



ASIAN WOMEN AND SPORT (AWS) ACTION PLAN 2001

At the First Asian Conference on Women and Sport held in Osaka, Japan on 9th and 10th June, 2001 (' the Conference'), the more than 500 delegates present at the Conference recognized the need within Asia to coordinate efforts for the advancement of women and sport.

The Conference agreed on three action points:-

- 1) To reaffirm the principles of the Brighton Declaration and the recommendations of the Windhoek Call for Action and the two IOC World Conferences on women and sport and to call on all the relevant organizations within Asia to endorse and act on these recommendations;
- 2) To establish an Asian Women and Sport (AWS) movement comprising three elements:-
 - a) an Asian Working Group on Women and Sport (AWG);
 - b) a Network of contact persons in Asia; and
 - c) an Asian Conference on Women and Sport every two years;
- 3) To appoint an interim working group of individuals from the various regions of Asia as follows:-
 - Dr Etsuko Ogasawara (Japan) Chair
 - Ms Annabel Pennefather (Singapore)
 - Dr Yang- Ja Hong (Korea)
 - Dr Supitr Samahito (Thailand)
 - Ms Noor Al-Houda Karfoul (Syria Arab Republic)
 - Ms Jayani Pinnawala (Sri Lanka)

The Conference further called for the interim working group to bring forward proposals on AWG membership, aims and objectives and resources and to develop a 5-year plan for consideration by the AWS network before the end of 2002 which should take into consideration the draft Osaka Five-Year Plan prepared by the Steering Committee of the Conference.

The interim working group subsequently put forward a set of Guidelines for adoption by the AWS which includes proposals on aims, membership, structure and operational principles.

This AWS Action Plan 2001 (' the Plan') represents the interim working group's response to the call of the Conference for the development of a 5 –year plan. The Plan seeks to further the development of equal opportunities for women and men, girls and boys in Asia to participate fully in sport in its broadest sense. It is addressed to all men and women in national and regional sports organizations, non - governmental and governmental organizations, public authorities, schools and other agencies in Asia who are responsible for, or who directly influence the conduct, development or promotion of sport or who are in any way involved in the employment, education, management, training, development or care of girls and women in sport.

Recognizing that different economic, political, cultural and other conditions prevailing in Asian countries may require different strategies, policies and programmes for the attainment of the desired outcomes of the Plan, the AWS calls for action in the following areas:-

1. Develop appropriate action plans in each Asian country with objectives and targets to implement the principles of the Brighton Declaration and the recommendations of the Windhoek Call for Action and the two IOC World Conferences on women and sport (copies of which are annexed to the Plan for ease of reference);

2. Encourage more women and girls to participate in sport at all levels particularly at the school and elite levels and within the family and workplace;
3. Provide more opportunities for women to be trained and to serve as administrators, coaches, technical officials, sports journalists and in sport marketing, management and communications;
4. Increase the involvement and number of women in the decision-making bodies of sport and in the development of policies and programmes that affect them;
5. Strengthen co-operation and the exchange of experience and information on women and sport issues among Asian countries at bilateral and multi-lateral levels;
6. Promote the involvement of female representatives in local, regional and national delegations at sport-political, scientific and sport-practical events, conferences, seminars and workshops, at national and international levels;
7. Increase the opportunities for women to benefit from specific training programmes and scholarships for athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, sports scientists and sports journalists, at national, regional and international levels;
8. Urge National Olympic Committees, National Sports Federations and other sports organizations in Asia to meet the IOC targets of 10% minimum representation of women in decision - making positions by 31 December 2000 (if not yet met) and 20% by 2005;
9. Ensure that existing and new sports and recreational facilities are designed to meet the particular needs of women and girls and that consideration is given to affordable pricing, convenient timing , programme content and the inclusion of childcare facilities;
10. Strengthen physical education programmes as a means for introduction to young girls and boys of the skills and range of learning experiences they can acquire through sport participation;
11. Ensure a safe and supportive environment for girls and women participating in sport at all levels by taking steps to eliminate all forms of harrassment and abuse and developing and implementing codes of conduct for athletes, coaches and sport leaders;
12. Encourage and increase scientific research projects in various sports sciences, for initiating, supporting and adopting women's perspectives and disseminate scientific findings on women and sport;
13. Increase support and resources for disabled athletes to participate in sport at all levels;
14. Encourage the media to positively portray and to have a greater and more accurate coverage of girls and women's involvement in sport;
15. Promote the establishment of an IT network to facilitate effective exchange of information and experiences on women and sport issues.

Dated 15 December 2001

[As developed and put forward to the AWS network by the interim Asian Women and Sport Working Group pursuant to the Osaka Action Plan 2001]