Mohammad Naciri has been recently appointed as the Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. From 2015 to 2018, he was the Regional Director of UN Women in the Arab States. From 2012 to 2015, Mohammad Naciri was the Deputy Regional Director for UN Women in the Arab States. Mohammad has extensive experience in the region and in gender and development issues.

Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., parent of the Japanese global apparel retailer UNIQLO, and UN Women announced today a global partnership to champion women’s rights and empowerment in the apparel industry. This is the first formal alliance between UN Women and a clothing company based in Asia.

The visit to Mae Sot district in Western Thailand was to see a United Nations programme which addresses prevention of trafficking and works to mitigate the harmful impacts of the migrant flow to Thailand. About 120,000 migrants from Myanmar now live in Mae Sot, two decades after the first Thailand-Myanmar Friendship bridge opened. A second bridge just opened in April, amid growing prosperity along the border areas.

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The theme for International Women’s Day (8 March) this year, “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”, puts innovation by women and girls, for women and girls, at the heart of efforts to achieve gender equality.

Achieving a gender-equal world requires social innovations that work for both women and men and leave no one behind. From urban planning that focuses on community safety to e-learning platforms that take classrooms to women and girls, affordable and quality childcare centres, and technology shaped by women, innovation can take the race for gender equality to its finishing line by 2030. Read more ▶

FEMALE STUDENTS DEVELOP BUSINESS IDEAS TO IMPROVE SOCIETY

■ BANGLADESH

Female students take part in three-day “business bootcamps”, where they discuss problems in their communities, including violence, sexual harassment and violent extremism. They then learn about the concept of social entrepreneurship and gain essential business skills, such as marketing, sales, customer service and fundraising strategies. Using this knowledge, mentors guide student groups into developing their own ideas for small social enterprises that could work in their communities. Read more ▶

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION PRIOR TO CSW63

■ ASIA-PACIFIC

The Meeting served as an opportunity to engage member States in preparations for the Asia-Pacific High-Level Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review, which will be convened by UN ESCAP in cooperation with UN Women and with the support of the TWG-GEEW, in November 2019, Bangkok. Read more ▶

#CODE4PEACE HACKATHON REVOLUTIONIZES THE WAY AFGHAN WOMEN VOICE THEIR PRIORITIES FOR PEACE

■ AFGHANISTAN

Twelve teams competed in Afghanistan’s largest, and first ever hackathon on Women, Peace and Security aiming to innovate a national platform for rural and urban women to voice their priorities for peace. The hackathon, called #code4peace, was held by UN Women from 17-20 June 2019 in Bamyan Province of Afghanistan. Read more ▶
UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting the needs of women worldwide. Operating in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific focuses on ensuring gender equality and rights-based approach for ending violence against women, preventing violent extremism, women's economic empowerment, gender in humanitarian action, and HIV/AIDS response that can unlock progress across the board.

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