

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCWO Celebrates International Women's Day 2011

"Creating the Future – Women in Society, Economy & Government"

We would like to invite you to our IWD Celebration Dinner on **Wed 9th March 2011**. The evening will start at 7 p.m. with registration and cocktails, and dinner will commence at 8 p.m.

The Celebration dinner will be held at the at the Royal Pavilion Ballroom, Regent Hotel Singapore, and will be graced by our patron, First Lady Mrs Urmila Nathan and by Minister of State, MCYS, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon.

Highlights of the evening will include:

1. The presentation for the very first time of the Video "We are 100"
2. Award presentation for the winners of Inaugural SCWO Debating Tournament
3. A special presentation to Mrs Nathan for her 10 years of patronage of SCWO
4. The launch of "The Women's Register"

We do hope that you will join us in our celebration.

Please rsvp by Thursday, 3 March 2011 to selina@scwo.org.sg

Attachments:

1. Program for the Dinner
2. The Women's Register
3. "We are 100"
4. SCWO Debating Tournament
5. About SCWO

Program

- 7.00 p.m. Registration
- 7.30 p.m. Guests to be seated
- 8.00 p.m. Arrival of Guest-of-Honour,
Mrs S.R. Nathan, Patron, SCWO
- 8.05 p.m. Welcome Address by:
Ms Mary Liew, Chairperson IWD 2011
- Opening Address by
Mrs Laura Hwang, SCWO President
- 8.10 p.m. Video Presentation "100 Voices"
- 8.45 p.m. Presentation of Awards to
Winners of SCWO-SMU Debating Tournament
- 9.15 p.m. Launch of Women's Register
- 9.20 p.m. Performance – JazzKids from "Kids Performing"

Women's Register

The idea of a *Women's Register* was formulated after a year-long public consultation with study groups led by many prominent women in 2005. Conducted by SCWO, the study found that there is an urgent need for a programme to reach out to women to inspire and lead them, as well as to educate and fully harness their potential.

This project has gone through a few phases since its inception and has developed to take a two-pronged approach to achieving its outreach purpose. *Women's Register* has been redefined as a platform for:

- Networking
- Education
- Mentoring
- Inspiration and
- The promotion of directorships for an extensive group of women of all ages.

The first arm of this one-of-a-kind initiative is targetted at younger women, aged between 18 and 35 years, to support them through a mentorship programme and provide internship opportunities; to get them involved in the community and build social and professional networks of their own.

The mentorship programme aims to connect younger women to successful and accomplished women so as to guide them on matters of profession and careers through a communication channel that is convenient and time-saving for both mentors and mentees. For the younger women, this programme provides an insider's view to the various industries and potential career paths; for mentors, it is an opportunity to be able to give back and share their experiences and knowledge with the younger generation. Through *Women's Register*, we also hope to create a sense of community within the pool of mentees for them to share their thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams, and to ignite in them an interest in social and community work. Furthermore, we hope to promote the spirit of volunteerism and community service among young women by giving them opportunities to interact and /or organise fundraising activities for the Star Shelter or Maintenance Support Central.

At the end of the day, the role of *Women's Register* is to create opportunities to connect younger women to their older and more experienced counterparts in the community, to inspire and empower them to take charge of their own lives and lead them with positivity, compassion and courage.

The second outreach arm is called **BoardAgender**. *BoardAgender* aims to provide a forum in Singapore to enhance the awareness and understanding of the benefits of gender-balanced business, as well as to encourage more women to take on senior leadership roles and contribute their expertise in the boardroom. *BoardAgender* welcomes individual businesswomen and men, as well as private and public sector organisations, to participate in its events, engage in its discussions, and benefit from its resources in order to achieve best practices through gender diversity.

More than half of the Singapore population is female; yet only a small percentage of the extensive pool of well-educated and experienced businesswomen is represented in the senior ranks of corporations. Through *BoardAgender*, we hope to make known the considerable advantages that can be gained as a result of having gender diversity at top levels of management. Gender-balanced business should be seen as a business imperative to ensure that companies tap into the best leadership and talent – regardless of gender – to further innovation, profitability and sustainability in today's global economy.

"We are 100"

To commemorate International Women's Day Global Centenary, SCWO commissioned "Freeflow Productions Pte Ltd to produce "We are 100".

"We are 100" is about celebrating 100 years of progress and achievements of women. It features three generations of women -- showcasing the past, present and future of womanhood in Singapore. "We are 100" is a collection of the faces and voices of women, sharing with the audience how the makings of yesterday and today have made the dreams of tomorrow possible.

Many of the faces featured belong to women and girls from our Member Organisations, and from women who helped shape the landscape of female advancement in Singapore.

This will be a historical documentary of the progress of Singapore Women for the last 100 years.

Inaugural SCWO Debating Tournament

This is an initiative to engage the future generations of the workforce and thought leaders, by collaborating with the Singapore Management (SMU) University's Debating Society to organise the **Inaugural SCWO Debating Tournament** for students of tertiary institutions in Singapore, to hear their views, understand their concerns and learn from their hopes for the future. This is the start of an annual tournament, which we hope will develop to include regional and international debate teams in the coming years. The tournament was held from the 25th to 27th February 2011 in SMU.

International Women's Day

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March, and 2011 is especially important as it is the Global Centenary. Around the world, thousands of events in hundreds of countries will mark this important milestone in the progress of women to fair partnership in family, social, business and political life. Where we are today is the result of the women and men of vision in our past, and we look now to the future.

About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Incorporated in March 1980, the SCWO serves to unite the various women's organisations, clubs, committees, groups and women leaders together, working in accordance with its various aims and objectives. The SCWO also serves to coordinate these associations into a national movement and to act on their behalf in matters for which it is authorised by its members.

The SCWO is represented on various Government and inter-ministry committees where we contribute our views in the areas of family, women, and on children's issues. We are involved in government Feedback Sessions and other discussions on issues and policies

Our Services & Initiatives

Star Shelter—A crisis centre that provides temporary refuge for women and children who are victims of family violence.

New2U Thrift Shop—sells pre-loved clothing, bric-a-brac and furniture with proceeds going to Star Shelter.

Maintenance Support Central – A one-stop centre to assist claimants in the collection of maintenance payments from defaulters. (The centre will be ready by the middle of the year).

IT Hub—offers a non-threatening environment for women and their family members to become IT literate and for the re-training of retrenched workers.

Bonny Hicks Education & Training Centre—consists of six rooms for training courses and meetings, and are available for rent.

F.A. Chua Library— is an archival library of all women's organisations — local and international.

Women' Register— a platform for networking, education and mentorship for women between 18 to 35 years of age.

BoardAgender – assists and facilitates the appointment of women to leadership positions in the public, private and non-profit sector.

Wall of Fame – dedicated to the women who made a difference in Singapore.

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28 February 2011