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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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To access all links and stories, [please log in to the website with your member details](#).

FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Dear SISEAP Soroptimists,

Our region is currently bearing the brunt of climate change as we break records across our countries for longer heatwaves; more intense rainfall with storms, cyclones and tornados; hottest night temperatures; and seasons changing earlier than in past decades. But we are adapting and protecting our families where we have enough warning. We are sharing techniques to cope.

Congratulations to all clubs who submitted their 2023 reports to become a more credible organisation with real evidence. **Please use the video to access the database for your own purposes.** [HERE](#). See Anne's top tips below on how to access your clubs 2023 **Annual Report** in a professional format, so you can promote your own work with prospective partners. We will be having an advocacy webinar to advance our collective understanding, Anyone who wishes to convert their experience in projects into a Graduate Certificate in Project Management (4 units for academic recognition) please contact me directly. siseaprogramme@siswp.org

We are excited as our **May Federation Conference** (Your Voice- Your Future) takes shape for a face-to-face opportunity at the Gold Coast Twin Towns. Early bird registration has been extended to **18 February**. [HERE](#)

We are preparing for the 2024 annual theme of economic empowerment for women and girls, with a focus on **SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 2 food security, SDG 13 Climate, SDG 16 good governance, SDG 17 Partnerships**. These themes colour most of our international discussion as we implemented last year's cyber safety. Please access **e-safety toolkits** for every age group and resources for educators [HERE](#)

In February **UNESCAP is conducting SDG roundtables** and we are pleased to have Christiane Kitchakarn (President SI Thailand) and Elina Pancheva from SI Bangkok accompanying me to the Asia Pacific Sustainable Development Forum 11 with side events and 'pre and post' workshops. We will be sharing techniques, case studies and new laws advance the intersection of those 5 themes. Program [HERE](#).

We are also preparing for CSW68 and our parallel event on **13 March (8:30am NY time)** to Educate Empower and Enable for **Feminist Financial Freedom**. Another virtual parallel event will be held at 4:30pm **19th March (New York time)** Register [HERE](#). We will be **showcasing** your projects (your reports from our database), while setting the scene for advancing economic security for women. We will engage the audience (online and in person) with SLIDO so that they can recommend ways forward that Soroptimists can adopt for **investing in women for women**. We

keep learning from each other.

During December and January, many big decisions around the world help us to be more optimistic, despite our ongoing concerns for women living in conflict and in disaster zones. A summary is listed [HERE](#) so just look into your own interests. There are some good news stories.

An ongoing concern is where are our donations are going? In 2023 we documented about 450 club donations for causes and a further \$99,000 in scholarships and bursaries. In comparison we are only investing xxx in our own women and girls through the Brilliant Futures Fund. Our BFF is transparent and shows where your donations have impact.

Dr Donnell Davis

Programme Convenor 2022-2024 (new email address)

siseaprogramme@siswp.org

PROGRAMME TEAM CHANGES

Programme Team Announcement

This biennium has seen a significant increase in the workload of the team members. With the five federations and SI working closely on 5 international days publicity campaigns, our own SISEAP campaigns, toolkits, website and CSW actions, The programme team has taken the approach to create a new appointed position of **SISEAP Programme Communications**, this appointment will be for the balance of the current biennium and will continue for the next biennium 2024-2026 as a trial. We are pleased to announce that Cesarina Gigante current Asst Programme Convenor 1 has agreed to take on this appointment and will commence immediately.

We are also pleased to announce that Rhonda McCormack current Programme Zone Coordinator will move up to the position of Asst Programme Convenor 1 for the remainder of this current biennium. Congratulations to Rhonda for undertaking the increased workload of this position.

As previously announced, Anne Allen has been appointed to the role of **Programme Database Support**, commencing on the 1st of June 2024. Anne has undertaken this role as part of her current role, but will now move to this specialist role to ensure that our SISEAP project performance management system is accurate and transparent, and easy to use for all clubs.

We are pleased to announce vacancies for the following two positions.

Asst Programme Convenor 1

Expressions of Interest are called for from eligible members to take on the role of Asst Programme Coordinator 1 from 1 June 2024, this is a 2 year term of office (2024 to 2026). The role and responsibility statement is available from the [website downloads area](#)

The role involves supporting the Programme Director, and the Asst Programme Director 2, supporting clubs across the Federation on Programme Activities. Working with the programme team on toolkits, webinars, CSW, and judging panel for the Federation Project - Brilliant Futures Fund and Best Practice Awards. Please complete the Federation Asst Programme Convenors CV Template, available from the website [downloads area here](#), please send your completed application to Federation Secretary Sue

Latta swpfederationsecretary2020@siswp.org. Applications close 31 March 2024.

Programme Zone Coordinator 4 Expression of Interest are called from eligible members to take on the role of Programme Zone Coordinator 4 from 1 June 2024, this is a 2 year term of office (2024 to 2026). Successful applicant will be able to take up the position for the remainder of this biennium . The role and responsibility statement is available from the [website downloads area](#).

The role involves supporting up to 35 clubs across the federation with reporting on their actions. There is opportunity for progression, and participating regularly in some exciting events with the full programme team. Please complete the Federation Programme Convenors CV Template, available from the website [downloads area here](#), please send your completed application to Federation Secretary Sue Latta swpfederationsecretary2020@siswp.org. Applications close 31 March 2024.

Additionally, members should take note that Soroptimist International is also calling for nominations to be a **SISEAP youth representative** on the SI **Global Impact Committee**. Youth is interpreted as under age 40 and the role is supported with another Federation Representative.

- **Youth Representative on Global Impact Committee.**

Register your interest [HERE](#)

International Women's Day



International Women's Day, #inspireinclusion

Have you purchased your IWD ribbon? This SISEAP branded IWD ribbon can be worn in the days leading up to and beyond IWD. The purple colour signifies justice, dignity and being loyal to the cause. [Purchase your IWD ribbons now in time for March 8th](#) Only \$1.70each

IWD promotional images for members to use on socials, brochures and events are now available for download from the SISEAP trello board [HERE](#)

The IWD toolkit will be available for download on Monday from the SISEAP website downloads area.

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Take part in this Federation-wide initiative designed to amplify the voices of our young generation. Visual art serves as a powerful tool for children, offering them a unique platform to articulate their thoughts and concerns. Through this competition, we aim to enhance the understanding of Soroptimist International's vision and mission within your community. A comprehensive [toolkit for this initiative is readily available for download](#). We encourage you to disseminate this information within your school community and actively participate in this Federation-wide competition. Previous competitions have produced remarkable artwork, a testament to the potential of our youth.

PROJECTS & APPEALS



We deeply appreciate the support that the Brilliant Futures Fund has received, enabling us to pave the way for women and girls. The ongoing and completed projects are a testament to the generosity of donors like you. If you or your club haven't had a chance to contribute recently, we kindly ask for your assistance this month. Your donation will allow us to open another round of funding, empowering clubs to propose projects that will foster educational and economic opportunities for women and girls. Discover more about our work on the [SISEAP website](#).

We're also incredibly thankful for initiatives like the **SI Morton North Murik Lakes Seeds of Friendship Community Gardens**; and **SI Joondalup Timor Leste '24**. Updates from these previous funding recipients inspire us and remind us of the impact of your donations.



SI Foundation

With a focus on education, poverty prevention and human rights, striving to foster positive change and create a more inclusive world. Delivering short, medium and long-term projects internationally for women and girls.

For further information, click [HERE](#).

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS



The opportunity is currently available to [nominate your club project/s](#) for a Best Practice Award. The acceptance phase for nominations has commenced. The Best Practice Award represents the utmost recognition from the Federation for your project contribution. You have the choice of eight categories (SISEAP objectives). Recipients of the Best Practice Award will be acknowledged at the Federation meeting in May. Furthermore, the winning projects will be prominently displayed on the official website, standing side by side with other victorious entries in each category.

ADVOCACY WORK

Register now to participate in CSW68, NGOCSW have many virtual parallel events available for viewing from the NGOCSW platform, you just need to [register](#) for access to the vFairs platform.

SISEAP virtual event direct from New York CSW - **Educate, Empower, Enable - Feminist Financial Freedom** will be held on Wednesday, March 20 2024 at 7.30am Sydney AESD time.

[Link to register](#)



What are priorities in your country?
What are Clubs doing in advocacy?

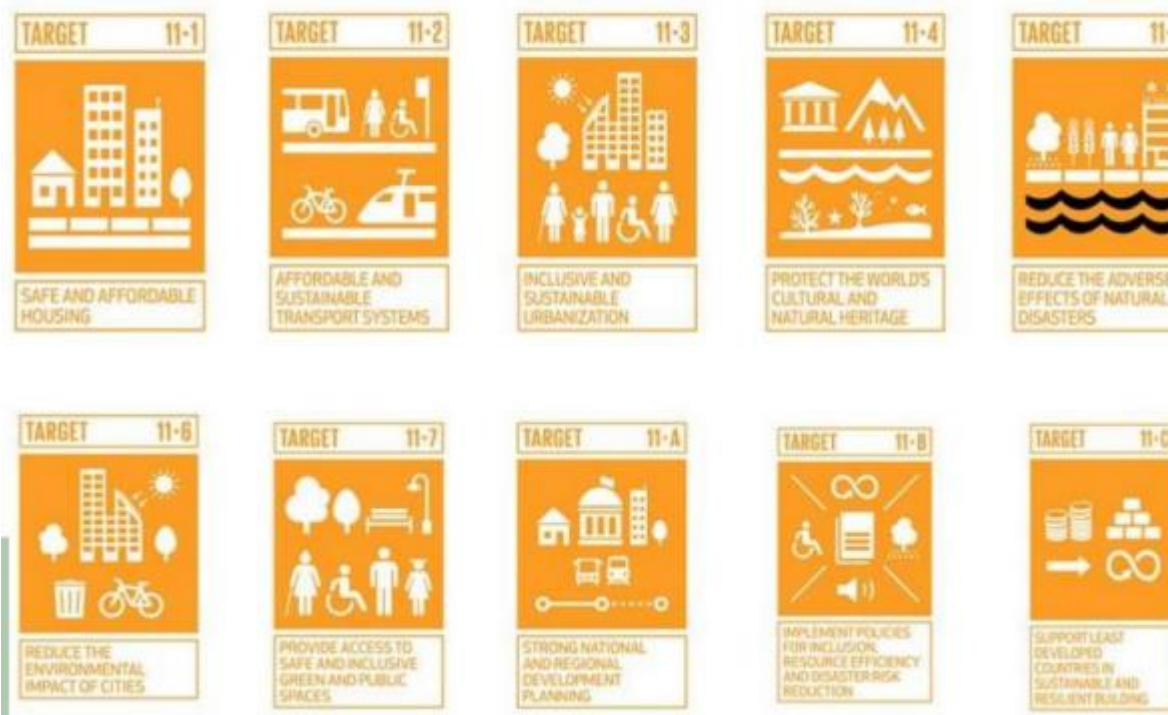
SDG 11 - Sustainable Communities and Cities

Our 2030 Agenda includes living in sustainable communities, so this suite is a microcosm of all the 17 SDGs because it impacts our day to day life, and we can take action at the local level.

We can advocate for safer, greener place to call home. These icons help us find the right SDG target.

- housing
- transport/ mobility
- inclusive - disability/ children/ seniors
- cultural and natural heritage
- Natural disasters and climate
- Reduce environmental impact (clean green healthy cities)
- Access to safe inclusive greenspace / public places (female and family friendly places for rest and recreation, socializing and sport.)
- strong planning
- policies for better future
- support and build resilience.

SDG 11 TARGETS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Where We Stand Papers - We wish to bring to your attention the recent release of the 'Where We Stand' position papers by SI. These include new statements as well as updates, all of which are available for perusal and download from the SI website. We encourage members to be thoroughly acquainted with these statements, particularly when advocating on behalf of women and girls. Ensure to align your advocacy with the corresponding statement and SI position.

International Day of Education [Here](#)

On 24 January all five federations of Soroptimist International contributed to storytelling where the "Transforming Mentalities" themes were demonstrated. Changing minds from covid isolation to hope, from poverty to empowerment, from slim opportunity to abundance and flexibility, were common themes.

Our SISEAP storyteller was Syifa from Penang. Her blog is [HERE](#)



Visible and Vocal: Public Speaking Competition

Award Winners and Finalists

Soroptimist International Foundation
and Commonwealth Business Women's
Network



Soroptimist International Foundation 2023 Visible and Vocal Public Speaking Competition was specifically designed to give a voice to girls aged between 10 -11 years of age. View the Webinar here showcasing entrants including those from SISEAP [Here](#).

AROUND THE FEDERATION



Soroptimist International Club of Petaling Jaya Celebrates 30 Years of Impact with "Flower Power" Gala Dinner

The Soroptimist International Club of Petaling Jaya (SIPJ) marked its 30th anniversary in grand style with the "**Flower Power**" Celebration Dinner held on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The gala took place at the exquisite De.Wan 1958 @ Bangsar Shopping Centre, Kuala Lumpur, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The event witnessed the participation of 48 esteemed guests, Embracing the evening's "Flower Power" theme, the gala featured captivating performances, including a dance presentation by SIPJ members Tika, Christeen, Aminah, and Kim, as well as a soulful singing performance by Dato' Anusha, accompanied by acoustic guitar by Soon King.

[To read more about the celebration of members for their 30years of server by Siti Aishah, SIPJ President](#)

Soroptimist organizations understand the critical significance of equipping students with necessary supplies for the commencement of the academic year. In the current year, numerous Soroptimist clubs have taken proactive measures to ensure that no student in their local community is put at a disadvantage due to lack of stationery essentials required for the onset of the school term.

SI Beenleigh donated 100 Target 10 packs to schools in the Mt Tamborine region, many families in this region were severely impacted with by a tornado on Christmas night, leaving many families without homes.



Singapore Garden City - Community Service

Providing a special High Tea for the residents of the Cheshire Home Singapore. This is an annual service by the club members for the residents. The High Tea, gift bag and entertainment, dancing and singalong makes for a wonderful afternoon.

The home caters for and provides care for the severely disabled who have no or limited means to be cared for by their families. The home attempts to care, rehabilitate, encourage, and stimulate their beneficiaries to live as normal a life as possible in a home-like environment. They hope the beneficiaries will gain confidence and develop independence and interests with the

ultimate aim of reintegration into the community.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE



Tip Sheet - How to prepare your club/region Annual report.

The time has come for clubs and regions to execute their annual reports. These reports are promptly generated, providing detailed insights into the value of your projects, donations, scholarships, advocacy, and initiatives over the past year. They showcase the impact, categorized according to objectives and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is essential that these reports are disseminated to members and supporters during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and other pertinent gatherings, serving as a testament to the significance of the work undertaken by your club.

Anne produced this video and a tip sheet on how to run a [club annual report](#). [Link to Video](#)

Did you also know that from the Annual reports area, you can download a Region, or Country report, not only for your region or country but any annual report which has been run and is available for download. If your country report is not in the list, just contact your National President and ask them to prepare the report.

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database please contact Programme Convenor, swpPZC1@siswp.org or your zone coordinators.

UN DAYS

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website [HERE](#). Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our special days that also go to our Facebook.

DID YOU KNOW?



Be the Change

A reminder to report your work as soon as you have completed it. The Programme team love hearing and promoting Club's advocacy and project work. It also helps provide ideas to other Clubs in the Federation.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP website](#) and log in using your member login. Go to the **'Members Area'** in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

Copy for the March 2024 eSPAN edition is required by Monday 6 March 2024.
Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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