

The Fifth East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting

**Beijing Joint Ministerial Communiqué**

16 May 2013

1. We, ministers in charge of women and gender equality affairs and representatives from East Asian countries, gathered here in Beijing from 15 to 16 May 2013, to attend the Fifth East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting,
2. Appreciate with satisfaction the tremendous efforts made by East Asian countries in promoting advancement and empowerment of women and gender equality;
3. Greatly inspired by progress achieved by each country in safeguarding women's rights and promoting women's development and empowerment;
4. Highly commend the important contributions of each and every East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting for promoting women's advancement and regional exchanges, cooperation and friendship, and express gratitude to the hosting countries for their hard work;
5. Concerned with persisting obstacles and new challenges in gender equality, development and peace of this region.

**We are convinced that**

6. Women's active participation will make indispensable contributions to peace, development, prosperity and cooperation of the region;
7. Empowerment of women is a necessary requirement for achieving coordinated, balanced and sustainable development of regional economy;
8. Equality between men and women is inherent in building a harmonious, equitable and inclusive East Asia society and culture;
9. Promoting advancement and empowerment of women and realizing equality between men and women is the common goal for all countries of the region, and forms an important bond of solidarity.

**We are determined to**

10. Enhance political commitment, improve legislation, policies and actions, and realize de facto equality between men and women;
11. Promote regional solidarity, enhance communications, friendship and cooperation among women of East Asian countries; learn from each other and adhere to mutual-benefit and win-win principle, join hands to create a better future of lasting peace and common development of East Asia.

**We decide that**

12. In order to further promote communications among women of East Asian countries, the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting would like to merge with East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families and will take necessary actions to follow up.