



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2022/PPWE1/SUM

Summary Report - First Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy Meeting



**First Policy Partnership on Women and the
Economy Meeting
15–16 June 2022**

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
POLICY PARTNERSHIP ON WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY (PPWE) MEETING
Virtual Meeting – 15-16 June 2022 (Thailand Time)

MEETING SUMMARY

The APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) met virtually in two sessions between 15-16 June 2022 (Thailand Time). Nineteen economies participated in the meeting: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam. ABAC participated in the meeting.

PPWE1 2022 was chaired by Ms Renee Graham, Chief Executive, Social Wellbeing Agency, New Zealand.

PPWE Issues and Outcomes:

1. The PPWE was opened with welcoming remarks by Thailand Co-Chair Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan followed by the opening remarks by Mrs Patcharee Arayakul, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand who stressed that in post-pandemic recovery women's empowerment through BCG economy model could contribute to inclusive, balanced and sustainable growth.
2. The PPWE heard from Chair giving a keynote speech on Women Leadership and Inclusivity: Exploring New Frontiers and Models highlighting the importance of women leadership and inclusivity for the benefit of economic growth and the need for exploring new frontiers and models such as highly skilled innovative workforce with diversity in response to the global pandemic with disproportionate impact on women and girls.
3. The meeting's first session was an opportunity for members to hear from the Secretariat and economies on the Updates on Projects as well as the update from the Secretariat on Chair Selection process. The proposed process was initially circulated on 31 May for comments by 20 June. Upon endorsement, member economies will be invited to nominate individuals from 27 June to 7 July.
4. In the first session, the PPWE heard the developments from Thailand Co-Chair, Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan who briefed on their plan for Women and Economy Forum (WEF) 2022 to be held in person on 7 September and the drafting process for WEF statement. Incorporating comments on Zero Draft from economies, Thailand will provide the revised draft within two weeks and work on economies' further comments for another two weeks, aiming its finalization by early August before the PPWE2 virtual meeting on 16-18 August. Economies exchanged their views on what should be included in the WEF statement and made comments on the Zero Draft.

5. The meeting's first session also allowed members to hear presentations from Australia, Peru and Thailand under the theme of Women Economic Empowerment in COVID: Progress and Remaining Challenges. Ms Kaylene Zakharoff, First Assistant Secretary at the Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Australia made presentation on disproportionate impact on women's economic empowerment and the need for gender balance in post-pandemic recovery in Australia. Ms Cindhy Barrientos, Program Coordinator of the Program for the Promotion and Development of Women's Economic Autonomy of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population of Peru made presentation on SMEs led by women entrepreneurs with differentiated impact by the pandemic and its comprehensive and strategical solutions such as access to financial market. Ms Karndee Leopairote, Executive Vice President, Future Tales Lab by MQDC in Thailand made a presentation on women entrepreneurs in digital economy, addressing educational gap in STEM field and inadequate domestic support for women and girls.
6. After the first session of PPWE1 meeting, PPWE Management Council Meeting (PMCM) was held on 15 June. Thirteen economies participated in the meeting: Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam. It was agreed upon to establish the Informal Working Group (IWG) to be led by U.S. Co-Chair for the preparation of the new PPWE Strategic Plan.
7. In the second session, the meeting endorsed the results of PMCM to establish the Informal Working Group for the preparation of updated PPWE Strategic Plan led by U.S. Co-Chair.
8. The second session was the Policy Dialogue on "Women Empowerment, Opportunities and Challenges through the BCG models," opened with keynote speech by Thailand Co-Chair Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan, who emphasized the relevance of the women empowerment through the BCG model for economic sustainability noting women as stewards for the environment. It was followed by three break-out room discussions on Bio economy, Circular economy and Green economy where member economies and business leaders in medical, energy, retail and agriculture sectors shared their experiences and views on gender balance in STEM sector, digital divide, male dominance and women leadership in BCG economy and so on. Under the theme of Bio Economy, economies heard presentations from Ms Wei-Chung Vivian Yang, Founder & CEO of V-CHECK, Inc. and Ms Siriporn Chaiyasuta, Chevron Thailand made presentations. Concerning Circular Economy, economies heard presentations from Ms Hsin-Ping WU, Senior Director of Homemakers United Foundation, Mr Arpan Gupta, Director, P&G Manufacturing, and Ms Nattinee Netraumpai, Head of Corporate Affairs of Unilever Thailand. Under the theme of Green Economy, economies heard presentations from Ms. Cherrie De Erit Atilano, Founding Farmer, President and CEO of AGREIA Agricultural System International, Inc., Jiraporn Kaosawas, President and CEO of PTT Oil and Retail

Business and Dr Aubrey Paris, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues of the United States.

PPWE Intersessional Actions:

9. Thailand will provide the revised draft of the WEF Statement within two weeks and work on economies' further comments for another two weeks, aiming its finalization by early August before the PPWE2 virtual meeting on 16-18 August. Economies were asked to provide their comments to Thailand on the revised draft of the WEF Statement.
10. Interested economies were asked to join the Informal Working Group for the preparation of updated PPWE Strategic Plan to be led by U.S. Co-Chair.
11. Pursuant to the Chair Selection process circulated on 31 May for comments by 20 June, economies will be invited to nominate individuals from 27 June to 7 July upon endorsement of the proposed process.