

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

**The Evaluation Forum for  
“Development and Delivery of Livelihood-based e-Service for ASEAN Women”  
2 April 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia**

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Ms. Sri Danti Anwar, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia;

Distinguished Guests and Forum Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is a great pleasure and an honor to be with you here today for the Evaluation Forum for “*Development and Delivery of Livelihood-based e-Service for ASEAN Women*”. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Myonghee Kim for her personal invitation for me to join you in this important event.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Asia Pacific Women’s Information Network Centre and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia for their commendable initiative/project and for organizing this exciting event as a “contribution to expanding ASEAN Women’s participation in the knowledge information society”.

This Forum is very timely as 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago that sets the agenda for realizing women’s rights. As you are aware, the Beijing Declaration together with the Platform for Action is a visionary

blueprint for gender equality and the empowerment of women which focuses on 12 critical areas of concern, and which envisions a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination.

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon mentioned in his message for the International Women's Day 2015, "*When we unleash the power of women, we can secure the future for all*". Today, you should be proud as you start to unleash the power of women.

### **Digital Divide among ASEAN Member States (AMS) and ICT Development Gap between AMS**

It is widely accepted that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an enormous impact on virtually all aspects of our lives, while being recognized as a critical enabler for socio-economic and cultural development in all countries around the world. The rapid progress of these technologies creates new opportunities to attain higher levels of development. The ability of ICTs to reduce many traditional obstacles, especially those of time and distance, makes it possible to use their potential to achieve digital inclusion for millions of people all over the world. Under favorable conditions, these technologies can be powerful instruments, increasing productivity, generating socio-economic growth, job creation and employability, and improving the quality of life of all, including women.

Regrettably, recent studies have shown that the benefits of the ICT revolution are still unevenly distributed between developed and developing countries and within societies.

Over the past year, the world witnessed continued growth in the uptake of ICT and, by end 2014, almost 3 billion people are using the Internet, up from 2.7 billion at end 2013. While the growth in mobile-cellular subscriptions is slowing as the market reaches saturation levels, mobile broadband remains the fastest growing market segment, with continuous double-digit growth rates in 2014 and

an estimated global penetration rate of 32 per cent – four times the penetration rate recorded just five years earlier.

Despite this encouraging progress, there are important digital divides that need to be addressed: 4.3 billion people are still not online, and 90 per cent of them live in the developing world. Fixed broadband penetration stands at 6 per cent in developing countries, compared with 27.5 per cent in developed countries, and growth rates are slowing. Mobile broadband is growing fast, but the difference between developed and developing regions remains large, with 84 per cent and 21 per cent respectively.

For example, ASEAN Member countries are on a different level of ICT development and there remains a significant digital divide within ASEAN, as evidenced by ASEAN's 2013 mobile penetration rates which ranged between 13% to 155%; percentage of individuals using the internet from 1.2% to 73%; fixed broadband penetration from 0.13% to 26%.

ASEAN can achieve greater competitiveness as it moves to become a single market community towards 2015 if it is able to leverage ICT collectively as a region. To this end, it is necessary to address the issues and challenges related to (1) availability of ICT infrastructure and services and (2) human capacity and skills.

### **ASEAN Women and e-Services**

Women play a key role in reducing poverty and promoting socio-economic development for themselves, their families and their countries. ICTs are an essential tool for the socio-economic development of women and girls. ICTs can provide women and girls who needed education and job training, promote literacy, improve access to e-applications, such as e-agriculture, e-health and other e-services, enable the exercise of legal rights and participation in government. Investing in women has a multiplier effect. Women reinvest in their families and communities.

ITU Secretary-General Mr. Huolin Zhao said that he would like to see a picture of a world where young women leverage the power of ICTs to change the future – for themselves, and for those around them. He sees that ICTs open up the possibility for women to become entrepreneurs and start their own companies.

It is in this regard, that I truly admire APWINC's holistic approach on the implementation of this project from developing e-service toolkits, developing localization guides which I believe is very important for ASEAN countries including Indonesia, organizing trainings for trainers and finally evaluating pilot projects for monitoring and feedback and improvement purposes.

One day in the immediate future, I look forward to hear and learn that the e-service toolkits are widely used and applied by the project target beneficiaries, particularly Indonesian and ASEAN women.

Currently, only few women are creators of ICTs and/or developers of e-services and applications, yet more and more job opportunities are emerging in the ICT sector. Projects such as this APWINC project to develop and deliver livelihood-based e-services will contribute to empowering young girls and women to participate in the growing field of ICTs and explore these new opportunities. Thus, I hope to ultimately meet future women in this Forum who are not only e-services users but e-services developers as well.

Lastly, I would like to encourage the project proponent and implementer to replicate the trainings and related learnings in other parts of the country particularly in the rural areas, in a sustainable manner in order to contribute to bridging the digital including gender gap within the country.

I wish you all productive discussions and successful Forum outcomes.

Thank you for your attention.