**WOMEN WITH THE WAVE High Level Forum Series:**

***Turning the Tide for the Pacific***

***Women Economic Empowerment through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Media***

17 November 2014, Fiji

Almost all the Asia-Pacific countries, irrespective of their level of development, have generally embraced the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. Achieving these aspirations, however, will not be possible with 'business as usual' attitude, but will require innovative and integrated policies and solutions.

The Women With the Wave (WWW) Forum Series have brought together leading telecommunication and broadcasting practitioners to take stock of the current status of women in said industries. The Series have identified strategies and good practices for achieving, among others, higher representation of females in these areas of professional endeavour, while also encouraging a fairer media portrayal of women and girls.

The first Women With the Wave High-Level Forum on Digital Inclusion of Women and Girls, held in 2012 in Seoul, Republic of Korea issued a Declaration calling on “*all who can assist to recognize the digital wave now sweeping the world and to join in supporting the preparation of women and girls for the opportunities and benefits which the knowledge society is bringing to families worldwide and which will do so even more in the future*”. The Women With the Wave Forum for ICT and Media Inclusion of Women and Girls and People with Disabilities held in 2013 in Hanoi, VietNam built on the outcomes of the Seoul WWW and extended the focus to identify and highlight the global issues for access and participation of persons with disabilities. Diversity inclusion of both groups is important to ensure a high level conversation about the right to information and education, employment and communication that addresses human rights, disadvantages and equal opportunity.

This year’s Women With the Wave Forum: *Turning the Tide for the Pacific* aims to provide a platform for partnership and multi-stakeholder dialogue to debate and showcase best practices on promoting women’s economic empowerment through gender-responsive and inclusive environment and workplace policies, facilitated by ICT and media.

The Forum is essentially targeted at senior officials from policy makers, regulators, industry and international organizations who are involved in policies, regulations, operations, strategies and development activities promoting women’s economic empowerment through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Media.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |  |  | |
| **WOMEN WITH THE WAVE High Level Forum Series:**  ***Turning the Tide for the Pacific***  ***Women Economic Empowerment through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Media***  **17 November 2014, Fiji** | | | | | |
| **08:00- 09:00** | | **Registration** | | | |
| **09:00- 09:30** | | **Opening Session** | | | |
| **09:30 - 10:30** | | **Session 1**  **Women With the Wave: From Declaration to Action**  Moderator: Ms. Anna Fälth, Manager, Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women   * WWW Seoul, Hanoi and Macau   Speakers:  Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia and Dr. Amal Punchihewa, Director ABU Technology   * Markets for Change (M4C) for Pacific Island Countries   Speaker: Ms. Preeya Ieli, Programme Specialist: Women’s Economic Empowerment  Multi Country Office, Fiji UN Women | | | |
| **10:30-11:00** | | **Refreshments and networking break** | | | |
| **11:00- 12:30** | | **Session 2**  **Digital Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Women**  Moderator: Dr. Amal Punchihewa, Director ABU Technology   * Women in the ICT Sector: Time for Action   Speaker: Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia   * Digital Literacy Campaign for Women and Girls   Speakers:   * Ms. Doreen Lango, Manager, Vanuatu National Provident Fund * Ms. Salanieta Tamanikaiwaimaro, President, The South Pacific Computer Society * Introduction to Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment   Note: The Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment will be launched at the ITU-ABU Pacific Media Partnership (PMP) Conference 2014: Partnering for Broadcast Development on 19 November 2014.  Speakers: Ms. Anna Fälth, Manager, Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women and Ms. Siriporn (Bew) Laosang, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment  UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific | | | |
| **12:30- 14:00** | | **Lunch Break** | | | |
| **14:00- 15:30** | | **Session 3**  **Promoting gender inclusive media and information and communication technology (ICT) environment**  Moderator: Mr. Monchito B. Ibrahim, Deputy Executive Director, ICT Industry Development, Information and Communication Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology, Philippines   * Access to technological and digital platforms   Speakers:   * Oliana Nayago, Industry & Community Liaison Coordinator, Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment, The University of the South Pacific | Suva * Ms. Salanieta Tamanikaiwaimaro, President, The South Pacific Computer Society * Advocating for a positive, non-stereotypical and balanced portrayal of women across all forms of media and technological platforms   Speaker: Ms. Maggie Boyle, Fiji Broadcasting   * Digital and web literacy for women and girls   Speaker: Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia | | | |
| **15:30- 16:00** | | **Refreshments and networking break** | | | |
| **16:00- 17:00** | | **Session 4**  **MODERATED DISCUSSION and CLOSING**  Moderator: Ms. Luse Qereqeretabua, Principal Research Officer, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation  Final panel session to summarize proceedings and seek the adoption of a plan-of-action to take forward the Women With the Wave process on empowering women, turning the tide for the Pacific Island Countries.  Panelists:   * Ms. Anna Fälth, Manager, Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women * Dr. Amal Punchihewa, Director ABU Technology * Ms. Doreen Lango, Manager, Vanuatu National Provident Fund * Mr. Monchito B. Ibrahim, Deputy Executive Director, ICT Industry Development, Information and Communication Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology, Philippines   **Closing Remarks**: Ms. Anna Fälth, Manager, Knowledge Gateway for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women | | | |
| **END OF WOMEN WITH THE WAVE High Level Forum Series:**  ***Turning the Tide for the Pacific*** | | | | | |
|  | |  |  |