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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCWO Announces Its 17th Executive Board

Singapore 16 June 2012. The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) held its 32nd Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 16 June 2012 at SCWO Centre.

The AGM was well attended, with 45 representatives from 27 SCWO member organisations.

The 17th Board was elected into office, and will be serving for the next two years from 2012 to 2014. There were 15 nominees for the 11 places on the Board.

Laura Hwang was returned unopposed and will therefore serve a second consecutive term as President.

We are pleased to announce the list of the SCWO 17th Executive Board Members:

Name	Member Organisation
1. Mrs Laura Hwang	International Women's Forum (IWF)
2. Ms Saleemah Ismail	Aidha
3. Dr June Goh	Association of Women Doctors Singapore (AWDS)
4. Ms Margaret Thomas	Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE)
5. Ms Mojgan Tosif	Baha'i Office for the Advancement of Women (BOAW)
6. Ms Tan Gim Hian	Business & Professional Women's Association 3 rd Chapter (BPW TC)
7. Ms Junie Foo	Financial Women's Association (FWA)
8. Dr Noorul Fatha As'art	Singapore Muslim Women's Association (PPIS)
9. Ms Jessica Ong	People's Association Women's Integration Network Council (PA WIN)
10. Ms Evelyn Goh Lee Cheng	NTUC Women's Committee
11. Ms Irene Boey Lin Fong	University Women's Association, Singapore (UWAS)
12. Ms Malathi Das	Zonta Club of Singapore

The 17th board is a good balance of previous members providing constancy while new members provide salient contributions of new resources and fresh ideas.

Joining Mrs Laura Hwang for a consecutive term are previous members:

- Ms Saleemah Ismail – Immediate Past President of UN Women
- Ms Malathi Das – Commercial litigator with M/s Joy A. Tan & Partners, and first female and Singaporean President of regional law organisation LAWASIA
- Ms Irene Boey – Consulting Director of Integral Solutions and Past President of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Association (SBPWA)

The new additions who will contribute their talents to SCWO in the new term are:

Ms Margaret Thomas

AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research)

Margaret Thomas has held senior editing positions at The Business Times, The Singapore Monitor and TODAY, and has over 30 years of experience in print and online media. A founding member of AWARE, she has held various office positions on the Board and is the key adviser on communication matters where she contributed significantly to the professionalization of the organisation.

Dr June Goh

AWDS (Association of Women Doctors Singapore)

Director of the Neuroanaesthesia and Consultant Anaesthetist in Singapore General Hospital, June Goh was instrumental in setting up the IMRI and CT OT for Neuroanaesthesia. She is also involved in the running of the Neuro Intensive Care Unit and she is a member of the MOH appointed workgroup for Organ Transplantation. As President of the Association of Women Doctors, June Goh has actively participated in the issues concerning women and healthcare and helped educate the public on the importance of sexual responsibility, sexual awareness and sexually transmitted infections.

Dr Noorul Fatha As'Art

PPIS (Singapore Muslim Women's Association)

Dr Noorul Fatha As'art is the Assistant Director of the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division at the Ministry of Health Singapore. As a public health trainee, Noorul has contributed to various policy and practice development efforts throughout her 8 years of experience in the medical field. Noorul currently serves as a Board Member at PPIS and is the Vice-Chairman of the Community Leader's Forum Labs Committee.

Ms Evelyn Goh

NTUC Women's Committee

A member of the NTUC Club Staff Union since 1994, Evelyn Goh has contributed tirelessly to the Labour Movement. She now holds the position of Branch Secretary for Attractions, Resorts & Entertainment Union (AREU) NTUC Club Branch.

Ms Jessica Ong

PA WIN (People's Association Women's Integration Network Council)

An experienced brand consultant, Jessica has spent years in advertising and public relations. Today, she uses her skills and talents to engage women, families and youths through arts and culture.

Ms Junie Foo

FWA (Financial Women's Association)

A seasoned corporate banker, Junie spends much of her time in volunteer and non-profit organisations. She is passionate about the gender diversity at the workplace and is currently the Co-Chair of BoardAgender.

Ms Mojgan Tosif

BAHAI Office for the Advancement of Women

A teacher at SJI International School and the coordinator of the Virtues project, Mojgan Tosif actively serves the community especially in the field of Children, Women and Family. She possesses great interest in promoting the advancement of women & family and has organised several personal development workshops, helping women and family to bring out the best in themselves.

Ms Tan Gim Hian

BPW Third Chapter (Business & Professional Women's Association)

Gim Hian has been an active EXCO member of the Business & Professional Women's Association (Singapore) – 3rd Chapter since 2006. She graduated with an MBA in IT Management and has since worked in various MNCs since graduation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & REVIEW

Dear SCWO Member Organisations,

The 2 years since the voting AGM in 2010 has passed in what seems to be a flash, a sentiment which all the members of the outgoing 16th Board have marvelled at. I believe that the high level of activity, increase in services provided and indeed, our membership - which has grown from 51 to 54 – has been a large factor in this.



Just after the 2011 AGM, we presented the SCWO CEDAW Shadow Report **Equal Space, Equal Voice, Equal Worth** to the United Nations CEDAW Committee in New York, with a progress report and recommendations for Singapore's performance towards the "gold standard" of CEDAW. We placed particular emphasis, given our rapidly ageing population, on measures for older women's medical needs and for protection from social and economic marginalisation. We welcomed the higher acknowledgement by Government of women's affairs, by the elevation of the Women's Desk to the Office for Women's Development at MCYS, and made recommendations for the encouragement of greater gender diversity in government, public and private boards. These have been a reflection of the thoughts and feedback from all of you at our consultations and we are grateful for the part that you have played in surfacing issues that affect all women in Singapore.

These are the areas which we will look at developing in the coming term - for new **medical** and **social** initiatives, drawing on our able members to identify, propose and launch, for additional **legal advisory services** in Maintenance Support Central, and for **leadership advancement** through Women's Register and BoardAgender, initiatives which we have taken on full administrative cost support of since 2011.

In the AGM papers, detailed reports for each of the initiatives that we run, will provide a picture of the scope and extent on how you, as a member of SCWO are a part of these services to women and society. Also, through our regional interaction with other ASEAN and Asian and international nations, our involvement in APEC, how we have established a strong presence on these platforms.

It has truly been a privilege for me to have served you all as President of the 16nd Board, and am very grateful to have the honour of continuing this in a second term, as the President of the 17th Board. That we have a large slate standing for the elections that will be held this afternoon, shows the confidence and commitment that SCWO members have to contribute to the tasks ahead. My sincere thanks to my Board members, current and in-coming, and to the 'Supergirls' of the secretariat who do a magnificent job of multi-tasking through so many different demanding jobs. Well done all, and congratulations!

With Affection and Admiration,

Laura Hwang
President

About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Our 54 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 18 years old and above, 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.

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21 June 2012