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**For Immediate Release**

**SCWO Celebrates International Women's Day (IWD) 2012**

***"Connecting for Success"***

**Gala Dinner with Mrs Mary Tan, wife of President Tony Tan**

Singapore, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Mrs Mary Tan, in her capacity as Patron of SCWO, will, for the first time meet Presidents and Representatives of many of SCWO's 52 Member Organisations, at the SCWO IWD 2012 Gala Dinner. The Dinner will be held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.30 p.m., at the Windsor Ballroom, the Goodwood Park Hotel.

Also gracing this dinner will be Mdm Halimah Yacob, Minister of State, MCYS, and several other Lady Members of Parliament and Lady Ambassadors.

This Dinner is the culmination of events by SCWO held to celebrate International Women's Day 2012.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, more than 600 students from 16 schools participated in the **National Young Women Leaders Day Symposium** held at the Kallang Theatre. The young participants were inspired by the four young unconventional leaders: 1) LTC Jerica Goh (Executive Officer of RSS Intrepid-frigate), 2) Sim Yi Hui (Co-Leader of Singapore All-Women's Everest Team), 3) Chen Shun Ling (Founder of Life List Chase, and a Wild-life Photographer) and Lyn Lee (Co-Owner of Awfully Chocolate)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 36 Debating Teams from Secondary Schools Junior Colleges, and Polytechnics in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines came to battle it out for the **SCWO-NUS Challenge Trophy**, renowned as one of the most challenging and prestigious tournaments in the local debate calendar. In addition to gathering the best debaters, some of the best adjudicators from the region were also invited. The debate featured issues with a special focus on gender issues facing Singapore girls and women today. This was an excellent way to create the awareness in our young future leaders of these issues.

**For media enquiries:**

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## About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Our 52 Member Organisations represent more than 500,000 women 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

**Star Shelter**—It is the only secular crisis shelter in Singapore, and is a safe temporary refuge for women and their children seeking refuge from a life of family violence. It is a place where they learn to re-build their lives, be independent, and prepare for a future free of violence.

**Maintenance Support Central** – The One-Stop Drop-In Centre that provides support and assistance for claimants who have difficulty recovering court-ordered maintenance from their spouse.

**Legal Clinics** – Experienced lawyers from the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers (SAWL) are available twice a month to give basic legal advice and information to assist women unable to afford private legal service.

**IT Hub**—A Training Centre run by volunteers for women and their family members to become IT connected and updated.

**New2U Thrift Shop**—sells pre-loved apparel, shoes, accessories and household items, with proceeds going to Star Shelter.

**Function Rooms**—The Bonny Hicks Education and Training Centre consists of six rooms ranging from 9 sqm to 88 sqm, equipped for training, seminars and meetings, available for rentals to member organisations and the public.

**The Library**—The Library is named after the late Justice F.A. Chua. It is an archival library for all women's organisations -local and international.

**The Café** – The café @ SCWO offers a range of tantalizing food, desserts and coffee.

### Our Initiatives

**WR**—Women's Register is a platform for young women in Singapore between 18 to 35 years of age, to support them with mentors, provide internship opportunities, enhance community involvement and advice on building networks of their own.

**BoardAgender** – aims to provide a forum in Singapore to facilitate a greater awareness and understanding of the benefits of gender balanced business, and for the advancement of more women into senior leadership roles and boardrooms of public and private corporations.

**Wall of Fame** – In 2005, SCWO launched the Wall of Fame to honour the significant contributions of pioneering women activists who have helped shape the landscape of female advancement in Singapore.