



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2006 ▲ CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

REPORT OF
W A I P O
SEPTEMBER 2006

Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the WAIPO Meeting to the Second Plenary Session.

- A. The WAIPO meeting was officially declared open by Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco, Head of the Philippine Delegation at Tokyo A, Marco Polo Hotel. Hon. Cuenco warmly welcomed the delegates and underscored the significance of the WAIPO meeting toward improving the lives of women all over the world. He mentioned the important role that women leaders and movers play in advancing the Millennium Development Goals and in mitigating the negative impacts of globalization on women.
- B. The Committee met on 10 September 2006 at 9:00 in the morning and ended at 1:30 p.m. The session was presided by myself, Hon. Josefina M. Joson as the Committee Chairperson, with Hon. Ma. Milagros H. Magsaysay as Rapporteur.
- A. The Meeting was attended by women parliamentarians from AIPO Member Countries as follows:

Hon. Josefina M. Joson	–	Chairperson
Hon. Ma. Milagros H. Magsaysay	–	Rapporteur

CAMBODIA

1. Her Highness Princess Sisowath Santa
2. Hon. Mrs. Ho Naun
3. Hon. Ms. Ky Lum Ang
4. Hon. Mrs. Im Run

INDONESIA

1. Hon. Trisanti Mitayani, MT, MP

LAO PDR

1. Hon. Prof. Dr. Ms. Bounnong Boupcha
2. Hon. Mrs. Chanthoum Latmany
3. Hon. Mrs. Bang On Sayarath
4. Hon. Mrs. Singkham Khongsavanh
5. Mrs. Suanesavanh Muongmany

MALAYSIA

1. Hon. Dato Hajah Samsiah Samsudin

PHILIPPINES

1. Hon. Nerissa Corazon S. Soon-Ruiz
2. Hon. Emmylou J. Talino-Santos
3. Hon. Loretta Ann P. Rosales
4. Hon. Lorna C. Silverio

SINGAPORE

1. Mdm. Ho Geok Choo
2. Dr. Fatimah Lateef

THAILAND

1. Hon. Tuenjai Deetes
2. Hon. Pensak Chagsuchinda
3. Hon. Tarnthong Thongswasdi (Advisor)

VIETNAM

1. Hon. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bach Mai
2. Hon. Mrs. Chau Thi Le

AIPO Secretariat

1. Hon. Josefina D. Azarcon - Secretary-General

C. With the delegates' active participation, the meeting was conducted in a dynamic and meaningful manner. The Committee discussed points of common interest such as the important role of women in the home, especially in rearing a child, and the significant contribution of women parliamentarians in alleviating the plight of disadvantaged women in their respective countries. It deliberated on the agenda items and approved the following resolutions for submission to and adoption by the General Assembly:

1. Resolution on Enhancing Women's Role and Access to Values-Oriented Education

The WAIPO Committee believed that a strong system of value-based education which upholds principles of equity, ethics and empowerment is urgently needed for the promotion of reproductive health, household and child health, as well as for women to gain equal status and respect from men. The meeting encouraged ASEAN member countries to create a social order committed to gender equality and values formation through education.

2. Resolution on The Role of Women Parliamentarians in the Use of Mass Media to Focus on Issues Affecting Women and Children

The WAIPO Committee emphasized the need to focus on the increased participation and access of women to expression and decision-making, in and through the media, since mass media are tools of global communication network that influence public policy, attitudes of children and the advancement of women.

The committee urged all AIPO member countries to strengthen the role of women in media organizations so as to ensure a non-stereotyped, non-biased and non-discriminatory portrayal of women.

3. The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The WAIPO committee stressed that women parliamentarians are in the best position to advance women's interest, as they are the ones who work directly with governments and civil society to introduce and implement measures to advance the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, the committee urged all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to support women parliamentarians in integrating gender mainstreaming toward national agenda setting in all activities designed to achieve Millennium Development Goals and to provide adequate legal framework as well as ensure funding provisions for the attainment of said goals.

4. The Role of Women Political Leaders in a Globalized Era

The WAIPO committee encouraged all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to put human concerns and rights at the center of national and international policy, in consideration of the high human costs of globalization.

The WAIPO committee further agreed to call upon all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to take concrete steps to actively promote women's rights and increase the participation of women parliamentarians to address the impact of globalization on women. Finally, the delegates reiterated the need for the creation of a Study Committee to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in government structures.

I therefore now present the Report of the Women Parliamentarians of AIPO to the General Assembly for adoption. Thank you.



JOSEFINA M. JOSON
Chairman



MA. MILAGROS H. MAGSAYSAY
Rapporteur



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
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RESOLUTION

ON

**ENHANCING WOMEN'S ROLE AND ACCESS TO
VALUES-ORIENTED EDUCATION**

The Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of AIPO:

Recognizing the fact that poverty, prejudice, and gender inequality are reasons for disparity in education common to ASEAN member countries;

Aware of the growing global concern in the level of the education system and its role in promoting universal human values;

Acknowledging that education is a basic human right and the most powerful instrument in values preservation and transformation that serves as a mechanism in the fight for women empowerment to gain equal status and respect from men;

Cognizant of the fact that two thirds of the world's children who are not enrolled in school are young girls and two thirds of the world's illiterate population are women;

Recognizing the importance of female education in our society in the promotion of reproductive health, household and child health, educational opportunities for the whole family and the society;

Believes that a strong system of value-based education that upholds principles such as equity, ethics and empowerment is urgently needed;

Resolves to:

Urge ASEAN and AIPO member countries, particularly their women leaders, to be committed to create an environment that is conducive to women empowerment by building into the system of education those values which inculcate respect for women's roles and responsibilities and recognize their contribution to society;

Call upon all ASEAN member countries to urgently raise the consciousness of appropriate key resource persons such as teachers, parents, and women in general, enhancing their

competence and re-orienting the system to include the inculcation of values such as morality, ethics, respect for humanity and mother earth through greater access and participation of women in formal, informal and non-formal educational means;

Call upon all ASEAN member countries to integrate gender sensitive values and justice to the whole educational system;

Urge ASEAN member countries to include in-service training for teachers and teacher educators, at the same time developing reading of values-oriented materials for the education of different target groups especially the women;

Encourage all ASEAN member countries to create a social order committed to gender equality, values such as co-operation, participation, equal recognition for all types of work, truth, honesty, empathy, respect, and dedication to one's calling to foster human good and progress;

Encourage further all ASEAN member countries to promote the development and creation of exchange programs, which provide for the exchanges of information, ideas, synergy and efforts for value orientation of education.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2006, in Cebu City, Philippines.



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RESOLUTION

ON

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE USE OF MASS MEDIA TO
FOCUS ON ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

The Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of AIPO:

Recalling the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China (1995) which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Bangkok Conference on Women Empowering Communication (1994), with both fora appealing to the mass media to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programs;

Aware that mass media and new technologies of communication are powerful tools of global communications network that have an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behavior, especially of children and young adults, and have the potential for the media to make a greater contribution to the advancement of women;

Emphasizing the need to focus on the increased participation and access of women to expression and decision-making, in and through the media, and to promote a non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media;

Mindful of the continued projection of negative and degrading images of women in media communications, which tend to subject them to possible abuses, neglect and exploitation, prejudicial to their total development as a woman;

Resolves to:

Call on all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to enact and implement appropriate legislations against pornography, gender stereotyping and the sensationalized projection of violence against women and children in the media;

Urge all AIPO member countries to strengthen the role of women and ensure equal representation of women in all decision-making levels in national and international media organizations so that they can contribute to the development of appropriate policies towards a non-stereotyped, non-biased and non-discriminatory portrayal of women including rampant pornography, and portrayal of violence and other forms of abuse against children and women;

Reaffirm the commitment of ASEAN and AIPO member countries towards the development of every woman and child to their full potential for self-actualization and productivity.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2006, in Cebu City, Philippines.



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RESOLUTION

ON

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of AIPO:

Recalling the adoption of Millennium Development Goals during the Millennium Summit at the United Nations in 2000 to provide a benchmark for countries to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development;

Mindful that gender equality and women's empowerment are important goals which are crucial in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015 and, unless discrimination against women across all nations is properly addressed, the achievement of these goals will be far from reality;

Knowing that women parliamentarians are in the best position to advance women's interests, thus, their perspectives, experiences and active involvement are essential in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

Realizing that women parliamentarians who work directly with governments and the civil society can introduce and implement measures to provide opportunities to women to improve their well-being and provision of quality healthcare services, shelter, and education to the poor;

Cognizant that women parliamentarians, as a unified group, become a source of political strength and are able to influence the results of decision-making processes for certain policies crucial to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

Aware that women parliamentarians must actively guide development planners in their respective countries with a view to understanding better the issues and problems that stand in the way of attaining these goals, and to remind the planners of the limited time between now and 2015 so they can speed up the progress.

Resolves to:

Urge all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to support and fairly distribute their resources with women parliamentarians in the effort to integrate gender mainstreaming towards national agenda setting in all strategies, programs and policy-making activities designed to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals;

Encourage all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to create mechanisms to stimulate discussions and monitor progress in Millennium Development Goals through the participation of women parliamentarians;

Call upon all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to promulgate laws which will provide adequate legal framework and to ensure funding provisions for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2006, in Cebu City, Philippines.



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RESOLUTION

ON

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS
IN THE GLOBALIZED ERA**

The Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of AIPO:

Cognizant that a globalized era presents humankind with both unprecedented development opportunities and unique challenges as cooperation and linkages have been expanded at various layers, domains and magnitudes;

Aware that while globalization has spawned increased market access, rising income, greater access to information and heightened movement of people, it has also rendered economies vulnerable to financial crises which bear high human costs such as bankruptcies, increase in poverty, rising unemployment, reduced schooling, reduced public services, and increased social stress and human insecurity;

Emphasizing that managing globalization to ensure a more equitable and sustainable path to national and regional development is the task of the policy makers, particularly women political leaders, since women are the most affected and marginalized when the gains of globalization are not equally distributed;

Recognizing that gender parity in political participation is a commitment made by governments through article 2 to 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which call on state parties to actively pursue the elimination of discrimination in women's political participation through legal and temporary special measures and affirmative action;

Noting that according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in 2002, women account for only 15.2 percent of members of parliament in Asia and 13.6 percent in Southeast Asia for both single or lower house and upper house;

Taking note of the recommended strategies by the IPU to enhance women's representation and participation in politics, among them increasing the participation of women in political parties and the introduction of gender quotas for political parties and elective and appointive political positions;

Convinced that women political leaders play an increasingly important role in building and maintaining peace and social harmony, sustaining economic development and preserving national cultural identities and family values;

Knowing that women's wide-ranging participation and increasing influence are important factors in bringing about an alternative standpoint, approach and vision to ensure that the downside of globalization is minimized, its benefits maximized, and the search continued for alternative models of globalization;

Reiterating the need to set-up a Study Committee to identify a pilot project aimed at promoting women's participation in political leadership, especially in legislative bodies for region-wide action by AIPO member countries, as initially suggested during the 24th AIPO General Assembly;

Acknowledging the invaluable contribution and continuing efforts shown by women political leaders in creating a society that is peaceful, healthy and conducive to dynamic development;

Resolves to:

Encourage all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to put human concerns and rights at the center of national and international policy and action so as to build a more coherent and democratic architecture for global integration and cooperation;

Urge all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to mobilize partnerships among countries for a better understanding of globalization and to help civil society and government determine the key concerns and priorities to be addressed;

Call upon all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to take concrete steps to actively promote women's rights and increase the participation of women parliamentarians to address the impact of globalization on women;

Urge further all AIPO member countries to facilitate and implement the creation of a Study Committee to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in government structures.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2006, in Cebu City, Philippines.