



Rural Employment and Agriculture

28 February 2012

1:15pm to 2:30pm

Conference Room B (NLB)

CHAIR **Hon Corazon Juliano Soliman**
Minister for Social Welfare and Development - Philippines

PANELISTS **Ms. Ronnie Goldberg**
Executive Vice President, US Council for International Business

Ms. Rehana Riyalawala
Secretary, Self-Employed Women's Association

Ms. Shireen Lateef
Senior Adviser (Gender), Asian Development Bank

The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges - provides an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of decent work and full employment for rural women's empowerment.

Women comprise 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and agriculture is the most important source of employment for women in rural areas in most developing country regions. Women

are more likely than men to hold low-wage, part-time, seasonal employment and tend to be paid less even when their qualifications are higher than men's.

The objective of the panel discussion is to stimulate dialogue and propose relevant policy recommendations on how decent work and full employment can contribute to the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.