



SPEECH

**YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
MENTERI PEMBANGUNAN WANITA, KELUARGA DAN
MASYARAKAT**

**BOOK LAUNCH OF “PROMOTING THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN:
IWRAP ASIA PACIFIC’S JOURNEY”**

**CONCORDE HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
27 JUNE 2023, 2.00PM**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia Madani.

(SALUTATIONS)

1. On behalf of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM), I would like to thank Madam Shanthi Dairiam and the International Women's

Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific for inviting me to this wonderful event today.

2. This year marks 30 years journey of IWRAW Asia Pacific in supporting women's rights in the Global South through engagement with the CEDAW and other human rights instruments. For that, I would like to **wish IWRAW Asia Pacific a very happy 30th anniversary.**

3. Today, I am honoured to be here to support the book launch, titled '**Promoting the Equality of Women: IRAW Asia Pacific's Journey**'. The book is an important piece of literature which captures the rich history of Madam Shanthi's work throughout the years of her advocacy where she has quietly AND successfully, influenced countless women's rights organisations as well as governments around the world in their realisation of women's human rights.

4. Last year, in conjunction with 2022 National Day of Older Persons, KPWKM presented Madam Shanthi with Older Persons Award in the field of humanitarianism. Her work in educating different countries and regions about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, also known as CEDAW, and the mark she has left on the global agenda on human rights, remain invaluable.

5. When we talk about CEDAW, our Ministry had and will continuously engage with other ministries and agencies,

non-governmental organization (NGOs) and academicians. On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to share that Malaysia had successfully submitted The Sixth Periodic Report on CEDAW on 25 April 2022.

6. The Report provided an update on policies, initiatives and concrete measures that are being undertaken by the Government of Malaysia to eliminate discrimination against women and to provide space and opportunities

for them to thrive with greater achievements in line with the obligations under the CEDAW.

7. In promoting the rights of women and girls, the Government aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.

8. As the Minister for Women, Family and Community Development, I am committed to identify and close the existing gaps in our aim to enhance the empowerment of women. One such initiative is the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act 2022 [Act 840] that has been gazetted October last year and has been enforced in stages. Several provisions in this Act came into effect since 28 March 2023 which includes the implementation of advocacy programmes relating to prevention and awareness of sexual harassment as well as educating

the community to eliminating the culture of normalizing sexual harassment.

9. Our Ministry is open to new and fresh ideas and we want to make a strong policy on women empowerment. One of the platforms is through National Council for Women and Family (*Majlis Wanita dan Keluarga Negara – MWKN*) which Madam Shanti is also a member. This Council acts as a discussion platform that involves government policymakers, academicians,

representatives from the private sector and NGOs to identify and discuss current issues related to women and families to ensure policies, laws and programmes are carried out effectively at all levels.

10. Because of that I believe, this book, 'Promoting the Equality of Women: IWRAW Asia Pacific's Journey' is a crucial document which should be made available in both public and university libraries.

11. This is because it contains multitudes of information and knowledge on international human rights law, and captures the different and important ways women's rights organisations and governments have engaged, and can still engage with the CEDAW and the broader international human rights system. It is important that this book is preserved and memorialised, because women's contributions must be documented and acknowledged.

12. On a personal note, Shanti has always been an inspiration to me. I admire how resilient you are, an

epitome of productive ageing I would say, and this has given me the motivation and courage to work on my own resilience. You have inspired me to do more for the community and gave me the strength to keep moving forward.

CLOSING

13. Before I end my speech, I would like to once again congratulate Madam Shanthi and IWRAW Asia Pacific on

the book and their work. We need to continuously promote and implement CEDAW in ensuring a more inclusive and equal society. I look forward for continuous working relationship as we all strive towards the full realisation of women's human rights in Malaysia in line with Malaysia MADANI framework.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah. Wassalamualaikum Wrt Wbt

THANK YOU.

Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy binti Shukri
Minister of Women, Family and Community Development
June 2023