



Ms Brenda Goh presenting an award to Dr Elena Lui



Dr Rosemary Khoo presenting an award to Ms Lim Kim Hoon

Annual General Meeting on 22 April – Election of New Exco for 2006 to 2008

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 22 April 2006 at the NUSS Guild House at Suntec City (3 Temasek Boulevard, Tower Four, #05-001) from 2pm to 5.15pm. It was attended by 35 UWAS members.

At the meeting, a new Exco was elected to the next term of office from 2006 to 2008 with Dr Rosemary Khoo as President of UWAS (2006-2008). All the past serving presidents (Dr Phyllis Chew, Dr Elena Lui, Liew Geok Heok and Rosy Nahkooda) attended the meeting. The meeting provided UWAS members with the opportunity to foster fellowship, renew old ties and network with new members. It was indeed an afternoon of friendship and rekindling of the warm UWAS family ties.

The programme included lively sharing sessions and suggestions of ideas for new projects. Rosy Nahkooda, shared the wonderful experience she had on the UWAS's China tour to Shanghai, Hanzhou, Wuxi and Suzhou. The tour was organized by Fong Kin, Genevieve, and Pauline. Dr Khoo Kim Choo briefed the meeting on a proposed project "No Drop-outs for Girls" in Cambodia. The new Exco team would discuss the feasibility of this project. Dr Rosemary Khoo and Charmini Sandra Segeraming shared their teaching experience in Phnom Penh from 19 - 23 Dec 2005 when they conducted the workshop for teacher trainers on "Teaching and Learning of English through ICT" . Ms Quek Geok Cheng informed the meeting of the proposed project on the compilation of inspira-

tional stories about real women. This will be further discussed at the new exco meetings. For International Hospitality, chaired by Vijaya Mohan, UWAS had hosted several international members of IFUW when they visited Singapore. International ties had also been strengthened when UWAS participated in the IFUW 28th Triennial Conference in Perth.

Brenda Goh proposed that UWAS open its membership to admit associate members who would want to contribute to the association. The proposal would then be tabled at an Exco meeting. Twenty-six out of 35 members present at the AGM voted for the change. In accordance with Article 14 of the UWAS Constitution, we have the two-thirds mandate. Chooi Peng would be co-opted to help draft the statement to be submitted to the Registrar of Societies and IFUW for their approval.

The meeting ended at 5.15pm.

Written by
Ms Quek Geok Cheng
Publications Chair



Pretty ladies in a row

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Brenda, Fong Kin and Geok Cheng at the conference



Panel session

Report on the 7th Triennial Conference of University Women of Asia (UWA) held in Manila, 25 - 27 May 2006

Introduction

The Philippines Association of University Women (PAUW) hosted the 7th Triennial Conference of UWA from 25 to 27 May 2006 in Manila. The theme of the conference was "Women as Agents of Change in International Peace Efforts". The participating countries included Australia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. University Women's Association of Singapore (UWAS) was represented by a delegation of three members, namely, Ms Brenda Goh, Ms Quek Geok Cheng and Ms Chan Fong Kin. Ms Quek Geok Cheng presented a paper entitled "[Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Qualities](#)".

Objectives of the Conference

The conference aimed to

- encourage women leaders in National Federation Association (NFA) and other organizations to be agents and role models of peace.
- integrate peace concepts in community work and in school
- promote the culture of peace through an action plan for women to practise and share with others.

Papers presented at the conference

The following papers were presented at the conference:

- Women as Agents of Change in International Peace Efforts by Ms Rosemary Everett of Australia
- Women as Agents of Change by Dr Ranjana Banerjee of India
- The Family as a Structural Model for Initiation of Peace Studies by Dr Panna Akhani and Mrs I Shembekar of India
- Peace in the Context of the Philippine Experience by Dr Fe Nazareno Martinez of Philippines
- International Peace Efforts and Foreign Students-Understanding Cultural Diversity and Mutual Exchange by Ms Yumiko Makishima of Japan
- Through Women's Empowerment : Technical and Vocational Education by Dr Masako Tanaka of Japan
- Women as Agents of Change by Ms Jin Choi of Korea
- Peace from the Kitchen by Dr Ratna Malar Selvaratnam of Malaysia
- Women as Agents of Change by Dr Lilia Arbues-Torres of Philippines
- Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Qualities by Ms Quek Geok Cheng of Singapore

PAUW had indicated that a compilation of all the papers would be sent to the various delegates who attended the conference.

Conference Programme

The conference venue was the Garden City Suites Hotel. The conference opened with a welcome cocktail party on 25 May 2006 which provided a good opportunity for the participants to introduce themselves and establish networking. The evening ended with a UWA Council meeting chaired by the PAUW president, Dr Teresita Quirino.

During the Council meeting the following issues were raised:

- The proposal for the increase in membership subscription fee as the present US\$20 per year per country was insufficient.
- The need to improve communication among member countries
- The hosting of the next conference in 2009, possibly in Singapore

The Council agreed that these issues would be raised and discussed further at the IFUW conference in Manchester in 2007.

All the papers were presented in four groups on 26 May. There were two Open Forums at the end of the second and fourth group presentations. Each forum was punctuated with questions and lively discussions. During the lunch break, the participants were treated to live music with audience participation. Fong Kin, very sportingly participated in the sing along. The conference closed with a lively rendition of folk songs from different cultures.

- Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund Paper by Dr Sudha Padhey of India

Conclusion

Overall the conference provided the opportunity for UWA members from various countries to communicate effectively face to face, build closer ties and relationships and discuss issues that concern the welfare and role of women in today's world. This is the first step in forging closer ties and cooperation and hopefully it may lead to inter-country cooperation in regional projects.

Report written by

Ms Quek Geok Cheng

With inputs from

Ms Brenda Goh and Ms Chan Fong Kin



Geok Cheng presenting at the conference



Closing Ceremony



Geok Cheng, Fong Kin and Brenda at the cocktail party

Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Qualities- Women as Role Models in Peace Efforts by Ms Quek Geok Cheng

Abstract

This paper is based on a selected range of literature review on the role played by women in peace efforts. Specific role models of women peace laureates and general references of other women's contributions and efforts in peace efforts are discussed to flesh out the innate common qualities of these remarkable women, qualities that predispose them to be natural peace advocates and envoys. Awareness of such

qualities serve as passion enablers for every woman to emulate on the road to peace. In short, to quote Professor Francis Sejersted, of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee:

"In the good fight for peace and reconciliation, we are dependent on persons who set examples, persons who can symbolize what we are seeking and mobilize the best in us."

For the full paper go to UWAS website Archive under Conference and Seminars

Greetings from New Zealand (4 July 2006)

Hi friends,

It has been almost two months since I arrived. My life and experience/encounters have been pleasant and peaceful. What I like best is the quietness except a little cold in winter now.

I have been doing relief teaching for about 7 weeks and stopped last Friday (Now jobless lah!). The pay for part timers or full timers depend on your qualification. For example I have a Master degree and I get the highest pay scale even for relief. Work experience is subject to the employer's recognition. However, the pay is generally low, about \$45k per year for graduates to start of with. Ceiling pay is about \$70k per year. Working hour is 9am to 4pm in general.

Several of my job applications were thrown back to me due to "lack of NZ experience" (Chicken and egg problem as I will never have it without an opportunity, isn't it?). I met several migrants and some of them took 4 years to get a full time job, while others said their degrees were not recognised. About 20% of the migrants went back to their countries due to job and financial problems. I have yet to find out the criteria but my main goal is to get a full time job to meet the immigration requirements. Frankly, some employment agencies were quite impressed by my work experience and training but could not marry me with their clients because of NZ experience. Well, this is my first experience in life to look for a job. Quite fun and exciting indeed (think positively).

Things are expensive here but housing and car owning are cheaper than Singapore. I learnt to eat left over food on because that is what the people here do. They keep left over food in the fridge and serve their friends (or staff as in my school) the next day. Fortunately the food is not oily or too tasty so it is fine to eat it.

Reading their newspapers and watching their TV programs are interesting. They say what they like but politely. Three

weeks ago there was a power failure in Auckland and we taught in the dark in the school. Many students were stuck on the road as traffic lights were out of order. Shops could not open for business and office workers played rummy as they had no computers to use. The evening and the week followed, Energy Minister was asked to appear on TV to answer questions posted by specialists/consultant and business associations representative etc. The Finance Minister was also asked on his budget planning etc. Really hot issue. The drama shows are more entertaining as compared to Singapore's drama which act as the spokesman of Someone(We don't need to be taught to behave, do we?).

As for shopping, the atmosphere is good but goods are similar. Many of the shops are franchise and selling similar things. The population is small (1.3million in whole of Auckland) but promotional flyers are heavily distributed to attract customers, in very creative ways. I have been wondering how they are making profit with such advertisement expenses.

Another good thing I have discovered is that there are many Free courses for PR and citizens to attend to upgrade themselves, be it for job, life style or technical skill. Totally free with NZQA certificate issued. That means it is recognised by potential employers. I cannot attend the courses I wanted to as I am not a PR yet. The institutes get paid by the government and some trainers and office staff are voluntary people who have received the training there. A really nice and friendly society I feel.

Will tell you about my school life next time such as students negotiate homework etc. I am going for job hunting now. Bye for now.

Warm regards

Valerie Ong Yoke Yin

**Chinese New Year “Loh Hei” Dinner
on
11 Feb 2006
at
Singapore Country Club**



Uwas ladies at the dinner



Loh Hei!!!



Dr Khoo Kim Choo presenting the Cambodia project



Yam Seng!!!



Fong Kin's Travel Tales