



**Asia-Pacific
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Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth

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Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth



Juan Ernesto Jagger



Why?



During the last decades APEC has widely recognized the critical role and contribution that women play in achieving rapid and sustainable economic development in the region.



Outcomes have included the 1998 APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women celebrated in the Philippines; the 1999 Framework for Integration of Women in APEC; the 2011 San Francisco Declaration was adopted and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy was created.



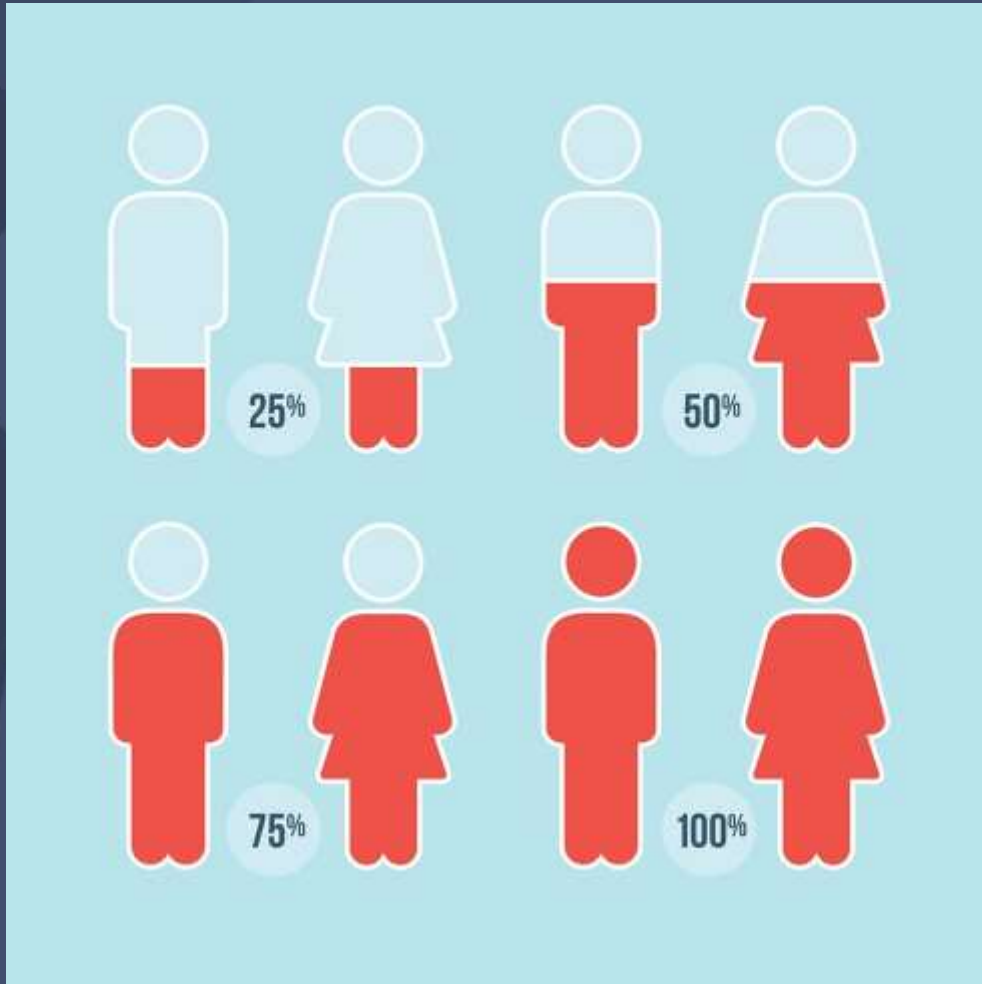
Twenty years later however, women continue to lag behind men in nearly all measures of economic opportunity.

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- Ensure equal access to technology calls for a multidimensional approach, which involves infrastructure capacity, digital skills education, affordability, to name a few...
- “Report on Bridging the Digital Literacy Gender Gap through Education”
- a) the gender gap on digital skills, b) the role of education- specifically digital skills training in educational curricula- on bridging the digital gender divide and c) elaborate policy recommendations to bridge the gap.



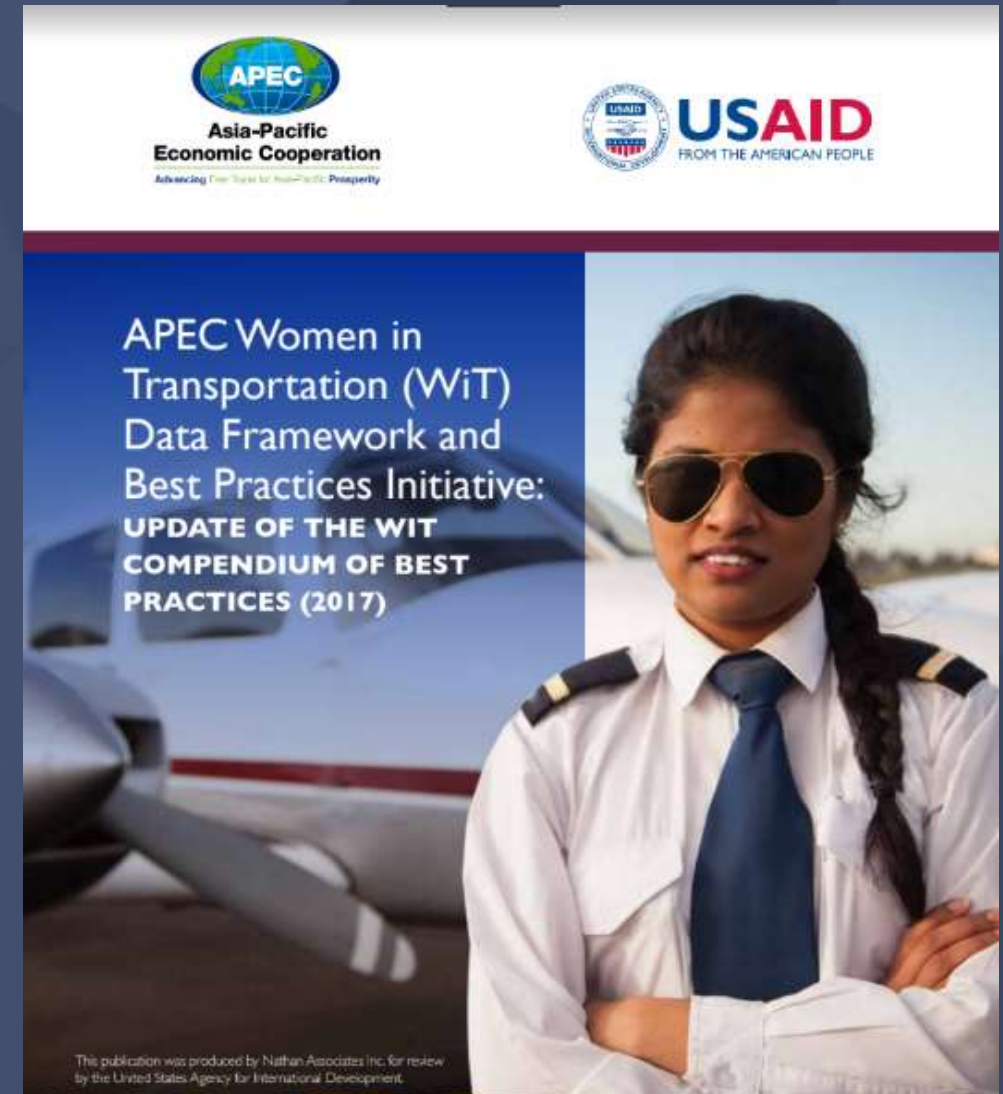
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- Less than one-third of the international community disaggregate statistics by sex on informal employment, entrepreneurship, unpaid work, among others figures. The lack of sex-disaggregated data “has resulted in an incomplete picture of women’s and men’s economic, political and social situations in the world” (World Bank).
- “Data Good practices Assessment report”
- (1) the need for improved gender statistics; (2) the challenges on gender data production and collection, (3) a stock date of existing gender indicators among APEC economies; (4) and best practices recommendations.

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- Although transportation supplies 10–20% of jobs in each of the APEC economies, women are typically found in fewer than 20% of transportation jobs, with the remainder held by men.
- **“Action Strategies Toolkit”**
- Assist economies in the development and implementation of effective gender diversity strategies. The aim is to attract, retain and promote talented women in industries traditionally dominated by men, specifically mining, transportation, and energy.



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- The Santiago Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth will encourage actions for increasing the participation of women in all levels of economic activities—including exports, SMEs, non-traditional sectors, digital environments, collection of data and gender mainstreaming across APEC's work.



Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth



- Strengthen and enhance the content and functionality of **APEC MSME Marketplace**, and encourage economies to share information and case studies on best practices for MSME internationalization.
- Create awareness on Fintech' impact on access to financing for SMEs and woman-led SMEs as well as building capacity on public policy and regulation development to support SMEs through Fintech, by developing a **"Fintech Digital Toolkit"**, which will summarize best practices and recommendations.



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