

To: APEC Senior Officials  
Cc: Executive Director, APEC Secretariat  
Cc: SCE Chair  
Cc: GFPN Chair

Dear Colleagues,

At the Senior Officials Meeting on May 18, Officials endorsed the creation of the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE). It is expected that the PPWE will raise the profile of gender issues in APEC, expand the contribution to these discussions from the private sector, and make deliberations more accessible to APEC Senior Officials and Leaders. As a result, the PPWE will continue the work which the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) and Women's Leadership Network (WLN) started, and the GFPN will discontinue its operation as a separate APEC group.

On behalf of the U.S. SOM Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have participated in past GFPN meetings and contributed to the empowerment of women across the APEC member economies, and encourage them to continue to make positive contributions through the PPWE. Since its establishment, the GFPN, together with the WLN, has played a significant role in assisting the implementation of the "Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC."

Our work to foster women's empowerment in the Asia Pacific region remains as urgent as ever. I would like to encourage all of you to actively join the work at the forthcoming PPWE. We need your cooperation and support to ensure its success.

We look forward to working with you in the PPWE.

Sincerely,

Kurt W. Tong  
U.S. Ambassador for APEC

