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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the May newsletter. How lovely was it to meet so many reporters in person at the Federation Conference of Clubs in Twin Towns. Please check the website for recordings, updates on recommendations, and before and after polls.

We also look at our achievements from last month, appreciate the milestones we are achieving now, and prepare for June as Environment Month is in our calendar.

In April, some of the important initiatives are being actioned from CSW68 with regard to **poverty wearing a woman's face**, climate and **food security**. The Asia Development Bank has reformed with focus on women's economic empowerment and climate actions. In our own countries, women are being heard about corrupt and toxic use of fertile land that deprives people of food and worsens climate change. That is why women's development justice and environmental commissioners are working together. [HERE](#). **So what?** We are able to find partners who are aligned with our needs and projects, for financial, practical expertise, and in-kind support.

In May, we celebrate several steps forward as 143 countries agreed better foundations for Peace and Peacekeeping as they voted for Palestine to be its own sovereign state over the weekend. However, we are having a suicidal war with nature closer to home. Enforcement on saving wetlands, RAMSAR sites for migratory birds, and restoring land of national significance has been evidenced in courts and in our communities. These steps are implementing the UNEA6 resolutions from the UN Environment Program (2024) as well as strengthening Asia Pacific and national laws. Furthermore, in the Mekong and the Pacific, Plastic Treaties are being shaped and implemented with penalties for bad behavior by companies. This will restore our waterways and oceans, over time. In the meantime, there is a big clean up job to be done. In preparation for **June Environment Month** we are proud to share our Toolkit [HERE](#).

On a personal note, over 200 Soroptimists celebrated the first face-to-face conference of clubs in Twin Towns. We learned much from our National Presidents as they gave their reports to the Federation meeting on Friday. We learned about advocacy, '**change happens at the speed of trust**', Artificial intelligence, 'making technology

our slave', Climate action for women, coercive control, and cancer, and much more. We had some fun and friendship too. A report on from audiences along with SLIDO results can be found [HERE](#) for the re-run of the Dublin workshop "**Be the change - women leading climate action**". Furthermore, the before and after attitudes about AI (following Kate Vander Voort) was significant. [HERE](#)

We also warmly welcome **Nerida Murray** to our Programme Team and will share more next month.

Dr

Donnell

Davis

Programme

Convenor

2022-2024

siseaprogramme@siswp.org

ADVOCACY WORK

CSW68

CSW68 Agreed Conclusions can be found [HERE](#)

Join the SI webinar that investigates what we can learn from the outcomes of CSW68 and how we can can advocate for women and girls. **22nd May 2024 11pm AEST** to register click [HERE](#).

CSW68 Resources

The presentations from our parallel/side events from CSW68 are available on our website:

- Addressing Gendered Poverty: Best Practices and Lessons Learned' (in-person)
- 'The Intersections of Gender, Poverty and Climate Change' (virtual)
- 'Access to Finances Locally for Women Through Gender Budgeting' (virtual)

They can be found on the Resources page of our website in the section titled 'Advocacy Resources' [HERE](#)

You can also find the video recording of 'Access to Finances Locally for Women Through Gender Budgeting' on our YouTube channel [HERE](#).

Other:

A 2-page briefing was presented in person to SI Canberra, Si Victoria (10 clubs), SI West Australia (9 clubs) and the UNAA Status of Women Network over the past month. [HERE](#) SDG 5,8,1,2,13

Commonwealth countries - women's health - by invitation from UK Ambassador in NY. Our Soroptimists from South East Asia Pacific perspective. [HERE](#) SDG 3

SISEAP World Environment Month



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

View the Toolkit [HERE](#).

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](#).

We cannot turn back time, but we can grow forests, revive water sources, and bring back soils. We are the generation that can make peace with land.

SI will be hosting an International presentation highlighting key environmental projects from around the world. SI Waimea will be featured in the SISEAP section for their work in the Waimea Inlet. Links to this presentation will be posted as soon as available.

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SI Theme/Focus:

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

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 available [HERE](#).



The SISEAP Conference

Be the Change - Women Leading Climate Action Workshop Sunday Notes read [HERE](#).

Advocacy handout for from 'Being a Successful Effective Soroptimist Advocate' [HERE](#)

Before and after - our attitudes to AI [HERE](#)

FEDERATION PROJECTS

REMINDER! The Programme team are looking forward to receiving entries. **All entries must be received by the 24th of May 2024.**

If your club participated in the Creative Arts Competition, please ensure that all entries are received at HQ via the hq2@siswp.org email address, please CC in siseaprogrammecomunications@siswp.org.



PROJECTS & APPEALS



We deeply appreciate the support that the Brilliant Futures Fund has received, enabling us to pave the way for women and girls. **Your donation dollar can be traced directly to females and families in our own federation.** 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 were 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



Your dedication, hard work, and innovative approaches have truly set you apart in your field. Your commitment to excellence and willingness to push boundaries have not gone unnoticed. Your achievements serve as an inspiration to all of us and showcase the possibilities that can be achieved through dedication and passion. Keep up the fantastic work and continue to set the standard for best practices in your industry. Well done! Congratulations to all the winners of the Programme Best Practice Awards!

Photos and awards can be viewed [HERE](#).

OBJECTIVE 1: EDUCATION

Winner: SI Penang for their project STEM 2.0: Journey of Young Tech Professionals

Highly Commended: SI Bangsar for their project Scam Alert Advocacy Project

OBJECTIVE 2: ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE

Winner: SI Torrens for their project Lets Build a Community that makes a Difference: End Domestic Violence

OBJECTIVE 3: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Winner: SI Moreton North for their Be Inspired Awards IWD 2023

OBJECTIVE 4: FOOD SECURITY

Winner: SI Shah Alam for their Food Waste Management Project

Highly Commended: SI Lautoka for their project Food Security for Jasper Hostel Students

OBJECTIVE 5: HEALTH

Winner: SI Albany for their Multi-Sensory Time Project

Highly Commended: SI Townsville Breakwater for their Safe Nights Project

OBJECTIVE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY

Winner: SI Beenleigh and SI Logan for their Federation Art Competition: Living in Nature Project

Highly Commended: SI Torrens for their project Blister Pack Blitz

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

SI Fremantle

The power of the Soroptimist network- read article by Annie Carswell's "Focus on Friendship' from SI Fremantle in Western Australia [HERE](#).

SI Joondalup

As this biennium closes on the biennium theme Our Voice For change - "Our voice will amplify our areas of concerns" . SI Joondalup hosted a heat of the The Floor is Yours public speaking competition Edith Cowan University (ECU) Joondalup on 2 May.

The speaking competition provides a platform for young women to amplify their voices and opinions on the issues, we want them to have their voices heard.

Five incredible young women spoke on their chosen topic and each one was inspiring and thought provoking. Chloe McMillan her speech: **"Dismantling the Patriarchy - one doll at a time"** and took out first prize of \$500.

Chloe and her fellow speakers Claire Furumori, Niomi Hurley, Chelsea Bell and Devaki Gupta were also presented with a Certificate of Participation.

Chloe will now compete at The Floor is Yours grand final at Notre Dame University, Fremantle on 26 May. Congratulations, Chloe!!

A huge thank you to SI Joondalup member Jan Mantell for organising the event, our volunteers on the night and our judges Dr Tanzim Afroz, Dr Beverley Pascoe and Wendy Pinion-Jones.



Clubs in Partnership - SI Samoa and SI Griffith

Together we can achieve more, this is the case with the ongoing partnership between SI Griffith and SI Samoa. This article is from December 2023.

Club should consider friendship links and club partnerships when implementing projects.

100 ACTS OF KINDNESS CONTINUES - in partnership with SI Griffith Club, Sydney Australia.

Children's Bikes (10) and Helmets (10) for the Fia Malamalama School for Children with Disabilities.

In December 2023, before schools broke up for the festive holidays, SI Samoa Club presented 10 Childrens Bikes and 10 Helmets to the Fiamalamalama School in Alafua village - a suburban village of Apia Town.

Our Treasurer gave a speech to present these gifted items - to the Principal and Teachers of the School. Also attending at the time were parents of the Children, plus other Guests and Friends of the School.



The power of Friendship links SI Phnom Penh and SI Chester (SIGBI)

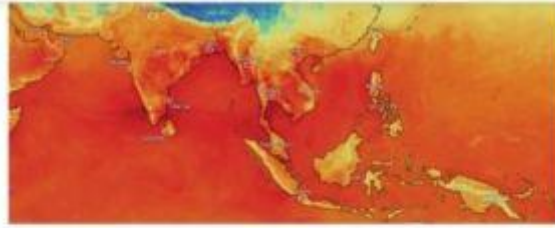
Soroptimist Chester extended a warm hand of friendship to Soroptimist Phnom Penh during a remarkable partnership. From April 12 to 20, six members of SI Phnom Penh embarked on a capacity-building journey in Chester, United Kingdom. The purpose was to enhance our skills and knowledge. The meeting, facilitated by SI Chester, brought together SI Rhyl, North Wales. It provided an opportunity for meaningful interactions, fostering understanding and collaboration. Additionally, SI Chester graciously hosted and supported SI Phnom Penh throughout their stay in Chester, exemplifying the spirit of international sisterhood and empowerment.

SI Phnom Penh members would like to express our deep thanks to SI Chester members for very warm and kind support.

It also provided for SISEAP President's appeal liaison Linna Khorn to reconnect with Immediate Past SI President Maureen.



Climate



Zoom Earth image capture of the "feels like" temperature in Celsius in Asia on April 29, 2024

**Hundreds of millions
of people in South and
Southeast Asia have
been suffering through
an extended heat wave**

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Top

Tips

for

May

Read the update from SISEAP Database Support - Anne Allen

The Programme Reporting Database is the perfect tool for Soroptimist Clubs to collect both the statistics and the stories. The information collected in the database is then available to be shared Internationally, nationally and locally to highlight the work we do and the impact that has on the lives of women and girls. Article can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you Anne for teaching us new tricks at the conference.

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

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. Thank you Jess for making us look so professional with your timely updates.

[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. Only documented and peer reviewed reports can be use as evidence for our UN reporting. We report on our 8 objectives and 17 SDGs, as well as find special items through words searches. You can search all that too, anytime.

Thank you for 200 projects and 52 advocacies, 74 scholarships, nearly AU\$300,000 in donations, volunteer hours and much more. Our ACNC method for valuing our collective contribution to humanity is over AU\$3 million. Congratulations hard working Soroptimists!

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 June 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 3 June 2024**. Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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