

Closing Remarks
by Miss Churairat Sangboonnum
Secretary-General of the Thai National Commission for UNESCO
at the Closing Ceremony of Global Forum on Media and Gender
4th December 2013 at 15.45 hours
Imperial Queens'Park Hotel

Mr. Janis Karklins, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Global Forum on Media and Gender draws to its conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Minister, senior officials and participants for the information they have shared and for their insightful comments made during our discussions and deliberations.

During this three day meeting, we have had a very open and fruitful dialogue. There has been a stimulating free flow of ideas by word and image, and the importance of women and gender equality has been enhanced. I also appreciate the support and assistance from UNESCO Head Office in Paris and also the regional office in Bangkok. My special thanks go to Thammasat University, Thai PBS, and the Government Public Relations Department, Thailand for their contributions to this Forum.

The need to encourage and to increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in, and through the media is an urgent concern. It is, therefore, opportune at this time that this Forum should be able to

contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment globally by improving the coverage of issues affecting women, and increasing female representation in media leadership and staffing.

Our aim in coming together for this meeting is to stimulate debate on the challenges faced by international, regional and national gender and media programmes. More specifically, it was also intended to facilitate and design the formation of a Global Alliance on Media and Gender, and to contribute to achieving Millennium Development Goal 3 - promoting gender equality and empowering women. For this meeting, I believe that we have successfully achieved our objectives, and I congratulate you all on this substantial achievement.

In my final note, I would like to thank all those who have been involved in the organization of this meeting, and, once again, you the delegates for your participation. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe journey home.

Thank you.