

# Women Leaders Network of APEC: From 1996 to 2010!

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## The Essence of WLN?

- If you say that globalization is hurting women,
- it is because you are not preparing her.
- I see the potential,
- how I can ride the crest of the wave
- and not submerge myself under it
- ...I think a bigger world is where women have a better chance.'
- Muhammad Yunus, Co-Chair, State of the World Forum.



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## Increased recognition!

- Forget China, India and the internet: economic growth is driven by women (The Economist, April, 2006)
- '...there is a business case for expanding women's economic opportunities: its called smart economics. (The World Bank Group, September 2006)



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## Instrumental Initial Supporters

- Philippines – host, 1996 NCRFW (National Commission for the Role of Filipina Women)
- Canada – funding provided by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)
- UNIFEM



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## Manila, 1996

- Network of Senior Women Leaders from APEC Economies, 1996
- 'Gender, Trade and Investment Liberalization, and Economic and Technical Cooperation for Sustained Growth and Equitable Development
- 60 women leaders by invitation only



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## Purpose

- 'To seek ways and develop strategies so that women's concerns are heard, their aspirations considered, and their involvement firmly established when decisions and policies are made within APEC'

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## Specifically, to:

- Foster regional cooperation to advance the status of women in Asia and the Pacific
- Formulate a framework for gender considerations to be included in developing human resources and in pursuing sustained growth and equitable development in the region

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## continued

- Organize a pool of experts to serve as partners and whose expertise could be tapped in identifying the gender dimension within APEC
- Orient the participants on APEC and its structures and how these can be maximized as possible points for policy interventions

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## The Challenge...Call to Action

- Recognize and integrate gender as a cross-cutting theme in APEC
- Develop a partnership with the Network to identify mechanisms to achieve this objective
- Recognize the Network as a flexible, consultative forum and a strategic partner toward the achievement of the APEC vision, goals and action agendas

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## Ottawa-Hull, 1997

- Now called Women Leaders Network of APEC
- 'The Economic Impact of Women in the APEC Region'
- Huguette Labelle, President, CIDA, co-chair
- Dr. Lorna Marsden, President and Vice-Chancellor, York University, co-chair
- Andrina Lever, President, Lever Enterprises, co-chair

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## Ottawa-Hull 1997

- 200 invited women leaders representing 16 of the then 18 APEC economies
- Corporate sponsors as partners
- 4 Government Ministers
- Anti-APEC protesters – we had arrived!
- Media coverage!
- Late nights and early mornings!

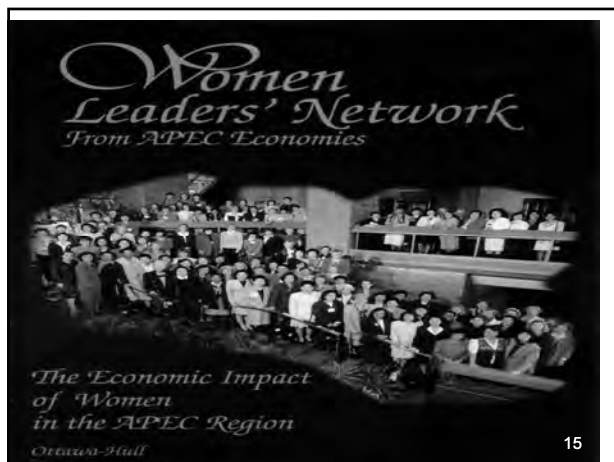
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## Declaration

- 'From Action to Implementation'
- Overarching recommendations
- SME's
- Academia
- Science and Technology

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## Other WLN Hosts

- 1998 – Malaysia
- 1999 – New Zealand
- 2000 – Brunei
- 2001 – China
- 2002 – Mexico
- 2003 – Thailand
- 2004 – Chile

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## WLN Hosts

- 2005 – Korea
- 2006 – Vietnam
- 2007 - Australia 2008 – Peru
- 2009 - Singapore
- 2010 - Japan

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## Structure

- Multi-sectoral approach
- High level commitment
- Host economy commitment
- APEC secretariat role
- Continual commitment from WLN participants
- Adopt APEC structure: past, present and future chairs collaborate

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## Achievements!

- Launching with support of APEC Leaders
- Creating awareness
- 15 years of meetings
- 2 Ministerial meetings for Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs
- AGGI
- Gender Training/ Gender Focal Point Network
- APWINC

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## More Achievements!

- Best practice recognition at the OECD
- Access to Ministers
- Participation and Education of more than 4500 women
- 1999 – Indigenous Women Exporters in Business Seminar
- Recognition of 'unique contribution of indigenous women' 1999, New Zealand
- Creation of MESWG of SMEWG
- New micro enterprise development project

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## Where we still need to work!

- Need to continue to grow
- Develop more continuity
- Mentor the next generation
- Retain women of the highest influence
- Collaborate with other groups
- Secure core funding
- Create central archives
- Shake up APEC!

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## Vision

- Build on past achievements
- Establish a secretariat
- Breathe life into all sectors
- Set actionable goals
- Develop teams
- Welcome the next generation
- Keep the dream alive!

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## Collaboration

- Many valuable resources available
  - WEF Gender Gap
  - World Bank Doing Business
  - UN Women's World Survey
  - GEM – Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

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## Japan's 2010 Priorities Change and Action

- Promoting Regional Economic Integration
- Devising a new Growth Strategy
- Enhancing Human Security

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## Future WLN Directions

- 2011 – USA hosts
- 2012 – Russia hosts
- 2013 – Indonesia hosts
  - Will be a major focus
  - What can we do to ensure that YOU are there
  - How can we repeat IWEBS

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## Looking Forward

- Troubled times
- Women have a role to play
- Now is more important than ever
- WLN is all of us!

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## In closing – another quote

- **'They (women) don't have to suffer as much since they can integrate and join forces with other women, build support, build networks, and eventually build themselves up'. (Earth News, Rabya Nizam**

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## And when I read the following:

- **The issue of inequality relates centrally to the disputes over globalization. A crucial question concerns the sharing of the potential gains from globalization, between rich and poor countries, and between different groups within a country.' Amartya Sen**

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Thank You!

