



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH
Implementation of APEC Working Groups and SOM
Taskforces:
Gender Focal Point Network**

APEC Steering Committee of ECOTECH (SCE)

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Review of Gender Focal Point Network

Executive Summary

The APEC SOM Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) was established and first met in 2003. Since then the GFPN has made ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency and impact of its mandate to integrate awareness and analysis of gender inequalities and differences in the project and policy work of APEC Fora and APEC Member Economies. The achievements of the GFPN in assisting APEC Fora to take these gender inequalities and differences into account from the earliest stages of project development and proposal evaluation have been sound. The GFPN's encouragement of APEC Fora projects specifically targeted at women or at rectifying gender inequalities have also been commendable. Of particular note is the joint GFPN and ECSG project to promote women's participation in the digital economy and GFPN support of the CTI project to support potential women exporters. But unfortunately these achievements and their impacts have not been well communicated across APEC and publicized in APEC economies. As a result many APEC officials in the Secretariat, Fora and in Member Economies remain barely aware of the importance of ensuring that both women and men's economic interests are advanced with the liberalisation and integration of the APEC region. Further, even when officials demonstrate some gender awareness, this awareness is not translated into high-level support or significant resources for projects to seriously redress gender inequalities in economic participation in the APEC region.

The United Nations has estimated that discrimination against women in Asia Pacific costs the region as much as US \$80 billion per year as women are excluded from economic opportunities to participate in the paid workforce and in business. This situation must be changed and APEC must be an integral part of that change. The GFPN is the appropriate institutional mechanism to lead that change toward the end of the equal participation of women and men in APEC economies. But it must be strengthened. The Review proposes 15 Recommendations to strengthen the GFPN as an institution mechanism for implementing APEC's commitment to gender integration. Most of these recommendations suggest improvements to the existing Terms of Reference and Work Programme. For instance, the Review proposes that the GFPN develop a publicity and communications strategy as part of the Network's core business.

However, the most important of these Recommendations aim to bolster the impact of the GFPN on women's economic participation and gender equality in APEC economies. They suggest new GFPN Terms of Reference. The Review proposes that APEC require gender equality reporting in Economy Individual Action Plans (IAPs) facilitated by GFPN Economy Gender Focal Points. It also recommends that the GFPN make use of the opportunity under the 2005 guidelines to provide comments in the Peer Review of IAPs. Finally, the Review suggests that the GFPN report on the ABAC selection process in each APEC Economy and, in cooperation with other APEC Fora and the Women Leaders Network, create a Register of qualified women candidates for ABAC membership in each economy.

Abbreviations

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ATC/ATCWG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group
BMC	Budget and Management Committee
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation
SCE	SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH
ECSG	Electronic Commerce Steering Group
Fora	APEC groups and committees.
GFPN	Gender Focal Point Network
GFP	Gender Focal Point
GIPD	Gender Integration Programme Director from APEC Secretariat
HRD/HRDWG	Human Resources Development Working Group
IAP	APEC Economy Individual Action Plan
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IST/ISTWG	Industrial Science and Technology Working Group
MRC/MRCWG	Marine Resources Conservation Working Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PD	APEC Secretariat Programme Director
SME/SMEWG	Small and medium Enterprise Working Group
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting
SPC	South Pacific Commission
TEL/TELWG	Telecommunications and Information Working Group
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation
TP/TPWG	Trade Promotion Working Group
WG	Working Group
WLN	Women Leaders' Network
WTO	World Trade Organization

1 Recommendations

1. **Agree** that Economy Gender Focal Points, as the “gender specialists,” take the lead in the GFPN and its work programme.
2. **Agree** that a half-day training forum be held as part of the annual GFPN Meeting targeted at APEC Fora Gender Focal Points and Secretariat Officials on gender-aware projects and project evaluation.
3. **Agree** that the WLN and ABAC be recognised as key members of the GFPN and invited to participate in all GFPN activities.
4. **Agree** that the GFPN will present an annual report at WLN and ABAC meetings highlighting its activities and potential areas for mutual collaboration and making it clear that the WLN and ABAC are members of the Network and invited to participate in its activities.
5. **Agree** to produce targeted “Gender Checklists” for each Fora to be used by Fora Gender Focal Points (GFPN propose a project to fund these).
6. **Agree** to eliminate the Gender Expert List and the need to update it in the GFPN Terms of Reference.
7. **Agree** that the GFPN prioritise in its annual work programme one or two substantive gender issues that are relevant to specific APEC agendas, the Host Economy theme or the current work of APEC Fora.
8. **Agree** that the GFPN make 1-3 recommendations to SOM based on this realistic work programme and seek to hold Senior Officials and Ministers accountable for implementing these recommendations.
9. **Agree** that the GFPN collaborate with another APEC Fora or the WLN to propose an activity or project to address gender as a cross-cutting issue in a particular area. Policy dialogues could be held to present the project findings and share them with a larger APEC audience.
10. **Agree** that APEC require gender equality reporting in Member Economy Individual Action Plans (IAPs). This reporting would describe the gender impacts of progress made toward APEC ECOTECH and TILF goals and measures to address them. GFPN members will facilitate this reporting by a) advising APEC on the report template and b) carrying out gender analysis in Economies.
11. **Agree** that the GFPN make use of the opportunity to give comments in the Peer Reviews of Economy IAPs as does ABAC and as do civil society representatives.
12. **Agree** that GFPN be assisted by the APEC Programme Director to request that all Economies and APEC Foras report on the proportion of women and men on their delegations and at their meetings.
13. **Agree** that the APEC Programme Director collate and report on this data in his/her annual report to the GFPN.
14. **Agree** that the GFPN report on the ABAC selection process in each Economy and, in cooperation with other APEC Fora and the WLN, create a Register of qualified women candidates for ABAC membership in each economy. The GFPN will publicise this register as widely as possible across APEC.
15. **Agree** that the GFPN will develop a publicity and communications strategy to be implemented by the APEC Secretariat as part of the new APEC-wide communications and outreach strategy.

Introduction

This review of the GFPN's internal operations and external impact supports APEC work's in promoting the integration of women in the APEC region and addressing the gender inequalities that exist in the region particularly with respect to economic participation and interests. Beyond the discussion of the purpose, objectives and approach to the review, the review document has three major sections: Section 3 assesses the effectiveness of the GFPN, its current membership structure, terms of reference and work programme; section 4 documents the impact of the GFPN primarily on APEC economies and section 5 suggests ways to strengthen the GFPN as an institutional mechanism for advancing the implementation of gender integration in APEC. The 15 Recommendations proposed by the review are detailed in section 5 and are also listed separately above, in section 1.

2 Purpose And Objectives

Background

The Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) was established in 2003 following the disbanding of the SOM Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration in APEC (AGGI) in 2002. It is tasked with continuing to advance the implementation of the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women, promoting the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across APEC policy and project activities, and the full and equal participation of women and men in APEC. The GFPN does not have formal status as a working group; it is a SOM special task group serving as a mechanism to integrate gender issues and awareness into APEC fora (Working Groups and Committees), APEC economies and the APEC Secretariat. The GFPN meets once a year and reports annually to the Senior Officials Meeting on all APEC gender activities and outcomes.

The APEC SOM Steering Committee of ECOTECH (SCE) has requested an independent assessment of the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) as part of its ongoing efforts to improve ECOTECH project management and raise awareness of APEC's economic and technical cooperation activities among the 21 member economies. This review of the GFPN, together with reviews of other APEC working groups and SOM taskforces, is expected to help to bring a more strategic perspective to APEC's capacity-building and technical assistance. In particular, it puts forward recommendations to support the objectives of APEC Leaders and Ministers in implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC (SOM Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration 2002).

Review Objectives

The aim of this independent assessment of ECOTECH activities in the Gender Focal Point Network is to:

1. Identify ways to strengthen the implementation of ECOTECH gender activities, including whether the terms of reference should be changed and the GFPN should continue as a separate fora, be merged with other fora or whether its work could be mainstreamed (See SCE 2006 Review of APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks, recommendation 5).
2. Expand knowledge and recognition of ECOTECH gender activities and their contribution to achieving APEC's ECOTECH goals;
3. Improve coordination between various APEC fora;
4. Identify areas where ECOTECH gender activities have had the greatest impact on member economies;
5. Enhance the SCE's ability to examine and improve ECOTECH coherence and efficiency; and
6. Facilitate the setting of strategic priorities for future ECOTECH gender work.

To achieve its objectives, the project will engage in participant observation, document, and survey analysis designed to evaluate the GFPN's;

1. Internal operations and their effectiveness in meeting APEC ECOTECH goals and strategies priorities and;
2. External impact on APEC Member Economies, other APEC Fora and non-APEC parties, especially with respect to the integration of women.

Review Approach

Questions

1. How effective is the GFPN in implementing ECOTECH goals, including the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women through its work programme?
2. What are the impacts of GFPN activities (on other APEC fora and on APEC member economies) and can we measure them?
3. Is the GFPN an appropriate institutional mechanism for promoting the integration of women, gender analysis and the use of sex-disaggregated data in APEC (as an organization and broader economic region)?

Methods

To address these research questions, the review assessed the previous and current goals, objectives and relevant work programs of the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN). The methods of document analysis, participant observation, personal interviews, and survey analysis were used as discussed below.

The project involved a four-step empirical research methodology

The first step involved consideration and analysis of all relevant background APEC and GFPN documents.

The second step involved participant observation of the annual GFPN meeting in Cairns, Australia, June, 2007 and the APEC Women Leaders Meeting, Port Douglas, June 2007. At this time semi-structured interviews were also conducted with delegates from member economies present at the meeting (including the Australian GFPN Lead Shepherd and members of the Friends of the GFPN Chair Committee).

The third step involved survey analysis evaluating the internal workings and external impact of GFPN activities. The electronic survey was sent to all economy focal points and sectoral fora focal points in the Gender Focal Point Network, APEC Secretariat officials, and participants at the 2007 APEC Women Leaders Network Meeting on the WLN e-list. The consultant also sent follow-up personal email letters to GFPN members who had not responded to the survey. The survey was available to complete from November 30, 2007-February 10, 2008. Overall 63 respondents were identified and the survey received 30 responses, a *48 per cent response rate*. In addition, six follow-up phone interviews were used to clarify and deepen some survey responses.

The fourth step involved analysed the data generated by the survey, the keyword and content analysis of APEC projects to identify and assess the impacts of GFPN work in APEC member economies.

3 Effectiveness of GFPN

This section assesses the effectiveness of the Gender Focal Point Network's internal operations. It considers the extent to which the GFPN has been able to meet APEC ECOTECH goals and strategies priorities, which include coordination across APEC fora, coherence and efficiency; knowledge and recognition of activities.

Goal and Membership of GFPN

The broad goal of the GFPN is "to provide linkages between APEC Fora, APEC economies and the APEC Secretariat to advance the economic interests of women in the APEC region for the benefit of all economies." This goal depends upon the participation of all members of the GFPN: Economy Gender Focal Points, Fora Gender Focal Points, the Gender Integration Programme Director from the APEC Secretariat and Civil Society (the APEC Business Advisory Council and the Women Leaders Network).

In the five years of the GFPN's existence, very few Fora Gender Focal Points have participated in the Network (in some APEC Foras the GFP has not even been nominated) however. Several APEC economies have also not sent Economy Gender Focal Points. Without the full participation of all the components of the network, the GFPN cannot effectively diffuse gender as a cross-cutting issue across APEC Economies, Working Groups and other Fora. Several respondents to the survey undertaken for this review commented on the ineffective functioning of the GFPN as a network.

What We Heard:

"The gender focal points from each sub-fora should be invited to participate in part of the GFPN meeting. This is not currently the case, but could go a long way to improving knowledge within the sub-fora of gender issues and current APEC priorities vis a vis gender."

Source: Anonymous Survey Response.

Despite this lack of involvement of all economies and especially Fora Gender Focal Points in the GFPN, GFPN members responding to the survey reported that they had high levels of contact and dialogue with officials from APEC officials in their own economy and in APEC fora. 79 per cent of survey respondents had talked about gender issues with government officials at the economy level; 57 per cent had talked with officials at the APEC level; 43 per cent had talked about gender issues in APEC with non-APEC groups at the economy level; and 43 per cent with non-APEC groups from another economy. Respondents commented on their efficacy in networking across APEC consistent with the broad goal of the GFPN. In 2007, the GFPN resolved to increase the proactive interactions of Economy Gender Focal Points with other APEC officials within their economies. The GFPN is well aware that high levels of communication and dialogue at the economy-level is critical to GFPN's influence on APEC's policy agenda and for

ensuring that women's perspectives are given prominence across APEC's work programme.

What We Heard:

"As [a] Programme Director I try to create gender awareness in the Fora. The same pattern applies when I dialogue with others Programme Directors from diverse fora."

*

"After annual GFPN and WLN meetings, we held workshops for officials and shared gender issues in APEC."

*

"The host economy experiences increased levels of interaction between the Economy Gender Focal Point or women's policy machinery and Trade/Economic ministries or APEC Working Group lead shepherds."

*

"[We] coordinated [across] government departments to implement the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC and put gender issues into our work plans based on a meeting with [our Economy Gender Focal Point]."

*

"I have interchange of opinions and papers with other colleagues in charges with other APEC's meeting about trade and gender (for instance customs, agriculture, communications)."

*

"We have good relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We plan to increase the awareness of APEC Fora Gender Focal Points at the economy level. These Focal Points are coordinated by Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Now we are in the process of building cooperation with the Ministry for Trade. They already know that women and gender issues are important in APEC fora, however they do not know how to address the issues."

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

Since the establishment of the GFPN in 2002 there have been a number of APEC projects sponsored by APEC fora focused substantially on gender analysis or targeted at women specifically. These projects have involved collaboration and co-sponsorship between the GFPN and other APEC fora demonstrating some success in integrating gender across APEC work programmes.¹

¹ Gender Analysis in Trade Promotion Activities, TP 02/2003T, 2003/03-2003/11; APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalisation in Agriculture, ATC 03/2003, 2003/01-2003/12; Gender Survey on Business Mobility Issues in the APEC Region', 2003 Informal Experts Group on Business Mobility and APEC Business Mobility Group; APEC Group on Services/Services Working Group Firm Expatriation Policy and Practice in Service Trade: The Gender Dimension', 2003; Supporting Potential Women Exporters, CTI 34/2003T, 2003/06-2004/03; Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI); Senior Officials' (SOM); The Economic Contributions of Women and Men in APEC Economies: The Need for Sex-Disaggregated Data, SOM 01/2003, 2003/01-2004/07; Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Gender and Marine Resources Conservation in APEC, 2004.; Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Supporting Women Exporters, CTI 32/2006T, 2006/06-2006/10; GFPN, APEC Workshop on Gender Analysis Training, GFPN 01/2006, 2006/05-2006/12; Electronic Commerce Steering Working Group, APEC Women's Participation in the Digital Economy', 2006.; APEC Workshop on Participation of Women and Ethnic Communities in the S&T Workforce, ISTWG 04/2007, 2007/3-2008/02; HRD Working Group, Seminar on Trade

In the reviewing the Terms of Reference and the eight tasks that currently make up the work programme of the GFPN below, I suggest some changes to the *Roles of Economy Gender Focal Points and Fora Gender Focal Points*, placing relatively more responsibility on Economy Gender Focal Points, who typically have gender specialist knowledge relative to Fora GFPs who are non-specialists.

The Friends of the Chair innovation is judged to be working well. Sharing the leadership responsibility for the GFPN is an effective way of ensuring institutional responsibility and continuity in GFPN activities across several years. The Friends of the Chair have been particularly useful in serving as an Ad Hoc group for evaluating the use of gender criteria in APEC project proposals. This function should be formalised in the GFPN Terms of Reference.

Civil Society Membership

At present many GFPN members attend WLN meetings in their government and personal capacities. For its part, the WLN presents a report to the GFPN but has only advisory status within the network. This status is vague and does not reflect the degree of collaboration both experienced and desired between the GFPN and the WLN. The full participation of the WLN in GFPN meetings and the presentation of a GFPN report by the GFPN Friends of the Chair at the WLN meeting would allow for this collaboration to assume more formality on the agendas of both networks.

Terms of Reference

Table 1 provides an overview of the eight tasks assigned to the GFPN in its terms of reference. The table identifies which tasks are appropriate and have been effectively carried out and which tasks have not been effectively carried out. These tasks either need to be revised or eliminated in the Terms of Reference. A *cross* indicates that the task needs to be revised or eliminated; a *cross* next to main responsibility or mechanism indicates that these need to be changed. Discussion of the effectiveness of the GFPN in implementing the eight tasks follows the table. Four new GFPN tasks and mechanisms are proposed by this Review and discussed in section 5 of this report on Strengthening the GFPN. The addition of these new tasks will enable the GFPN to be more effective in achieving the APEC ECOTECH goals. A suggested new Terms of Reference is appended to this report (see appendix A).

GFPN Terms of Reference – 8 Tasks Report Card		
1.	<i>Assist APEC fora to identify and address gender issues within their work</i>	✓
	Main Responsibility: Fora Gender Focal Points	✗
	Mechanism: Fora Gender Focal Points	✗
2.	<i>Promote and report on women's representation across APEC and within individual fora</i>	✗
	Main Responsibility: Fora GFPs, Economy GFPs and PD	✗
	Mechanism: Encouragement at Fora and Economy levels; Fora provide sex-disaggregated data on meeting attendance and project participation; PD analyse data for APEC groups.	✗
3.	<i>Assess and report on the use of gender criteria in project proposals, reporting and evaluation, revising the gender criteria where appropriate</i>	✓
	Main Responsibility: Chair of GFPN Ad Hoc Group and PD	✓
	Mechanism; GFPN Ad Hoc Group assist PD assess project proposals. GFPN and PD ensure gender criteria utilized.	✗
4.	Collect and share best practices in gender integration amongst fora	✗
	Main Responsibility: GFPN and PD	✓
	Mechanism: Reports on Implementation of Framework	✗
5.	Support and report on the progress of implementation of gender integration within individual fora and across APEC economies.	✓ combine with 4 and 7
	Main Responsibility: GFPN	✗
	Mechanism: Reporting and Gender Training	✗
6.	Facilitate provision of gender expert advice and advice by women with expertise related to APEC at all level.	✗
	Main Responsibility: GFPN and PD	✗
	Mechanism: Gender Experts Register	✗
7.	Assist in developing of project proposals.	✓
	Main Responsibility: GFPN and PD	✓
	Mechanism: Advice and (Co)Sponsorship of Projects	✓
8.	Propose recommendations on advancing gender integration in APEC.	✓
	Main Responsibility: GFPN Chair and PD	✓
	Mechanism: Report to SOM; Ministerial Meeting	✗

GFPN Work Programme

1. Assist APEC fora to identify and address gender issues within their work

Currently Fora Gender Focal Points have the major responsibility for implementing this task. However, as discussed above, few Fora GFPs have attended GFPN meetings, prepared reports for the GFPN, or proposed APEC projects to identify and address the gender issues within the work of their fora. In 2007 just two Fora Gender Focal Points submitted reports to the GFPN (the SME WG and the BMC WG). This lack of engagement has seriously limited the ability of Economy Gender Focal Points to perform their role in supporting For a Gender Focal Points. But Economy and Fora Gender Focal Points have collaborated at the economy level in several although not all APEC economies.

Section 5 of this Review recommends new initiatives to encourage the Fora Gender Focal Points to participate in the work of the GFPN and to give them greater assistance with assessing the gender dimensions of their sectoral group. As non-gender specialists, the Fora Gender Focal Points cannot have the major responsibility for identifying and addressing gender issues within the work of their fora or be the sole mechanism for incorporating gender initiatives and identifying specific projects for their Fora annual work plan. With appropriate training and assistance, however, they could serve as facilitators for the diffusion of gender awareness to their sectoral fora. Survey respondents suggested the need for such training targeted specifically at APEC officials and Fora Focal Points and offered models of APEC gender training in their economies. The Recommendations and Section 5 on Strengthening the GFPN propose changes to the design of gender training consistent with this survey feedback.

What We Heard:

“SOM should promote and encourage APEC officials’ participation at the Gender Analysis Training Workshops, particularly as the training aims to develop participants’ knowledge and skills in applying gender analysis to project proposals.”

*

“To increase the awareness of sectoral departments related to APEC, we conducted a workshop and the speakers were from Department of Agriculture, SMEs, Trade and Finance. In this first workshop we shared experience on how to make a proposal to APEC and we also presented how to integrate gender issues in proposal.”

*

“The most useful gender training materials were ones that were tailored specifically to the APEC context and targeted to specific APEC WG or committee issues”.

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

2. Promote and report on women’s representation across APEC and within individual fora

According to the GFPN Terms of Reference Fora Gender Focal Points, Economy Gender Focal Points and the APEC Programme Director have co-responsibility for this task. The

task is to be implemented by encouraging women's participation in APEC at Fora and Economy levels; by Fora Gender Focal Points providing sex-disaggregated data on individual Fora meeting attendance and project participation; by the Programme Director summarising and analyzing the sex-disaggregated participation data across APEC. However, there is no evidence that any of these mechanisms have been implemented to date. Most survey respondents could only convey anecdotes about degree of women's participation and gender balance in their APEC economy delegation or Fora. Rough figures such as approximately 25 per cent or one third are mentioned in economy reports to the GFPN. But there is no standard quantitative or qualitative way of promoting and reporting on women's representation across APEC and within individual fora.

What We Heard:

"As [the] Economy Gender Focal Point we request data on participation from our Foreign Ministry for our GFPN report but there is no specific APEC mechanism for collecting and analysing this information."

*

"The participant list is not sex-disaggregated but the attendance list suggests that women officials are about one-third of my working group".

*

"Our government data suggests that 35 per cent of the 2007 APEC delegation were women."

*

"I am not aware of any special initiative to encourage women in my economy to participate in APEC."

*

"Yes. APEC actively promotes Gender Mainstreaming, but, participants in APEC meetings and members of ABAC are mainly male."

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

"The highest proportion of Indonesian women participating as delegates to APEC was 35.7 percent in 2000, but that this had dropped to the lowest level of participation in 2004 of 15.8 percent"

Source: GFPN 2005, 'Gender Integration Strategies into APEC Activities in Indonesia', p. 5

Despite the fact that it is tasked with summarizing and analyzing sex-disaggregated data on participation in APEC meetings and projects, APEC Secretariat Programme Directors responding to the survey did not have this information. In the Recommendations and Section 5 on Strengthening the GFPN the Review suggests that the APEC SOM require the implementation of this data collection and analysis on women's representation. Furthermore, the Review suggests an additional mechanism for the GFPN to promote and report on women's representation: *Keeping a register of prospective women ABAC members.*

3. Assess and report on the use of gender criteria in project proposals, reporting and evaluation, revising the gender criteria where appropriate.

All GFPN members are responsible for assessing and reporting on the use of gender criteria. Currently however, there is insufficient evidence as to whether or not they all do this. In the survey questionnaire some GFPN Economy Focal Points mention the ongoing advice and the substantial training they offer to APEC officials in their own economy on how to fulfill the gender criteria for projects using the APEC Practical Guide on Gender Criteria for Project Proposals. The APEC Practical Guide explains how to address the gender criteria, and gives possible responses other than “Not Applicable”.²

This task has only been implemented since 2007 because the GFPN terms of reference were revised in 2006. In 2005, the GFPN recommended to SOM that the Gender Integration Program Director become a member of the APEC Secretariat Project Assessment Panel (SPAP) to improve the integration of gender in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects seeking APEC funding. This recommendation was endorsed by SOM and implemented by the Secretariat. The Gender Integration Program Director has been member of the SPAP since 2006. In 2007 the Chair of the GFPN constituted an Ad Hoc Group drawing on the Friends of the Chair Economy Gender Focal Points to assist the Programme Director in his/her new role assessing whether project proposals had satisfactorily fulfilled the gender criteria.

In its first year this task was effectively carried out due to good collaboration between GFPN members and the PD. APEC project teams were given constructive feedback on their proposals and able to revise them before being approved for funding. However, interviews with those involved indicated that the work of evaluating over 100 proposals is time-consuming and needs to be completed in short time frame. The responsibility for this work must be shared and the responsibility for it formalised so that it can continue to be efficiently carried out in the future.

The role of the GFPN in assessing projects proposals is crucial for the implementation of the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women. It is particularly crucial because content analysis of project proposals indicates that most proposals have not adequately addressed the two questions on how women and gender equality are being considered at all stages of the project.³ For instance, many proposals did not gather or use sex-disaggregated data. Such data would show whether or not gender inequalities and differences existed that the project should explore further or address in order to maximize its benefits to all people and economies in the APEC region. Some common responses to the gender criteria in project proposals were that; men and women are affected equally in

² APEC SOM Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration, “Practical Guide on Gender Criteria for Project Proposals”, 2001, p. 2.

³ These eight questions refer to: 1) how the project will provide benefits for women; 2) how the participation of women will be sought; 3) details of how women and men will be able to participate equally; 4) the use of SDD to measure the project's effects on women; 5) women-friendly communication of the project's results; 6) whether women will be involved in the allocation of resources; 7) budget allocation to addressing the specific needs of women; 8) details of how the gender criteria have been met and how the effect of the project on women will be measured. See APEC Practical Guide on Gender Criteria.

the project; that they were not actively excluding women and therefore that women were equally included in the project; that sex disaggregated data is only needed for gender-specific projects; that using sex disaggregated data is discriminatory; and that gender criteria are “not applicable” to the project (see GFPN report to SOM 2007).

Yet most proposals provide no evidence such as sex disaggregated data to support these claims. Sex-disaggregated data is not meant to promote gender differences and inequalities, but to highlight those that already exist so that APEC projects can seek to address and overcome them. Proposals should be able to identify measures that will be taken to promote the inclusion or consideration of women. That gender criteria are not applicable is not a satisfactory response without good reasons, for instance, that sex disaggregated data is being sought but is not currently available.⁴

These outcomes suggest a lack of understanding of the use of gender criteria and sex-disaggregated data in project proposals. “The proposing economy, proposing forum and sex of the project overseer do not appear to have much influence on how well the gender issue is addressed in a proposal” (Wiley 2007). Close scrutiny and feedback on proposals is therefore greatly needed from the GFPN and PD in the assessment process in addition to the pre-submission proposal advice already offered to project teams by the APEC Practice Guide on the Use of Gender Criteria” and the workshops and training held in APEC economies.

4. Collect and share best practices in gender integration amongst fora

Currently this task is conducted by the GFPN and PD in the Economy Gender Focal Point and Fora Gender Focal Point reports on the implementation of the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC. However, only very few Fora GFP have provided reports on how gender criteria has been applied in projects, whether gender analysis has been used in developing projects/policies, and what problems have been encountered, recommended solutions and action taken. The requirement that all APEC fora include a line item on gender integration in their annual reports has not had its intended effect of encouraging the sharing of best practices.

At the same time, the Economy GFP reports vary in length and format making it difficult to identify and share the best practices discussed in them. At the 2007 GFPN meeting Economy GFP presented brief oral reports highlighting best practices, which was a useful way of sharing the information. The development of Guidance to economies and fora on reporting on the implementation of the Framework in 2007 was helpful but more attention could be paid to standardizing the reports.

In September 2004 in Santiago, Chile the GFPN and the Committee on Trade and Investment hosted a very fruitful joint session and policy dialogue sharing best practices collected in the CTI project Supporting Potential Women Exporters and how they might inform policymaking in APEC economies and at the regional level.

⁴ Abigail Wiley, “The Use of Sex Disaggregated Data in APEC Project Proposals.” Canberra, June 2007.

In the Recommendations and Section 5, the Review suggests an annual half day forum especially for Fora GFPs would be a good, interactive way of highlighting particular gender aware projects and discussing their policy implications for APEC economies. The forum would demonstrate concretely how APEC projects could be strengthened by integrating gender analysis and criteria, with examples of “good practices.”

5. Support and report on the progress of implementation of gender integration within individual fora and across APEC economies.

This aspect of the GFPN’s work programme has been carried out primarily by Economy Gender Focal Points at the economy level. Survey evidence shows that Economy GFP’s have encouraged the use of gender analysis and collection of sex disaggregated data in their communications with economy APEC officials. Economy GFPs also discuss their economy-level activities to progress the implementation of the Framework for the Integration of Women in their very comprehensive annual reports to the GFPN. Little information has been provided by Fora Gender Focal Points, however.

In addition, the GFPN has conducted gender analysis training seminars for APEC fora and economies.⁵ Gender information sessions to introduce gender issues to APEC fora and economies were sponsored and held by the SOM Ad Hoc Group on Gender Integration (AGGI) in 2002 prior to the establishment of the GFPN. As previously discussed these seminars have received positive feedback on formal evaluations. However, they have been attended by only a handful of APEC fora officials. In the Recommendations and Section 5 of this report, the Review suggests the GFPN introduce training workshops targeted at specific APEC sectoral fora and focused specifically on their existing work programme and/or projects.

In supporting and reporting on the implementation of gender integration in APEC rather more emphasis has been placed on the economy reporting. While this is still an important requirement, the review recommends that this task in the GFPN work programme be combined with task 4 collect and share best practices and 7 assist in developing project proposals. In addition to reporting, the review proposes that new collaborative mechanisms such as the one day best-practice forum and the fora-specific gender checklists be introduced to further support gender integration in APEC.

6. Facilitate provision of gender expert advice and advice by women with expertise related to APEC at all levels.

The GFPN has been responsible for facilitating provision of sector-specific gender expert advice to APEC and especially to APEC fora. 39 per cent of survey respondents claimed to have used the Gender Experts Register compiled by the GFPN Economy Gender Focal Points and maintained by the Gender Integration Programme Director. The APEC Programme Directors report that they have not received any request from any Fora Gender Focal Point for advice or access to the expert list in the period since 2006.

⁵ APEC GFPN Workshops on Gender Analysis Training were held in SOM 11 in Vietnam in 2006 and SOM III in Australia in 2007.

However, the Experts Register is incomplete and not up to date having been compiled in 2003. Some Economy Gender Focal Points commented that they did not even know the experts listed on the register from their own economy. Some Gender Focal Points see the register as redundant given that; 1) Economy Gender Focal Points have gender expertise and are the best port of call for APEC officials and fora seeking gender expertise specific to their sectoral area and; 2) The proposed GFPN Gender and Trade database that will collect relevant research will also facilitate the dissemination of expert knowledge. Moreover, there are no formal criteria or screening mechanism for the inclusion APEC gender experts.

Without the register, the Economy Gender Focal Points are facilitating the provision of gender expert advice in their work at the economy level with APEC officials, in particular advising on the use of gender criteria in project proposals. The GFPN Friends of the Chair also effectively facilitate the provision of gender expert advice in assessing project proposals for APEC funding together with the Programme Director. The elimination of the Gender Experts Register and new mechanisms for providing gender expertise are proposed in the recommendations and in section 5 of the report.

7. Assist in developing of project proposals.

GFPN members have assisted APEC fora members especially in their own economies to develop project proposals with gender dimensions. The list of APEC projects since 2003 with a strong gender dimension either targeting women specifically or integrating gender considerations (in note 1) are evidence of that. Moreover, 69 per cent of survey respondents (GFPN and WLN members) said that they provided gender-sensitive advice or input on the APEC projects proposed by their economy.

There are many benefits to this GFPN work of assisting and collaborating in developing project proposals that are designed to redress gender inequalities in particular areas of APEC economic and technical cooperation. Survey respondents noted that there are many practical, economic, financial, and reputational benefits to APEC economies in pursuing projects both targeted at women and that integrate a gender perspective.

What We Heard:

“There is a cost to every economy of not redressing gender inequalities. For example the Access Economics report, “The Cost of Domestic Violence to the Australian Economy” http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au/publications/publications_list.htm which was commissioned by showed that domestic violence cost the Australian Government \$8.1 billion in 2002-03. Suitable APEC projects provide a useful mechanism to address gender inequalities in APEC Economies, however this should not be limited to projects that are just targeted at women, but can also be achieved by ensuring that mainstream projects take into account the gender implications of their projects. Projects that do not adequately take gender into account are likely to produce inadequate findings.”

*

“For our organization APEC projects give us benefits such as: they support our domestic program on women’s economic empowerment...proposing a project proposal to APEC will show other departments related to APEC that women and gender issues are a part of APEC concern. The projects give us lessons learnt and increase the capacity and networking with other economies giving us a better understanding of the problems encountered and possible solutions for the majority of economies.”

*

“For APEC economies there are benefits from sharing good practices in diverse economic policy areas; learning from information exchanges with project partners or consultative groups; opportunities to build partnerships with the private sector and academic researchers; increased visibility in Asia-Pacific region for [our economy] as well as building a reputation for leadership on gender issues in APEC; opportunities to apply outcomes to domestic policy and program development on gender implications of various economic and technical issues and trade liberalization, ultimately, for improving the situation of women at the economy level.”

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

However, in 2006 and 2007 the GFPN did not seek co-sponsors in other APEC fora for their projects since it is able to initiate its own project proposals for funding (e.g. GFPN Women in Times of Disaster 2007/01). Nor has the GFPN discussed their priorities with respect to which gender issues in which APEC fora should be addressed and pursued in project proposals by the GFPN and/or in collaboration with other APEC fora. The recommendations and section 5 of this report suggest ways to enhance the project development work of the GFPN.

8. Propose recommendations on advancing gender integration in APEC.

The GFPN has proposed recommendations to the APEC SOM each year since 2003 based on Gender Focal Point reports and discussion at the annual meeting. These GFPN recommendations to SOM have noted the challenges of implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women and the need for greater APEC support of GFPN efforts to increase the gender awareness of fora.

What We Heard:

“There is still considerable work to be done in having the tangible and economic impact of gender taken into account in APEC’s work. For example, a large number of APEC project proposals still do not adequately address the questions on gender, illustrating that more gender analysis skills are needed within APEC. Capacity building on gender analysis still remains a challenge, as do the collection and use of sex disaggregated data and the increased participation of women in APEC fora and activities.”

Source: Anonymous Survey Response.

In 2006 the GFPN report to SOM stated:

GFPN reports to SOM have routinely stressed the lack of understanding of gender mainstreaming among APEC officials and a low level of commitment to the implementation of the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women at fora level.

2006 Recommendation:

“That SOM reiterate that integrating gender in APEC activities should remain a high priority. Although progress has been made, challenges remain. The APEC mechanisms that facilitate the GFPN’s relationship with all APEC fora must continue and be strengthened.

“That SOM instruct Lead Shepherds of Working Groups and Chairs of Committees that have not already done so, to appoint a person to be responsible for gender issues and serve as a member of the GFPN. This should be done one month prior to SOM I 2007, and conveyed in writing to both the Chair of the GFPN and the APEC Secretariat.

2007 Recommendation

The GFPN asks that Senior Officials note that the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group and the Budget Management Committee provided reports to the GFPN on their efforts to integrate gender into their activities. The GFPN asks Senior Officials to encourage APEC fora to increase their attention to gender issues in their work.

Hosting a Ministerial Meeting on Women has been one of the mechanisms for advancing gender integration in APEC. Two Ministerial Meetings on Women were held prior to establishment of the GFPN. The GFPN annual meeting has discussed the prospect of holding a third Ministerial Meeting on Women. However, the GFPN agreed in 2007 that such a meeting will not be proposed until a substantive theme and policy rationale is developed and decided on. This was a reasonable decision paying attention to the SCE (SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation) recommendation in the 2006 Review of Fora that APEC fora should minimize events and meeting schedules and ensure that they are well timed and consistent with APEC guidelines. However, the GFPN may wish to revisit this decision at a future time depending on the implementation of recommendations 8 and 9.

Conclusion

The GFPN has consistently sought to implement the 8 tasks in its Terms of Reference and Work Programme in the most efficient and collaborative way. However, for various reasons including the lack of gender awareness among APEC officials and in some cases, the lack of ongoing, high-level support for APEC gender initiatives, this implementation has been challenging. Suggestions for strengthening this implementation and for revising the Terms of Reference have been indicated here and are taken up in detail in Section 5 of the report. The next section considers the impact of the GFPN.

4 Impact of GFPN

This section provides an overview of the impact of the GFPN. It identifies and provides evidence of the areas where GFPN activities have had an impact on APEC member economies primarily but also other APEC fora and non-APEC parties. It analyses this impact broadly in terms of the GFPN's affect on i) level of awareness of the cross-cutting nature of gender issues in economic and technical cooperation ii) the inclusion of gender analysis in policymaking; iii) the participation of women in APEC.

i) Impact on awareness of gender issues in APEC economies and fora

Gender-related concepts are increasingly understood as economic and social issues of national and regional importance in APEC economies. In response to the survey question, "How aware of the APEC *Framework for the Integration of Women* and APEC gender activities and projects are your economy's and/or fora APEC officials?" 64 per cent of respondents said their officials were aware or very aware of the APEC gender activities, 22 per cent said they were barely aware and 14 per cent said they were not aware.

Lead shepherds of APEC fora responding to the survey however, did not evidence much awareness of the relevance of gender issues to their sectoral area, as revealed in their comments in the box below.

"Within the %^&, gender has low visibility in meeting agendas, supporting documents and reports."

"As gender issues are not a major problem in Australia, they are not a major focus of our fora."

The GFPN has played a catalytic role together with the Women Leaders Network to increase gender awareness in APEC. One WLN representative responding to the survey told a successful story of collaboration with their GFPN Economy Focal Point:

"We do not even know the names of the officials, but we started working with government officials at our economy level [the APEC Economy Gender Focal Point and APEC officials in the Trade Ministry], to spread our experience in WLN meetings raising the profile of women entrepreneurs and their access to international networks, and 2 weeks ago we met the President %\$# to talk about it."

Yet WLN representatives believe that the GFPN could have more impact if APEC economies committed greater resources to APEC gender initiatives and consistently sent high-level Economy Gender Focal Point officials to the annual GFPN meeting.

"Well although the officials know about them [key APEC gender integration policies] they do not promote it or share the information and they do not commit any \$\$ towards supporting it - it is all a bit of a fallacy."

ii) Impact on use of gender analysis to shape policy outcomes

Many new policy issues relating to women and a gender-differentiated perspective have been put on the agendas of APEC economies as a result of GFPN initiatives. 46 per cent of respondents to the survey questionnaire said they had used APEC initiatives, models, policy documents to inform gender equality policy development and policy change in their economies or APEC working groups. Moreover, 43 per cent of respondents could cite an instance of where a GFPN recommendation resulted in an action or a change in a project or programme or in policy change at the APEC regional level or in an APEC economy.

“The GFPN’s recommendations in 2005 for strengthening the use of gender analysis and establishing sex-disaggregated statistical data have already prompted member economies (including ours) to attach greater importance to gender analysis in policy implementation.”

“Our GFPN contribution to the CEO’s Emergency Management Seminar resulted in gender being as an important factor in the seminar’s outcomes.”

“Through our suggestion, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council has now set up a website for women’s exporters.”

“An example was a series of initiatives to communicate the findings of the CTI Supporting Potential Women Exporters project, such as a panel at National Consultations for Aboriginal and Inuit Women to develop a Social and Economic Development Strategy held by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.”

As well as this quantitative survey evidence, the Economy Gender Focal Point annual reports to the GFPN provide qualitative evidence of how APEC initiatives and frameworks have influenced policymaking in APEC economies. For instance, APEC gender initiatives have been adapted by member economies to address gender inequalities in different aspects of economic participation. For conciseness, two member economy examples – Thailand and Indonesia – have been selected to illustrate this GFPN impact.

Thailand

Thailand has adopted the GFPN’s strategy of appointing gender focal points for use in their government. Each ministry or department must appoint a Chief Gender Equality Officer as well as designate a responsible organization at the level of divisions and departments to act as Gender Focal Point (GFP) and produce a master plan to promote equality between men and women in the organization’s planning and projects”. More importantly, Thailand’s general approach to gender integration is clearly based on APEC’s Framework for the Integration of Women. The Thai progress report to GFPN separates gender mainstreaming activities and results into three sections corresponding to the elements of the Framework: ‘gender analysis’; ‘collect [sic] and use of sex-disaggregated data’; and ‘the involvement of women in APEC’.

(Source: GFPN 2006, “Thailand’s Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework”, p. 5).

Indonesia

Indonesia has been significantly influenced by APEC's gender mainstreaming policies at the regional level. It is stated that: "to strengthen the implementation of gender integration in sectoral programs, the Ministry of Women Empowerment works very closely with respective [sic] the Gender Mainstreaming Focal Point in the sectoral ministries /agencies." Indonesia has also held workshops to "refresh the understanding on the procedures to develop gender responsive project proposal for APEC and to build a stronger coordination among agencies." In the area of sex-disaggregated data, the report states that Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics has been directed by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment to: "...provide information by which activities related to APEC can be adjusted to meet the needs of the people whom all development activities including APEC is devoted for. As this effort will be the tools for the Ministry to monitor the situation of women, it will be fed back both to central and regional government. (Source: GFPN 2005, "Gender Integration Strategies into APEC Activities in Indonesia", pp. 3-5.

In addition to this impact of GFPN initiatives on APEC economies, some APEC economies have also offered models, expertise and experience from their own economy in the area of gender equality to inform GFPN projects and policy work. Thus the GFPN has actively facilitated the diffusion of knowledge and good practice about gender mainstreaming across APEC economies.

"We shared Chinese Taipei's experience of helping women set up business networks, carrying out micro-enterprise lending and establishing capacity-building platforms."

Our Economy's Gender-Based Analysis Unit is often asked by other countries to provide training and has provided GBA training to several APEC economies including Korea, Chile and Russia in 2007."

The GFPN has had a significant impact on APEC economies through the gender analysis workshops it has provided back to back with their annual meeting since 2006. 50 per cent of survey respondents had received some form of APEC gender training. Of those, over 80 per cent found the training and the materials helpful in their work. One respondent pointed out that; "the material from the second training [in Australia] is being used at the economy level to increase gender awareness."

The GFPN has encouraged APEC economies to lead and/or sponsor gender-integrated projects in collaboration with the GFPN or other APEC fora. 50 per cent of survey respondents said that their economy had sponsored or co-sponsored either an APEC project targeting women/gender concerns or a generic APEC project that mainstreamed gender considerations.

As a result of the requirement that all APEC project proposals address gender criteria economies such as Indonesia and Chinese Taipei have run their own workshops on writing gender-aware proposals: "After annual GFPN and WLN meetings, we held workshops for officials and shared gender issues in APEC". Further, all survey

respondents said their economies use sex-disaggregated data, although they noted areas where data still needed to be collected or reported.⁶ But as one respondent commented: “The collection and utilization of sex disaggregated data, although essential to the process, remains a challenge.”

These examples demonstrate that the GFPN activities and approach have influenced some member economies to emulate its structure and to frame policy solutions according to the three inter-related elements of the APEC Framework. It is difficult to find data that show how successful these policies have been in members economies. However, there is a sense of cooperation or community in the framing of gender issues in the APEC region. Through the sharing of best practices, participation of Economy Gender Focal Points in the GFPN, and cooperation on the economy level in various gender-related projects, the APEC GFPN has presented gender mainstreaming as a region wide issue and facilitated the building of regional expert networks.

iii) Impact on participation of women in APEC

Promoting the economic and decision-making participation of women continues to be a challenging area. In 2005 the GFPN recommended to SOM that APEC economies increase women’s participation on the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). Since then several APEC Economy Focal Points have lobbied their economies to appoint a women member as one of the three persons appointed to ABAC from each member economy.

“Chinese Taipei lays increasing stress on gender balance in official APEC delegations, and will generally give preferential consideration to appointing female delegates.”

“At the Ministry of Women [Economy Gender Focal Point] we were asked to give an opinion about ABAC....In the proposal all men were on the list. After that we strongly recommended incorporating women on the list, and now we have a woman member of ABAC.”

Conclusion

There is good evidence to suggest that the GFPN’s gender integration initiatives have had significant influence on the gender policies of member economies, if not on the activities of all APEC fora. This can be seen as the beginnings of a regional APEC community of gender experts and gender aware officials and citizens, a community that is promoting and advancing the economic interests of women for the benefits of all APEC economies.

⁶ 'Entrepreneurs by sex; Internet users by sex; Foreign trade business owners by sex (3 on internet and IT usage); 'Business Ownership by sex; Export Ownership/management by sex (3); access to different forms of finance by sex; Number of negotiations achieved managed by women or participation of women in each trade rounds; Ratios of government spending; Position of women and men in company as decisionmaker uptake of e-business by women-led business specific technologies developed/used by women; export by women-led business; business training for women; uptake of eLearning by women; detailed workforce participation; work-life balance; knowledge transfer

5 Strengthening the GFPN

The Steering Committee on ECOTECH has asked this review to identify ways to strengthen the implementation of ECOTECH gender activities (See SCE 2006 Review of APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks, recommendation). Based on the assessment of the GFPN's internal effectiveness and external impact, the review proposes some changes to the terms of reference and work programme of the GFPN to improve its operations and significantly increase the impact of gender integration activities within APEC.

Revising Existing Terms of Reference for the GFPN

The Gender Focal Point Network is judged to be an appropriate institutional mechanism for promoting the integration of women, gender analysis and the use of sex-disaggregated data in the APEC region. However, some changes need to be made to allow it to more effectively meet its broad goal of integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue in APEC by providing “linkages between APEC Fora, APEC economies and the APEC Secretariat to advance the economic interests of women in the APEC region for the benefit of all economies” (GFPN Terms of Reference, p.1).

Improving the Network Mechanism: The Role of Fora Gender Focal Points

The GFPN consists of economy gender focal points, fora gender focal points, the APEC gender integration programme director, and observers. However, in the first five years of its existence the GFPN annual meeting has been attended by very few fora gender focal points. Economy gender focal points have sustained the GFPN but they have not been able to realise their goal of integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue across APEC without effective collaboration with APEC fora gender focal points. It was intended that the network mechanism would bring together gender expertise with sectoral expertise. As one survey respondent wrote:

“It is necessary that the GFPN finds a suitable mechanism to maintain a frequent level of communication and collaboration with all its [network] components to ensure that all of them are aware of the role that they should play within the network and act accordingly.”

Respondents to the GFPN survey conducted for this review acknowledged this absence of fora gender focal points and made a number of suggestions for how to ensure the effective operation of the network mechanism for gender integration.

What We Heard:

“[Ensure] gender sensitization of APEC Fora Gender Focal Points at the economy level.”

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“Develop gender checklist for sectoral departments related to APEC fora groups; based on the issues in every Fora.”

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“Develop forum for Fora Gender Focal Points to discuss about gender and women issues in APEC.”

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

The review recommends that at least one half day of the two and a half day GFPN annual meeting be devoted to a forum with Fora gender focal points. This one day forum would involve 1) Presenting and highlighting “best practice” gender-sensitive projects sponsored by APEC Foras and even giving an award for the most gender-aware project completed in the previous year; and 2) Discussing future gender-aware projects that APEC fora and the GFPN might collaborate on. This might involve reflecting on the gender issues at stake in the host economy’s theme for the next APEC year; considering how gender issues might be relevant to the most pressing items on the overall current APEC agenda.

Recommendations:

1. ***Agree*** that Economy Gender Focal Points, as the “gender specialists,” take the lead in the GFPN and its work programme.
2. ***Agree*** that a half-day training forum be held as part of the annual GFPN Meeting targeted at APEC Fora Gender Focal Points and Secretariat Officials on gender-aware projects and project evaluation.

Improving the Network Mechanism: The Role of Civil Society

In the current GFPN terms of reference the membership in the Network of the Women Leaders Network and the APEC Business Advisory Council needs to be emphasised. They are included as the civil society components of the Network with a shared interest in implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC. This civil society component of the GFPN has usually involved a WLN representative presenting an annual report at the GFPN meeting. Further, collaboration between the GFPN and WLN has been facilitated by the scheduling of the annual WLN meeting back to back with the GFPN meeting. But this mechanism for collaboration is dependent on the voluntary attendance of GFPN economy or fora focal points at the WLN.

All but one survey respondent and those interviewed supported strengthening the collaboration between GFPN and the WLN, and some respondents also mentioned the importance of including ABAC, a private sector representative, in the work of the GFPN. While this aim of greater collaboration between APEC and civil society can be addressed in number of ways outside of official GFPN meetings, it would be assisted by having a WLN focal point present throughout the annual GFPN meeting, to participate in discussions about present and future work programmes and projects that the GFPN and WLN might pool their resources on. It would also be assisted by the GFPN Friends of the Chair discussing GFPN activities and the potential for collaboration at the WLN meeting. In addition, given the importance of ABAC as an agenda-setting group and its direct linkage to APEC Economy Leaders, it would make sense to involve an ABAC representative in GFPN efforts to increase gender awareness in APEC.

Recommendations:

- 3 ***Agree*** that the WLN and ABAC be recognised as key members of the GFPN and invited to participate in all GFPN activities.

- 4 *Agree* that the WLN and ABAC present an annual report to the GFPN highlighting their activities and potential areas for mutual collaboration.

Targeting APEC Gender Training

Gender analysis training targeted at APEC officials, especially fora gender focal points, is essential if they are to play their important role in ensuring that the gender dimensions and impacts are taken into account in APEC's work. Many survey respondents agreed that gender training seminars held in Vietnam in 2006 and Australia in 2007 were very valuable (See also APEC Project Evaluation 2007).⁷ However, most of the participants in those seminars were economy level officials not APEC officials or fora gender focal points. Yet it is APEC officials, APEC Secretariat Programme Directors and Fora Gender Focal Points in particular, who are tasked with ensuring that gender analysis and sex disaggregated data are utilised in APEC projects and that gender criteria are understood and addressed in project proposals seeking APEC funding. Survey respondents stressed the need for gender training specifically targeted at these groups.

What We Heard:

"Design specific capacity training workshops on gender issues taking into consideration the Work plan of a particular APEC Fora. General training is not enough, it is important to ensure that APEC Fora are able to identify and address gender issues in their work."

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"A gender training session led by specialists needs to be held in the Secretariat at least once per year. The Gender Integration Programme Director could help but his/her knowledge will be limited due to the Programme Director system of recruitment (mostly diplomats or trade officials sent by the economy members)."

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"[Ensure] diffusion of gender knowledge among Programme Directors responsible for different APEC Working Groups."

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"[Introduce] training targeted at APEC Secretariat and Working Group officials like Korea's project."

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"More gender analysis training for APEC officials."

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Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

APEC-Specific Gender Training Sessions

Thus, more attention must be paid to *developing* and *marketing* gender training for APEC officials, in particular for APEC programme directors and APEC Fora Gender Focal Points. This would involve selecting consultants to deliver the training who were not only

⁷ Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center, "Report on the Implementation of the Project GFPN 01/2006 – APEC Workshop on Gender Analysis Training", Vietnam, September 2006, 2006/SOM3/GFPN/024: http://www.apec.org/apec/documents_reports/gender_focal_point_network/2006.html (accessed 29.4.2007), p. 2.

gender specialists but experts in APEC's trade and economic agenda. This should be core business for the GFPN and its sponsorship of projects for gender training.

Fora-Specific Gender Checklists

As well as the targeted gender training delivered by consultants knowledgeable about gender and APEC sectoral issues, it is recommended that "gender checklists", in the form of short briefing papers, targeted at individual APEC Fora be produced to assist Fora gender focal points. These targeted gender checklists could be used by Fora gender focal points when putting together a Fisheries project proposal or a Tourism project proposal, for example. They would have a greater degree of sector-specific content than the APEC Guides to Gender Analysis and Sex Disaggregated Data for instance, or the APEC Practical Guide on Gender Criteria for Project Proposals.⁸ Some economies have already developed material at the national level that could be shared for the purpose of creating APEC Fora-specific checklists.

The Fora-Specific Gender Checklists would effectively replace the "gender expert list" which requires Fora Focal Points to voluntarily seek out expertise of their own accord (and has never been completed and is hardly used). The gender expert list thus places all the responsibility on non-expert Fora Focal Points to gather as well as apply gender-specific information in APEC projects. The provision of gender checklists would make the job of Fora Gender Focal Points far easier – allowing them to apply ready at hand gender-specific knowledge and guidelines tailored to their sector/policy area. Fora Gender Focal Points would still be able to consult with their Economy Gender Focal Point and the APEC Programme Director as first port of call or the proposed APEC Gender and Trade database should they need further gender expertise and assistance, for instance in fulfilling the gender criteria required of all APEC project proposals.

Recommendations:

Refer to Recommendation 2 above.

- 5** ***Agree*** to produce targeted "Gender Checklists" for each Fora to be used by Fora Gender Focal Points (GFPN propose a project to fund these).
- 6** ***Agree*** to eliminate the Gender Expert List and the need to update it from the GFPN Terms of Reference.

Prioritising Gender Issues and Projects in Specific APEC Fora

The goal of the GFPN to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across APEC is wide-ranging and can only be substantially achieved over the long term. Thus, in any given year the GFPN should prioritise the APEC issues or sectoral areas where a gender perspective is most needed or most salient. A number of survey respondents made this point. They wished to see greater substantive policy discussion in the GFPN on one or

⁸ Although not as sector-specific as proposed here, the OECD's Gender Tipsheets offer advice on why and how women need to be considered separately in a whole range of economic activities. They can be found at http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,2340,en_2649_34541_1896290_1_1_1_1,00.html.

two issues and projects each year. They also sought a more strategic focus in the GFPN on issues/areas that fit with APEC's current political and institutional agendas.

One possibility is that the GFPN could target one or more the forthcoming APEC host's priority themes and elaborate on the gender dimensions of that theme in the following year. The incoming APEC host Senior Official could brief the GFPN meeting on the next year's priorities, which could then be discussed in advance so that the GFPN could strategically contribute to the APEC host agenda and show the relevance of a gender perspective.

What We Heard:

"Make sure that each year there is at least one high profile APEC project that addresses gender dimensions – this means the GFPN must be more strategic"

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"The GFPN could be given more "teeth" by striving for at least one high-profile APEC project that addresses gender dimensions each year. Ideally, it should fit with one of the APEC host economy Chair's priorities to raise awareness of the economic benefits of gender integration in APEC."

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"The GFPN cannot realistically cover all working groups. It should be forward-looking and plan to make an effective contribution to the APEC host's priorities by for example, advocating and supporting gender integration in (some of) those priorities; organizing a "gender" event parallel to another event that targets the priority. GFPN should also identify some priorities of its own and have a multi-year action plan (e.g. HIV/AIDS, gender impacts of RTAs) to develop its own 'brand'. GFPN should not allow its agenda to be consumed by administrative/bureaucratic items."

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"The continued development and improvement in the identification of the gender issues involved in APEC-funded projects"

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Examples of priority issues

"The increased awareness of the importance of gender in emergency and disaster responses and reconstruction" [at the CEO seminar and in the GFPN sponsored project "Women in Times of Disaster"]

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"Build capacity for gender and trade analysis given APEC's movement towards a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)."

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

The Review recommends that prioritising issues that are of relevance to women in APEC economies and that have yet to be analysed from a gender perspective in APEC would enhance the credibility of the GFPN.

Recommendations:

- 7 **Agree** that the GFPN in its annual work programme one or two gender issues that are that are relevant to specific APEC agendas, the Host Economy theme or the current work of APEC Fora.

- 8 *Agree* that the GFPN make 1-3 recommendations to SOM based on this realistic work programme and seek to hold Senior Officials and Ministers accountable for implementing these recommendations.

Project Collaboration with other APEC groups and with WLN

Prioritised projects would serve as the basis for greater collaboration between the GFPN and other APEC Fora or with non-APEC parties such as the Women Leaders Network.

What We Heard:

“The GFPN should focus on strengthening its dialogue and collaboration and if possible implementing joint projects with the CTI, SCE, HRD, SME.”

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“[We need] greater dialogue between GFPN members and the officials.”

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For the GFPN to be an integral part of each APEC fora, for example ensuring are invited as observers to meetings, particularly ones such as the SMEWG, TELF, Trade Ministers and ABAC the SMEWG, TELF, Trade Ministers and ABAC.”

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“The WLN needs to be better integrated into the APEC process.”

*

“[Ensure] policy dialogues between GFPN and other APEC Fora.”

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“I would also like to see more collaborative GFPN/WLN policy-relevant projects. This would be a win-win situation, especially since many WLN members are from academe who are experienced in undertaking research and developing projects whereas GFPN members have access to government networks and resources, etc. Given that the WLN is not an official APEC body, the GFPN and could be “home” to any collaborative projects the WLN agreed to undertake or possibly it could do this jointly with another relevant WG or committee.”

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Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

In collaboration with particular APEC Fora or the WLN, the GFPN could develop a project to research, highlight and provide options for addressing the gender issue. This would increase the impact of GFPN activities.

Recommendation:

- 9 *Agree* that the GFPN collaborate with another APEC Fora or with the WLN to propose an activity or project to address gender as a cross-cutting issue in a particular sectoral area. Policy dialogues could be held to present the project findings and share them with a larger APEC audience.

New Institutional Mechanisms for the GFPN

The recommendations in this section suggest the introduction of several new institutional mechanisms. These mechanisms would make the GFPN more effective in its efforts to

implement the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC. The recommendations facilitate the setting of strategic priorities for future ECOTECH gender activities.

Gender Reporting in Individual Action Plans (IAPs)

At present, the only mechanism with compulsion used by the GFPN to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue in APEC is the requirement that all APEC project proposals fulfil gender criteria (and GFPN involvement in the evaluation of project proposals).

What We Heard:

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“Gender is a crosscutting issue and needs the cooperation of all government agencies. However, sometimes it is hard to ask many government agencies for cooperation, especially when there is no higher official agency to take charge.”

*

Source: Anonymous Survey Response.

But this integration of the gender dimension is at the level of projects rather than the macro level of the APEC TILF and ECOTECH agendas and of the APEC member economy commitments to them as expressed in the Bogor Goals and Osaka Action Plan. The GFPN would be more effective and have more impact if gender equality was an area reported on by economies in their individual action plans (IAPs) alongside the 15 issue areas listed in the Osaka Action Agenda (e.g. non-tariff measures, mobility of business people, information gathering and analysis).

Gender inequalities are potential impediments to achieving the long-term goal of free and open trade. Reporting on progress made toward gender equality and on eradicating gender-specific barriers to trade and economic activity should therefore be an integral part of IAPs.⁹ Gender reporting would be consistent with the general principles of transparency, comprehensiveness, flexibility, and cooperation applied to the overall APEC trade liberalization and facilitation process. The format for gender reporting could be kept relatively simple using indicators adapting for APEC such as the UN’s Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), the Gender Equity Index (GEI) development by Social Watch Report, and the Gender Gap Rankings produced by the World Economic Forum. Economy reporting in the IAPs could discuss changes in these indicators in relation to progress made on the 15 areas of trade liberalization and facilitation. In addition, they would need to explain how advances toward APEC ECOTECH and TILF goals are consistent with each economies’ international obligations to advance gender equality (e.g. the UN Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention on Economic and Social Rights, ILO Conventions, and the Millennium Development Goals).

⁹ Gender reporting in IAPs is also recommended by North-South Institute consultant, Heather Gibb, in “Gender and Regional Trade Agreements.” Paper produced for the 13th Meeting of the APEC Women Leaders Network, May 12-14, 2008, Arequipa, Peru.

The GFPN could deliberate on the precise template for gender reporting in IAPs. Economy Gender Focal Points would likely prepare these reports in each member economy. The need to prepare such reports would require, and thus greatly increase, collaboration and dialogue among Economy gender focal points and Economy-level officials from other APEC Fora, in domestic Trade, Industry, Tourism and Foreign Ministries, for instance. By integrating gender equality issues within each economy's APEC commitments will make it much more likely that governments pay attention to gender equality issues in their trade and economic integration agendas. With this reporting requirement economies can be expected to more adequately resource gender analysis and reporting and send high-level representatives to participate in the GFPN. Government commitments to gender integration can be seen as a means of achieving their trade-related objectives.

Recommendation:

- 10** *Agree* that APEC require gender equality reporting in member economy Individual Action Plans (IAPs). This reporting would describe the gender impacts of progress made toward APEC ECOTECH and TILF goals and measures to address them. GFPN members will facilitate this reporting by a) advising APEC on the report template and b) carrying out the gender analysis in Economies.

GFPN Participation in IAP Peer Reviews

Each year the Individual Action Plans of approximately seven APEC member economies are reviewed. The Peer Review is intended to be transparent and objective process involving a formal team of experts. In consultation with the member economy, the team reviews the IAP with the aim of continually improving it. In this review process ABAC is invited to give comments from a private sector perspective. Civil society representatives from the member economy are also invited to comment. The GFPN can also participate in the Peer Review process and should make use of this mechanism for evaluating the gender impacts of economy progress toward APEC TILF and ECOTECH goals. The participation of the GFPN in IAP Peer Reviews would demonstrate that APEC takes seriously its commitment to implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women. It would give the GFPN an appropriate mechanism “with teeth” for integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue in APEC.

Recommendation:

- 11** *Agree* that the GFPN make use of the opportunity to give comments in the Peer Reviews of Economy IAPs as does ABAC and as do civil society representatives from the Economy under review.

Reporting on Women's Participation in APEC Delegations and Meetings

The GFPN is tasked with implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC. One of the three strands of this Framework is the participation of women in APEC, which the Framework aims to increase with the goal of gender balance. No targets have been set for this broad goal. But the APEC Secretariat is expected to collect and record the sex-disaggregated attendance lists from APEC meetings. The Secretariat began

collecting this information in 2005 but the sex-disaggregated data has not been analysed or reported.

Several survey respondents commented that there is no official mechanism that allows them to collect and report on this data at the Economy level or the APEC level. The GFPN with the assistance of the APEC Secretariat and Gender Integration Programme Director should request that all Economy APEC delegations and Lead Shepherds of APEC Fora report the gender make-up of their delegation/meeting attendance. The APEC Programme Director could then analyse and report on this data listing the proportion of men and women in each APEC Fora and Economy delegation and provide an overall picture of the proportion of women and men participating in the APEC process.

What We Heard:

*

“There should be gender-balance in terms of attendance and availability of gender-disaggregated data for ALL APEC meetings/forums/working parties/events as a matter of course”.

*

Source: Anonymous Survey Response.

Recommendations:

- 12** *Agree* that GFPN be assisted by the APEC Programme Director to request that all Economies and APEC Foras report on the proportion of women and men on their delegations and at their meetings.
- 13** *Agree* that the APEC Programme Director collate and report on this data in his/her annual report to the GFPN.

Keeping a Register of Prospective Women Members of ABAC

Beyond keeping a record of the participation of women in official APEC meetings, the GFPN should encourage the participation of women in key APEC bodies including the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). Women will only be truly integrated within APEC when there are more than 4 women among the 63 members of ABAC. The GFPN together with the WLN has recommended in the past that each APEC member economy ensure that one of its three appointed ABAC representatives is female. Some member economies took on board this principle recognising the important of women’s participation and their governmental commitments to gender balance. However, there has been significant backsliding on this previous commitment and a gross gender imbalance on ABAC that makes a mockery of the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women and the GFPN’s role in implementing it.

The Review suggests that the GFPN take up the issue of ABAC’s gender imbalance as a core part of its future work programme. Economy Gender Focal Points should research and report on how ABAC members are selected or appointed in economy. Some Economy Gender Focal Points have already done this of their own accord.

In cooperation with their APEC economy delegations and with WLN members in their economy, they should generate a list of qualified women representing different sectors and sizes of business who could serve on ABAC. These lists should be publicised by the GFPN as a *Register of Prospective Women ABAC Members* across APEC and by Focal Points at the economy-level. This ABAC register would be similar to the register of prospective women for corporate boards managed by Women's Machineries in several APEC member economies, and would likely even draw on these larger "Women on Boards" registers.

Recommendation:

- 14** *Agree* that the GFPN report on the ABAC selection process in each Economy and, in cooperation with other APEC Fora and the WLN, create a Register of prospective qualified women candidates for ABAC membership in each economy. The GFPN will publicise this register as widely as possible across APEC.

Developing a Publicity and Communications Strategy

64 per cent of those surveyed described their Economy/Fora officials are aware or very aware of APEC's gender initiatives, including the work of the GFPN. Yet many respondents stressed the need for a more thoroughgoing communications and publicity strategy for the GFPN. They wanted this strategy to be part of the core business of the GFPN because without it the impact of GFPN activities across APEC and outside of it will remain limited.

What We Heard:

"We need information about what they are doing and who they are and help other women of our economies to live the experience of APEC WLN."

*

"The GFPN meets but nobody knows who they are or what they do and there is support in name only - not in resources from the economies to do anything."

Source: Anonymous Survey Response

Moreover, a Communications and publicity strategy would ensure that more APEC Fora actually know what the GFPN does and what it has achieved. This is an essential if the GFPN is to be more effective as a Network and to increase its collaboration with other APEC Fora.

What We Heard:

Using e-newsletters and email for short articles/press releases on achievements

"Using the APEC e-newsletter to prepare articles that promote and distribute the outcomes of GFPN activities"

*

"Describe GFPN achievements in an e-mail that can be easily forwarded to colleagues or other networks that would find the information helpful in their work, etc. Having to take the extra step of accessing a website that is not always available or accessible can be a deterrent for people already inundated with too much information."

*

Coordinate with APEC Secretariat Help

“In coordination with the Gender Integration Program Director prepare media releases about GFPN events”

*

“[We need] increased publicity from the APEC Secretariat for WLN activities and highlighting the outcomes from the WLN meetings.”

*

Short GFPN presentations to APEC Fora

“[We need] GFPN presentations to APEC Fora during meetings either by the GFPN Chair or the APEC Fora Contact Point highlighting the GFPN work and particularly focusing on informing how the gender issue can be addressed by that particular fora.”

*

Economy level publicity

“[We need] increased publicity using the ACS and through individual Gender Focal Points working within their economies.”

*

Website Showcase

“Establishing a website to publicize and promote APEC gender-related information.”

*

“Website highlight best gender-sensitive projects; Give an award for the best project.”

*

“Economy-level GFPN achievement sharing forums.”

*

Source: Anonymous Survey Responses.

Recommendation:

15 *Agree* that the GFPN will develop a publicity and communications strategy to be implemented by the APEC Secretariat as part of the new APEC-wide communications and outreach strategy. *Inter alia*, this might involve establishing a website beyond and above the existing webpage, short briefings for the APEC e-newsletter and regular email letters highlighting GFPN achievements.

Conclusion

The 15 recommendations include 11 recommendations to improve the GFPN’s internal operations and impact on APEC economies. They also include 4 important recommendations that introduce new mechanisms for advancing gender integration in APEC. If implemented, these mechanisms will greatly increase the impact of the GFPN and its role in advancing women’s economic participation and gender equality in the APEC region.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Proposed New GFPN Terms of Reference

GFPN Terms of Reference – Proposed New 8 Tasks	
1.	Assist APEC fora to identify and address gender issues within their work and to develop project proposals at <i>APEC for a level</i>
	Main Responsibility: <i>Economy and Fora Gender Focal Points</i> and GIPD
	Mechanism: <i>Fora-specific Gender Checklists;</i> <i>Annual Forum for Fora Gender Focal Points with Economy Gender Focal Points sharing best practices and discussing how to develop a gender-sensitive project proposal based on a good practice example.</i>
2.	Assist in developing of gender-aware project proposals at <i>Economy level</i> .
	Main Responsibility: Economy Gender Focal Points in collaboration with GIPD
	Mechanism <i>Frequent dialogue and communication between Economy GFP and Economy APEC delegations;</i> <i>Publicise Fora-specific gender checklists and Guides to Use of Gender Criteria, Gender Analysis and Sex Disaggregated Data. Share “best practice” project proposals.</i>
3.	Assess the use of gender criteria in project proposals, reporting and evaluation, <i>providing constructive advice and input to project teams</i>
	Main Responsibility: Economy GFPs, <i>GFPN Friends of Chair</i> and GIPD
	Mechanism <i>Provide assistance at Economy-level; Evaluate proposals for BMC funding</i>
4.	<i>*Develop and Implement a Publicity and Communications Strategy*</i>
	Main Responsibility: GFPN and APEC Secretariat
	Mechanism Website showcase; GFPN briefings for the APEC e-newsletter; Regular email letters highlighting GFPN achievements
5.	<i>*Assist Gender Reporting in Economy Individual Actions Plans*</i>

	Main Responsibility: Economy Gender Focal Points
	Mechanism <i>*GFPN develop reporting template using indicators; Economy GFP prepare report*</i>
6.	<i>*Participate in Peer Review of Economy of IAPs*</i>
	Main Responsibility: Senior Officials, GFPN and nominated members including WLN representative
	Mechanism <i>*GFPN representative(s) provide comments on Economy IAP from a gender perspective*</i>
7.	<i>*Develop, Maintain and Publicize Register of Prospective Women ABAC Members*</i>
	Main Responsibility: Economy Gender Focal Points, PD, WLN/ABAC Reps
	Mechanism <i>*Economy GFP collect information on economy selection process and identify in collaboration with Economy APEC delegation qualified women to include on the prospective ABAC members register.*</i>
8.	Propose recommendations on advancing gender integration in APEC.
	Main Responsibility: GFPN with SOM Chair and APEC Secretariat
	Mechanism <i>*GFPN especially Chair and Friends of Chair draft 1-3 recommendations to SOM based on project activities, evaluation of project proposals, involvement in IAP reporting and Peer Review of IAPs.*</i>

Appendix B: Survey Questionnaire

Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of the APEC Gender Focal Point Network

About the project: Background

The purpose of this questionnaire and Review of the Gender Focal Point Network is to generate information and constructive input from officials, policymakers, academics and researchers, non-governmental advocates and participants in the Women Leaders' Network, to support the ongoing gender work of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).

The Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) was established in 2003 following the disbanding of the SOM Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration in APEC (AGGI) in 2002. It is tasked with continuing to advance the implementation of the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women, promoting the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis across APEC policy and project activities, and the full and equal participation of women and men in APEC. The GFPN does not have formal status as a working group; it is a SOM special task group serving as a mechanism to integrate gender issues and awareness into APEC fora (Working Groups and Committees), APEC economies and the APEC Secretariat. The GFPN meets once a year and reports annually to the Senior Officials Meeting on all APEC gender activities and outcomes.

The APEC SOM Steering Committee of ECOTECH (SCE) has requested an independent assessment of the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) as part of its ongoing efforts to improve ECOTECH project management and raise awareness of APEC's economic and technical cooperation activities among the 21 member economies. The GFPN Review, together with reviews of other APEC fora and SOM taskforces, is expected to help to bring a more strategic perspective to APEC's capacity-building and technical assistance. In particular, the project is expected to produce recommendations that will support the objectives of APEC Leaders and Ministers in implementing the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC.

About the questionnaire

This questionnaire is designed to provide information that will help to assess and evaluate

4. How effective the Gender Focal Point Network has been in implementing ECOTECH goals, including the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women.

5. What the impacts of Gender Focal Point Network activities are on APEC working groups and committees, non-APEC groups and on the 21 APEC member economies.

How to complete the questionnaire

First of all please save this questionnaire **as a WORD document** and **name the document** APEGFPN_yoursurname+economy, for example: APEGFPN_Chin+Malaysia.

The questionnaire is designed to be filled in on the computer. You give your responses using a mixture of free text, check lists and drop-down boxes. Use either your mouse or tab key to move from one question to the next.

- A “drop-down list” question initially appears as a single shaded text item and you need to open the full list of text items in order to see all the available choices. If a down arrow is not currently displayed to the right of the shaded text, either tab to the text or click in it. When the arrow appears, click it to display the list; then click the appropriate response.
- A “check box question” has a shaded box beside each possible response(s). To mark your response, click the appropriate box(es).
- A “free text (open) question” initially appears as a blank shaded area, and you can start writing in it. Although you can write as much as you like, please be as concise as possible!

You can amend your responses at any time

What will we do with the data?

The information you provide will be treated in confidence and will only be used by Dr. Jacqui True, the consultant for the purposes of the APEC SOM GFPN Review. Your participation will contribute to our understanding of the GFPN activities and how they might be improved in the future. The preliminary findings of the survey will be shared with those who fill out the survey and there will be an opportunity for all respondents to give their feedback.

You will be identified by 1) your economy; 2) by your role in general as an a) economy-level official, b) an APEC official, c) a non-governmental organization or business representative d) academic or researcher; and 3) by your sex. Your name and personal identity will be kept strictly confidential.

In case of difficulty

If you have any queries or encounter problems while you are filling in the questionnaire please contact Dr. Jacqui True, j.true@auckland.ac.nz, who will respond as soon as possible.

When you have completed the questionnaire

Please return your questionnaire to Dr. Jacqui True preferably by email, j.true@auckland.ac.nz. Alternatively, you may post your survey to the address below.

Dr. Jacqui True
Department of Political Studies
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland
NEW ZEALAND 1003

1. About you

Name	
Position	
Organization	
Economy	
Email	
Telephone <i>Only if you wish to be contacted for a follow-up interview</i>	

2. Participation of Women

APEC collects data on the number of men and women participating in APEC meetings. The available data will be collated and analysed for this review. In addition, however;

<p>What information (anecdotal or hard data) do you have about the balance of men and women in your economy's APEC delegations? For example, are women in your economy present on all APEC committees and working groups? Please comment.</p>
<p>If there are any special initiatives to encourage women to participate in APEC or to increase the gender balance in your economy's official delegation or on ABAC for instance, please briefly describe them.</p>
<p>Do you have examples of women from your economy that have served in APEC leadership positions such as Lead Shepherd of a Working Group or Senior Official? Please describe them briefly.</p>

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3. Projects

This project will be using content and keyword analysis to examine the integration of gender in all APEC projects using the project database. In addition, your answers to the following questions would be valuable;

3.1 Do you provide gender-sensitive advice or input on the APEC projects proposed by your economy or fora?	No
3.2 If so, who was the APEC sponsor of the project	GFPN
3.3 Have you or your economy/fora proposed an APEC project that either a) specifically targets women or that b) integrates gender considerations?	Yes
3.4. Are there any benefits (economic, political, financial, reputational etc) to your organization, your economy or to APEC economies in general to proposing an APEC project designed to redress gender inequalities	Yes
3.5 If so, please list them.	

4. Leadership and Funding

4.1 Has your economy/fora sponsored or co-sponsored a) an APEC project targeting	Yes
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women/gender concerns or b) a generic APEC project that mainstreamed gender considerations?	
4.2 If so, can you list the titles of these projects here?	
4.3 What financial commitment did that involve in US\$ terms?	

5. Training

5.1 Have you participated in training on APEC issues in your economy (such as the APEC agenda for the host year, the APEC Bogor Goals and/or how the APEC Senior Officials Meeting or other aspects of the organization operate)? If so, please briefly describe this training.	
5.2 Have you participated in APEC gender training workshops or briefings?	Yes
5.3 Were these gender training sessions helpful?	In your economy-level work
5.4 Were the gender training materials used helpful to you?	Yes
5.5 In what ways, please give examples.	
5.6 Have you initiated or led training on APEC's Framework for the Integration of Women to officials in your economy/fora?	Yes

5.7. Can you give some details about this training?

6. Agenda-Setting

6.1 Do you know of any policy issues (such as barriers faced by women exporters, promoting women's SMEs and microenterprise, women's e-business training etc.) relating to women or gender issues that have been put on the APEC work programme since 2002?	Yes
If so, please list the ones you are familiar with.	

7. Policy Learning and Diffusion

7.1 Have you taken up any APEC gender initiatives at economy level?	Yes
7.2 If so, please give examples here...	
7.3 Have you used any of the following to assist in developing gender aware policy in your economy/fora:	
<input type="checkbox"/> APEC Framework for the Integration of Women	
<input type="checkbox"/> APEC gender-relevant policy documents (e.g. APEC gender mainstreaming good practices, APEC register of best practices on gender integration).	
<input type="checkbox"/> APEC gender-related Projects	

<input type="checkbox"/> APEC gender training materials <input type="checkbox"/> APEC gender evaluation criteria <input type="checkbox"/> APEC gender experts list <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Please specific below...	
7.4 Have you offered models, expertise and experience from your own economy in the area of gender equality to inform APEC projects and policy work?	Yes
7.5 If so, please elaborate here...	

8. Policy Dialogue/Exchange

8.1 Have you consulted/talked/met with other groups about gender issues relevant to APEC?	Yes
8.2 Specifically have you talked to;	
<input type="checkbox"/> Government officials at the economy level <input type="checkbox"/> Non-APEC group at the economy level <input type="checkbox"/> Officials at APEC level <input type="checkbox"/> Non-APEC group from another economy? <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please list	
8.3 Do you maintain good working relationships with non-gender focused APEC officials and working groups in your economy?	Yes

8.4 Can you give an example(s) of an occasion(s) in which you influenced their work and/or made it more aware of gender issues?

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9. Relationship with the Women Leaders' Network

The Women Leaders Network (WLN) was established in 1996 by 60 women leaders from the region to identify key issues affecting women in the region, to generate solutions for the many challenges women face, to highlight their major contribution to their economies, and to encourage APEC to take gender considerations into account in all of its programs, projects, and policies. It has since become a wide-ranging, loose coalition of more than 2000 women across business, government, academic and civil society sectors in all of the 21 APEC member economies. The WLN holds an annual conference in the APEC host economy. It presents a report to the GFPN but does not have formal status within that group although many GFPN members attend WLN meetings in their government and personal capacities and in some APEC economies there are close relationships between GFPN and WLN members.

9.1 Do you think there should be regular, formal consultations between the GFPN and the WLN?

No

9.2 Please elaborate on your answer here...

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10. Use of Sex-Disaggregated Data

10.1 Does your economy/fora use sex-disaggregated data on domestic and regional level economic activity?

Yes

10.2 Which form of data do you currently use?

Business ownership by sex

10.3 If "Other" form of sex-disaggregated data is used, please briefly describe here.	
10.4 Is there a need in your economy and/or in APEC for more sex-disaggregated economic data?	Yes
10.5 If so, please list the specific data you would like to see collected and analysed.	

11. Project Ex Ante Evaluation

11.1 Have you been involved in any of the following;	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisting APEC project teams to fulfill gender criteria at the economy level <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting APEC project teams to fulfill gender criteria as a GFPN member <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating APEC project proposals?	
11.2 What kinds of substantive gender impacts of projects are most commonly noted in APEC project proposals? Please describe them here. <i>(For example, on women and men's employment, livelihood and income, access to capital, access to information and know-how, access to markets; on women's and men's participation in business and trade; on women's and men's full and equal involvement in the project and in policymaking).</i>	
11.3 Have project proposals have been changed as a result of your input? Please explain.	Yes

12. Publicity and Awareness

12.1 How aware of the APEC <i>Framework for the Integration of Women</i> and APEC gender activities and projects are your economy's APEC officials?	Very aware
12.2 Do you think there should be more publicity and marketing of the APEC <i>Framework</i> and gender-related projects and activities?	Yes
12.3 Do you have any specific suggestions to better publicize and promote APEC gender-related projects and activities? Please provide them here.	

13. Policy Outcomes

13.1 Do you know where recommendations from the Gender Focal Point Network (or the Women Leaders' Network if you are a WLN attendee) go in APEC and your economy?	Yes
13.2 Do you know of an instance where a GFPN recommendation resulted in an action or a change in a project or programme or in a policy at policy change at the APEC regional level or in an APEC economy? If so, please describe it below.	Yes
13.3 Where would you like to see gender issues going in APEC?	More gender analysis training for AP

13.4 If you checked "other" above – please explain your answer below.
13.5 What concrete outcomes of the Gender Focal Point Network's work programme would you like to see?
13.6 What areas of APEC policymaking (policy issues and working groups) should be prioritised to advance gender concerns?
13.7 Have you observed any contradiction between the rhetoric and the practice in APEC gender policy in APEC and at the economy level? If so, please give examples.

**Please send your questionnaire to Dr. Jacqui True,
j.true@auckland.ac.nz.**