

SPEECH BY
DATO SERI DATIN PADUKA
DR. SITI HASMAH BTE HJ. MOHD. ALI
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ACWO BOARD MEETING
AT THE HOLIDAY INN, KUALA LUMPUR
ON TUESDAY, 20TH. NOVEMBER, 1984
AT 9.30 A.M.

I would like to thank the ACWO Organising Committee for inviting me to officially open your Board of Directors Meeting which for the first time NCWO Malaysia is hosting.

2. It is a great pleasure for me to be with all of you distinguished women leaders of the Asean countries who have joined together as a body under the name of Asean Confederation of Women's Organisations to complement government efforts to ensure the full participation of women in development and in fulfilment of the Declaration of Asean Concord which called for "support for active involvement of all sectors and levels of Asean communities, particularly of women and youth in development efforts".

3. ACWO is a vehicle for non government organisations cooperation and I am confident that this vehicle will provide a meaningful integration of women of Asean countries towards an effective participation in the process of development to accelerate national and regional progress.

4. It is imperative to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, by ensuring that women effectively carry-out their roles in economic, social, political, and cultural developments at the national, regional and international levels throughout the United Nations Decade for Women.

5. In our endeavour to develop nationally and regionally, it is important to emphasize women's contribution to the development of friendly relations and cooperation among states and to the strengthening of world peace.

6. For the last three years you have worked with the Asean Plan of Action as a guide-line. I find that you have translated the plan of action in programmes and projects assigned to each National Council bearing in mind that only together with men could women bring about attitudinal changes aimed at, but that participation in development is both the contribution and sharing of benefits of development while playing a role in decision making and in the formulation of the strategy of development.

7. Looking through your proposed agenda, I find you have listed useful projects as assignments and very interesting topics for discussion and implementation. As women and as custodians of the future generations you have embarked on issues of national, regional, international and even universal interests.

8. As one of ACWO patrons, I wish you every success in all your concerted efforts to support your respective national governments to develop and maintain peace in this region.

9. Again, as your patron you can count on my support for all your endeavours.

Thank you.
