

*PRESENTATION*

*by*

*Siew Yong Gnanaalingam*

*Federation of*

*South West Pacific*

PRESIDENT MAUREEN, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT ALICE, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT, ANN GARVIE, SI EUROPE PRESIDENT, KATHY KAAF, SOROPTIMISTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND AND OF THE OTHER FEDERATIONS.

I MUST CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT MAUREEN FOR SINGLE HANDEDLY BRINGING MORE THAN 35 MEN TO SERENADE 1,200 SOROPTIMISTS. THAT IS A GREAT ENVIABLE FEAT THAT WILL BE HARD TO BEAT.

THANK YOU TO PRESIDENT MAUREEN FOR SO KINDLY INVITING ME TO THIS WONDERFULLY EXCITING CONFERENCE AND GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SO MANY SOROPTIMISTS FROM YOUR FEDERATION. IT'S A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY DOING AT THE FEDERATION SI SOUTH WEST PACIFIC



MY THEME FOR THE BIENNIUM IS “**FLOWER POWER** - STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY”.



**UNDERLYING** THIS THEME, IS THE NEED FOR A SMALL FEDERATION LIKE US, TO SHARE ALL THE STRENGTHS THAT WE HAVE, WHICH IS A BEAUTIFUL MIX OF OUR DIVERSITY.



EACH OF OUR COUNTRY IN THE FEDERATION STRETCHING FROM **MONGOLIA** TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND,



COULD BE AS LARGE AS **AUSTRALIA** AND IN SIZE AND AS SMALL AS SAMOA OR CAMBODIA WITH A RELATIVELY LOW GDP. AND THEN WE HAVE THE VERY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN BETWEEN LIKE MALAYSIA, HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, INDONESIA WHICH IS QUITE DEVELOPED BUT CULTURALLY VERY DIFFERENT. SO WE ARE VERY DIVERSE BUT UNIQUE IN TERMS OF CULTURES AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. WE SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE UNIQUENESS OF THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF OUR MEMBER COUNTRIES AND AS SUCH HAVE COME UP WITH A PROJECT TO CONNECT OUR COUNTRIES FOR BETTER GOODWILL, UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP

#### SWP Educate . Exchange . Connection

- 17 SWP Goodwill Ambassadors
- 17 Host Clubs / Regions
- In Early 2013
- Week Long Programme
- PR + Publicity Programme via
  - Print + TV Media
  - Social Media
  - Talks / Interviews
  - Articles in Air Asia / SWP Magazine



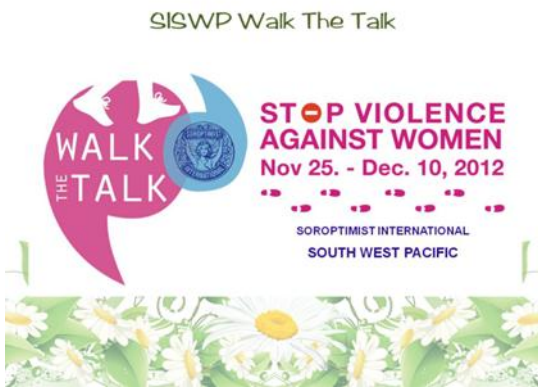
THE PROJECT NAMED EDUCATE . EXCHANGE CONNECTION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFF IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEXT YEAR. 17 AMBASSADORS FROM OUR 13 COUNTRIES WILL BE TRAVELING TO A HOST COUNTRY TO LEARN AND SHARE EACH OTHER'S UNIQUE CULTURES AND WOMEN'S ISSUES AND HOW EACH CLUB, REGION OR COUNTRY CARRY OUT THEIR UNIQUE PROJECTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES. ON THEIR RETURN THE AMBASSADORS WILL SHARE WITH THEIR CLUB OR REGION AND COUNTRY, THROUGH TALKS AND ARTICLES, ON WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED FROM THEIR HOST COUNTRY. WHILE ON A STOPOVER IN MALAYSIA WE WILL HAVE A CULTURAL EXCHANGE AMONG ALL THE 17 AMBASSADORS.

THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WILL BE FOR YOUNGER SOROPTIMISTS AS WE NEED TO GET THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN MORE ENGAGED IN THE IDEALS OF SI.



FOR THIS I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE AN AIRLINE AIR ASIA AND AIR ASIA X SPONSORING THE TICKETS. FOR FOOTBALL FANS YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AIRLINE, A MALAYSIAN, IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF QPR, AN ENGLISH PREMIERE LEAGUE FOOTBALL TEAM.

I HAVE ALSO INITIATED A FEDERATION-WIDE PROJECT TO UNITE OUR MEMBERS ON ADVOCACY FOR A CAUSE AND CREATE A HIGHER PROFILE FOR SWP.



THE EVENT NAMED "WALK THE TALK - STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS" WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE UN 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM ON ELIMINATION OF GENDER VIOLENCE. ALL THE CLUBS, REGIONS AND COUNTRIES OF SWP ARE ENCOURAGED TO CREATE A WALK DURING ONE OR MORE DAYS DURING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FROM 25TH NOVEMBER TO 10TH DECEMBER.



TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SI REGION OF MALAYSIA, I AM ORGANISING A NATIONWIDE WALK ENTITLED "FROM PERLIS TO SABAH-WALK THE TALK-STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN".

SI Region of Malaysia  
Walk The Talk



THE WTT EVENT INVOLVES **3 SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS FROM SI KOTA KINABALU FROM SABAH**

SIROM Walk The Talk



**WALKING CLOSE** TO 1,000 KMS IN 16 DAYS.

WE ARE HOPING TO ATTRACT AS MANY AS 2000 - 3000 WALKERS TO "WALK THE TALK" TO CREATE AWARENESS AND TAKE A STAND THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED NOR PERPETUATED.

SI Region of Malaysia  
Walk The Talk



WE ARE ALSO SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF THE MEDIA TO CREATE WIDE PUBLICITY ON THE WALK AND THE CAUSE, THROUGH NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TV TALK SHOWS. THE USE OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA, BEFORE AND DURING THE EVENT WILL HELP TO RALLY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO THE CAUSE AND CREATE EVEN WIDER PUBLICITY FOR SWP.

SISWP Walk The Talk - New Zealand



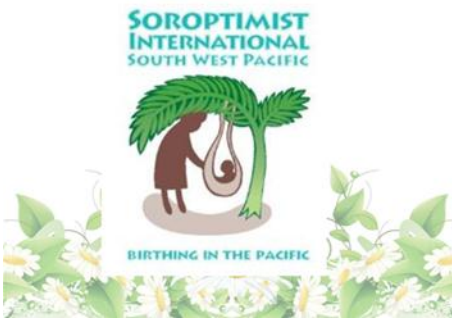
IPP Yvonne Simpson - Walk 10K and lose 10KGs  
in Hokitika, New Zealand

AT THE FEDERATION LEVEL, WE EVEN HAVE OUR FEDERATION **IPP YVONNE** SIMPSON TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE TO WALK 10KM AND LOSE 10KGS IN HOKITIKA, NEW ZEALAND. OUR SI HONG KONG MEMBERS ARE WALKING FOR AN HOUR AT THE TOP OF VICTORIA PEAK TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR A REFUGE CENTRE, SI SINGAPORE DOING A MORNING WALK FROM ESPLANADE THEATRES AND ACROSS HELIX BRIDGE, SI HOBART A PEACE WALK FROM CENOTAPH TO PALIAMENT HOUSE LAWNS, SALAMANCA, SI BEENLEIGH - WALK THROUGH BEENLEIGH TOWNCENTRE AND SO ON.



**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US ON OUR FACEBOOK: SOROPTIMIST SOUTH WEST PACIFIC TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FEDERATION WALK THE TALK**

**“1 IN 97 MOTHERS DIE WITHIN 42 HOURS OF CHILDBIRTH” IS A HORRIBLE STATISTIC WHICH MANY OF US, COMING FROM AN ENVIRONMENT OF GOOD OBSTRETIC CARE WITH MODERN MATERNITY FACILITIES CANNOT FATHOM BUT FOR THOSE WOMEN IN PNG IT’S REAL.**



**AS SUCH, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL MEMBERS OF SIGBI FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE SWP FEDERATION BIRTHING IN THE PACIFIC PROJECT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA WHICH IS THE BENEFICIARY PROJECT OF THE PRESIDENT’S APPEAL 2011. WE ARE ABSOLUTELY THRILLED THAT PRESIDENT ALICE WILL SUPPORT THE BIP FOR ANOTHER YEAR AS THE PRESIDENT’S APPEAL FOR DECEMBER 2013.**



**I AM PLEASED TO UPDATE THAT BIP HAVE RECEIVED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM THE PNG HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THE PROJECT HAS ENABLED TRAINING FOR VILLAGE BIRTHING ATTENDANTS AND EMERGENCY OBSTRETIC CARE COURSES FOR CLINICIANS TO BE DELIVERED IN KEY REMOTE VILAGES.**

### Birthing in the Pacific



ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF BIP IS THE MOBILISATION PROJECTS BY OUR SI LAE CLUB TO COLLECT DATA IN VERY REMOTE VILLAGES TO ENABLE PLANNING FOR MORE VBA COURSES IN 2013 IN THESE AREAS.

### Birthing in the Pacific



THE BIP PROJECT HAS ALSO DELIVERED MANY MUCH NEEDED EQUIPMENT LIKE ADVANCE CHILDBIRTH SIMULATORS, FEOTAL DOLLS, CLINICAL TOOLS, WORK BILUM, OBSTETRIC WHEELS, TEACHING AIDS AND BIRTHING KITS FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS THE UPGRADE OF THE DELIVERY ROOMS OF SOME HEALTH CENTRES.

WHATEVER BIP CAN DO TO PREVENT FROM ANOTHER MOTHER FROM DYING FROM THE LACK OF ANY OF WHAT I HAVE SAID SEEMS SUCH A WORTHWHILE EFFORT.

SO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT.

BEFORE I CONCLUDE I WISH TO EXTEND TO EVERY MEMBER PRESENT TODAY IN THIS HALL, AND NOT PRESENT, TO MY CONFERENCE OF CLUBS TO BE HELD IN A VERY EXCITING PART OF MY COUNTRY, **KUCHING SARAWAK**, ON THE ISLAND OF BORNEO. THE LAST BIT REGARDING BORNEO IS TO ADD SOME EXOTICISM TO THE PLACE. BUT SERIOUSLY, THE BROOKE FAMILY STAYED ON IN SARAWAK FOR A FEW GENERATIONS, SO THERE MUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT HAS ATTRACTED THEM TO STAY ON FOR SO LONG.





THEY MUST HAVE BEEN ENCHANTED WITH THE PEOPLE, THE CULTURE AND THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE “**LAND OF THE HORNBILLS**”. THE STATE IS UNIQUE EVEN FOR MALAYSIANS FROM THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.



FROM THE “**ORANG UTAN**” TRANSLATED IN ENGLISH TO MEAN, “JUNGLE PEOPLE” TO THE

SISWP Conference of Clubs 2014



WORLD'S LARGEST CAVE SYSTEM, THE MULU CAVES AND THE RICH TRADITIONAL CULTURES OF THE MANY TRIBES OF SARAWAK, YOU WILL BE INTRIGUED.

SISWP Conference of Clubs 2014







OF COURSE, YOU GET A BONUS WHEN YOU MAKE A STOPOVER IN KUALA LUMPUR, THE CAPITAL, TO SEE ONE OF THE WORLD'S TALLEST **TWIN TOWERS** MADE FAMOUS BY **SEAN** CONNERY AND CATHERINE ZETA JONES IN THE FILM "ENTRAPMENT".



MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF PENANG MADE FAMOUS BY SIR FRANCIS LIGHT.



**I CAN ASSURE YOU**, SOME OF THE NAMES OF PLACES AND STREETS IN PENANG, KUALA LUMPUR AND SARAWAK WILL REMIND YOU OF GOOD OLD ENGLAND. YET WHEN YOU ARE FEELING QUITE AT HOME, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE SUCH DIVERSE CULTURES, LANGUAGES,





**GLORIOUS FOOD** AND SCENERY, THAT YOU WILL BE CONFUSED AS TO WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU. ISN'T THAT A BONUS?



SO HOPING TO SEE MANY OF YOU IN MALAYSIA, IN PARTICULAR, KUCHING, WHICH MEANS "CAT" IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE, FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014.

WHY IS IT NAMED "**CAT**" YOU HAVE TO COME AND FIND OUT YOURSELVES.