

Minutes of the meeting of the  
Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality  
(TWG-WEGE)

Date: 5 February 2003

Time: 1000-1230 hours

Venue: ESCAP Emerging Social Issues Division Meeting Room, 6th Floor,  
United Nations Building, Bangkok

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Rosa Linda T. Miranda, UNIFEM Regional Programme Director, and Ms Thelma Kay, Chief of the Gender and Development Section, Emerging Social Issues Division, UNESCAP. The list of Participants are attached.

Agenda Item 1: Preparations for International Women's Day (IWD), 8 March 2003

The working group discussed International Women's Day, 8 March 2003, which is a worldwide event. In Thailand in commemoration of the International Women's Day, the main activity held by the Government of Thailand would be a programmed entitled "National Workshop on Effective Strategies to Promote Gender Equality" on Monday, March 3, in which the Prime Minister would be in attendance. The event would be hosted by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (formerly the National Commission on Women's Affairs) and would invite up to 500 participants from the government sector and the non-government sector (women's NGOs and academics). The program would discuss how to promote gender equality in Thailand, and comments and suggestions would be presented to the Prime Minister who would answer questions and give comments.

UNIFEM proposed another activity that was approved by the group for the UN Country Team of Thailand to present a formal document entitled "Gender in Thailand" as an expression of its support towards the achievement of the goals and gender policy in Thailand. The TWG-WEGE Chairs would inform the Heads of Agencies (HoA) that the production of the publication, which was introduced at the last HOA meeting, would proceed (by UNIFEM) in time for the Thailand International Women's Day event.

A separate event would be held either on Friday, 7 February 2003 or Monday, 10 February 2003 that would be focused on the theme: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals. The event would be held on Friday, March 7 (the day prior to the IWD which falls on a Saturday), unless a high profile expert, such as Jeffery Sachs, is available during the UNDP Residential Representatives meeting that would be held the following week, in which case the event would be held on Monday, March 10 to accommodate their schedule. The UN Family as well as the public would be invited,

including students and women's studies departments from universities. The purpose of the event would be to provide public awareness about gender equality and the MDG goals within and outside of the UN family. The programme would have components. The first component would be an exhibition (preferably interactive, and with souvenirs to be distributed) and the second would be a commemorative session that would be interesting to the public and would also include substantive components such as an address by NESDB Thailand on gender and MDGs in the Thai context. A task force was formed to design the programme for the UN event.

It was also proposed that at a later date there could be a specialized panel or a round table, which would hold a substantive discussion with Thailand policy makers, including NESDB, to influence national level action.

Finally, national women's NGOs will be holding events in commemoration of IWD, which Working Group members could attend.

#### Agenda 2: TWG-WEGE Website

Ms Kay Nagata of UNESCAP announced that UNESCAP and UNIFEM have created a TWG-WEGE website that is now up and functioning. The working group members were encouraged to visit the website before the next meeting. The website modalities were distributed to the working group and a discussion about the Website is postponed until the next meeting.