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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



# SPAN

## Soroptimist Programme Action News

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**Welcome** to the March 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**



I am pleased to share stories from our members in Thailand and Malaysian clubs when I visited enroute to UNESCAP in Bangkok from 18 to 27 February. There are so many projects undertaken, partnerships forged and brilliant outcomes for women that we never knew about. 30 nurses just finished 4-year education programs after support from Soroptimists, sponsor and the training hospital. Facebook had been busy but our database was empty. Further training is being arranged. However, I continue to learn more ways to partner for ambitious long-term projects. This was a common theme through case studies and new laws at UNESCAP APSDF11 too (see our section below) as we seek development justice, economic equality and investment in women.

Now, in March we prepare for International Women's Day (8 March) the Commission for the Status of Women 68 - investing in women (11 to 22 March), and reflect on our advancements so far this year. SISEAP will run parallel events at CSW on Education Empower Enable, Feminist Financial Freedom with our projects and next steps.

The Gender Wage Gap reporting by companies has illustrated how far we have come, and how much further to go for parity in payment sometimes for the same work undertaken. Half of Australian companies pay women workers 40% less than men's wages across the company. [HERE](#).

In good news, 12 women were appointed to the Climate COP29 Board after protests when a 38 all-male board was proposed. Meanwhile women bear the brunt of disasters and implement decisions that make a positive difference. Locally, women and girls in our region give feedback on COP28 representation through the Women's Climate Congress recordings are [HERE](#).

In late February 2024, UN Environment Assembly convened in Nairobi, with focus on multilateralism, climate, pollution and legal decisions with trust funding. Outcomes can be found [HERE](#).

Elina Pancheva from SI Bangkok and I attended UNESCAP SDG roundtables and

workshops including feminist development justice, food security, labour relations and safety nets for 93% women in informal economies. I specialised in governance, transparency, with partnerships and women's financing systems while Elina specialised in poverty reduction with food and water security [HERE](#).

All sessions discussed climate and the Zero draft for the Pact for the Future (UN reforms to make it fit for purpose for future generations). My interests also included 2050 plan for Blue Pacific. Please see social media for our stories. The Asia Pacific report is summarised and how impacts our countries. Some countries are 32 years behind targets and we are advancing slowly in others. The Summit for the Future Zero Draft can be found [HERE](#). There was feedback from NGO bodies that seek bolder steps. We are encouraged to give our feedback from clubs, region, country and Federation levels including codifying language that includes 7 generations of impacts – similar to indigenous decisions making systems. The 1940s UN Declarations lasted until now. How can we codify future rules of law for unborn children? The same way we envisaged a positive future back then. This deserves our attention so we can reframe what UN does like we did in 1940s but definitely have a gender lens and better education for diplomacy for unborn generations.

Thank you to all clubs who are making 2024 so special for IWD.

***Dr Donnell Davis***

***Programme Convenor 2022-2024 (new email address)***

[siseaprogramme@siswp.org](mailto:siseaprogramme@siswp.org)





Programme Convenor Dr Donnell Davis, represented SISEAP at the recent **United Nations Economic and Social Council for the Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)** hosted the 11th Sustainable Development Forum in February 2024. One thousand people attended during the week including Youth Forum, formal roundtables, workshops, side events, a reception and a peaceful protest.

The roundtables concentrated on the 2024 themes of poverty, hunger and climate interrelationships (SDG1,2,13) but always accompanied by the enabling SDGs 16 and 17 for good governance, strong institutions and financial partnerships. The outcomes document is our joint contribution to the High Level Political Forum in New York in July 2024. However, our debates also contributed to other UN programs directions. Only two representatives are allowed to participate for each UN ECOSOC accredited organisation.

[READ MORE](#)

# INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
8 MARCH

For well over 100 years Scroptimists have celebrated IWD, as women it is important for us to embrace who we are as women, to be inclusive of our identities, we must celebrate the women who came before us, without them challenging the inequalities we would not be where we are today. We must celebrate the women who stand with us today who continue to amplify their voices for equality and human rights, and we have to stand with our daughters, nieces and girlfriends as they will come after us, experiencing many challenges, and they too will continue the fight for equality which we know must come some day.

2023-2024 SISEAP President  
Christine Johnson

siseap.org

International Women's Day

**#INSPIREINCLUSION**

SISEAP.ORG

The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 is Inspire Inclusion. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge better world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality and inclusion. Collectively we can all #InspireInclusion.

We look forward to highlighting International Women's Day events around the Federation.

Listen to poem on inclusion for International Women's Day [HERE](#).

Become familiar with Women Leaders of the world [HERE](#)

IWD club stories can be viewed below in the "**Around the Federation**" section.

## 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 Fairs platform.

Soroptimist International Event Details can be found [HERE](#).

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



*Click the image to register*

## FEDERATION PROJECTS



Federation Wide Creative Arts Competition commences on the **1st of February**. The expanded competition this year also incorporates Poetry and Photography. This Federation wide competition is open to students from age 6 to 18. The Creative Arts competition will enable students through visual arts to amplify their voice for change.

*Click the image to find out more*

**Toolkit and more information is available [HERE](#).** This Federation wide competition is open to students from age 6 to 18.

The Creative Arts competition will enable students through visual arts to amplify their voice for change.

#### **Key Dates:**

1 February 2024 Competition launches

7 April 2024 Club / Regional competition closes

15 May 2024 Club / Regional winners art work to be received at HQ

20 May 2024 Closing date to send club /regional winners art work to HQ

5 June 2024 Announcement of Winners

If your club has engaged with this initiative we would appreciate sending an update to be included in future editions.

## **PROGRAMME TEAM VACANCIES**

The following vacancies are available on the Programme team:

#### **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 section

[HERE](#).

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](#) section [HERE](#). Please send your completed application to Federation Secretary Sue Latta [swpsecretary2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpsecretary2020@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). The 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 section [HERE](#). 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 [swpsecretary2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpsecretary2020@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](#)

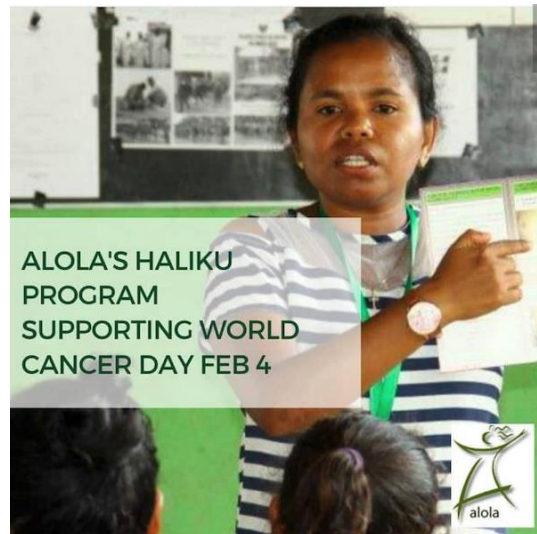
**PROJECTS & APPEALS**



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](#).

**Brilliant Futures Project: Partnership Timor Leste 2024 with SI Joondalup**

Currently undertaking activities related to women's health and Literacy. The cancer mortality rate of those treated at the National Hospital is at least 50%, without treatment it is 80%. The focus of the project is on awareness, early detection and treatment services.



**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



Clubs carry out a enormous amount of work over a year as evidenced in the reporting database. The Best Practice wards are a way of showcasing best practice over our eight objectives. Clubs are reminded that nomination for the wards are to be received by the **1st of April, 2024**. Application form can be found [HERE](#)

## FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

### **Global Coalition for Social Justice**

SI International has joined the [Global Coalition for Social Justice](#). SI was invited to join this Coalition at the very end of 2023 making it one of the first INGOs to do so. The Coalition aims to improve worldwide collaboration in addressing social justice gaps and advancing the 20030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through knowledge sharing and advocacy, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) initiative seeks to reduce global inequalities, alleviate poverty and meet essential needs, through the promotion of international labour standards and social dialogue. find more information [HERE](#). View President's Siew Yong Gnanalingam presentation to the ILO in the Partners sections of the website [HERE](#), scroll down to NGO's click on the Soroptimist logo. View SI's social media launch though LinkedIn [HERE](#).

# AROUND THE FEDERATION

## SI Penang

SI Penang was featured in a Penang Institute article in their current March issue entitled "Soroptimists Work Tirelessly to Bring Education to Underprivileged Girls" by their President Elect Ann.

Penang Institute is one of Malaysia's major think tanks. It was established in 1997. Penang Monthly is the publication of the Penang Institute. Penang Monthly publishes articles concerning the current state of affairs at the state, national and regional levels. Penang Monthly is the platform where analysis on politics, economy, culture and society are highlighted.

The article can be found [HERE](#).

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## International Women's Day (IWD)

International Women's Day was acknowledged across the Federation. Over the coming eSPANs we will highlight some of the /projects/activities. To start us off we have some events that were undertaken in South East Queensland.



**SI Bayside** hosted an International Women's Day Breakfast at the Redlands Sporting Club, Wellington Point on Friday, 8 March. Our guest speaker was Katura Halleday, from 8X8 to Educate and the 2023 Channel 7 Young Achiever Award recipient (Soroptimist Women Empowering Others). She spoke about the difference she has made by supporting the education of young girls in Mozambique. Over the past 5 years, this 19-year-old has provided \$270 000 in funds and equipment for local schools in this southeast African republic. 33 Representatives from 5 Redlands schools

attended the breakfast and were inspired to support young people around the world who are less fortunate than they are.

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**SI Beenleigh** hosted an International Women's Day Breakfast at the Club Beenleigh on Friday, 8 March. Our guest speaker was Kenny Duke from Settlement Services International (SSI). She spoke about her story as a refugee from Ecuador and the difference SSI makes to people settling in Australia. 39 Representatives from 6 local schools attended the breakfast. Representatives from the Centre of Sexual Violence also shared their journey and the services provided by CASV. CASV were the recipients of the raffle takings of \$691. A reminder about the power of connection. At the SI Beenleigh 16 Days - Orange the World Breakfast last year a discussion occurred around the housing crisis.



Comment was made that there was a retirement village for sale and if this could be used for housing. A Local State Member of Parliament became part of the conversation. She agreed to follow up. The Result: the State Government has purchased the complex to convert it into 124 homes for venerable people.

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**SI Logan** acknowledged International Women's Day their annual dinner. The guest speaker Professor Susan Harris Rimmer took us on a journey that looked at 'Inspiring Inclusion' by 'Counting Her In' to 'Accelerate Progress'. The importance of gender disaggregated data was discussed to get a more accurate picture of current issues facing women and girls. Only through accurate information can we move towards a sustainable, equitable future where everyone benefits.

**SI Moreton North Inc. (SIMNI)** hosted their International Women's Day event along with their "BE INSPIRED" Awards. SIMNI recognized 5 incredible women who have shown true Leadership in their community. Through their example, they will inspire future generations of Leaders! The "SIMNI International Woman of the Year" was presented to Kylian MJ Kenni for her efforts in creating the 'Murik Lakes Seeds of Friendship Community Garden Project'. Kylian is one of the SIMNI members who lives in Papua New Guinea. She inspired the women of Darapap Village to build raised garden beds from old canoes so they could grow food for their families.



Darapap Village is located in a remote area of Papua New Guinea, surrounded by mangrove swamps and at the mercy of rising sea levels. It makes it very difficult to grow anything! Kylian's project has inspired us all to believe that **with little things big things grow.**



### **An Inspiration to us all at a 104**

**SI Gold Coast** acknowledged IWD and celebrated the birthday of Florence Drury a long standing member of Soroptimists. Florence has been a member for over 60 years and is an inspiration to members and wealth of knowledge about her lived experience as a Soroptimist.

## **PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE**

### **Top Tips for March**

If you are new to reporting or continuing you can access the March tips below.

**March Tips Here**

### **What Did your club do for International Women's Day?**

**Have you recorded it on the Programme Database?**

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.

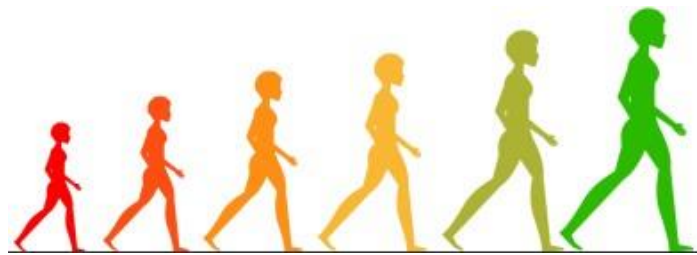
### **Having problems with the Programme Database?**

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database please contact Programme Convenor, [swpPZC1@siswp.org](mailto: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 April 2024 eSPAN edition is required by Monday 8 April 2024. Please email your submissions to [siseaprogramme@siswp.org](mailto:siseaprogramme@siswp.org) Thank you.



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