



14th APEC Women Leaders Network Meeting (WLN) ■ 4 – 5 August 2009
APEC Digital Economy Forum for Women (DEW) ■ 3 August 2009

FACTSHEET

WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK

The Women Leaders Network (WLN) comprises more than 400 women leaders from the 21 APEC economies¹ representing senior levels in business, academia, government, and non-government organisations.

Besides promoting the participation of women in economic and trade-related activities, WLN conveys the perspectives of leading women to key decision makers within APEC and share with them their expertise.

History

The first meeting of the WLN was held in Manila, Philippines in 1996 and was attended by women leaders from 14 of the then 18 APEC economies.

The goal of the first WLN meeting was to increase women's involvement in APEC and to ensure that the interests of women leaders were represented e.g. taking gender issues into account in the trade liberalisation and facilitation process. With support from then President Ramos of the Philippines, the APEC leaders acknowledged the role of the WLN and agreed to include a paragraph recognising the special needs of women and youth in the leaders' statement. This represented a major move forward.

The second WLN meeting was held in Canada in 1997. It adopted a consultative approach. For the first time, the APEC Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Ministers invited WLN to present its recommendations to the Ministerial meetings.

In 1998, APEC leaders demonstrated their commitment to gender integration by endorsing the recommendations of the First Ministerial meeting on women, which included the development of a *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC*.

¹ The 21 APEC Member Economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States and Viet Nam.

WLN has continued to grow in size and influence, and now annually presents approved recommendations to APEC ministers and leaders on the integration of gender perspectives, women's enterprises, and economic cooperation into the APEC agenda.

Since its initial formation, the WLN has also held meetings in Malaysia, New Zealand, Brunei, China, Mexico, Thailand, Chile, Korea, Vietnam and Australia and in 2008, Peru.

Mandate

WLN's mandate is to:

- educate women about APEC and ensure full participation of women at all levels of decision making within the organization;
- encourage APEC to take gender considerations into account in all of its programmes, projects and policies;
- identify key issues affecting women in the region as well as to highlight their major contributions to their economies;
- generate solutions for the many challenges women face in the region;
- provide women leaders from the region with an opportunity to exchange ideas and examine ways in which they can collaborate in different areas;
- provide women with sources of mentoring, role modeling and partnerships with other women in the region; and
- offer a pool of expertise upon which APEC can draw for advice regarding specific gender issues related to the APEC agendas and priorities.

WLN also gives businesswomen the chance to network and learn from one another. Strong, active and long-lasting networks have been formed.

Structure and Process

Each member economy of APEC has its own Women Leaders' Network chapter, but the organisational structure, level of activity and size vary from economy to economy.

The annual meetings of the Women Leaders' Network, which are generally based on APEC themes, are held in the APEC host economy. The main outcome of the annual meetings is the final Statement and Recommendations. During the meeting, a Drafting Committee representing APEC member economies reviews and revises the draft recommendations and seeks consensus on the document. The approved recommendations are then presented to APEC Ministers and Officials.

Themes of Past WLN Meetings

WLN	Country/ Year	Theme
1 st	Philippines 1996	A Call to Action
2 nd	Canada 1997	The Economic Impact of Women in the APEC Region
3 rd	Malaysia 1998	Dynamic Partnerships and Cooperation Towards Capacity Building for Sustainable Economic Growth
4 th	New Zealand 1999	Women APEC: Our Contribution to Economic Prosperity
5 th	Brunei Darussalam 2000	SMEs as Global Traders
6 th	China 2001	Challenges and Opportunities for APEC Women in the Process of Economic Globalisation
7 th	Mexico 2002	Sustainable Economic Development with a Gender Perspective
8 th	Thailand 2003	Women Make a World of Difference: Partnerships for Gender and Development
9 th	Chile 2004	Women Leaders: Synergy of Diversity
10 th	Korea 2005	Prosperity of Women Entrepreneurs through Innovation: New Visions for Women
11 th	Vietnam 2006	Towards a Dynamic Community - Enhancing the Competitiveness of Women's Business for Sustainable Development and Prosperity
12 th	Australia 2007	Building a Sustainable e-Future
13 th	Peru 2008	Successful Women, Successful Economies

Source: http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au/apec_wln/index.htm and <http://www.apecwln.org/main/>

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