

REMARK

AT THE FORUM: "THE GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS FOR WOMEN
INVENTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS"

4th May, 29 – Seoul

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Vice President of Vietnam Women's Union

Distinguished guests,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vietnam Women's Union I am very honoured to attend the Forum "**The 2nd Korea International Women's Invention Forum 2008**" in the beautiful and hospitable country of the Republic of Korea. On this occasion, I would like to extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to all delegates.

This Forum provides a special opportunity for our countries to exchange and share information and our experiences in promoting women's ability to innovate and contribute to national development. Here, many talented women inventors from various countries will be honoured. Their successes prove the endless innovative capacities of women, and the significant contributions they make in enriching human society. Last year, a number of creative Vietnamese women were honoured with Innovation Awards.

We are thankful and highly appreciative of the initiative and great efforts of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Korea Intellectual Property Office, and the Korea Women Inventors' Association in organizing this Exhibition and Forum. Because of this, each country can map out its workplan for supporting women through innovation promotion and generate further success stories. With this significant assistance and strong support from the Korea Women Inventors' Association, the Vietnam

Women's Union and this Association have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Cooperation. This agreement will strengthen the friendship and cooperative relationship between women inventors in Korea and Viet Nam and with international women in this field.

Distinguished delegates,

In today's Knowledge Economy it is vital that nation's both support women in enhancing their innovative capacities and raise society's awareness of the importance and practical contributions of women's inventions. Assisting the economic empowerment of women through innovation is an effective strategy for both the development and advancement of women and improving women's status in society.

The Vietnam Women's Union warmly welcomes the recommendations developed in the "Seoul Declaration" which supports women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women's economic empowerment. In responding to this Declaration, many countries have put a lot of effort into helping women to succeed in their chosen careers. I would like to share some of our Vietnamese project activities with you.

In every nation in the world women play important role in the labour force and are one of the driving forces of societal development. In Vietnam, women account for nearly 50% of population and the national labour force. The percentage of highly educated women is increasing rapidly. Many Vietnamese women have innovative ideas and inventions which improve production, business, research and scientific practices and processes across diverse fields. They create social and economic value for the country.

To encourage these achievements, we recognize women's efforts and dedication in the work place. In addition women innovators receive strong support and attention from Government and social organizations including the Vietnam Women's Union:

- In enterprise development, the Vietnamese Government has released a Decree on Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises. The Decree affirms support for women entrepreneurs in all

Government support programs including investment promotion, finance and land access and other services.

- A recently completed legal framework on gender equity will promote women's participation and status in society. In 2006, the National Assembly of Vietnam passed a Law on Gender Equality to ensure women's equality in all aspects of life, especially in access to vocational development services and resources.
- Capacity building for women is one of the priority policy and program areas for Government. Many women have participated in training courses on enterprise management and technology applications and skills development.
- Since 1992, the Trade Union of Vietnam has established a "Fund for Women's Creativeness and Talent" which encourages, and mobilizes women's inventive potential in all fields. Women's innovative ideas have been promoted, distributed and developed into real world applications.
- The Vietnam Science Technology Union is one of the many organizations implementing many effective programs which assist women to develop their innovation capacities. Many Vietnamese women's innovations have been recognized internally and externally.

❖ The Vietnam Women's Union is an organization which represents women from all strata of society. It's key role is to strive for the development and advancement of women through practical programs:

- The Union has launched a movement "Women study actively, work creatively". This program encourages women across the country to undertake 'life long learning' and continue to study and upgrade their knowledge and develop their innovation capacities. Women are encouraged to actively contribute to national development.

- With assistance of two American Mathematicians in 1985 the Union established the Kovalepskaia Award. The Awards honour individual and groups of women who have achieved excellence in science, research and scientific applications which have contributed tremendous value to the socio-economic development of the country. Up to now, 23 women and 23 women's groups have received this noble award. The innovations are very diverse and practical. They include the invention and production of post harvest agricultural food processing machines; invention of paint and water proofing chemicals for construction; invention of new and high yield rice variety, the invention of some cancer prevention medicines from botanical extracts; research into obesity prevention in children; the development of a new environmental technology program at the University of Technology....etc.
- Since 2003 the Union has established the Vietnamese Women's Award to acknowledge women's excellence as individuals and groups in all aspects of life.
- Since 2004 the Union has cooperated with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organize and give the "Golden Rose Award" for outstanding women entrepreneurs in enterprise development.
- Assisting women to achieve economic empowerment is one of the core activities of the Vietnam Women's Union. Activities such as policy advocacy and development, vocational training, capacity building for women, the provision of loan finance for women, establishment of intellectual and business networks for women have undertaken by the Union.

- The Union has established 314 clubs of “Women Entrepreneurs” which bring enterprising women together to share and exchange information and experiences and give assistance to each other in developing their enterprises.
- The Union is planning to establish a new network called “Vietnamese Women’s Entrepreneurs Association” which will support women entrepreneurs more comprehensively and effectively.
- The Union also cooperates with organizations to stage commercial promotion fairs and exhibitions which promote products and services from enterprises run by Vietnamese women.

Distinguished delegates,

The results that we have achieved in this area are humble. There is still work to be done to address the gender gap, to support and provide favorable conditions for women’s innovation capacities, and to protect their intellectual property.

We hope that this Forum can help to us to strengthen our cooperative efforts. We can learn from other’s experiences, share information and projects and discover new effective measures for developing women’s innovation capacities and the contribution of women towards national and international development.

May I wish the Forum great success.

May I wish all women inventors and entrepreneurs success in your chosen careers.

And finally may I wish you all good health, happiness and success.

Thank you very much for your attention./.