



KOREAN INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE



WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION



KOREA WOMEN
INVENTORS ASSOCIATION

KOREA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S INVENTION FORUM

Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 9, 2008

SEOUL DECLARATION ON WOMEN INVENTORS, WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND WOMEN MANAGERS/OWNERS OF SMEs

Having met on May 9, 2008, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the first Korea International Women's Invention Forum, jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Korean Women Inventors Association (KWIA), hereby agrees to take practical measures to support via the international network of women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to share systematically amongst the women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs worldwide so as to enable them to make effective use of the tools of the Intellectual Property (IP) system for promoting the economic development of women worldwide and thereby support the pivotal role of women as equal partners in the continued and sustainable progress of mankind.

BEING AWARE that worldwide, through their great creativity and inventive capacities, women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs are capable of playing a much greater role than hitherto in promoting job creation, making profitable investments and generating competitive exports by introducing technologically new and/or improved products that would contribute significantly to higher profitability, sustainable income generation, and acceleration of the growth of their respective national economies;

RECOGNIZING that their inadequate awareness about, and capacity to use, the tools of the IP system is an important stumbling block in achieving greater success in reaping the fruits of their creativity, inventiveness and enterprise through introduction of new and improved products in domestic and export markets;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the wide gap in knowledge about, and access to, the tools of the IP system between developing and developed countries, is an additional factor that is adversely impacting women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs while trying to compete successfully in globalizing markets;

BEING AWARE that the lack of support policies, practices and programs for supporting women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs to make effective use of the tools of the IP system has also significantly held back their sustained growth and progress;

REALIZING the need for creating a system for enabling the sharing of successful government support policies, practices and programs from around the world to enable the narrowing and ultimately eliminating the disparities in access and usage of the IP system by women in developing countries vis-à-vis their counterparts in developed countries;

NOTING the need to empower women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs by making available opportunities for tailor-made support and training on business use of the tools of the IP system so as to expand the economic power of women with a view to close the gender gap;

RECOGNIZING the need for sustained and differentiated support by international organizations for addressing the gaps in access to the IP system amongst countries to support larger number of women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs who cooperate amongst themselves through an alliance or network for their individual and collective advancement;

BEING AWARE that there is an urgent need to develop common training programs and distinctive educational content for facilitating the understanding of IP-related business issues by women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women owners/managers of SMEs;

In order to empower and advance women inventors, women entrepreneurs and women owners/managers of SMEs to fully benefit from the effective use of the tools of the IP system, all concerned will join forces for realizing the following objectives:

1. Developing and establishing education programs and content that is tailored to the specific and differentiated needs of women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs, especially for developing countries;
2. Establishing and managing an international network (tentatively named, the International Women Inventors and Entrepreneurs Association or IWIEA) for achieving solidarity and sustainable progress of women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs, with KWIA initially providing the office space for its secretariat, staff support for running its office, and incurring the initial expense for establishing and managing the proposed network;
3. Taking practical steps to obtain support of national, regional and international publicly funded institutions and government agencies responsible for supporting women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs, and

beginning with the representatives of institutions and countries that participated in the Forum.

4. Holding an annual forum, (tentatively named, the International Women's Invention and Entrepreneurship Forum or IWIEF), by IWIEA and WIPO in Seoul, unless another member country or institution wishes to host the Forum in another country to. The primary objectives of the Forum would be to improve networking, collaboration and , sharing of experiences, knowledge, best practices by relying on success stories of leading women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs, as well as the successful policies, programs and good/best practices of member institutions and national governments;
5. Offering an annual short-term (one-week) training program to women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs in parallel with the Forum;
6. Developing and offering a training program customized for women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs through the IP PANORAMA Business School for Women Inventors and Entrepreneurs, by IWIEA in cooperation with WIPO and KIPO;
7. Supporting the active participation of women inventors, women entrepreneurs, and women owners/managers of SMEs in the International Women's Invention Forum and IP PANORAMA Business School, especially from developing countries.
8. Discussing the sharing of the costs for more stable and efficient management of IWIEA in the long run, although the expense for secretariat office and all costs will be borne by KWIA until agreed otherwise among the members of IWIEA.

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