



WLN 11th MEETING
WHERE DO WE GO FROM NOW?
Capacity and Networking
Development

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Maria de la Luz Silva Donoso
CHILE Focal Point

WLN's Background

- The Women Leader's Network (WLN) was established in 1996 in Manila, Philippines to lobby the APEC Fora to advocate on behalf of women on trade-related issues.
- It was established as an informal network that mirrored the APEC structure but has never formalized itself as a legal entity.

WLN members

- It is a unique initiative that includes women leaders from the private, public, civil society and academic sectors from the Asia Pacific 21 member economies of APEC.
- Each economy has a WLN Focal Point attending the annual meeting.

How does WLN works

- WLN program addresses from a gender perspective the issues the host economy establishes for the year, and agrees a document with Statements and Recommendations for APEC.
- The Chair is the WLN Focal Point of the host economy responsible for the organization of the year's meeting.
- A Drafting Committee assist the Chair in the preparation of the Statements and Recommendations document.
- WLN reports to the MESWG, to the SMEWG, and SME and Trade Ministerial Meetings, so its Statements and Recommendations get to the Ministerial Meeting and the Leaders' Final Declaration.

WLN main achievements

Despite its informal structure – and some actually say because of it - the Network has been:

- very influential in shaping APEC's Gender Integration policy.
- A contribution for heightened awareness of gender issues and women's economic contribution in the region.

What has been the impact of the WLN on APEC?

1.- Has played a substantial role in the adoption of a gender integration policy within APEC.

2.- Has been able to gain recognition by APEC as an advisory body on gender in diverse APEC fora.

What has been the impact of the WLN on APEC?

3. Has been able to influence the content of the APEC Leader Declarations and Ministerial Meeting Joint Statements every year since 1996.

4. Has continued to organize an annual conference and policy drafting meeting without support of a secretariat since early 2001 or any kind of consistent funding.

Priorities

- Continue strengthening its role in APEC's gender integration policy and in dealing with key gender issues within APEC.
- Continue providing gender expertise to APEC fora and ministerial meetings.
- Continue to support and promote gender integration projects in APEC.

New Priorities

- Foster the development of networking through the annual WLN Meetings and the APEC fora gender projects.
- Enhance capacity development throughout the APEC economies building on the Network's existing strengths.

Networking Development

Importance of networking:

- The identification of common goals, obstacles and challenges, acknowledging the diversity in each economy.
- The exchange of good practices which can foster innovation in the way we do business, in our products and services, and in our economies' policies.

Networking Development

Networking allows:

- To create or foster the development of new networks. (WLA of Coquimbo)
- Development of international commerce through direct contact with international women entrepreneurs.
- Visibilization of women led businesses' contribution to economic and commercial development.

Capacity Development

Importance of capacity development in APEC:

- enhancement of women entrepreneurship capacities in a male oriented world.
- creation of new women owned businesses.
- women entrepreneurs coming in contact and learning the use of ICTs. (Enlaces, Bibliored)
(Research on E-Business of Women Enterprises in APEC Economies)

Capacity Development

Capacity development allows:

- adoption of strategies and instruments to promote women entrepreneurship and foster women's businesses in the APEC economies. (ej: Fonoexport)
- new initiatives to enhance women's capacity development (ej. "APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women",)

- NETWORKS AS A KEY INSTRUMENT FOR ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF WOMEN BUSINESSES.
- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AS A KEY STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT WITHIN APEC.
- ICTs AS A KEY RESOURCE FOR NETWORKING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN APEC ECONOMIES.



CONCLUSION

**MORE CONTACTS, WIDER PERSPECTIVES,
DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESSES**

**NETWORKING AND
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
WITH ICT SUPPORT: A
PRIORITY FOR EACH APEC
ECONOMY**