

**Media Release – For Immediate Release**

**Singapore – December 09, 2015**

**Asialink Diplomacy convenes dialogue of experts to promote women in leadership**

(Singapore – December 09, 2015) Asialink Diplomacy is convening an international dialogue that will bring together over forty distinguished female leaders from a range of business, government, media, academic and political backgrounds in Australia and ASEAN countries, to collaborate on the development of practical initiatives to elevate more women into leadership positions across the region.

Delegates will explore the different experiences of women in leadership in public life, and compare their diverse cultural and community perspectives. Particular attention will be paid to the obstacles for women's advancement as well as solutions and ideas to elevate women into leadership positions.

Ms Noeleen Heyzer, former Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations, and powerful role model for regional women's leadership, will deliver the opening address. Dr Aline Wong, Chancellor of the Singapore Institute of Management University and an Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, will be the Singapore Co-Chair, along with Professor Azirah Hashim, Director of the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism at the University of Malaya.

*'We still have a long way to go in terms of equal representation of women in leadership in the region, and we stand to gain a lot from collaborating on policy and tactics that play a more active role in the advancement of women into these positions,'* says Sid Myer AM, Chair of Asialink and Australian Co-Chair of the Asialink Conversations 2015.

*'We are bringing together leading women from across ASEAN countries and Australia and I look forward to the various perspectives we unearth from the discussions'* he says.

The Asialink Conversations 2015 will be held in Singapore on December 9-10. The international dialogue has been developed in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, and the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism at the University of Malaya. To access the background papers from the dialogue please visit the Asialink Echo at [www.asialinkecho.org](http://www.asialinkecho.org). For a full list of all delegates, please contact Asialink Diplomacy at the details below.

The Asialink Conversations explore issues of common concern while creating new and strengthened networks in ASEAN countries and Australia.

**Asialink Diplomacy at the University of Melbourne is a centre for Track II dialogue and applied research on Australia's engagement with Asia. Asialink Diplomacy dialogues bring together Australia's leading academics, commentators, business people and government officials with their counterparts in Asia, to collaborate and develop solutions for bilateral and regional issues of common concern. Asialink Diplomacy's mission is to help build closer and more productive relations between Australia and Asia, and to contribute to dialogue in the region.**

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