



ASEAN Committee

on *Women*

30 years after...



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on *Women*

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The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women

For:



The ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)

Manila, Philippines
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Historical Background

The effort among Southeast Asian women to work at the regional level for gender equality goals and women's advancement has its impetus in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord's call for "support for active involvement of all sectors and levels of ASEAN communities, particularly of women and youth in development efforts."

Despite many difficulties, women leaders of the region persevered to gain recognition of women issues as an ASEAN concern, and to advocate for formal organization so that institutional responses to the gender question would be ensured.

Efforts toward establishing an ASEAN involvement in women activities started at the ASEAN Women Leaders Conference held in Jakarta in December 1975. In compliance with the decision of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Standing Committee (Manila, 2 June 1975) to establish a Sub-Committee on Women and on the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Socio-Cultural Activities (Singapore, 29-31 July 1975), delegates convened for the First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women on 7-10 June 1976 in Makati, Philippines. The Sub-Committee was placed under the Permanent Committee of Socio-Cultural Activities of the ASEAN, presently known as the ASEAN Committee on Social Development (COSD).

A major task of the meeting was to discuss the two-pronged ASEAN Strategy for the Implementation of the World Plan of Action to carry out the objectives of the United Nations International Decade for Women, 1975-1985. (The adoption of the World Plan of Action, and the world conference to celebrate International Women's Year held in Mexico in 1975 where the plan was drawn up, were landmark events signalling the recognition of women's bid for equality as a global issue.)

Elected to chair the First Meeting was Deputy ASEAN Secretary General and Philippine delegation head Rosario G. Manalo, while Indonesian delegation head Rusiah Sardjono was elected vice-chair. It was during this meeting that the member countries expressed the need to elevate the Sub-Committee to a Permanent Committee of the ASEAN body. There was also a strong advocacy for the establishment of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO), to strengthen further the role of women in development with the cooperation of women NGOs. The First Meeting formed a Working Group that formulated the ACWO Constitution, thereby implementing the Declaration of ASEAN Women Leaders signed in Jakarta on 22 December 1975. It also served as a forum to discuss the critical conflicts that ASEAN countries face.

On 2-5 November 1976, the ASEAN Seminar on Women and Employment was held in Kuala Lumpur with the following objectives: to ascertain opportunities and services available for women's active participation in the labor force, to identify and overcome national and regional problems regarding women, and to recommend areas for cooperation within the ASEAN region.

A hiatus on initiatives for women at the ASEAN level followed the First Meeting. However, interest was renewed at the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women held July 1980 in Copenhagen. Representatives of ASEAN countries attempted to reactivate women activities in the ASEAN region by drafting a joint resolution on an ASEAN strategy for action addressed to the Secretariat of the ASEAN Standing Committee. The first attempt was followed by proposals to convene an ASEAN Workshop for Women and an ASEAN Women Leaders Conference on 5 December 1980. Unfortunately, both activities failed to materialize.

ASEAN countries had generally been supportive of efforts to promote women's status, and had participated actively in international conferences pertaining to women's advancement. However, the recommendations that were put forth failed to transpire because of the lack of instruments and systems for implementation. Among the reasons for the inactivity between 1976 and 1981 were:

- the recommendations were not endorsed by the committees addressed;
- there was no permanent committee within the ASEAN body to work specifically for women concerns;

- the call for the establishment of such a committee did not materialize;
- there was no effort to institute a permanent fund to finance the proposed programs and recommendations;
- ASEAN countries differed in priorities and interests, and
- the presence of other agencies, such as the ESCAP, UNESCO, ILO and APDC made it more difficult to establish a separate body for women concerns exclusively for the ASEAN region.

On 18-21 November 1981 the First Meeting on the ASEAN Women's Programme (AWP) was held at the ASEA Secretariat in Jakarta, pursuant to the recommendation of the Preparatory Meeting for the Second ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (Jakarta, 20 August 1981) held in conjunction with the Fourth Meeting of the COSD, and later approved by the First ASEAN Standing Committee in Singapore on 4 September 1981. Delegates agreed to rename the 1976 ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women as ASEAN Women's Programme. This meeting cemented the establishment of the ACWO with ratifications and the adoption of its Constitution and By-Laws. A plan of action for 1981-1986 was also formulated with emphasis on women's health, education and employment.

From 1981, numerous projects and programmes were undertaken to promote women's development in the ASEAN region. Initial accomplishments included the establishment of the Clearing House on Women in Development and the holding of the Women Artists in the ASEAN Exhibition on Painting and Photography. Next, Guidelines for the AWP was put together. In 1987 the draft Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region was amended and signed on 5 July 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand. Publications were produced and distributed, among them the ASEAN Women and Directory of Private Organizations of Women in Development in Thailand, the Thesaurus on Women in Development, the 1995 ASEAN Women: A Statistical Factbook, the Advancement of Women in ASEAN – a Regional Report (1996), and the 2002 Second Regional Report. Workshops were also held such as the ASEAN Workshop on Prevention of Family Violence and the ASEAN Workshop on Indicators and Statistics on Women. 1996 was a highlight in AWP's history when Vietnam, for the first time, participated in the AWP Meeting as a member. Also, the following year, Lao PDR and Myanmar participated

in the 16th ASW Meeting for the first time. Membership of the ten ASEAN Member Countries was finally completed in the 18th ASW Meeting in 1999, with Cambodia as first-time participant.

The possibility of renaming the ASEAN Women's Programme was discussed at the 15th AWP Meeting in 1996, which move was approved by the ASEAN-COSD. The following year, the meeting convened as the 16th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (ASW), as it was initially named in 1976. In 2001 the Sub-Committee on Women was elevated to ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), upon the agreement to restructure the group during the 20th ASW Meeting. The ACW Terms of Reference was also reviewed and adopted during the First ACW Meeting in 2002.

The ACW has kept moving forward with projects and programmes for women's advancement. These include: Capacity Building for Women and ICT in ASEAN, the Sharing of Best Practices and Expanding New Skills Training for Disadvantaged Women, the ASEAN-Australia Project Against People Trafficking in Southeast Asia: Project Design Mission Phase, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETINGS



MEETING OF THE ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

Makati, Philippines, 7-10 June 1976

In compliance with the decision of the First Standing Committee (Manila, 2 June 1975) to establish a Sub-Committee on Women, and as recommended at the Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Socio-Cultural Activities (Singapore, July 1975), delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines convened for the First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women on 7-10 June 1976 in Makati.

The main point of discussion was the ASEAN Strategy for the implementation of the World Plan of Action to carry out the objectives of the United Nations International Decade for Women, 1975-1985. The strategy included strengthening both the national and regional machineries for women's development in the government and the private sector. Member governments were strongly urged to establish national commissions or advisory councils and to encourage a similar mechanism for voluntary organizations. Also recommended were: the elevation of the Sub-Committee on Women into a Permanent Committee, and the establishment of a Women's Section under the Bureau of Social and Cultural Activities in the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to effectively coordinate policies and programs pertaining to women and development in the region. The immediate creation of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO) was pushed on the basis of the Constitution drafted by the Working Group.

The Meeting tackled a wide range of pressing problems shared by member countries, and made recommendations on the following concerns:

- Health, nutrition, education and employment
- Industrial and agricultural training for women
- Rural settlement and urban housing
- Trafficking of women and girls
- Drug trafficking
- Exchange programme for ASEAN women leaders, journalists, rural extension workers and women in the legal professions



ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

The First Meeting

Jakarta, Indonesia, 18-21 November 1981

*A*lthough the setting up of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women in 1976 was a milestone, not much was done in the six years that followed. Thus women leaders again came together to pursue recommendations adopted in previous meetings and revive the promotion of women's active involvement in development initiatives in the ASEAN region.

To further strengthen the regional mechanism, delegates to the 1981 meeting agreed to rename the sub-committee ASEAN Women's Programme, placing it under the ASEAN Committee on Social Development (COSD). The Objectives and the Terms of Reference of the AWP were likewise adopted.

Country reports were presented based on assignments previously agreed upon by ASEAN women leaders in Jakarta in 1975, and on the implementation of recommendations of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women in 1976. National experiences were also shared on education (Philippines), health (Thailand), industry and business (Singapore), employment (Malaysia), and women and rural development (Indonesia).

Further, the Meeting considered the Report of the Working Group on the Formulation of a Plan of Action for 1981-1986 and took note of the Plan of Action for the Second Half of the UN Decade for Women for the ASEAN Region.

The Report on the Establishment of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organization (ACWO) was adopted, and the ratification of the ACWO's Constitution and By-Laws by representatives of the National Women's Council of member countries was duly noted.

The Meeting recommended that the following projects be carried out:

- ASEAN Women's Programme on Art and Culture
- Clearing House and Information on Women in Development
- Women' Vocational Training Centre
- Population Development Project
- Legal Literacy and Legal Aid.

The Meeting urged member countries to give special attention to women workers and ageing and elderly people, through legislation and programmes to ensure their protection and welfare.



ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

The Second Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 January 1983

The Second AWP Meeting focused on the project Strengthening the ASEAN National Clearing House on Women in Development, aimed at assisting member countries in establishing an information clearing house on ASEAN women in development and improving information service capability. The ability to generate and share information was seen as crucial to a better understanding of the needs of women and to the formulation of more appropriate policies and plans.

At the national level, the clearing house would serve not only as a library and resource center but also as a tool to strengthen women's programs through information activities. It could also initiate the gathering and generation of data to meet program needs.

At the regional level, the project would: promote collaboration among member countries regarding all aspects of information provision such as management, operational and research development; train personnel; and stimulate the creation of databases on women concerns.



ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

The Third Meeting

Jakarta, Indonesia, 21-25 February 1984

The keynote address emphasized the importance of the AWP as a forum where ASEAN women come together to formulate plans and programmes to enhance the role of women in development. It added that the Meeting reinforces sisterhood in the region and provides the stimulus for women to take greater part in the building of their respective societies.

Delegates gave updates on actions taken based on agreements made in previous meetings. With the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations fully instituted, note was made of the ACWO President's Report on the First General Assembly of the ACWO.

Progress reports were presented on the following programmes:

- **ASEAN Women's Programme on Art and Culture.** The report by Indonesia was adopted with conditions noted on the proposals for an ASEAN Women's Painting Exhibition and an ASEAN Study of Women's Role in the Socialization Process.
- **Clearing House on Women in Development.** Considering the need for standard vocabulary and terminology for the storage and retrieval of documents relating to Women in Development, the Meeting proposed the development of a uniform computerized thesaurus on WID in the ASEAN region. Indonesia as the Coordinator of the Clearinghouse on Development was asked to mobilize funds for the Experts' Clearinghouse Meeting to be hosted by Malaysia, and the Project: Thesaurus for Women in Development.

- **Women Vocational Centre.** The proposal on the setting up of an ASEAN Women Vocational Training Centre was modified into Establishment of a Network of ASEAN Women Vocational Training Programmes. New guidelines on training programmes provided by the ASEAN-EEC were considered in the discussion of the proposal, notably the emphasis on the regional dimension of the project and sustainability of results of the training.
- **Young Women in Population Development.** Progress reports presented by Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia were considered with the suggestion that population development in ASEAN countries be incorporated with the existing programmes of national bodies dealing with population and development.
- **Legal Literacy and Legal Aid.** The meeting noted the progress reports and recommended that the Clearinghouse of member countries be utilized as channels for the exchange of information on legal literacy and legal aid.

New project proposals were likewise considered. The first was the setting up of an Integrated ASEAN Consumer Protection Programme, with the delegates agreeing to have the National Secretariats provide assistance to establish the ASEAN Consumer Protection Agency. The next proposal, Mobilization of Young Women for Developing Community Based Support Systems for Women and Pre-Schoolers, was integrated into the ASEAN Population Programme. Regarding elderly women, each member country shall undertake an Inventory of Elderly Women Professionals.

Grave concern was expressed about the negative portrayal of women by the mass media. The Meeting urged member countries to intensify efforts to counteract adverse effects, through the creation of a national body with monitoring and policy development functions aimed at eliminating sex stereotyping in media.



ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

The Fourth Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-27 April 1985

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The Fourth Meeting reviewed project implementation and formulated plans and strategies for future activities. Discussions focused on Health, Education and Training as important factors in women's advancement, in view of the dramatic changes in the status of women over the last decade and their increasing role as catalysts in social and economic development in the ASEAN region.

The Report on the Clearinghouse of Women in Development pointed to two major decisions made in the Second Experts' Group Meeting: the production of a preliminary thesaurus on women in development by Indonesia, and the compilation of relevant statistical data on ASEAN women into a booklet by the Philippine Clearinghouse. Thailand's Report on the Establishment of a Network of ASEAN Women Vocational Training Programmes underscored the need for funds and the possibility of extending the duration of the project. After hearing the country reports on Legal Literacy and Legal Aid, delegates agreed that Malaysia will undertake a study on the most effective method of implementing the Legal Literacy Programme. Progress reports were also presented on the following: Inventory of Elderly Women Professionals, Arts and Culture, Consumer Education for ASEAN Women, and the ACWO.

New projects were proposed. The proposal ASEAN Study of Women's Role in the Socialization Process was generally accepted with the suggestion that an Expert Group Meeting be convened to determine the need and scope of the study. Research on the abuse of women and children, with emphasis on trafficking of women and children, was also considered a viable project that needed funding support. The Meeting agreed that as a short-term measure, the Network of ASEAN Clearinghouse on Women in Development will be used in information dissemination efforts. Regarding the ASEAN Women Vocation Training Programme, the Meeting agreed that member countries should prepare their own component of the project within the context of their

country requirements. Similarly, each member country will design its own country programme package patterned after Malaysia's programme as described in its paper "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Utilization of Maternal Health Services in Rural Malaysia".

Other matters discussed involved the establishment of an ASEAN Women's Development Centre, the role of AWP and women in achieving peace within the ASEAN region, and preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the UN Decade for Women, slated for July 1985 in Nairobi.

The Meeting agreed that the following be emphasized at the Nairobi Conference: extension of the UN Decade for Women to Year 2000, priority for the development of rural women, and ASEAN's support for the promotion of peace and women's contribution to the peace objective.

The Meeting welcomed the participation of Brunei Darussalam, attending the meeting for the first time.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Fifth Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-24 January 1986

The Fifth Meeting pushed for the regional implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women adopted in Nairobi in July 1985. With the Nairobi document and members' progress reports as references, the meeting formulated policy guidelines and strategies relevant to the needs of ASEAN women.

Gains made with AWP projects were given recognition. The project on the ASEAN Network of Clearinghouses on Women in Development reported completion of the second draft of the Thesaurus. The Meeting agreed to issue a pamphlet on the Clearinghouse. It also discussed the capability-building needs of the Clearinghouses, the compilation of comprehensive and current information on ASEAN Women in Development, printing of the brochure ASEAN Women: Facts and Figures, and production of the Directory of ASEAN Women's Organizations.

It was suggested that Malaysia's revised proposal on the ASEAN Network of Vocational Training for Women Programme include country component projects that will serve as individual modules of the comprehensive programme, with emphasis on traditional industries, agro-industry, business management and marketing techniques.

The report on the ASEAN Women's Development Centre explained that the Centre's functions include coordinating research projects and serving as documentation center on women in the region. It will also serve as a symbol of women's progress in ASEAN.

Regarding new proposals, the meeting agreed to pursue the project titled "A Network of ASEAN Data Base on Women Experts and Specialists in Various Fields of Social and Economic Development". In view of the

seriousness of drug addiction in the region, it was decided that the proposal on the establishment of an ASEAN Parent Movement in Drug Abuse Prevention will be presented for funding at the ASEAN-Australian Forum in February 1986. On the proposed seminar on Women and Development for Senior Development Planners, the Meeting accepted the Canadian High Commission's offer to host the seminar in the form of a workshop in November 1986. The presentation on Quantification of Housework suggested the formulation of a measurement device for estimating the value of housework, the development of instructional materials for students, and a study of the materials' effectiveness in integrating concepts on male and female roles to help shape values and attitudes among the students.

With 1986 as the International Year of Peace, note was made of women's role as peacemakers in their homes, communities and the region. Also spotlighted was the celebration of 1987 as International Year for Shelter for the Homeless – action was urged on problems of homelessness and inadequate housing, with special attention on the needs of the elderly and orphans, and the involvement of more women in programme planning.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Sixth Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25-27 February 1987

The adoption of two major documents marked the Sixth AWP Meeting – the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region and Guidelines for the ASEAN Women's Programme. The guidelines which contained the strategies, principles of cooperation as well as areas of special concern, served as reference in determining the future direction of the AWP. The Chairperson underscored the benefits of impressing on international aid agencies and dialogue partners that AWP had defined its terms of reference and identified the areas of concern for its projects and initiatives. To support implementation of the Declaration, the Meeting considered the proposal to establish an ASEAN Women's Programme Development Fund.

Significant developments were reported on projects. The draft *Thesaurus on Women in Development* was on its second review, and the collection of the Malaysia National Clearinghouse was being enhanced. Indonesia shared its plans to develop the Indonesian bibliographic database on women and children. Both the Philippines and Thailand circulated their respective documents: *Facts and Figures on ASEAN Women* and *Directory of Private Organizations of Women in Development in Thailand*. The project proposal on the ASEAN Network of Vocational Training for Women was accepted by UNDP with an allocation of US\$300,000. Funding assistance was also secured for the project ASEAN Parents Movement in the Prevention of Drug Abuse, amounting to US\$25,000 from the United States Government for a five-day workshop. All five member countries reported having conducted research and studies as regards the project ASEAN Study of Women's Role in the Socialization Process. Delegates informed the Meeting that the CIDA-sponsored Seminar on Women and Development for Senior

Development Planners introduced the technique of gender analysis in the formulation and evaluation of development projects, and strongly recommended its application at the national level. The Meeting endorsed a new proposal on the promotion of women's education in ASEAN countries.

Regarding the Third ASEAN Summit to be held in December 1987 in Manila, member countries were urged to maximize the opportunity by proposing projects responding to important issues on women which will be discussed during the Summit. The Meeting also decided to recommend the topic "Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region" as the most appropriate issue to be presented to the Summit.

The Meeting noted that Malaysia had completed its three-year term as AWP Chair, and will be succeeded by the Philippines according to the ASEAN practice of rotation by alphabetical order.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Seventh Meeting

Manila, Philippines, 13-15 April 1988

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ith the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region having been adopted at the Sixth AWP Meeting, delegates to the Seventh Meeting agreed to set aside the original Terms of Reference (TOR) and to adopt the Declaration as the new TOR and consider the Guidelines for AWP as the means to achieve the objectives of the Manila Declaration of 1987. The Meeting likewise recommended that the Declaration on the Advancement of Women be signed at the 21st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting to be held in July 1988.

The Meeting was informed that the draft Thesaurus on Women in Development was well accepted during its second workshop on 4-5 December 1987. On the project ASEAN Network of Parents' Movement in Drug Abuse Prevention, it was agreed that member countries shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Guidelines and Plan of Action and submit their reports to the Coordinator for further action.

Considering the Third ASEAN Summit's decision to review the funding of ASEAN projects, the Meeting recommended that a study be done on a mechanism that will help mainstream women's projects into other activities of ASEAN, as a means of coping with the problem of funding for women's projects.

The meeting made recommendations on new proposals presented for consideration. Bilateral arrangements for funding assistance with donor countries/agencies should be considered for the implementation of Training of Trainers in Gender Analysis in Project Development at the national level. Revisions shall be made on the following proposals — ASEAN Seminar on Women and Statistics, Development of Educational and Media Materials for Consciousness-Raising on Gender Issues, ASEAN Seminar on Education for Peace, and Study Grants for Women's Studies.

Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that a national machinery on women was established under the Social Affairs Division of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in February 1987.

7th ASEAN Women's Programme (AWP) Meeting • 15 April 1988, Hyatt Regency, Manila, Philippines





ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Eighth Meeting

Manila, Philippines, 24-26 May 1989

The meeting was informed that the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region was signed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 5 July 1988. In the light of the alarming observation that the pace in women's development slowed down during the decade, member countries were urged to work harder towards the implementation of the Declaration. The approval of the Guidelines for the ASEAN Committee to Source Funding from Regional and International Organizations/Institutions Having No Formal Linkages with ASEAN during the Second Meeting of the 22nd ASEAN Standing Committee Meeting in November 1988 was also communicated to the delegations.

Project Coordinators gave progress reports on continuing ASEAN projects. It was agreed that AWP would monitor parents' movements for drug abuse and would inform the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs of these activities. The Meeting likewise approved the proposal for a last workshop to finalize the first edition of the *Thesaurus on Women in Development*. It noted with regret the withdrawal of the project Promotion of Women's Education in ASEAN Countries during the 13th COSD Meeting, for lack of a funding source. Relative to the proposal on the Development of a Philippine Data Base on Women Indicators and Statistics, the Meeting agreed to revise the proposal to consider the need for networking in statistics and indicators and to include the conduct of an Experts' Group Meeting that would define the terms of networking. In the same way, an Experts' Group Meeting should be organized to develop the substance and mechanism for the women's network on women's studies in ASEAN. New proposals on combating violence against women in the home and strengthening the national focal points for women were also discussed.

The meeting assessed the tasks and accomplishments of the AWP within the context of the Declaration, particularly AWP's participation in the ASEAN. The Meeting discussed problems and possible actions on integrating AWP interests into the programs of COSD and other ASEAN Committees, strengthening AWP Focal Points and AWP communication processes, strengthening cooperation with ACWO, and institutionalizing the referendum process within AWP to hasten action between meetings and to ensure better preparation for annual meetings.

8th ASEAN Women's Programme (AWP) Meeting • 24-26 May 1989, Philippine Plaza, Metro Manila





ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Ninth Meeting

Manila, Philippines, 24-26 January 1990

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Chair in her report raised concern over the lengthy project cycle followed for AWP projects. She emphasized the need for innovative approaches, other than projects, that would obtain results more rapidly and with greater impact. Project coordinators reported accomplishments relative to revisions on project proposals as agreed upon in previous Meetings, as well as efforts to negotiate for funds to conduct meetings and research studies on ongoing projects.

Country papers on three areas of concern were presented: Women in Law and Policy (Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines), Educational Status of Women (Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Malaysia), and Violence Against Women (Philippines and Malaysia).

The Meeting considered the recommendations drawn from the various country papers and those raised in floor deliberations. Three priority areas were identified to guide future follow-up initiatives in the form of project proposals to be considered during the Tenth AWP meeting. These were: the need to address gender bias in the legal system, the need to integrate gender into the development planning process of respective ASEAN countries, and development of gender awareness through media and the arts. It was further agreed that future activities should focus on: empowering women for effective participation in national development efforts, mainstreaming women in development policy and planning, and raising public awareness on women as victims of all forms of violence.

On other matters, the Meeting emphasized the need to mainstream women's concerns in the larger ASEAN bodies. The problem on securing funds was raised and it was proposed that the AWP set up a fund to support its projects. Lastly, it was agreed that an urgent task is for AWP to examine its structures and thrusts in order to determine future directions.

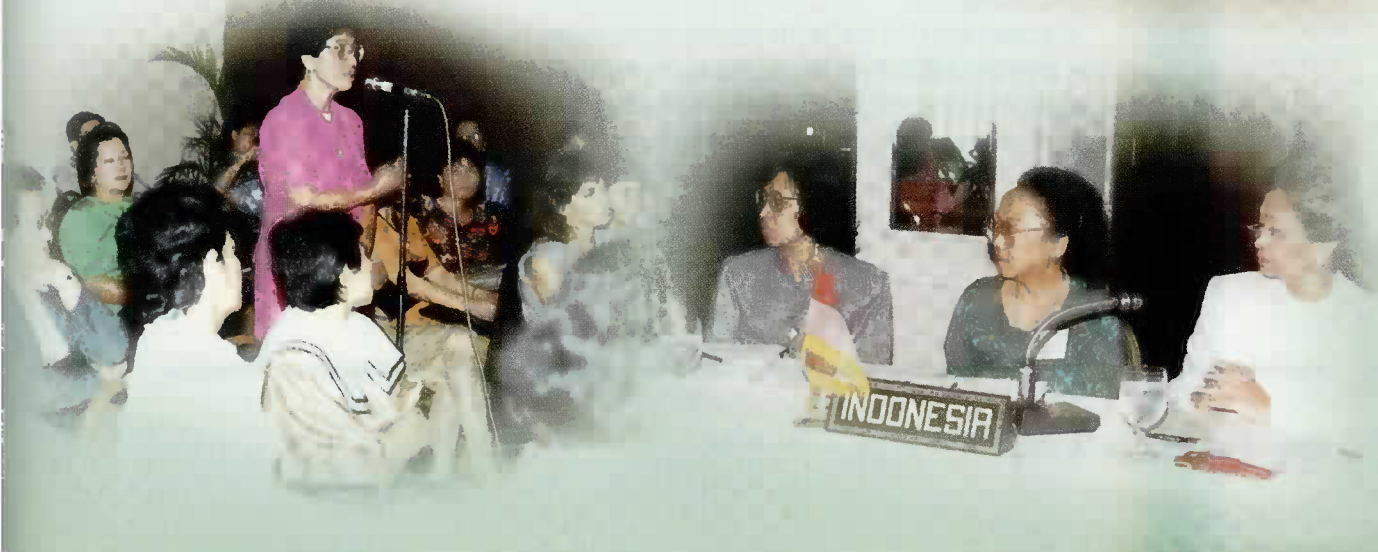


9th Meeting ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

MANILA, PHILIPPINES
JANUARY 24 - 26, 1990



ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
JANUARY 24 - 26, 1990





ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Tenth Meeting

Singapore, 24-26 April 1991

The Tenth Meeting saw member countries agreeing to proceed with the publication of the *Thesaurus on Women in Development*.

The Meeting took note of the ACWO President's statement on the importance of GO-NGO partnership, and of ACWO's reminder that NGO representatives be included in future AWP Meetings. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to ACWO for coordinating the activities of ASEAN NGOs in the promotion of women's interests.

The proposal Mainstreaming of Women in ASEAN was considered, along with recommendations for the AWP's five-year action plan. The recommendations referred to: statistical/database on women; setting up and strengthening of national machineries; increasing awareness of policymakers, program planners and implementers on the role of women in development; promoting ASEAN visibility on issues concerning women in international conferences and events; developing guidelines to monitor the implementation of the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN region; promoting women's concerns in projects and activities of other ASEAN Committees; and conducting gender-sensitivity training for ASEAN National Secretariats, Committee Officers and the ASEAN Secretariat.

It was announced that in view of the Tenth Anniversary of the AWP, copies of the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region, signed by the Foreign Ministers in 1988, will be circulated to all ASEAN bodies.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Eleventh Meeting
Singapore, 22-24 April 1992

The Eleventh Meeting continued discussions on the status of proposals and implementation of approved projects. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), it was pointed out, has agreed in principle to fund three projects: Network of Vocational Training for Women, Network on Indicators and Statistics on Women, and Prevention of Family Violence. Another announcement was that the first edition of the Thesaurus on Women in Development has been published and distributed to member countries. It was agreed that the revised draft of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region and of Recommendations for the Mainstreaming of Women in ASEAN be considered by member countries through an ad-referendum approval.

The meeting was made aware of the new criteria adopted by the 24th ASEAN Standing Committee for the selection and formulation of ASEAN projects for partners' funding. The criteria required projects to be: either integration or common-needs oriented; consistent with the objectives of the two programme themes, namely human development and sustainable economic reform; and in conformity with partners' "comparative advantage" as a donor.

The meeting took note of the continuing commitment of the ASEAN heads of government to the improvement of the status of women in the ASEAN, as expressed in the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government on Functional Cooperation.

Further, the Meeting was informed of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It also considered the Singapore Declaration of 1992 which made reference to the development of children as part of its agenda for functional cooperation. The Meeting however, expressed concern and unanimously declined arrangements for children's concern to fall under its purview for the following reasons:

- it would reinforce the idea that children are the sole responsibility of women and not of both women and men;
- children and women's concerns are of equal importance and putting them together would diffuse the focus on either concern, and
- children's concerns should be given special focus in the light of attention given by international organizations to children.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Twelfth Meeting

Singapore, 21-23 April 1993

*A*mong the significant accomplishments of the 12th Meeting were the formulation and adoption of the AWP's mission statement, and of strategies for more effective formulation and selection of projects. Also, the draft Guidelines for Implementation of the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region, and the Recommendations for Mainstreaming of Women in ASEAN, were approved in principle pending revision of a paragraph on networking between countries on migrant women. Following this, member countries agreed to formulate guidelines for reporting on the Declaration's implementation.

A letter of agreement between ASEAN and CIDA covering funding support was signed for three AWP projects, namely, ASEAN Network for Vocational Training for Women, Prevention of Family Violence, and Network on Indicators and Statistics on Women. However, it was observed that funding is becoming scarce because of the high demand for project funding.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Thirteenth Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 1-3 August 1994

The Thirteenth Meeting saw the adoption of the Guidelines to Operationalize the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region and the Recommendations for Mainstreaming of Women in the ASEAN, minus the paragraph on the networking of countries regarding migrant workers. Nevertheless, networking on this matter was still largely recommended. Also approved were the guidelines on reporting on the Declaration's implementation. Training for the development of the monitoring mechanism will be conducted by the ASEAN-UNDP Sub-Programme on Human Development.

The Meeting noted two completed projects namely, the ASEAN Workshop on Prevention of Family Violence and the ASEAN Workshop on Indicators and Statistics on Women, both with assistance from Canada. A third completed project was the Joint Publication Programme on ASEAN Clearinghouses on Women in Development.

With AWP having adopted a thematic and programme approach to proposing projects, the Philippines was asked to integrate related project proposals into two omnibus programmes, one on family violence (primary prevention, development of training modules, comprehensive study covering the region) and the other on strategies to implement and monitor the ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women (development of gender sensitivity training modules, training on mainstreaming gender concerns, training toward the standardization of gender-based indicators).

It was also agreed at the Meeting that new ASEAN members Vietnam and Laos be invited to the Fourteenth Meeting as observers.

Highlighting the activities for the year was the formulation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, and the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women accomplished during the 2nd Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (Jakarta, 7-14 June 1994)



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Fourteenth Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 24-26 May 1995

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The Fourteenth Meeting was occupied with major preparations for various significant meetings namely, the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September, the Fifth ASEAN Summit, and the Fourth Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Conference on Women in Development. The planned ASEAN Consensus Statement for the Beijing conference was not pursued, although a summary matrix of member countries' preparations for the conference will be submitted.

The group adopted the amended paper on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region. Following the results of a COSD meeting, the AWP discussed the possibility of setting up an ASEAN Social Development Fund as well as other funding options. Also discussed was the draft ASEAN Plan of Cooperation, with AWP seeking to incorporate women's development and to have women's special needs given attention.

A highlight of the Meeting was the attendance of Laos and Vietnam as observers. The Meeting also endorsed the proposed inclusion of Laos and Cambodia as observers at the Fifteenth AWP Meeting. Copies of the publication ASEAN Women: A Statistical Factbook were distributed.



ASEAN WOMENS' PROGRAMME

The Fifteenth Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 August 1996

This was the first time Vietnam participated in the AWP Meeting as a member, while Cambodia and Lao PDR were also present as observers. The Meeting also endorsed the proposal for Myanmar's participation as observer at the 16th AWP Meeting.

An ongoing project, the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training, was approved for extension beyond 1997. Note was made of proposed projects discussed in previous AWP meetings which were reformulated this year, at the same time that new proposals were reconsidered. The latter included the improvement of the Thesaurus on Women in Development, a seminar on The Role of Women in Energy Efficiency to Sustain Growth and Development, a community-based family well-being ASEAN programme, and activities to follow up on the Beijing Platform for Action drawn up at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Note was made of Brunei Darussalam's paper titled "The Possible Re-Naming of the AWP", and a request was drafted for the ASEAN COSD to consider re-naming AWP to ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (ASW). Considering the 1995 Bangkok Summit Declaration, delegates agreed to apply the Declaration's principles and priorities to ASW as appropriate.



ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Sixteenth Meeting

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
21-23 October 1997

The Meeting marked the first convening of the body as the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (ASW) after its renaming in 1981. It was also the first time that Lao PDR and Myanmar attended as participants.

All members gave country reports on their implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The first regional status report, *The Advancement of Women in ASEAN – a Regional Report (1996)*, was disseminated, with subsequent reports to be published every three years.

The Meeting saw the need to keep re-assessing projects to determine which ones should have priority, and to have an eye out for opportunities in cost-sharing. Particular attention was given to skills training and the formation of a Working Group to address issues regarding the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training, the first phase of which was nearing completion. Revision of the proposal for the project's second phase was recommended, and a regional seminar was planned to map out future directions for the project.

Modifications were made on some of the project proposals, including the *Strategies Toward the Implementation and Monitoring of the ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women*, *Addressing Violence Against Women in the Family* with the inclusion of Laos and Myanmar, the *Women in Development Thesaurus*, and the *ASEAN Women's GO/NGO Forum for Skills Development*.



ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Seventeenth Meeting

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
4-6 August 1998



Once more, the importance of having a regional government forum to tackle issues on women's advancement was stressed at the Meeting. A recommendation was for the ASEAN COSD to designate the 5th of July as ASEAN Women's Day, in commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region on 5 July 1988.

With the ASEAN Secretariat preparing for the Hanoi Plan of Action to implement ASEAN Vision 2020, the 17th Meeting agreed to establish a Working Group to guarantee that comments and recommendations pertaining to women's issues be included in the formulation of the Plan.

The Meeting took note of new as well as reformulated project proposals, along with ongoing projects. One proposal that was revived and elevated for decision to the COSD is Community-Based Family Well-Being: a Participatory Approach Towards Sustainable Family Development in the ASEAN Region. Addressing VAW in the Family was also revised. In terms of funding, projects on skills training and addressing VAW will be given equal importance, followed by the development of the WID Thesaurus.



ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Eighteenth Meeting

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
4-6 August 1998

The Meeting noted that the Hanoi Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted in the Sixth ASEAN Summit, addressed three priority concerns specific to women — trafficking in and violence against women, full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and strengthening of the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training. In support, ASW asked member countries to report on their implementation of the CEDAW and other international instruments. Thailand was tasked to coordinate the development of a project proposal to address trafficking in women, while Brunei Darussalam is to coordinate the implementation of the project ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training Expanded Phase II (Phase I having been completed).

In addition to updates on ongoing projects and on the preparation of the second status report on ASEAN women's advancement, the Meeting considered a new proposal by Indonesia on social protection for women homeworkers and a pending project, Strengthening the ASEAN Women's Information Structure. Thailand's concept paper on taking a proactive approach to the problem of ageing for ASEAN women was also taken up.



ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Nineteenth Meeting

Bali, Indonesia, 14-16 November 2000

*A*s with previous meetings, the 19th Meeting was heard country reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and other concerns, particularly VAW and the trafficking of women and children.

Based on the report of the ASEAN Secretariat about the recommendations of a meeting to restructure the COSD to enhance its effectiveness, the 19th Meeting agreed to forward the following recommendations: one, that the ASW should no longer report to the COSD but be elevated into the Senior Officials Meeting on Women (SOMW) in view of the increased importance given to women issues; second, that project proposals endorsed by sectoral bodies are to be submitted directly to the ASEAN Standing Committee after these are appraised by the ASEAN Secretariat.

The work programme of the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training-Expanded Phase II has been formulated and was discussed at the Meeting, while two new proposals (by Thailand and Australia-AID) on women trafficking were received and will be merged. Possible funding sources were pinpointed for the project Strategies Towards the Implementation and Monitoring of the ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women, and for Addressing Violence Against Women in the Family.

Other matters taken up were the proposed ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of Women, the Regional Conference on Asian Women for a Culture of Peace, women-related policies in the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the UN Millennium Declaration, and Lao PDR's assumption of the ASW chairpersonship on 1 January 2001.



ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Twentieth Meeting

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 24-25 October 2001

The decision to restructure the ASW into the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) was made at the 20th Meeting to give fresh impetus to ongoing ASEAN cooperation on women issues. The possibility of going further and establishing a Meeting of ASEAN Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs was left open. Accordingly, the Meeting agreed to revise the present Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASW, particularly on the tenure of the ACW Chair. Also, future meetings shall have annual themes that address emerging priorities.

The Hanoi Declaration and Asian Women Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development was adopted by the Meeting. It recognizes that women are victims and targets of violence in times of war, and advocates for education, development of responsible media, and women's greater involvement in poverty eradication, conflict resolution, and politics and governance.

The proposal for an ASEAN-wide Technical Workshop to Build Operational Capacity for Gender Mainstreaming was approved, with the UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender Equality Programme as likely donor. Focus areas will be the Philippines as project proponent, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The draft work programme for Expanded Phase II of the ASEAN women skills training network, whose formulation was successfully coordinated by Brunei Darussalam, was discussed. The components of three other proposals (on the establishment of a clearinghouses network, strengthening of information structures, and development of an ASEAN Women's Centre for promoting women's empowerment at all socio-economic levels) are to be incorporated into the project.



ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The First Meeting

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 29-31 October 2002

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fter extensive discussion, the First Meeting of the ACW finalized the Terms of Reference for the restructured body. It recommended the convening of an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women in the near future.

The Second Regional Report on ASEAN women's advancement was published in early 2002, and preparation of the next report is underway. For the third report, the Meeting agreed to adopt the format used in the reporting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, since the target date for publication (2005) coincides with the 10-year post-BPA reporting schedule.

Two project proposals were presented during the Meeting:

- the Sharing of Best Practices and Expanding New Skills Training for Disadvantaged Women (the first program to be implemented under the ASEAN Regional Work Programme on Women in Skills Training),
- and the ASEAN-Australia Project Against People Trafficking in Southeast Asia: Project Design Mission Phase to be implemented beginning 2003.

A new proposal, Livelihood Management Training Program for ASEAN Women, and a concept paper on Capacity Building of Women and ICT in ASEAN, received the Meeting's endorsement. However, two previously approved proposals (on building operational capacity for mainstreaming and on addressing VAW in the family) have not been started because of fund support problems.

The Meeting welcomed ACWO's initiative to mark July 5 every two years as ASEAN Women's Day.



ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Second Meeting

Penang, Malaysia, 16-18 September 2003

As requested at the 1st ACW Meeting, the ASEAN Secretariat presented a discussion paper outlining four possible priority areas for an ASEAN Work Plan on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality, which the 2nd ACW Meeting agreed to prepare with a time frame of five years (2005-2010). The four areas were: Policy Development/Gender Integration/Data and Research, Protection of Women, Addressing New and Emerging Economic Integration, and Promoting Employability of Women.

The Meeting stressed the value of building partnerships among the various ASEAN bodies engaged in social development, since the promotion of gender integration touches all areas of development. ACW focal points were asked to coordinate with their respective ASEAN National Secretariats for opportunities to promote ACW priorities.

Regarding the previous recommendation for convening a Ministerial Meeting on Women, the ASEAN Secretariat was tasked to draft the vision, mission and strategies as well as operational guidelines for the event, to be reviewed by members before it is taken up in the 3rd ACW Meeting.

After reviewing the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region, the body agreed to endorse it to the ASEAN Standing Committee for further consideration and subsequent endorsement to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

Discussions on pending projects again surfaced funding problems and possibilities. A noteworthy component of the project to combat people trafficking is the focus on the development and strengthening of gender-responsive criminal justice systems.

Appreciation was expressed for the outgoing Chair's leadership during the transition from the body's sub-committee status.



ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Third Meeting

Yangon, Myanmar, 29 November – 1
December 2004

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he theme of the 3rd ACW Meeting was "Enhancing the Links between Women's Empowerment and Protecting Vulnerable Women". Views were exchanged on the issues of trafficking, feminization of ageing and related health concerns, and the importance of addressing VAW especially with the signing at the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (June 2004, Jakarta) of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

A source of assistance for putting the Declaration into operation is the UNAIDS, whose recently launched Global Coalition on Women (GCW) identified VAW elimination as a focus area. The ASEAN Secretariat and the Philippines will coordinate with the UNAIDS for the development of a project proposal to link up Declaration priorities with GCW initiatives.

The Meeting revised the Work Plan on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality to address the priorities of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) relevant to women. In addition, ACW efforts will be trained on strengthening regional capacity to address cross-cutting issues for women – VAW, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, migration – and on pursuing anti-VAW initiatives.

While there was consensus on the value of establishing a Ministerial Meeting on Women, this move was shelved for the time being as it did not conform with the streamlining being undertaken by the ASEAN. On the other hand, interest was expressed in establishing an ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Women (with China, Japan and Korea), and the ASEAN Secretariat was asked to draft the TOR, areas of cooperation and agenda for a possible meeting with the Plus Three countries in conjunction with the 4th ACW meeting.

Updates were shared by project coordinators on completed, ongoing and pending projects. A completed project is The Capacity Building of Women and ICT in ASEAN, likewise the components on planning, organization, implementation and networking and on self-employment and new enterprise development for the Livelihood Management Training project.



ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The Fourth Meeting

Makati City, Philippines, 22-23 November 2005

H

onorable Rosario Manalo, chair of the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, keyed the Fourth ACW Meeting by highlighting the gains women have made and the challenges they face. The women's agenda is now recognized internationally, implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action is producing concrete benefits, and the CEDAW is now a major instrument in upholding women's rights. However, issues such as the structural causes of poverty and the power dynamics that put women at a disadvantage have not been addressed; gender mainstreaming is still misunderstood. Globalization, moreover, has heightened women's commodification in media, the feminization of overseas employment, and the trafficking of women and children.

The theme "Managing the Impacts of Globalization on Women in the ASEAN Region" was discussed at length under four categories: policy areas, research agenda, programmes and projects, and monitoring and evaluation to address the negative impacts of globalization on women or to harness its potential for women's empowerment. In her welcome remarks, Meeting Chair Myrna T. Yao urged that interventions be coordinated and partnerships established so women can benefit from globalization while being protected from its ill effects.

Two projects were reported as having been completed in mid-2005 – the Workshop on ICT Employment Opportunities and Skills Development for Women, and Training in Curriculum Development and Teaching and Learning Aid Preparation. Thailand a project coordinator was asked to provide ACW focal points with the manuals developed at the workshops.

The Meeting noted that following the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, funding support was obtained from UNAIDS for the services of a consultant to develop a work plan for the Declaration's eight priority areas of concern. A UNIFEM-funded workshop was convened on November 21,

prior to the Fourth Meeting, to share experiences and information on violence against women (VAW) policies and strategies amongst ASEAN members countries and to identify and recommend priorities for regional action in addressing VAW in the context of the Declaration.

The draft VAW Work Plan, which was presented by the Consultant, was approved in principle, pending incorporation of recommendations made the Meeting.

Cooperation with Plus 3 countries was explored in an ASEAN Secretariat information paper which outlined areas of possible collaboration – activities on gender equality and mainstreaming (e.g. empowerment of women in small and medium enterprises, leaning from China's experience); development of focused exchanges among officials, NGOs, the academe and professionals; facilitation of experience and knowledge-sharing with a view to establishing women's information networks; and facilitation of mentoring or partnering arrangements. Preference was given to the sharing of information and resources on a wider regional level, rather than bilateral ad hoc activities.

The Meeting considered the draft TOR for possibly formalizing ACW-Plus 3 collaboration, noting the secretariat's recommendations on follow-up steps to take.

The Meeting was updated on the status of preparation of the Third Regional Report on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region which CIDA is interested in supporting. A secretariat paper also informed members of decisions made at various ASEAN meetings that are relevant to regional cooperation on women's matters.

Concurrence of member countries was sought on the draft Framework of Cooperation between ASEAN and UNIFEM.

ANNEXES

- Annex A** Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region
- Annex B** Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region
- Annex C** Work Plan on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (2005 - 2010)

4th ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Meeting • 22-23 November 2005, Makati City, Philippines



Fourth Meeting

ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN (ACW)

22-23 November 2005
Makati City, Philippines





Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region

Bangkok, Thailand, 5 July 1988

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand;

DESIRING to further intensify the aims and purposes of the Bangkok Declaration of 1967, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 1976, and the Manila Declaration of 1987;

RECOGNIZING the importance of active participation and integration of women in the region in sharing the future development and progress of ASEAN and the necessity of meeting the needs and aspiration of women in the ASEAN Member Countries;

AWARE that women constitute half of the total population of the ASEAN region; and

TAKING cognizance of the multiple roles of women in the family, in society and in the nation and the need to give full support and provide facilities and opportunities to enable them to undertake these tasks effectively;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

In the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for the purpose of advancing the role and contribution of women in the progress of the region, each MEMBER COUNTRY, either individually or collectively, in ASEAN shall endeavour:

1. To promote and implement the equitable and effective participation of women whenever possible in all fields and at various levels of the political, economic, social and cultural life of society at the national, regional and international levels.

2. To enable women in the region to undertake their important role as active agents and beneficiaries of national and regional development, particularly in promoting regional understanding and cooperation and in building more just and peaceful societies.
3. To integrate in national plans the specific concerns of women and their roles as active agents in and beneficiaries of development, specifically considering their role as a productive force to attain the full development of the human personality.
4. To design and promote programmes involving the participation of the community and nongovernmental women organizations towards strengthening national and regional resilience.
5. To strengthen solidarity in the region and international women forum by promoting harmonization of views and of positions.

DONE in Bangkok, Thailand, this 5th day of May 1988 in single copy in the English language.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

RECALLING the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women;

CONCERNED that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, as embodied in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in September 1995 by the Fourth World Conference on Women and reiterated in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century";

DESIRING to intensify the aims and purposes of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) of 1967, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 1976, the Manila Declaration of 1987, the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region of 1988 and the Ha Noi Plan of Action of 1998;

RECOGNISING that violence against women both violates and impairs their human rights and fundamental freedoms, limits their access to and control of resources and activities, and impedes the full development of their potential;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

In the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for the purpose of eliminating violence against women in the region, each Member Country, either individually or collectively, in ASEAN shall endeavour to fully implement the goals and commitments made related to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as follows:

1. To encourage greater regional and bilateral cooperation in the systematic research, collection, analysis and dissemination of data, including disaggregated by sex, age, and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and girls, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating violence against women;
2. To promote an integrated and holistic approach to eliminate violence against women by formulating mechanisms focusing on the four areas of concerns of violence against women, namely, providing services to fulfill the needs of survivors, formulating and taking appropriate responses to offenders and perpetrators, understanding the nature and causes of violence against women and changing societal attitudes and behaviour;
3. To encourage gender mainstreaming to eliminate all forms of violence against women through policies and programmes as well as systems, procedures and processes;
4. To enact and, where necessary, reinforce or amend domestic legislation to prevent violence against women, to enhance the protection, healing, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors, including measures to investigate, prosecute, punish and where appropriate rehabilitate perpetrators, and prevent re-victimisation of women and girls subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society or in custody;
5. To take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow women and girls to protect themselves against violence;
6. To intensify efforts to develop and/or improve existing legislative, educational, social measures and support services aimed at the prevention of violence against women, including adoption and monitoring the implementation of laws, the dissemination of information, active involvement with community-based players, and the training of legal, judicial, enforcement officers, social workers and health personnel;

7. To strengthen collaboration between and among countries, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation for resource mobilisation and technical exchange programmes, including sharing of best practices and experience in raising awareness, developing advocacy programmes on preventing and tackling violence against women;
8. To support initiatives undertaken by women's organisations and non-governmental and community-based organisations on the elimination of violence against women and to establish and/or strengthen networking as well as collaborative relationships with these organisations, and with public and private sector institutions.

DONE in Jakarta, Indonesia, this Thirtieth day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Four, in one single copy in English.

Work Plan on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (2005-2010)

Part I. Background and Strategic Directions

1. The First Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) held from 28 to 31 October 2002 in Luang Prabang, Laos, agreed that the ACW's mission would be to work for women's advancement in social, economic and political spheres in accordance with the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in ASEAN and relevant priorities identified by ASEAN Leaders. To implement this mission, the ACW's Terms of Reference calls for, among other strategies, the formulation of "*an ASEAN work plan for women's advancement and gender equality, which is anchored on the 1988 Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region.*"

A. Strategic Directions for Promoting Women's Advancement and Gender Equality in ASEAN

2. The 1988 Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region sets out five directives for women's advancement in the region, namely:
 - i. to promote and implement equitable and effective participation of women wherever possible, in all fields and at various levels of political, economic, social and cultural life of society at the national, regional and international levels;
 - ii. to enable women in the region to undertake their important role as active agents in and beneficiaries of development, particularly in promotion of regional understanding and cooperation and in building more just and peaceful societies;

- iii. to integrate in national plans the specific concerns of women and their role as active agents in and beneficiaries of development, specifically considering their role as a productive force to attain the full development of the human personality;
 - iv. to design and promote programmes involving the participation of the community and non-governmental women's organizations towards strengthening national and regional resilience;
 - v. to strengthen solidarity in the regional and international women forums by promoting harmonization of views and positions.
3. The Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) adopted by ASEAN Leaders in December 1998 supplements the above priorities by highlighting the need for strengthening ASEAN collaboration in combating the trafficking in, and crimes of violence against, women and children; working towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, among other international instruments concerning women; and intensifying efforts of the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training to enhance the capacity of disadvantaged women to enter the work force.
4. The Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) adopted by the 9th ASEAN Summit in October 2003 also seeks to integrate the role of women in building an ASEAN socio-cultural community in line with the vision for an ASEAN Community by 2020. Following the programme of action set by the 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord (Bali Concord I), ASEAN leaders have committed to foster cooperation in social development aimed at raising the standard of living of disadvantaged groups and the rural population, with active involvement of all sectors of society, in particular women, youth, and local communities. To address this goal, the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), succeeding the HPA, recommends regional measures that will:
- i. Promote equitable participation of women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them;
 - ii. Implement the eight goals of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region;
 - iii. Strengthen regional collaboration in programmes to combat trafficking in women and children;

- iv. Develop and implement an ASEAN Work Plan on Women's Advancement Agenda in politics;
 - v. Conduct skills training for out-of-school youth and disadvantaged women;
 - vi. Increase women's access to micro-credit, information systems and basic social services.
5. The Work Plan activities would give effect to the VAP priorities. In addition to the ASEAN mandate, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, serves as a frame of reference for sharing experiences and lessons in mainstreaming and promoting gender concerns. In the preparatory process leading to the Fourth World Conference, ASEAN countries undertook to share their respective progress of preparation for the Conference at the annual meetings of the then ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women (ASW). All ten Southeast Asian countries (the then ASEAN-Six, as well as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam who would later become members of ASEAN) participated actively at the Conference. After the Conference which adopted the Beijing Platform for Action, the ASW and later the ACW has a regular agenda item on its annual agenda to share experiences in implementing the Beijing Platform priorities.
 6. Priorities for women's advancement and gender equality are also highlighted in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which call for, among other goals and targets, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; improvement of maternal health; achievement of universal and equal access to primary education; and combating HIV/AIDS prevalence among young pregnant women.
 7. The special needs and dignity of vulnerable older women and those with disabilities, would also be taken into consideration in implementing activities relevant to skills training, self-employment opportunities, or strengthening capacity of the family and caregivers.

Part II. Priority Areas

8. In all priority areas, socio-cultural issues should be discussed and addressed. The advancement of women and gender equality can be promoted and achieved through the transformation of traditional values and norms to be more gender responsive.

A. Integration and Participation

9. The cross-cutting nature of gender issues has been highlighted since the 1988 Declaration's call for integration of gender needs and concerns into national plans and actions. ASEAN countries report on their respective efforts to promote integration of gender concerns into national plans and programmes through a session devoted to sharing experiences on progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform priorities, at the annual ACW meetings. ASEAN also produces a regular regional report monitoring the implementation of the 1988 Declaration, based on indicators already in use by Member Countries and consolidating inter-country reports on the status of women. The ASEAN Secretariat, in consultation with the ACW, coordinates the gathering of information for, and compilation of the report. At the First ACW Meeting in 2002, ASEAN countries agreed that this reporting mechanism be synchronized with reporting requirements of the Beijing Platform for Action.
10. An experience commonly shared by governments, bilateral and multilateral development organizations, in efforts to mainstream gender is that progress in gender mainstreaming will be minimal without the support and commitment of the top people; there are changing demands on the governments of the countries with respect to gender mainstreaming, training and awareness-raising; the need to demonstrate attention to gender really does make a difference to development; there are also new challenges with regard to gender mainstreaming in the light of new and emerging concerns that ASEAN Member Countries face in the era of globalization.
11. Regional action in gender mainstreaming would address the impact of globalization on women, emerging issues such as trafficking of women, violence against women and the situation of rural women and women migrant workers. Regional interventions would support national capacity to mainstream gender concerns as an integral part of social and economic policy rather than as special sections of social development

programmes; and support continued networking of ASEAN women's national machineries.

Activities:

- a. Promote regional awareness and strengthen capacity on gender mainstreaming, including within the relevant ASEAN committees and ASEAN Secretariat;
 - b. Intensify collaboration with the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO) to address important women's concerns in ASEAN, including the feminization of poverty;
 - c. Strengthen capacity for research and information-gathering, particularly quantitative information that is disaggregated by sex and age, and including indicators used to monitor activities for gender equality and advancement;
 - d. Document best practices/innovative strategies undertaken by ASEAN countries to mainstream gender in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of policies and legislation; and
 - e. Increase the participation of women in all aspects of ASEAN activities.
12. The APEC economies have recognized the need for integrating a gender perspective and analysis into areas of cooperation, a more systematic and comprehensive collection of sex-disaggregated data, and increasing the participation of women into all activities. ASEAN countries who are also APEC economies could help identify activities addressing priorities relevant to ASEAN's own priorities.

B. Protection of Women

13. ASEAN's recognition for the protection of women is underscored in the HPA priorities calling for strengthened regional collaboration in combating the trafficking in, and crimes of violence against, women and children; and for working towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, among other international instruments concerning women. These instruments would include the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress

and to Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as well as adoption of domestic violence laws and anti-trafficking laws.

14. The ACW also has a priority on its regional agenda to address violence against women. ASEAN Member Countries have also joined in a wider effort organized in collaboration with the UNIFEM and the Commonwealth Secretariat to address gender-based violence. The ACW has also prepared an ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region, which was signed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at their 37th Meeting in June 2004.

Activities:

- a. Strengthen regional capacity to follow-up to the recommendations of the 2002 Workshop on Gender-Based Violence, including the call made to governments to develop:
 - plans of action and national declarations on the elimination of violence against women;
 - platforms to push for the call include forthcoming inter-governmental events to highlight the issues of violence against women, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25th) to raise awareness and obtain further governmental commitment;
 - a reporting mechanism on incidence of gender-based violence;
 - information, education and communication (IEC) materials on gender-based violence issues for advocacy;
 - regional activities addressing issues related to women workers and violence against them;
 - regional activities emphasizing and establishing male ownership and responsibility to eliminate violence against women.

- b. Work with UN organizations, in particular UNIFEM, to promote the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- c. Document ASEAN experiences/lessons/best practices in addressing gender-based violence.
- d. Strengthen management information system on incidence of gender-based violence in all ASEAN countries.
- e. Implement the eight priorities of the Declaration on Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region.

C. Addressing Challenges of Globalisation

15. The role of women in the regional processes for integration is important, both as active agents in and beneficiaries of development. The ACW agenda recognizes the need to discuss and identify ways to ensure that globalization is a positive force for reducing poverty, thereby improving the lives of women, particularly the rural women and those displaced through structural changes as a result of economic integration, ways to address the impact of these emerging concerns on the situation of women. At the first ACW Meeting in October 2002, the ACW exchanged views on the theme of *"Women in Economics: Access to Economic Resources and Opportunities for Poverty Alleviation."* This exchange of views is an innovation of the ACW and shall continue on ACW's annual agenda, so that possibilities for coordinating regional action can be further worked out, through an extensive exchange of views and information on existing initiatives on responses to emerging economic concerns for women.

Activities:

- a. Develop and intensify research capacity on the negative impact of globalization on women's lives in order to have an effective understanding and identify subsequent measures of change;
- b. Support the strengthening of capacities to:
 - i. Implement strategies to improve women's access, participation, control and benefit to micro-credit, information systems, basic social services such as education and health care, to bridge the gender gap;

- ii. Implement advocacy and training programmes as well as transparent and well-defined processes to enable women migrant workers to be well-informed and prepared for work overseas so as to avoid the potential danger of becoming victims of violence, abuse, or trafficking;
 - iii. Implement strategies – in consultation with the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials – to address the impact of trade liberalization on women, including issues on working conditions, vulnerabilities and differences that women have in the formal labour market;
 - iv. Put in place multi-sectoral programmes addressing the need for boosting employability and livelihood management skills of women as a means of assisting women's access, participation, control and benefit of economic opportunities and long-term economic well-being of women.
16. As such, the impact of globalization, trade liberalization and the advent of information and communications technology (ICT), on women is an important emerging concern that could be addressed as a priority area in the proposed work plan. The 2nd APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women in September 2002 had identified women's entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise development, and the gender dimension of trade liberalization as issues to be addressed. Future capacity-building and advocacy activities under the ACW framework could also take into consideration the work of the APEC HRD working group in addressing these concerns at the ASEAN level.

D. Promoting Employability of Women

17. The implementation of the existing regional work programme on women and skills training would address the priority area of the work plan. Future initiatives for promoting employability of women would also address the needs of the CLMV countries with regard to their integration efforts.

Activities:

- a. Support formulation of policies and action plans in each ASEAN Member Country to promote skills training and provide opportunities for self-employment and micro-enterprise for women.

Part III. Suggested Strategies to Operationalize Activities

18. This section proposes strategies for ASEAN countries to consider in mobilizing resources to implement future activities, taking into account the need to engage relevant partners for joint implementation of activities of mutual interest, and to increasingly use cost-sharing modalities in implementing ASEAN priorities. While the effort to match regional priorities with donor interest shall continue, ASEAN Member Countries can continue in their self-reliant efforts to address women's advancement and gender equality concerns.
 19. An effective strategy for operationalizing activities would be through partnerships among the ASEAN countries themselves, on the cost-sharing basis, and with other entities such as the UN specialized agencies, ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, international organizations, established non-governmental organizations (such as the ACWO), the business and private sector, and the civil society. Partnerships facilitate "strengthening solidarity in the regional and international women forums" and assist in promoting the harmonization of views and positions. As women's issues and concerns cuts across all areas of development, partnership also need to be built among the ASEAN functional committees.
 20. Partnerships among ASEAN Member Countries would also bear in mind the priorities of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) where the ASEAN-6 countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) would engage in "mentoring" activities to facilitate the smooth integration of the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam) into ASEAN.
 21. Accordingly, ASEAN Member Countries shall undertake the following important tasks critical to operationalizing ASEAN's priorities for women:
 - identify on-going and planned national projects which could be opened up to other countries for participation;
 - build a regional component for related on-going projects and activities at bilateral or sub-regional level already running in several ASEAN countries;
 - align ongoing country programmes/activities with relevant concepts/priorities of the ACW;
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- identify areas of expertise in which a country could coordinate development and implementation of a project, preferably on a cost-sharing basis;
- consider joint development of detailed proposals for planned activities whose implementation could be co-funded or cost-shared with donors/partners; and
- invite the participation of representatives from the relevant ASEAN bodies in social development (e.g. labour, rural development and poverty eradication, social welfare and development) in activities addressing commonly shared concerns/priorities.

22. Potential donors are also requested to identify ongoing and planned activities which are relevant to ASEAN's priorities for women, so that joint activities addressing these shared priorities could be implemented with ASEAN.



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