

## **SPEECH BY SCWO PRESIDENT, MRS LAURA HWANG**

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1. Our Guests of Honour, President Tony Tan and SCWO Patron Mrs Mary Tan,
2. Madam Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament,
3. Minister Grace Fu, Minister, Prime Ministers Office & 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister for Environment & Water Resources and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister for Foreign Affairs
4. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for the Ministries of Health, and of Manpower & Mayor SW District

Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Parliamentarians, distinguished guests, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome each of you here tonight. We are deeply honoured by your presence.

My gratitude to Citibank, our Presenting Sponsor for 3 years and to all the foundations, organisations and individuals who have supported us to make this evening, and the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, grow from vision to reality. We are delighted that Tracey Woon, Vice-Chairperson Citigroup Global Markets is here with us tonight.

This year, SCWO marks the celebration of International Women's Day for and with our 57 member organisations, with our contribution to the history of Singapore, to recognise the impact that our pioneering women and the women of today have made on our nation and the progress of women in Singapore. The Singapore Women's Hall of Fame is the collective of great deeds, strong actions, wisdom, talent, tears, joys and achievements, to inspire so that new generations can aspire.

All credit must go to the Research Team, the Working committee, the SCWO Secretariat and the Selection Panel, Chaired by Professor Tommy Koh. Thank you, for your diligence, perseverance, perception and wisdom!

We need strong and firm foundations for the future - and the lives of passion and purpose that we record and acknowledge here give us these strong foundations. Across the span of all the sectors that build a nation, here we have the pioneers, boundary-breakers, visionaries, caring hearts and creative hands. It has been SCWO's privilege to document these acts that have impacted us all. While recognising many well-deserving, well-known names, we were also amazed at the hidden gems that our research team discovered, and we share these with you in the book that you are all receiving tonight. Find out who proved that the Chinese devised the numeral system we use

SCWO Inauguration of the  
Singapore Women's Hall of Fame and  
International Women's Day 2014



today, using bamboo rods. Who was that first woman elected to public office- paving the way for many here tonight. And who was sold for silver, and rose from slavery to an honourable, long career in medical service.

Some of these stories show us how far we have come, some others will show how new arenas are still being challenged and conquered, and this is a Hall that will grow each year. Do visit the website [www.swhf.sg](http://www.swhf.sg) for more on each of our honorees, and share your thoughts with us.

These are the legacies that we want valued in the moral compass of the generations to come. I would like to express my warmest admiration, congratulations and appreciation to all the honorees and their representatives present with us for this landmark occasion.

Please join me in a toast to all our honorees!!

May the warmth and glow of this evening, light the Flame for tomorrow.