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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to this month's edition.

Thank you to all the clubs who celebrated **International Women's Day**, with 'count her in – invest in women – accelerate progress' and 'inspiring inclusion' themes. March heralded a month of focus on women's roles in economic security, food security, climate action, with reforms in governance and partnerships for a Safer future. **CSW68** concentrated on priority theme of strengthening financial security, and a review theme of social infrastructure (SDG 8) including decent work and safety nets. (Conclusions [HERE](#)) In April, we continue this security theme to acknowledge what underpins a secure future, being a clean and resilient environment – as we approach **Mother Earth Day** – 22 April. Find out more [HERE](#). The 16 decisions from the **UN Environmental Assembly** help us understand the strong linkages. More information [HERE](#).

In February, Asia Pacific was the first region to introduce the **Summit for the Future** as we interrogated SDG1, 2,13,16,17 in roundtables. Women were loud in their concerns that the Draft **Pact for the Future**, (View it [HERE](#)) was not bold enough at address the current and emerging problems by preventing gaps allowing corporate corruption, (including good governance – Feminist Development Justice). However more systems are in place with Champions of Change, UN Global Compact, Global Green Tag and B Corp, to make us more conscious of our own ethical investments. We want every dollar to make a difference in the right direction. Soroptimists are asked to prepare joint submission with other women's groups to populate the Pact for the Future with techniques to make every dollar make a difference - to strengthen females, families and communities.

I wish to thank our **scholarship winner Aishia Hoo, and Mongolia's Oyungeral Rentsen** who proudly presented at our parallel events in CSW68. Join our webinar **16 April**, find out more [HERE](#). Everyone (of the 14,000 registrants) who attended CSW will come away with a different insight, because we have so many choices for attendance at events across the two weeks in New York. The final bland resolutions do not reflect the value of the lessons learned from the case studies, the new legislative and policy tools, the regional innovation, and the inspiring words of UN leaders who

make a difference. Summary [HERE](#)

In 2025, we celebrate Beijing +30. CEDAW is under review as Every Women Treaty (Read it [HERE](#)) acts as additional protocol to strengthen the 1979 convention as a **bill of rights for women**. View [HERE](#). Please join online in April for a series of sessions on CEDAW for introductory and a session especially for young women.

I was pleased to be visiting SI Bangkok, SI Malaysia representatives in February, SI Canberra in March, SI Victoria Region and SI Joondalup Anniversary in April. I appreciate the warm hospitality. These stopovers are my choice, not funded directly by SISEAP Federation. Our human faces put projects and partnerships into perspective, addressing their local cultural grassroots needs. Many innovative techniques are transferable to other clubs and friendship groups.

Job well done - I am pleased to acknowledge database reporting on 200 projects, 52 specific advocacy efforts, 74 direct scholarships, and more activities formally reported to directly support 34,480 girls and women. (Imagine if all of our Facebook stories were converted to the database reports).

Looking forward to seeing you in person or online in May for our SISEAP Conference at Twin Towns.

Dr Donnell Davis
Programme Convenor 2022-2024 (new email address)
siseaprogramme@siswp.org

ADVOCACY WORK

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH
EAST ASIA PACIFIC**



**EDUCATE, EMPOWER, ENABLE
CSW68 2024**



CSW68

SISEAP participated in the Soroptimist International in person event - **Achieving Gender Equality**. View the SISEAP presentation [HERE](#).

SISEAP presented an in person and virtual event titled **Education Empower Enable - Feminist Financial Freedom**, view the presentation [HERE](#).

Soroptimist International CSW follow-up can be found in the Global Voice [HERE](#).

Join the conversation on CSW 68, SISEAP will be presenting a CSW68 conversation and feedback with SISEAP Representatives Webinar

Tuesday 16th of April, 5pm AEST. Click this link to join the meeting [HERE](#) or scan the QR code.



SISEAP World Environment Month



Programme Focus- Environment
Tuesday 23rd of April 14:00 BST (23:00 AEST)

UN World Environment Day - 5 June 2024: Land Restoration,
Desertification & Drought Resilience

Land is life. It is the ground we stand on and the soil that feeds us. But our lands are degrading – driven by unsustainable consumption, agriculture and pollution. Land degradation negatively affects 3.2 billion people. Still, land is forgiving. We can restore it by growing trees and more diverse crops. We can avoid pollutants and revive water sources. Become #GenerationRestoration. More Information [HERE](#).

Key

Themes:

SAVE THE DATE for SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam's Webinar 'Save Mother Earth - Save the Future'

SI Theme/Focus:

As we approach World Environment Month, please be aware of the following Environmental Observances:

2nd April	International Mother Earth Day
11th May	World Migratory Bird Day
12th May	International Day of Plant Health
20th May	World Bee Day
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity
5th June	World Environment Day
7th June	World Food Safety Day
8th June	World Oceans Day
17th June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
29th June	International Day of the Tropics

The World Environment Month toolkit will be available in the coming weeks for clubs to use for their activities, during the month.

FEDERATION PROJECTS

Creative Arts Competition

Federation Wide Creative Arts Competition commenced 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:

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.

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 [HERE](#). Updates on current projects will be highlighted at the Federation Conference.

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 Programme team wish to thank those clubs who have completed nominations for the Federation Best Practice Awards.

The team are currently judging the applications and look forward to acknowledging and celebrating the work of clubs at the Federation 'Our Voice Your Future' Conference in May.

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

The most recently revised **Where We Stand Position Papers (WWSPPs)**, on Climate Change and Criminal Justice, have been approved by the SI Board.

The full list of WWSPPs can be found [HERE](#) on the SI website.



AROUND THE FEDERATION



International Women's Day

The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 was **Inspire Inclusion**. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a 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.

Read about how clubs around the Federation acknowledged and celebrated the day [HERE](#).

SI Gold Coast- KIVA

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005. It's mission is to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

See how **SI Gold Coast** have used this platform to assist women and girls [HERE](#).



PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Top Tips for March
Remember to complete reports on the database. We are seeing and hearing about wonderful projects that should be captured.

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?

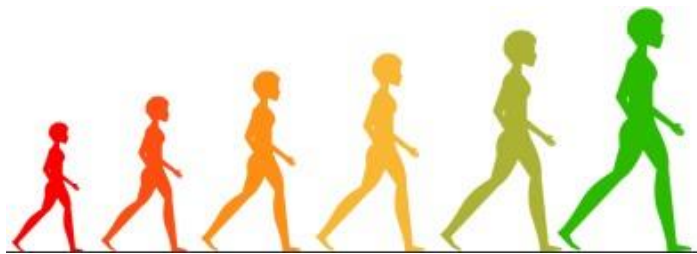
If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact Programme Convenor, swpPZC1@siswp.org or your zone coordinators.

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.

[UN Days](#)

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 May 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 6 May 2024**. Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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