

Women in APEC APEC Women Leaders Hold Successful Meeting

The fourth APEC Women Leaders Network meeting was held in Wellington on 20-23 June 1999. Entitled "Women's Contribution to Economic Prosperity", the meeting celebrated the contribution of women to sustainable economic development and social cohesion in the APEC region.



The meeting addressed APEC's objectives for 1999 to:

- expand opportunities for business
- strengthen the functioning of markets
- broaden understanding and support for APEC.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs co-ordinated the meeting and worked to ensure that it gave women a greater voice in APEC, provided a forum for women to contribute to discussion about trade, the economy and women's role in economic development and enabled women leaders to network with, learn from and do

business with each other.

The Women Leaders Network meetings have been growing in strength and importance each year since their inception in 1996. With 400 delegates from all the APEC economies (including 150 from New Zealand) this was the largest meeting to date.

Women Leaders Network meetings are unique in the APEC calendar. They are the only meetings that bring together delegates from areas as diverse as business, the rural sector, science and technology, academia,

government and non-government organisations.

The programme focused on three streams:

- **sustaining and thriving economies**, with sessions on rural issues, the impact on the environment of economic change, small and medium enterprises and human resource development
- **economies and change**, covering women's responses to the economic crisis, changing economic structures and infrastructure for trading success

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