you that this isn't a one-off, annual meeting. It's a *network* that should operate with great energy throughout the year and until the Women Leaders Network meets in 2008 in Peru.

So make a commitment to absorb these recommendations in detail and spread the news.

Make the commitment to yourself as a woman; to this, your Network; and to the other women of our region.

Talk about your experience in Australia —to other women leaders you meet and also to men leaders.

And keep this year's recommendations alive.

Thank you and I wish you all the best on your journey home.