



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

The Prime Minister met today with 20 leading Australian businesswomen who will be taking part in the Telstra Australian-ASEAN Women Leaders Forum in Singapore next week.

The Forum will bring together around 100 of Australia's most influential businesswomen with counterparts from the ASEAN region in a ground-breaking exercise to extend trade networks.

Mr Keating told representatives of the Australian delegation today that he was confident the Forum would lead to significant trade and other cooperative ventures between the businesswomen of Australia and from other nations in the Asia Pacific. **Notes from the Prime Minister's address are attached.**

Minister for Trade, Senator Bob McMullan, will lead the Australian delegation which includes Deirdre Mason from the Telstra Corporation, Jenni Neary from the GIO, Edith van Dommelen from Woolworths and Susan Ryan from the Association of Superannuation Funds.

Major female figures from the ASEAN countries - Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore - will take part, along with several from Vietnam, Cambodia and the Lao PDR.

Sponsors for the Forum include the Telstra Corporation, AMP, Arthur Andersen, Qantas, the Queensland Investment Corporation, the ANZ Banking Group, CRA, McDonalds and Nutri-Metics.

The Telstra Forum has been a cooperative project with financial and organisational support from the Office of the Status of Women, Golden Marketing, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AIDAB and the International Division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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