



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON
 GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
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**Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on
 “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”**
 23 and 24 February 2017
 United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Tentative Programme

Thursday, 23 February 2017 – Day 1 (Meeting Room H)

Time	Session
08:30-09:00	Registration
Opening of the Meeting	
09:00-09:20	Opening remarks Moderator: Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP • Miwa Kato, UN Women Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific
09:20-09:25	Group Photo
Session 1: Setting the Stage	
09:25-09:35	Overview of the programme and objectives Janneke Kukler, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Session 2: Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work	
09:35-10:45	Key Objective: Decent work is key to women’s economic empowerment and the last decades have witnessed women’s entry into the labour force in an unprecedented fashion. However, in some of the fastest growing economies in Asia and the Pacific, the trend is reversing and women’s labour force participation is actually decreasing. What will be the effects on women’s economic empowerment if this trend continues? This session explores possible implications for the region in the light of fast technological change, economic growth and climate change.

Time	Session
	<p>Facilitator: Janneke Kukler, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francisco Cos Montiel, Regional Advisor Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Jayati Ghosh, Economist and Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates (Ideas). <p>Q&A</p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
Session 3: Pathways for Women’s Economic Empowerment: Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Protection	
11:00-12:15	<p>Key Objective: Employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and a good social protection system are key to women’s economic empowerment. In a region where growth projections are positive, what are the implications for women’s economic empowerment? This session will identify if the region is on track to translate benefits of growth into decent work opportunities for women.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ingrid Fitzgerald, Regional Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion</i></p> <p>Is the transformation of Women at Work in Asia empowering women?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sher Verick, ILO Deputy Director of the Decent Work Team for South Asia <p>Women’s entrepreneurship and increasing formality. Where is the empowering effect?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joni Simpson, Senior Gender Specialist, ILO <p>Ending Violence Against Women and Women’s Economic Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna-Karin Jatfors, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific <p>Q&A</p>

Time	Session
12:15-13:15	Lunch
Session 3 (continued): Pathways for Women’s Economic Empowerment: Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Protection	
13:15 – 14:30	<p><i>Group work</i></p> <p><i>Report back from groups and Plenary reflections</i></p>
Session 4: Emerging Issues affecting Women’s Paid and Unpaid work: Demographics, Care and Climate Change	
14:30-15:35	<p><u>Key Objective:</u> Women are at the crossroads of production and reproduction. For that reason it is not possible to address the productive aspects of women’s economic empowerment without taking into account the dimension of social reproduction. The impact of changing demographics, the burden of care and climate change, all have an impact on women’s reproductive work with a direct impact on their ability to engage in paid work.</p> <p>Facilitator: Francisco Cos Montiel, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <p>The Changing Demographics in Asia and the Pacific and its implications for women’s productive and reproductive spheres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Gavin Jones, expert on demography, population and family dynamics in Asia. <p>Care work in Asia Pacific: Is Asia and the Pacific Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing Care?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jocelyn Villanueva, Regional Change Lead-Women's Economic Empowerment, Oxfam <p>Climate Change and its impact on women’s economic opportunities and care work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Lappin, Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) <p>Q&A</p>
15:35-15:50	Coffee Break
Session 4: Emerging Issues affecting Women’s Paid and Unpaid work:	

Time	Session
Demographics, Care and Climate Change	
15:50 – 17:00	<i>Group work and plenary</i> <i>Report back from groups and Plenary reflections</i>
17:00-17:05	Wrap-up

Friday, 24 February 2017 – Day 2 (Meeting Room H)

Time	Session
08:30-09:00	<i>Registration</i>
Session 5: Technological Change and its impact on women’s economic empowerment	
09:00-10:20	<p>Key Objective: The current trends and innovations in digital technology and finance are promising. But the poorest women must not be left behind. What are the opportunities and challenges that fast technological transformations will have on women’s economic empowerment?</p> <p>Facilitator: Sayuri Cocco Okada, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Panel discussion</i> Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway & ICT for Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atsuko Okuda, Chief of ICT and Development Section, ESCAP <p>Women’s Economic Empowerment in New Era of Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Anshul Sonak, Regional Director- Innovation Programs, Asia Corporate Affairs Director – Singapore, Intel Technology Asia Pte Ltd <p>Labour-saving technologies Opportunities and Challenges to Empower Rural Women: Examples from the field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayling Flores Rojas, Agricultural Officer, FAO <p>Women’s Entrepreneurship in Renewable Energy sector: Empowering Women and meeting the Energy Access Gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soma Dutta, Programme Coordinator, Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme, ENERGIA

Time	Session
	<p>The role of Technology for Women Entrepreneurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Kalyayanamitr, Orami <p>Q&A</p>
10:20-10:35	Coffee Break
Session 5 (continued): Technological Change and its impact on women's economic empowerment	
10:35-12:00	<p><i>Group work and plenary</i></p> <p><i>Report back from groups and Plenary reflections</i></p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
Session 6: The role of the Private Sector in promoting women's economic empowerment	
13:00-14:15	<p>Key Objective: The private sector, comprised of large, medium, small and microenterprises is the main employer in Asia and the Pacific. However, what are the actions that the private sector can take to accelerate women's economic empowerment?</p> <p>Facilitator: Francisco Cos Montiel, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion</i></p> <p>Private Sector initiatives to promote Women's Economic Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kannika Jarusuraisin, External Relations Director for P&G Thailand, Myanmar and Laos <p>Private Sector Partnership to promote Women's Empowerment in the work place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emma Tiaree, Regional Strategic Partnerships Director - Asia, CARE Asia Regional Management Unit <p>The Role of International Trade Unions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the work place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna Lee Tuvera, Senior Officer, Women and Projects, International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific (ITUC-AP).

Time	Session
	Women's Work in the Garments Industry in Bangladesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nazma Akter, Executive Director, AWAJ Foundation Q&A
Session 6 (continued): The role of the Private Sector in promoting women's economic empowerment	
14:15-15:45	<i>Group work</i> <i>Report back from groups and Plenary reflections</i>
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break
Session 7: Review of Recommendations	
16:00-17:00	Objective: Summarise, reflect and finalise overall recommendations Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Social Development Division, ESCAP • Janneke Kukler, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Closing of the Meeting	
17:00-17:15	<i>Closing remarks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janneke Kukler, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Social Development Division, ESCAP