

**ASEAN+3 Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication
Tokyo, Japan, 5-6 July 2007**

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALLEVIATING FEMINIZATION OF
POVERTY IN ASEAN PLUS THREE COUNTRIES**

The Association for Human Rights of Women (AHRW) organised the ASEAN+3 Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication on 5-6 July 2007 in Tokyo, Japan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as well as the Yomiuri Shimbun under the financial support of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). This Symposium exchanged information and experiences on their national strategies, programmes and efforts to reduce feminization of poverty.

The Symposium participants expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and excellent arrangement made by the AHRW and the Government of Japan in organising the Symposium.

The Symposium participants acknowledged from the sharing of experiences that, in general, there has been significant achievements in poverty reduction programmes undertaken by ASEAN Plus Three Countries. Nevertheless, serious challenges on feminization of poverty still remain and need to be urgently addressed. Noting these, the Symposium participants agreed to recommend the following:

Poverty Reduction Policies

1. Promote poverty reduction policies that integrate gender perspective and empowerment of women in poverty;
2. Improve economic policies aimed at stimulating entrepreneurship of women in poverty and enhancing their access to market and employment opportunities;
3. Ensure meaningful representation and participation of women in poverty in formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies that affect them;

Data Collection

4. Improve institutional capacity to collect, compile and disseminate reliable and comparable sex- and age-disaggregated data for use in measuring, assessing and analyzing feminization of poverty to support policy making processes;

Access to Resources and Services

5. Ensure access to resources, adequate and affordable services and programmes to meet the needs of women living in poverty, such as shelters/housing, land, microcredit, social services, healthcare and education;
6. Promote and facilitate access of women in poverty to information and communication technology for business, education and networking;

Capacity Building

7. Strengthen institutional capacities at all levels of relevant machineries in undertaking programmes/projects to address issues affecting women in poverty;
8. Support initiatives of organisations, networks and communities that address the needs of women in poverty;

Partnership and International Cooperation

9. Promote further cooperation and collaboration to reduce the feminization of poverty by forging constructive partnerships among governments, international organisations, NGOs, private sector, media and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in poverty reduction efforts.