



Ministry Of Women, Family & Community Development

PRESS RELEASE

SEOUL DECLARATION: CREATING A SUSTAINABLE ASIAN COMMUNITY

SEOUL, KOREA 5th December 2014 - Today marks the closing of the 6th *East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families* which is organized by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea. In line with this year's theme **Creating Family-Friendly Social Environment**, a declaration named 'Seoul Declaration' was successfully adopted at the end of the three days meeting.

The declaration acknowledges that families have always been the utmost mode and value of life in East Asia and will continue to play a crucial role in creating a sustainable Asian community for the future.

It also recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to enhance the well-being of families and societies, and that the shared responsibility of parents is crucial for the full participation of women in society.

In a joint statement held by the ministers and heads of delegates responsible for family policy, they expressed concerns that the family-friendly environment is not yet fully established in the society due to insufficient family-work policies, long working hours and inflexible organizational culture at the work place.

The ministers and heads of delegates responsible for family policies are determined to ensure the twelve recommendations stated in the declaration which includes encouraging employers to implement and to reinforce the family-friendly workplace policies including flexible working arrangements , parental leave, on-site childcare facilities and to ensure employees' work-family balance by creating a family-friendly organizational culture.

They also supported men's work-family balance and positive male role models in order to enable them to actively participate in family care and homework.

The attendees voiced out support for the proposal to develop an international family-friendly social environment index which can be used in East Asia nations, and to start research of which findings will be discussed in the next Forum in the Kingdom of Thailand in November 2016.

YB Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development attended the *6th East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families* from 3rd December to 5 December 2014 with delegates from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, Timor Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

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