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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SOROPTIMISTS
EMPOWER CHANGE

SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR

Welcome to Magic March. Happy international women's day/ month/ year.



This month we:

1. If you missed our excellent SISEAP IWD webinar championed by SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh about our success stories from New Zealand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Borneo. **For links see IWD section.**
2. We at CSW69 are advocating for **protection of adolescent girls** where emerging issues are impacting their right to a safe, fair and sustainable future. Statement

[HERE](#) Please use for your advocacy meetings. Our work positively impacts girls and adolescents. **CSW69 SISEAP Webinar can be viewed below.**

3. Come on a virtual journey with us to CSW for free. 2 weeks of getting inspired, learning lessons, shaping partnerships, policy and practices, and revitalizing the future for girls and women through CSW reforms after 50 years since CEDAW. Login to any virtual session with WHOVA app. If you register you will get in. If you don't register you may be locked out. **See NGOCSW section**
4. We are finalizing annual reports and reviews. Please ensure your club has no more reports **in your drafts** folder, as we can't review them when they're there. You have to press submit. Several clubs have been worried their work has not been counted. We are keen to present a realistic view of your hard work, so please if your report looks a little light - they may be hiding in draft.
5. If you are reading this eSPAN on your mobile, please click for more stories at the bottom of the page, or choose view in browser, otherwise you will miss the club project reports.
6. 2025 Asia Pacific SDG report card from UNESCAP countries, view [HERE](#), UNESCAP B+30 report is [HERE](#) Australia's independent performance report in a nutshell is [HERE](#) No country is conquering all the SDG but many are improving their efforts. Some are regressing especially in SDG 5 and the ones we care about.
7. Please undertake 3-question survey on adolescents- agents for advocacy to help us frame what **future we want**, what **systems we need** for CSW - gender equality and **what role we can play**. it follows the online event held on Saturday. Your answers feed onto UN CSW submission to revitalize how we do things.

We have deadlines for Brilliant Futures Fund and Best Practice Awards.

As we plan for 2025, we have our:

- Signature campaigns: March **International Women's Day** and **CSW69, June Environment month**, October **Day of the Girl Child**, and November-December **16 Days Campaign**.
- September special tour of Mongolia hosted by 2 clubs (please express your interest) **See events section**

- In partnerships we are recognizing Dynamic Australian women who significantly contributed to the UN first booklet is [HERE](#)

Dr Donnell Davis,

Programme Convenor 2024-2026

[*programme.donnell@siseap.org*](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)

ADVOCACY WORK

CSW69

The CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) meetings are an important platform for advancing gender equality and women's rights globally. CSW69 will be a significant event for SISEAP with President Joanne Yeoh and Dr. Donnell Davis leading a large delegation.

For all the information regarding CSW and links to participate, connect via the SISEAP CSW website page. We invite your input too.

Below are members of the SISEAP delegation at CSW69





Listen to SISEAP 2024-2026 President Joanne Yeoh deliver her 'Save Mother Earth' section of the SI CSW69 'On the Road to Beijing + 30'

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Keep up to date with CSW69, and how to participate below

[INFORMATION CSW69](#)



[LISTEN TO SISEAP CSW WEBINAR](#)



Pact for the Future

The programme team is aligning our work to implement the UN reform agenda that is prescribed from Summit for the Future adopted in 2024.

This is guided by UN Pact for future framework, Global Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations. These tools were introduced in our Adolescents Agents for Advocacy webinar.

Your thoughts are important. So this questionnaire helps us articulate and shape our submission on the future CSW we need. What women want, need and the role Soroptimists play.

Have your say! Complete the questionnaire by responding to these 3 questions.

- The world WE want
- The (UN) systems that we NEED
- The role WE play

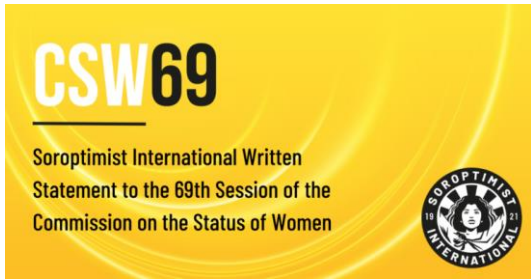
All members are asked to respond, we need your quick response so we can submit formally by end of March through the UN system. A copy of our final submission will be in April eSpan before Easter.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific NGO Written Statement CSW69. SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh, will read out the SISEAP written statement to the assembly at the UN building.



[READ THE STATEMENT](#)



SI's participation in CSW69, alongside allied organisations, represents a unified effort to ensure that the commitments of the Beijing Declaration are not just remembered but actively pursued. As the world reflects on the past 30 years, SI remains dedicated to driving the agenda forward, advocating for a future where every woman and girl can thrive.

[READ SI WRITTEN STATEMENT](#)



As part of our preparations for CSW69 a postcard was created to showcase our 2024 impact. Clubs can access the postcard for use in their projects, advocacy and information sharing on the SISEAP Trello Board below.

[SISEAP TRELLO](#)

12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

1 GIRL CHILD	2 WOMEN IN POWER	3 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS	4 ECONOMY	5 VAW	6 ARMED CONFLICT
7 HUMAN RIGHTS	8 HEALTH	9 ENVIRONMENT	10 EDUCATION	11 MEDIA	12 POVERTY

12 Critical Areas of Concern flagged in the Platform of Action © UN Women



The NGO CSW Forum is organized by and for global civil society, non-governmental organizations, and feminists to connect them with the official [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women \(UN CSW\)](#) process. With hundreds of events, the NGO CSW Forum informs, engages, and inspires grassroots efforts and gender equality advocacy around the world. While the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the UN CSW, it is a separate process with separate organizers.

To be a part of the conversation, and to participate in virtual events and workshops

[REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#)



For ALL women and girls
Rights. Equality. Empowerment.

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific



International Women's Day

#IWD2025 #RightsEqualityEmpowerment #ForAllWomenAndGirls

IWD Webinar

View this informative webinar which featured an amazing lineup of guest speakers who are passionate about empowering women and girls, along with a focus on SISEAP projects and advocacy which emphasize the importance and impact of Soroptimist work. It provided a powerful platform to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about important issues, and inspire action towards a more equitable world for women and girls.

Viewable from GoTo channel or youtube below.

[SISEAP GOTOSTAGE](#)

[SISEAP YOUTUBE](#)

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

The 2025 Best Practice Awards are now accepting entries! Your club's outstanding project deserves recognition. The impact of our grassroots projects on women and



girls, largely thanks to the fantastic work of Soroptimist clubs, is significant.

Applications closing 1st April, NOMINATE NOW!

Why not let your project become an inspiration for other clubs? They may be looking for similar ideas to implement in their own communities. To nominate, your project must have been completed in 2024, submitted to the Programme database and have a valid ID number. The Programme Team eagerly awaits your nomination for these prestigious awards, set to be presented in May 2025. Don't miss this chance to shine!

[BPA NOMINATION FORM](#)

PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Round 8 is now open & closes on the
31st March**

Does your club have a project which requires funding?, consider applying now for funding of up to \$10,000 AUD to bring your club project to life. Read the guidelines document, and the supporting documents and then make your application. Members of the Programme Team are ready to assist you in completing your application.

[READ THE GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

Watch our video to see how the SISEAP Brilliant Futures Fund winners are shaping the future for women and girls in their communities. Their stories are a testament to the amazing work supported by your contributions.

[BFF GRANT WINNERS VIDEO](#)

Now, we need your help! By donating, you can ensure that even more transformative projects are funded and positive change continues. We are investing in our own projects in our own region.

[DONATE NOW](#)



The Programme Team is seeking feedback from clubs on the **Federation project - The Brilliant Futures Fund Process**. We invite all clubs to provide feedback to the Programme Team via the feedback form.

The Brilliant Futures Fund, provides clubs with the opportunity to submit an application for a grant of up to \$10,000 AUD. A club can nominate a new project or a new phase of an ongoing project. Whilst initially the Programme team received excellent response from club and applications for grants, this round there has been very little interest, and the Programme team wish to engage with clubs.

[BFF FEEDBACK](#)

SI Foundation

December 10th is Foundation Gift Giving Day, traditionally Soroptimists from across the world give up a favourite thing to do, like a cup of coffee, glass of wine, and donate that to the SI Foundation. To make your personal donation [HERE](#)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY

10 DECEMBER

An appeal by Soroptimist
International President
Siew Yong Gnanalingam





Listen to Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam's presentation about the projects currently being delivered by the foundation [HERE](#)

UN DAYS

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

[UN DAYS](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)



Soroptimist International Aotearoa New Zealand, Conference of Clubs.

Theme: Women Shaping the Future

Date: **21-23 March 2025** Invercargill, New Zealand

Soroptimists are cordially invited to attend.

Find more information via the SISEAP Event link above.

**SI Mongolia Friendship Tour Invitation
19 - 25 August 2025**

Soroptimists are invited to visit Mongolia to attend the 20th Charter Anniversary of SI Darkham, and the 25th Charter Anniversary of SI Ulaanbaatar. Spaces are limited to 20 persons. For the full itinerary and costs visit the SISEAP events page on the website.



[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

SISEAP PHOTO COMPETITION



Does your club project want to appear on the cover of the SISEAP Company Annual Report.

Calling on all clubs to submit their best action shot of a club project/activity or club membership activity. The most impactful images will be considered to appear on the cover of the Company Annual Report, and form a image repository, as the communication team are always seeking quality projects to promote our work.

You could win a \$30.00 gift voucher to spend at HQ Shop.
Competition is open until **the 26th of April.**

[UPLOAD YOUR IMAGE HERE](#)

SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed [HERE](#). The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.

Women's Day Celebration at Johor Women's Care Centre

SI Iskandar Puteri holds weekly Zumba activities at a Women's Shelter Home. This year SI IP, in celebration of International Women's Day, attended the Women's Day Celebration programme at the Women's Shelter Home on Thursday, 13 March. Read more [HERE](#)



Read about some of the activities Australian clubs undertook [HERE](#).

SI Penang IWD

This International Women's Day, SI Penang, our sponsors and partners donated 348 pairs of school shoes to 5 schools. This project works towards reducing barriers to education, dismantling inequities to access basic education, and elevating the voices of underprivileged girls.

International Women's Day this year also marks the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing, China, by 189 governments.

It remains the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide. At SI Penang, we are guided by the Platform for Action and diligently work towards the pursuit of equality for girls especially in education and empowerment from the grassroots level.

SI Penang's on-going projects such as the Education Fund, Blossom Girls & Women and "My Vision, My Future" initiative are driven to ensure inclusive access to education and empowerment.

A reel showcasing this project can be viewed on the club Facebook page dated 8th March [HERE](#).

SI

Amgalan

SI Amgalan Mongolia have put together a presentation highlighting their activities over 2024.

This can be viewed [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

This month's tip sheet assists clubs to run an annual report for the 2024 year [HERE](#)

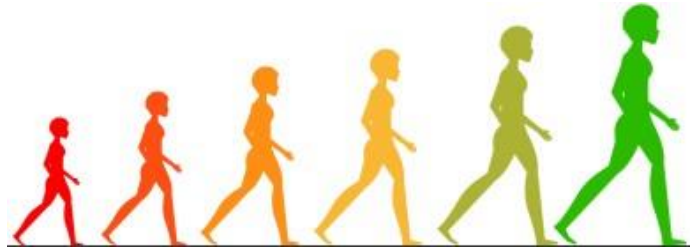
Reports for the 2024 reporting period to the database numbered (as of 12th March):

- Projects 218
- Advocacy 105
- Scholarships 87
- Donations 218
- Activities 515

Clubs are reminded to check that they do not have any report submission in draft or rejected. These need to be submitted for review and approval.

[WATCH THE 'HOW TO' VIDEO](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Be the Change

Click the image to download.

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.

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 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Friday 4 April 2025**. Please email your submissions to programme.donnell@siseap.org Thank you.



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