

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - The Asian Women in Paralympic Sport Summit (WIPS) was held from 1st to 3rd May 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Around 60 delegates from 19 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), disability specific sport federation, non governmental organizations, government and sports attended the event.

The Malaysian Paralympic Council, the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Women in Sport Committee (WISC) hosted this regional leadership summit.

The opening ceremonies included a spectacular display of local culture, a welcome address from the Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin, President of both the Malaysian and the Asian Paralympic Committee and a welcome address from the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Mr. Wee Jeck Seng.

During two days of summit, which clearly showed increased sense of unity and understanding between APC and its members, the summit was presented with an overview of IPC global Paralympic Movement, the IPC Women in Sport Committee and its commitment to gender equality, previous regional leadership Summits, and the APC. The delegates participated in a workshop on Effective Networking, Effective Communication and learned how to become effective advocates for change by identifying decision-makers, understanding the factors surrounding how decisions are made, gathering necessary information, and forming a detailed plan for proposing and supporting change. The group discussed a number of local and regional success stories where positives changes have been made that have increased the opportunities for girls and women.

As the first of the IPC Leadership Summits to include a declaration, the Asian Leadership Summit provided an exciting opportunity for delegates, who represent governmental and non-governmental organizations, National Paralympic committees, international and national sports for persons with a disability organizations and educational institutions, to advance the cause of women in sport.

KL Declaration, it was ultimately signed by Hon. Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin, President of the Asian Paralympic Committee, and Ms. Tine Rindum Teilman, Chairman, IPC Women Sports Committee, and Hon. Dato' Dr. Ng Yen Yen, the Malaysian Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, at the Closing Ceremony for the Summit.

**The KL Declaration reads as follows:**

The Summit delegates from Asia represent governmental and non-governmental organisations, National Paralympic Committees, international and national sports for persons with a disability organisations and educational institutions. As the governing body of the Paralympic movement in Asia, the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) is committed to adopt an initiative to increase the participation of women in all decision-making structures.

In line with Article 30.5 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with a disability which encourages participation of persons with a disability in recreation, leisure and sporting activities, and in line with Article IVB of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, the delegates at its Asian Women in Paralympic Sport Leadership Summit recommend the following action:

1. Develop action plans with clear aims and objectives to promote physical activities and sports for females with a disability.

2. Increase participation of women in all aspects, levels and roles of sports for persons with a disability.
3. Create opportunities for women to hold leadership and decision-making positions in sports organisations at all levels.
4. To set and promote policies and programmes which provide equal participation in physical activity for females with a disability.
5. Ensure a safe and supportive environment for participation of females in sport. This includes accessible facilities.
6. Provide equal opportunities for female athletes with a disability to take part in high performance sport in terms of training, competition opportunities, incentives, recognition and other support.
7. Train and accredit women coaches, classifiers and technical officials at all levels up to international level.
8. Disseminate information about the positive benefits of participation and involvement in sport for females with a disability.
9. Develop effective partnerships with various sectors including government, nongovernment organisations and the private sector.
10. Encourage research to look at critical issues relating to sport for females with a disability.
11. Promote effective communication among women in all roles and levels of sports for persons with a disability.
12. Upgrade the APC Women in Sports Committee to a standing committee.