

Session Summaries

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

WELCOME BANQUET FOR INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

The welcome banquet, hosted by the Office of the President, took place by the beach overlooking the pristine seas and breathtaking sunset of Palau. It was prepared to warmly welcome the international delegates participating in the Asia-Pacific First Ladies Summit. There was a short program organized by the First Lady of Palau, Madam Debbie M. Remengesau, that was followed by a buffet dinner and light entertainment. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

INAUGURAL SESSION: “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values”

The Opening Plenary was the keynote session of the Summit. Speakers included First Ladies, eminent women leaders from around the world as well as the representative of the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation. Distinguished speakers shared their valuable experiences in addressing the critical challenges of our time focused on peace-building and reconciliation. They addressed the concepts of interdependence and mutual prosperity with a special emphasis on the need for universal values. A resolution to launch the International Association of First Ladies for Peace was presented and signed.

SESSION II: Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: “The Role of Women Leaders: Solutions and Best Practices”

In this afternoon plenary session, distinguished women leaders from key sectors of the government and civil society offered their ideas related to effectively addressing the critical issues that are faced everywhere. This session showcased the positive impact of cooperation between government and civil society through the network of First Ladies and women leaders to bring about development, prosperity and solutions to critical social and moral concerns.

SESSION III: Palau: Preserving the Environment through Cultural Wisdom

In this session distinguished local speakers discussed Palauan programs and projects, such as the Palau Pledge. Such initiatives have helped mitigate climate change by increasing awareness of and concern about our collective environment. Teaching social responsibility to the next generation as well as promoting the preservation of the world’s natural resources is vital for the well-being and future of our human family.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

INTERFAITH FAMILY FESTIVAL: “Strengthening the Families & Rebuilding Communities Towards a Nation and a World of Lasting Peace”

This program was designed to help raise healthy families as the foundation for building a harmonious society and prosperous nation. It was a grand celebration, a rededication of marriage and family, since these institutions are absolutely essential for the bright future of any nation. Solving almost all our social problems begins in the family. The distinguished Leadership and Good Governance Award was presented to H.E. Tommy Remengesau, the President of the Republic of Palau.

FIRST LADIES SPECIAL MEETING: “The Palau Pledge Tour”

Hosted by the First Lady of Palau, this exclusive boat trip for First Ladies and a select number of distinguished guests, introduced the beauty and fragility of Palau’s natural environment and ancient culture. Taking place in Palau’s stunning Southern Lagoon – a UNESCO World Heritage site designated for both its natural beauty and unique culture – the trip allowed guests to interact with Palau’s magnificent marine environment and soak up its incredible scenery. Guests also heard from scientists, experts and the next generation about the importance and urgency of protecting Palau and all Pacific Island Nations in the face of the many unique threats facing the region. The excursion culminated with a lunch at one of Palau’s pristine beaches where guests were treated to the warm hospitality of Palau’s matriarchal culture (women were served first!).

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY: “The Role of Youth in Creating a Culture of Peace”

This event was designed to empower youth to commit to practicing healthy lifestyles, by encouraging them to build good and lasting relationships and living more for others than themselves. It enlightened them regarding their essential roles in peace- and nation-building. They made a pledge of filial piety as the best way to prepare for their roles as faithful spouses and loving parents. There were cultural performances and a public speaking competition called S!NERGY.

WWPI SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION: “Leadership Paradigms: Asia Pacific Partnership Projects”

This was an interactive session designed to showcase WFWP’s best practices in the field of education, humanitarian service outreach and peace-building initiatives in the Asia Pacific region. This was a great platform for women leaders to network and work together to address critical social and environmental challenges.