

EVERY WOMAN

A Celebration of the Contribution

On Sunday, 12 November 2000, the University Women's Association (Singapore), with the sponsorship of the Lee Foundation, held a march and celebration with the theme **Every Woman Counts!** This pilot event was held to honour women from all segments of Singapore society, from the top CEO's to the domestic workers, without whose contributions Singapore would not be the thriving nation it is today.

We had originally hoped that our walk would coincide with the World March of Women on 15 October 2000 but soon realized that this date was unrealistic. We had learned of the event very late and, in light of all the permits necessary in Singapore, the decision was made to postpone it one month. Due to the scope of the event at least three permits were needed and these took time. It was a great learning experience for UWAS as we had never attempted anything like this. Step by step we learned all the complicated procedures involved. However, we finally got it all together and the satisfaction of finally having everything in hand was astounding.

Women and their families were invited to meet outside the Marina Bay MRT Station. From there, a line of march was formed to the Waterfront Theatre Terrace in Marina City Park. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Sheryn Mah Bow Tan who flagged off, as well as joined, the walk. Other women's groups who joined us were the *Filipino Women's Organisation*, *Singapore Netball Association*, *The Ladies in the Pink*, as well as families and friends of the marchers. The women's groups, each carrying colourful banners, were led by our own inimitable Leong Chooi Peng who used a megaphone and her enthusiasm to encourage us on our way and guide us to the performance area.



Organising Committee and guests



Phillipino Overseas workers (FOWS) Dance Troop



Bukit Batok Secondary School Band to grace the occasion



Flag off at the Marina Bay MRT



Approaching the Arena for the Performance



The march of Marina City Park

AN COUNTS!!!

of Women to Singapore Society

When they finally reached the theatre, the marchers were welcomed by the rousing music of the Bukit Batok Secondary School Band, as well as refreshments. Each of the marchers was also given a set of UWAS Postcards to thank them for their participation. After the introduction of our Guest of Honour and the opening address by our President, Elena Lui, participants were entertained with performances by the Filipino Overseas Workers (FOWS) Dance Troupe, The Ladies in the Pink Breast Cancer Foundation Line Dancers, and Malay Dancers from the Moulmein Community Centre. Each of the performing groups was thanked with a Certificate of Appreciation from UWAS and a set of UWAS publications, **Women's Future, World's Future** and **Women's Inspirations**.

All Exco members worked long and hard to prepare for this event. Although the turnout was not as large as we had hoped, we all felt that the experience was a great learning exercise. We hope it will become an annual UWAS event. Many, many thanks to everyone who gave countless hours to make this event a success - members, families and friends. Our heartfelt thanks go to **The Lee Foundation**, without whose grant we would not have been able to stage this event on the scale in which it was done. We hope to see our members and other affiliates at

Every Woman Counts!!!

A Celebration of the Contribution of Women to Singapore Society

2001

Eugenia E. Savarese

Programme Chair

UWS



UWAS members and Malay Dancers



Shall we Dance?



"Ladies in the Pink" line dances



It's Time to Celebrate!



and the winner for the Poster Competition is...

Our Special Guest from Costa Rica

From 18-30 November 2000 we were happy to have Professor Thais Cordoba as our guest from Costa Rica. Thais was the immediate past President of The University Women's Association (Costa Rica). The purpose of her visit was to collect material for her programme in International Relations. Our President, Dr. Elena Lui Hah Wah, and several members of UWAS were happy to welcome her and help her in the following areas:

- **Accommodation**
- **Arrangements for appointments to meet staff members in the Southeast Asian Studies Department of NUS**
- **Transport**
- **Meals**
- **E-mail**
- **Social functions**
- **Attendance at the book launch of Rape: Women of Terror at AWARE**
- **Visit to Sentosa**
- **Shopping**

Dear Elena,

It was a great pleasure for me to be in the beautiful country of Singapore and have the opportunity of meeting the dynamic ladies of your association, which is one of the most outstanding in the region. I'll be very happy to introduce some of your ideas to our Costa Rican Association.

Costa Rica is a small country of about 51,100 sq. km. In Central America. It is bordered by the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The population is three and a half million people and the average temperature is about 20 C.

Elementary and high school education is compulsory. There are four state universities as well as the University of Peace, which was established by the United Nations. The Inter-America Court of Human Rights is also located in Costa Rica. There are 49 private universities in the seven cities. The capital is San Jose.

There are many historical places of interest which tell of the gradual road to peace and democracy. Since 1949 Costa Rican women have had the right to vote. Today we have two Vice Presidents and six women Ministers, and 11 women members (out of 57) in Congress

We must help one another; we must hold hands together and raise our voices requesting equal rights for employment, prevention of sexual and domestic violence and discrimination against women.

Thank you Elenita and members of UWAS for the unforgettable time - sharing your vision for the future. It would be a great honour to welcome you to our country in the near future.

God bless you!

Prof. Thais Cordoba

We are glad that Thais has a wonderful time during her short stay in Singapore. We wish her success and happiness in her research in International Relations.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to all members of UWAS, staff members of Eusoff College and NUS who helped to make her stay in Singapore a very rewarding and happy one.

Chan Fong Kin
International Hospitality Chair
UWAS



Professor Thais Cordoba (right) and Jaclyn Goh (left)



Professor Thais Cordoba

MINUTES OF EXTRAODINARY GENERAL MEETING

SAT. 14 OCTOBER 2000

The EGM was held at the SCWO, 96 Waterloo St. The President Dr. Lui welcomed members present. She also briefed them on the events of UWAS and SCWO.

The following Exco positions were endorsed:

Membership Chair Ong Yoke Yin
Programme Chair Eugenia E. Savarese
Hon. Secretary Ng Seok Hui
Hon. Asst. Secretary Lee Chwee Beng

Ms.Lim Kim Hoon was reinstated as Hon. Treasurer and Dr.Yeo Gee Kin was appointed Hon. Auditor. The position of Publication Chair remains vacant.

The Programme Chair Ms. Eugenia Savarese briefed the meeting on the forthcoming event, **Every Woman Count**. It is to be held at Marina City Park. Brenda talked about the proposed Asia Pacific Conference 2001. Finally, Kim Hoon discussed a follow-up for the Vietnam Project.



VIETNAM PROJECT

In March 1999, the first Vietnam Seminar titled "Business Education and Communication", funded by the Lee Foundation, was jointly organized by the Ho Chi Minh City Women's Union and UWAS. It was a success, with participants from the other cities extending invitations to us immediately after the seminar to conduct similar programmes in their cities.

This year, we have received invitations from the School of Economics and Business Administration of Can Tho University and the Danang City Women's Union to conduct similar courses in their cities.

Responding to their invitations, a proposed second seminar titled "Business Skills" is expected to be conducted in both Can Tho and Danang between 23rd and 30th June 2001.

Three course leaders will share their expertise in subjects which include Interpersonal Skills, Adaptability and Problem Solving Techniques. There will be a Practice and Feedback Session to determine if the participants have profited from the seminar.

In 1999, both the participants and course leaders mutually profited from the experience. This forthcoming seminar will no doubt produce the same results.

News from the International Federation of University Women

Members of UWAS are invited to participate in the 27th IFUW Conference to be held in Ottawa, Canada in August 2001. This is an opportunity for you to meet fellow university Women from around the globe. It is also a chance for you to help to set the IFUW agenda for the next decade.

The Status of Women Committee has proposed as the IFUW Study and Action Programme for 2001-2004, **Humanizing Globalization: Empowering Women**. This is a further development of "Globalization: Connections Through Education" which was previously approved for a six year period. IFUW will now focus on putting a human face on the globalization process and showing what effect it has, both positive and negative, on the individual. The Status of Women Committee is proposing the study of three aspects of globalization that are relevant to women:

- Education and information literacy
- Human rights and human security
- Power and peace.

As UWAS is a sister member of IFUW, here are some of the ways in which we can implement the Study and Action Program for 2001-2004 and therefore join with our fellow women around the globe.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Education is the core of IFUW with lifelong learning central to its mission. Possible actions suggested are:

- Monitoring educational materials on the Internet and looking at them critically. A set of IFUW web pages would be established for comment and criticism.
- Putting together information literacy seminars with the goal of assuring that

women are competent in the use of the computer and Internet; programs for economic literacy and legal literacy are other areas where women can contribute expertise.

We must encourage women to continue to update their education and ensure that opportunities are available through information networks. Education through a "gender lens" is also important and IFUW women can support and initiate:

- Programmes in schools for peace education
- Programmes for leadership skills, such as public speaking.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SECURITY

These concepts are not the same although the distinction between them is often unclear.

Human Rights is based on legal documents as well as being set down in the United Nations Charter.

Human Security covers wider aspects of life such as environmental issues, public spaces, social networks, etc.

Aspects of Human Rights which could be addressed are equality in its widest meaning, including equal opportunities, freedom of speech and the globalization of the media, as well as human rights violations.

Human Security is addressed by IFUW in its work with Habitat and the right to public space and public environment.

POWER AND PEACE

The Decade 2001-2010 has been named as the **International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence**

for the Children of the World. This is a fitting study given IFUW's founding mandate to look at issues which will enable women to promote and contribute to a culture of peace in their own society and in the world. To gain peace we must have power. Empowerment means enabling people to be in command of their own lives by assisting them in acquiring the necessary tools, be they educational, social and political, economic, and learning to use the globalization process to their advantage. It is, thus, closely linked to literacy programmes, economic freedom and the world of work.

Suggested areas for study action would include:

- Conflict prevention and resolution skills, conflict management
- Negotiating and networking skills
- Economic, social and political empowerment
- Fostering a culture of peace by working actively for an "inclusive consensus of citizenship" through education for understanding, tolerance and solidarity; maintaining cultural and creative diversity, including linguistic tolerance; and respect for democratic rights.

Focusing on these three related concerns, the Status of Women Committee feels there is considerable scope for national affiliates to develop these topics in a way that reflects regional and national concerns. This Study and Action Programme will be presented at the conference in Ottawa and it is hoped it will be implemented by member affiliates for 2001-2004. We invite members to attend this conference as well as the 28th IFUW Conference which will be held in Adelaide in 2004.

Eugenia E Savarese, Programme Chair, UWAS

Heartfelt Congratulations to Dr. Elsie Yu Chen Chee For SCWO AWARD 2001 and PAP WOMEN'S SERVICE AWARD 2000



Dr. Elsie Yu received the SCWO Award 2001 on International Women's Day 2001. From left to right: Dr Anamah Tan, Dr Jazyme Chelliah, Dr Elsie Yu, Dr Shirley Liew and Dr Elena Lui.

Dr. Yu Chen Chee Elsie is the fifth woman in Singapore to be awarded the **Singapore Council of Women's Organizations Award**. She is a familiar face having been associated with the art scene and women's activities for over 30 years. Although born in Shanghai she has made Singapore her home for some 35 years.

Dr. Yu graduated as a top student from the Northcote Institute of Education in Hong Kong. She was then granted a Master's Degree scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London to study Graphic Communication. During her second year, she won the W. H. Sanderson Memorial Award. In 1982 she was awarded a grant from the Skills Development Council and Vocational Industrial Training Board to pursue a Master's of Philosophy in human resource development at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK. The following year she obtained a study visit grant to Sweden to observe the labour market, education and child care situations. In 1994 she completed a Doctoral Degree in Economics at London University.

As a member of the University Women's Association (Singapore) she was instrumental in the publication of two beautiful, hard cover, coffee table books which are collector's items: **Women's Inspirations** (1998) and **Women's Future, World's Future** (2000). Although Elsie does not purport to be a feminist she believed in the empowerment of women via education. She once said that if her work with women and children could become a platform upon which the next generation could build world peace and prosperity then her life will not have been wasted.

Elsie was recruited by Mrs. Caroline Lam, the second SCWO President, who co-opted her onto the Board in 1981. She served two terms as the Educational and Training Committee Chairperson. In 1986 she was elected First Vice President and served until 1988. Throughout the years she has supported SCWO's activities through its affiliate organizations.

Despite her busy schedule Elsie is also very active in community service. She serves on the Kim Seng Community Consultative Committee, the Cairnhill Management Committee, the Central Singapore Community Development Council, and the Women's Wing Education and Training Sub-Committee. She initiated the ArtQuest project to promote art appreciation at the grassroots level. To date there have been two nation-wide art competitions in Painting and Electronic graphic design. She is the Editor of the **Kim Seng Times** and also serves on the Private Estate Committee. She has been appointed Vice-Chairperson of Branch Women's Wing and nominated to help in the administration of its kindergarten. She is almost the in house designer for these constituencies and takes care of their greeting card, calendar and poster designs. She assisted the People's Association on the Chingay Procession Committee and

has served as a judge for the Christmas Light-Up Competition and Lantern Festival Competition year after year. In the Women's Wing she is the First Vice-Chairman of the Education and training Committee. She organizes workshops annually to equip grassroots women with counseling and communication skills to assist the public as well as Members of Parliament during Meet the People sessions. On 2 December 2000 she was granted the people's Action Party **Woman's Service Award**.

Over the years Elsie has won many top awards in art and design. Among them are the Australian Art Award, the Singapore University Alumni Sculpture Competition Award, the IBM Award, the National University Faculty of Engineering's 25th Anniversary Sculpture Competition Award,

the Ministry of the Environment's commemorative sculpture for the Cleaning Up of the Singapore River's Competition Award, the Sentosa Focal Point Sculpture Competition Award, the Orange Grove Sculpture Competition Award and many others. She is an active member of the Modern Art Society and the Singapore Art Society. Her art pieces are in collections in America, Europe and Asia.

On the first International Women's Day of the new millennium, SCWO honoured Elsie Yu as one of the women leaders who has given her utmost to the family, society and humanity. Her compassion and vision are apparent throughout her career. Her life and achievements will serve as a role model for the younger generation. Her devotion and commitment as a single parent and citizen are exemplary to all who want to make a contribution to the family and nation to make the world a better home for all!



Dr Elsie Yu receiving the Women's Wing "Women's Service Medal" on 2 Dec 2000. Seen here with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

congratulations

- **To Dr. Elsie Yu Chan Chee**
- On 2 December 2001 she received the Women's Wing **Women's Service Medal** from Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.
- On 8 March 2001 (International Women's Day), she also received a most prestigious award from Mrs. Yu-Fu Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development and Sports. The award was to acknowledge and honour women who had made a difference or contributed to Singapore. Only a small number of women were honoured with this award. Dr. Elsie also happened to be the youngest to receive this prestigious award.

We congratulate her on these milestone achievements!



A/P Lui Hah Wah Elena was elected to preside the Asia Regional Association for Career Development (ARACD) on 11 March 2001, during the 9th ARACD Conference "Integrating Living and Learning in Work"

- **To Dr. Lui Hah Wah Elena**
- She was elected to preside over the 9th Regional Conference of the Asia Regional Associations for Career Development (ARACD) entitled "Integrating Living and Learning in Work" held on 11 March 2001.
- At the 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Singapore Professional Center on 25 May 2001 she will be presented with the Distinguished Service Award 2001 for her 25 years of whole-hearted and selfless dedication and enormous contribution to SPC.

- **To Lee Chwee Beng**

Our Honorary Assistant Secretary was married to Mr. Tan Meng Tong on 17 December 2000. We wish them much happiness!



- **To Leong Chooi Peng**

She was elected of Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Council of Women's Organizations (SCWO)

committee members



Dr Lui Hah Wah Elena



Dr. Ng Souk Hui



Ms. Leong Chooi Peng



Lee Chee Beng



Chan Fong Kin



Ms Serence Low





Come and join us!



Ready to receive our Guest of Honour - Every Woman Counts

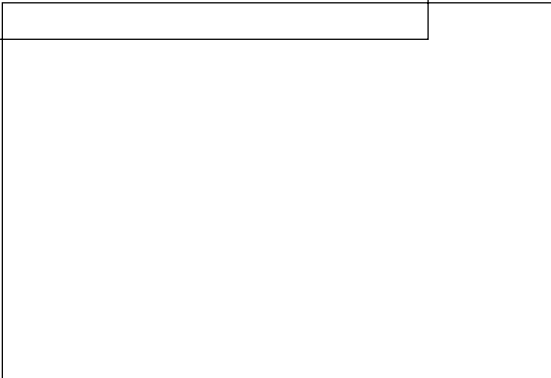
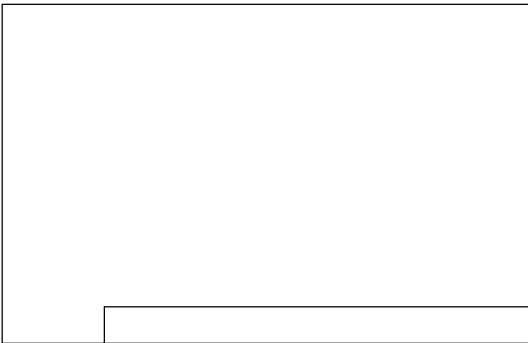


Here come the Savarese Junior

- We express our sincere happiness on the recovery of **Alice Seng Seok Hoon** from reconstructive bone surgery.
- We bid a fond farewell to our Programme Chair, **Eugenia E. Savarese**, and her family who have been very supportive of UWAS' activities, especially **Every Woman Counts**. She was endorsed as the Programme Chair at the EGM and previously served as President of the Huntington Branch of the American Association of University Women. Due to her husband's posting to Hong Kong the whole family will be leaving Singapore in June 2001. We will indeed miss Eugenia as she has been a source of inspiration for other members of UWAS. We would like to place on record our heartfelt appreciation for her invaluable contributions.



UWATS WEB 2001 editorial team from left Eugenia, Elena, Fong Kin, Pat



acknowledgement

We would sincerely like to thank Mrs. Chan Ching Oi and the Center for American Education for providing meeting facilities during the current term.



The "Women's Future World's Future" is the proud production of the University Women's Association (Singapore). UWAS Project 2050 Steering Committee reached out to the whole world and got some 500 women from 90 countries to contribute their visions of the year 2050. This beautiful world book, 28cm x 28cm, has more than 200 full-colour pages of text and pictures depicting the rich cultures of multi-ethnicity and multi-facets of the global village. It is dedicated to the children of the world and the net proceeds from the sale of the first 50,000 copies will be donated to UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women. Since the book launch in April 2000, UWAS has received numerous favourable feedback from many countries. We look forward to your support in sales of the book.

President & Members
UWAS Ex-co 2000-2002
President, UWAS

Order Form - Women's Future, World's Future

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WOMEN'S WEB

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