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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SOROPTIMISTS
EMPOWER CHANGE

SISEAP BULLETIN

October 2025

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



President Joanne Yeoh 2024-2026



This month, on the International Day of the Girl Child, Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific proudly stands with the global community to champion the rights, voices, and potential of girls everywhere. Each year, this day reminds us of the urgent need to remove barriers that prevent girls from realising their full potential and to create spaces where they can thrive as leaders, change-makers, and contributors to society.

The United Nations theme for 2025, “Invest in Girls’ Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,” calls on all of us to recognise that girls are not only beneficiaries of development but also powerful agents of change. When we invest in girls—through education, skills training, mentorship, and safe environments—we invest in healthier communities, stronger economies, and a brighter future for all.



[CONTINUE READING](#)

CLUB SECRETARY NEWS



Conference of Clubs 2026

Hello Soroptimists, Changemakers and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific Conference of Clubs 2026 from **1 - 3 May 2026 at The Pacific Sutera, Sutera Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.**

We gather with hearts full of purpose and hope, united by the theme:
“Empowering Communities, Embracing Sustainability”



This theme is more than a statement — it is a call to action. It reminds us that true empowerment happens when women and communities are given the tools, skills, and opportunities to shape their own future. And it challenges us to ensure that the future we help to build is one where people and the planet thrive together.

I encourage every one of you to participate — ask questions, share your experiences, and contribute your voice. Together, we can amplify the impact of our projects and create ripple effects that reach far beyond our own communities. Let us make this gathering not only a time for learning and collaboration, but also a celebration of our shared vision — a

world where women and girls are empowered, and sustainability is embraced in every aspect of life.

To register for the conference, all registrants will first need to set up an account. This ensures that each delegate receives a unique QR code, which will be used for payment, on-site registration, hotel room reservations, and goodie bag redemption.

On behalf of the SISEAP 2026 Committee, I warmly welcome you all, and I look forward to the meaningful conversations and actions that will emerge from this conference. Thank you, and let's begin our journey together.

[CONFERENCE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION](#)



Registrations are now open for the [2026 Company General Meeting, AGM and Federation Meeting](#). Club Representatives/Proxies, Federation Invitees and all Soroptimists (as Silent Observers) are welcome.

Friday 1st May 2026

9.00am-5.00pm

The Pacific Sutera Hotel, Sutera Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[SI Yangon Disaster Relief](#)

On Friday, March 28, 2025, at 12:50 PM local time, a powerful earthquake magnitude of 7.7 struck near the city of Mandalay in Myanmar. This was followed by a strong 6.4 magnitude aftershock just minutes later.



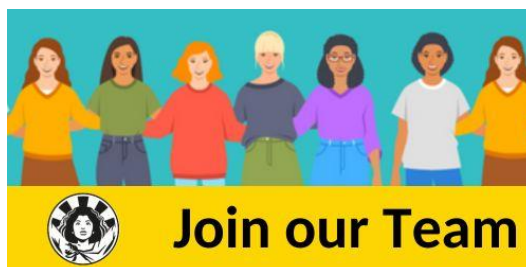
The Soroptimist International club of Yangon acted immediately. In the days following the disaster, they rapidly assessed the damage and consulted with local support services to define the most critical needs. Once a project plan was established, they reached out to **SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh**, who swiftly released **AUD \$3,000 in immediate Disaster Funds** from the Federation.

SI Yangon Soroptimists identified that these funds would provide **food and essential items** to households in the **Sagaing District**, where many residents had been displaced and were living in tents.

[READ MORE](#)

[Assistant Membership Convenor - Asia 2024-2026 Biennium](#)

Expressions of interest are being called for the Federation position of Assistant Membership Convenor - Asia. This is a great opportunity to play an important role within our Federation Membership Team for the remainder of the 2024-2026 Biennium.



[EXPRESS INTEREST HERE](#)



[SISEAP Online Shop Now Available](#)

Great news! The SISEAP Online Shop is now live. You can now browse our range of items and place your order directly online. For all orders outside of Australia, please contact HQ for GST-exclusive prices and shipping quotes.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Join your local
SOROPTIMIST CLUB

PAULINE MILLS
BY JOURNALIST

SISEAP SHOP

CATALOGUE & ORDER FORMS HERE

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATIONS

Link for Clubs to Register NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Member-to-Member Campaign

Special Incentive for New Members (Oct–Dec 2025):

- Anyone who joins between **1 October and 31 December 2025** will have their **2025 quarterly fee waived**.

Instead, their first payment will be the **full annual membership fee for 2026**.

This means new members can join now, start enjoying all the benefits of being a Soroptimist immediately, and not pay membership fees until the new year!

Recruit & Reward (Jan-June 2026):

- Any existing General member who recruits a new member between **1 January and 30 June 2026** will receive a **AUD \$10 discount** off their **2027 annual full membership fee**.
- Any existing member who recruits a new member in *any other membership category* (where the fee is less than the full membership fee) will receive a discount equal to **10% of that category's fee**, applied to their **2027 annual full membership fee**.
- To qualify, the recruited member must remain financial throughout **2026** and **renew in the 2027 annual returns**.
- Each member may claim this discount for up to **four new recruits** during the incentive period, with a **maximum discount of AUD \$40** (or 4 × 10% of the relevant lower membership categories).



[READ MORE](#)



[You Make A Difference](#)

Discover how our Clubs are transforming the lives of women and girls — thanks to members like you.

[CLUB PROJECTS CHANGING LIVES](#)

[Reflections on Voting, Suffrage, and Participation](#)

Current Discussions on Elections in Aotearoa New Zealand

Right now, elections and voting are a prominent topic of discussion in Aotearoa New Zealand. The triennial local government elections are underway, and there is ongoing debate about voter participation.



Notably, during the 2023 local government elections, only 40.88% of eligible voters cast their ballots. In comparison, the 2023 General Election saw a turnout of 77.1%. Unlike Australia—where voting is compulsory, as it is in 13% of the world’s democracies—Aotearoa New Zealand does not require eligible citizens to vote. This distinction raises important questions about civic engagement and the relevance of voting in our society.

[READ MORE](#)



With the recent closure of several clubs in the Federation, I will be making the appropriate changes in the Friendship Links Database and advising clubs affected.

A gentle reminder to make your requests for Friendship Links, or for an update of any information on the SISEAP Friendship Links Database, via the form under Friendship Links in the Members area of the SISEAP website, link below.

In

Eileen Middleton

friendship

[FRIENDSHIP LINKS](#)

PROGRAMME NEWS

[SISEAP Federation Public Speaking Competition](#)

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to showcase the voices and talents of your Region/Country! Let's make this a truly vibrant and inspiring event with representation from across our Federation.



This year's theme, "**Empowered Voices, Sustainable Choices**," encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. The categories are:

Category 1 - 12 years -15 years. [Three minute talk]. Topic: Small Actions, Big Difference: How I can make the world a better place?

Category 2 - 16 years - 19 years. [Four minute talk]. Topic: How can young people shape cities that are inclusive, green and resilient?

Regions/Countries are encouraged to hold heats from which they should find a winner or max 2 winners to represent them in each category in the Federation level of the competition. Videos of their speeches should be submitted by the Country or Region by **10 December 2025**. This will allow videos to be made of each finalist with a view to being able to showcase the speeches as part of the Federation activities for Education Day on the 24th of January 2026.

For further information, please use the link below or by contacting Cesarina Gigante at programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION INFORMATION

Projects & Appeals - Donate Now



FROM SISEAP ICT

A banner for a webinar tutorial. On the left, there is a photograph of four women standing together. The background is a teal color. The text reads "SISEAP WEBSITE - MEMBER AREAS" in white, followed by "Webinar Tutorial" in a large, bold, white font, and "VIEW HERE" in a smaller white font below it. On the right side of the banner is a circular logo featuring a woman's face.

SISEAP WEBSITE - MEMBER AREAS
Webinar Tutorial
VIEW HERE

Watch the [tutorial](#) to learn what information is available in the member areas of our website, creating a club page, posting events, viewing the membership Directory and other resources.

COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS



[SIGBI 91st Federation Conference](#)

31 October – 2 November 2025

Registrations close 12th October 2025

[FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER](#)

[SI Convention 2027](#)

**Soroptimist
International
Convention 2027
Prague**





Contact Us

HEADQUARTERS

LEADERSHIP TEAM



The *eBulletin* includes stories and documents you can also find on the [SISEAP website](#).

Copy for the next edition of the eBulletin is required by **20 October 2025**.

Please click to send to hq@siseap.org. Thank you.

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