

“2010 APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) Meeting -- Significance, Expectation, and Vision”

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Japan hosts the APEC this year and together with the APEC meetings, the APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) meeting, which is one of the meetings related to gender equality, will be held in Japan for the first time.

Women leaders abroad who are mainly involved in economic field gather at the WLN meeting. This provides a rare opportunity for Japanese women to learn the best practice abroad and to have a contact with role models. It is expected from the meeting to be held in Japan that domestic and international networks are formed and/or strengthened, women's willingness to participate in economic activities is increased, Japanese women are empowered, gender equality is further promoted, etc.. In addition, cooperation from student volunteers is expected for the meeting. Therefore, this can be a meaningful meeting for the youth, who are going to participate in the society, in their future planning.

The WLN meeting is not just an annual event. It is desired that domestic networks formed on this occasion will function in the future. It is expected that women in Japan will utilize the network to strongly encourage government officials to implement recommendations to be made toward the APEC SME Ministers, which are results of the WLN meeting. Further, it is also expected that a focal point is established in Japan to carry out continuous participation in future WLN meetings and continuous exchange of information and experience with WLN focal points in other countries. Thus, further advancement of women in the economic field can be expected.