

## Speech Notes

### Asia Pacific Women's Conference

10 June 2005

Mike Lee

ARC Chairman

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2005 Asia-Pacific Women's Conference, and welcome to the Auckland region.

This conference enables women from New Zealand and around the Asia Pacific region to come together to work for mutual benefit. As delegates you will have the opportunity to meet and discuss many of the critical issues facing women in our region, and I hope, also recognise some of the successes that are taking place in women's daily lives.

Increasingly in New Zealand we are seeing more women in high profile and powerful positions within business and politics. As role models, they have inspired many women, particularly young women, to stretch their imaginations and to push boundaries.

At the Auckland Regional Council, over half of our staff are women and six out of our thirteen councillors are female. Five of those six women councillors have important positions as chairs of committees and one is deputy chair of the Council.

The conference will encourage the sharing of experiences and knowledge, and allow women from many different cultures to learn from each other. It will help foster international friendships and cooperation, and ultimately result in stronger relationships between diverse groups.

Whilst you are here, I hope you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some of our wonderful recreational opportunities. A visit to one of our 22 regional parks or the beautiful Hauraki Gulf islands would be a great way to wind down before the trip home.

I wish you all every success for your conference.