



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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Gender and Fisheries in APEC

Purpose: Information
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15th Fisheries Working Group Meeting
Puerto Varas, Chile
6-7 May 2004



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Fisheries Working Group Meeting
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May 2004

Gender

- “the socially determined differences between women and men such as roles, attitudes, behaviors and values, as opposed to sex that identifies the biological differences between women and men”
- Sex is genetically determined
- Gender roles are learned, vary across cultures and over time
- Gender is a relational term, which includes both women and men



“Engendering” Fisheries

- In 2002 an estimated 35 million people worldwide were directly engaged in fishing and fish farming. (FAO 2002)
- But these figures do not include those involved in other fisheries-related activities (marketing, processing, net-making, boat building, etc) where women play an important role. Estimation: 150 million people (APRN 2003)
- The gender perspective helps projects and policies:
 - **Contribute to a more equitable distribution of benefits among men and women**
 - **Prevent increase of discrimination due to unforeseen impact**



Where can women be found in Fisheries?

- 1) As workers within the fisheries
 - ❖ Fish marketing
 - ❖ Preparation of bait
 - ❖ Aquaculture farms
- 2) As workers in processing plants
- 3) As those responsible for the family and active members of community organizations, particularly in resource management
- 4) As micro and small entrepreneurs



Factors affecting women's insertion in sectoral activities

- “The participation of women in aquaculture is low when compared with that of men. In most cases, their low level of participation in different sectoral activities is not due to problems related to the immediate place of entry, but to age-old social, cultural and ideological barriers imposed on them”

(Brugere, 2001)



Gender-specific Barriers

- In access to education
- Burden of household chores
- Land rights
- Discrimination and violence
- Stereotyped roles related to child rearing
- Lower wages
- Limited participation in economic activities



Key findings

- The gender dimension enables the visibilization of women's involvement in fisheries and other related activities vis a vis men.
- Fostering women's participation with a gender perspective is important because:
 - It contributes to the increase of national production
 - It helps uplift their social and economic condition



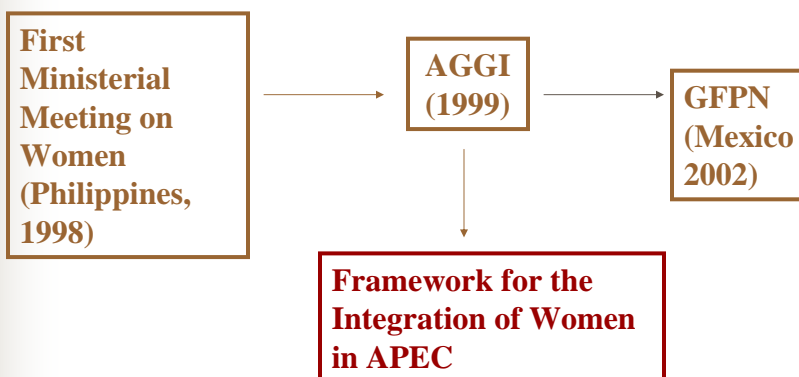
The FWG and Gender issues

- APEC funded the "Women in Aquaculture" project in 1999-2001.
- The project focused on gender issues in aquaculture and aimed to develop strategies to improve gender and livelihood goals through aquaculture development.
- **Capability improvement framework for women in aquaculture.**

APEC's Commitment to Gender Integration

- Leaders have endorsed all gender related initiatives and recognized gender as a cross-cutting issue.
- Ministers recognize the important roles undertaken by women in APEC economies and the need to eliminate gender inequalities in social and economic life.
- Senior Officials have endorsed and overseen the task of incorporating women in the mainstream of APEC's processes and activities.

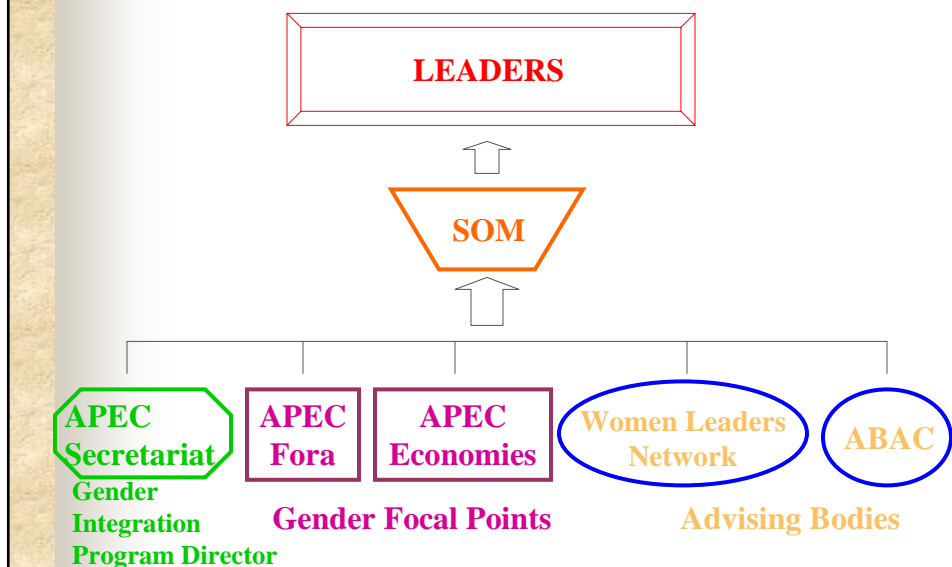
Gender Intregation in APEC



The Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC

- 3 basic elements:
 - Gender analysis
 - Use and collection of sex-disaggregated data
 - Increase the involvement of women in APEC

Structure and Interaction



Some of GFPN's Tasks

- Assist fora to identify and address gender issues within their work
- Promote and report on women's representation across APEC and within individual fora
- Assess and report on the use of gender criteria in project proposals, reporting and evaluation, revising the gender criteria where appropriate
- Collect and share best practices in gender integration amongst fora
- Support and report on the progress of implementation of gender integration within individual fora and across APEC economies
- Facilitate provision of gender expert advice and advice by women with expertise related to APEC at all levels

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Basis for future work

- Appointment of a feasible Gender Focal Point
- Development and support of gender specific projects that aim to eliminate differences in the access to the benefits of free trade
 - The landing centre
 - The market
 - Women in fish processing plants
 - Women workers in aquaculture
- Use and collection of sex-disaggregated data
 - Holistic picture —————> Ecosystem perspective



Alternative sources of information, experiences and examples

- GFPN website www.apecsec.org.sg
- FAO Sustainable Development Department www.fao.org/sd/index-en.htm
- UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) www.un-instraw.org
- The Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland www.dfid.stir.ac.uk/dfid/gender/gender.htm
- Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN) www.aprnet.org