

**ASEAN CONFEDERATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS (ACWO) REPORT  
2008-2010**

**By Mme. Nguyen Thi Thanh Hoa, ACWO President**

*The Chair ASEAN Committee on Women,  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

**The theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> ACW Meeting “Reducing Feminization with Rights-based Approach” is very timely and relevant. It emphasizes the significance of the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and that ASEAN is working towards addressing the problems women are facing in our societies.** As an active stakeholder working towards the advancement of women, and gender equality, ACWO highly appreciates the initiatives and commitment of the ASEAN Governments in these endeavours. We do acknowledge and appreciate that the 8<sup>th</sup> ACW meeting not only addresses the challenges in reducing feminization, but works out feasible interventions with specific activities and resources that need to be put in place.

**We appreciate that our recommendations so far will be taken into account in which we have proposed for the conduct of an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women.**

**Last year, ACWO held the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Conference in the Philippines. In this Meeting, we focused on “*Womenomics: Empowering women and expanding their participation in the globalized economy*”, particularly, through promoting women’s entrepreneurship, developing women’s eLeadership and eGovernance, promoting access for women to credit and finance, technology, information, markets and safety nets, establishing eBiz centers to promote women’s products through the internet; and ensuring sustainable development, and responding climate change particularly;**

Acknowledging that *“women are the most powerful engine of economic growth”*, **ACWO has adopted womenomics framework as a development strategy to promote the economic empowerment of women in the region.** At this meeting, about 352 participants from 90 organizations covering 10 ASEAN countries unanimously made the Manila Call to Actions in which we called

upon the participating local, national and regional women's organizations to attain women's empowerment through:

- Entrepreneurship Development
- Sustainable Development
- ICT Promotion

In response to this Call, all ten ACWO member countries have actively initiated a range of activities to empower women and expand their participation in the economy and have recorded the significant outcomes in these endeavours.

**Vietnam, as ACWO president during 2008-2010, is responsible to convene the 14<sup>th</sup> ACWO General Assembly in Hanoi during 18-21 October, 2010. This upcoming meeting will focus on *"Enhancing women's effective participation towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable development in the ASEAN Region"*. The conference will define economic empowerment of women; women's role in environment protection and response to climate change; poverty alleviation; food security; migrant workers, prevention of domestic violence against women and children; ASEAN Charter and promoting women's advancement and gender equality by ASEAN governments.**

We expect the 14<sup>th</sup> ACWO General Assembly will set out viable solutions to promote ASEAN women's participation and contribution to the development of our respective countries and ASEAN Community building as a whole.

We welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> ACWO General Assembly in Hanoi next year.

*May the 8<sup>th</sup> ACW meeting be successful!  
Wish you all the best.*

*Thank you.*