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
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International Women's Summit Opens In Seoul

Thursday, May 27, 2004

More than 800 leading female figures in business, government and nongovernmental organizations 84 countries today opened a three-day meeting in Seoul to share ideas on how to improve women's economic development through the use of technology, access to other markets and expansion of networking.

The theme of the 11th annual Global Summit of Women 2004, an annual forum organized by the nonprofit association GlobeWomen.com, is "Leadership, Technology and Growth."

Officials participating in the forum include Mozambique's Prime Minister and Minister of Plannin Finance Luisa Diogo, Vietnam Vice President Truong My Hoa and South African Communication Minister Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri.

"Given the troubled times we live in, filled with violence, economic and physical insecurity, what b time than now to bring leaders in business and government together — we happen to be women — reach across borders to connect with each other, to learn from each other and to possibly do busine with each other," summit President Irene Natividad said (O Youn-hee, *Korea Herald*, May 27).

Today, Natividad released a survey on the status of executive women around the world, which fou that the Asia-Pacific region has more women presidents and premiers than any other region and th there are more women ministers in the world than ever before.

Five countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which includes Middle Eastern countries, are governed b women presidents or prime ministers, according to the survey. The number of women ministers w higher in Europe, 18 percent, followed by the Americas (14.7 percent), Africa (10.8 percent) and Pacific (6.9 percent) (O Youn-hee, *Korea Herald*, May 28).

Other issues to be discussed during the forum in Seoul include intellectual property, microentrepreneurship for mainstream markets, and balance between work and life, with a special emphasis on child and health care.

Experts will also hold workshops on online business, networking and trade as ways to improve microenterprises and strengthen women's business associations (O Youn-hee, *Korea Herald*).