



AFPPD Tackles Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Issues in Upcoming Conference

Bangkok, November 1 2016 - On 4-5 November 2016, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) will hold the “**11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference**” in Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand.

More than 50 Members of Parliament and Ministers from 28 Asia-Pacific countries are expected to attend in which the majority are female political leaders. They will also be joined by experts from UN agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to engage in topics ranging from sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) to the economic and political participation of women.

The conference will highlight the life-cycle approach to address the health and well-being of girls and women, during and after their reproductive years. Among the presenters, Ms. Brooke Axtell, an anti-human trafficking and anti-domestic violence activist from the United States, will share her survival and healing story from domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The Asia-Pacific region represents almost 60 percent of the world's women and girls. “As parliamentarians, we have a crucial role in shaping the reality where the rights and dignity of girls and women are respected. We have to work together to advocate and champion for gender-inclusive policies and legislation,” said Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Member of Parliament from Thailand and Secretary-General of AFPPD.

The “11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference” is funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Japan Trust Fund, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

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Background:

AFPPD is a network of 29 parliamentary committees from across the Asia-Pacific region. AFPPD advocates for parliamentary action and change, in support of population and development issues: gender equality and women's empowerment including sexual and reproductive health and rights; investing in youth; active ageing; and population dynamics.

