



Zonta Notes



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DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 64 Countries
- 18th May 1971 Zonta Singapore was officially formed
- Project Pari was initiated in 2008
- Worldwide, 70% of the 1.3 billion poor are women

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Project Pari visit @Sunrice Global Chef Academy 2
- Ngee Ann Polytechnic/Zonta Scholarship 2
- Project Pari Workshop 3
- New Board Visitors New Members 4

Zonta International 61st Convention @ Turino, Italy—7 to 12 July 2012

I've often been told by seasoned Zontians that one can never really know what Zonta is all about until they've attended an international convention. And indeed, as first timers, Mary Ong (Membership Chair) and I were duly awed and inspired. Fortunately, veteran Zontian Mina Chan (World Fellowship Chair) was also there to guide us along.

More than 2,000 Zontians from 64 countries gathered in Turino, Italy, for the 61st Convention. It was also mind boggling to think that our organisation has a reach into all corners of the world, including our newest Zonta club in Tibet!

Out-going President Diane Curtis reminded us that Zonta International will be celebrating its Centennial in 2019. Clubs were advised to start collecting our past milestones over the next 2 years. This will then be compiled into the area and district history, culminating to the worldwide Zonta history book to be launched in 2020. In 2019, clubs around the world should be geared up to celebrate our Centennial.

In terms of resolutions passed, two were of particular significance:

(1) The agreement to allow formation of E-clubs that can conduct meetings virtually - this was felt to be important in view

of advances in digital media and to encourage formation of clubs that span longer distances. It was decided that an E-Club can be assigned to any district as decided by the international committee.

(2) It was also agreed that to be eligible for classified membership, a candidate shall be, or have been actively engaged in a decision-making capacity in a recognized business or profession. This resolution means that we can bring in members who had been in a decision-making capacity but may have retired before joining Zonta.

Significant Election Results:

Incoming President: Lynn McKenzie from Wellington, New Zealand

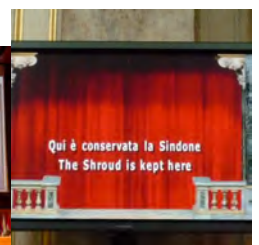
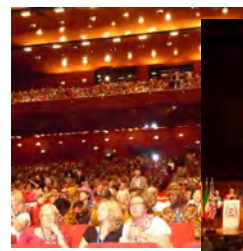
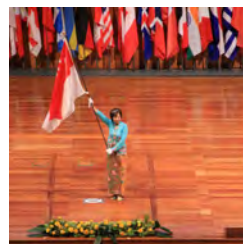
President-Elect: Maria Jose Landeira Ostergaard, District 13, Denmark

Vice President: Sonja Honig Schough, District 21, Sweden

International Directors: 7 were elected. Elizabeth Woodgate from Australia was elected for Asia Pacific.

Nine were elected to the **International Nominating Committee:** Virma P Vergel de Dios, from Philippines is the representative for Asia Pacific. Kathleen Yip from HongKong was also elected as one of the "at-large" members.

Do log on to www.zonta.org for more information on the conference.





Project Pari @Sunrice Global Chef

13 July 2012 Project Pari girls had the privilege of visiting the Academy on the afternoon of 13 July. The visit was arranged by Mrs Kwan Lui, founder of At-Sunrice, a former Zontian and great supporter of Project Pari. 50 girls and teachers from 8 schools went for the visit.

At-Sunrice is a world class academy offering not just courses in cooking skills but also courses in advancing culinary arts and the

F&B profession. Students undergo apprenticeship while studying; hence given opportunities applying their skills working in top hotels, restaurants and food services. WDA provides funding from 70% to 90% to students who are Singapore citizens or PRs. The Academy offers both diploma (17 months) and certificate (2-3 months) courses.

The girls were given an introduction on what career opportunities the F&B business offers. The Academy's COO Mr Chris Glaeseel shared his experiences working in various world class hotels in different parts of the world. This was followed by a tour of the Academy's facilities. There were live demonstrations on coffee-making and cock-tails making by instructors of the barista course and course for bartenders. There are kitchens for western, eastern cooking, rooms for courses for sommeliers and other types of F & B services.

The tour ended with refreshments prepared by the Academy's students. The visit was especially useful to the girls who are in their 'O' and 'N' levels and a few of them showed interest in signing up for the certificate courses.

As a follow-up Kwan had kindly initiated action to look for F&B business to sponsor the girls who would like to sign up for the certificate courses. This together with the WDA funding will enable them to study at no cost and have a vacation job.

We are grateful to Kwan for her help to Project Pari. The girls were very appreciative to be given the opportunity to be introduced to affordable skills training facilities and the job prospects in the F&B business.

Project Pari (PP)
which is an on-going project of the Zonta Club of Singapore works with schools to identify girls from disadvantaged families. PP extends financial assistance and lifeskill training to these girls who are selected for this project

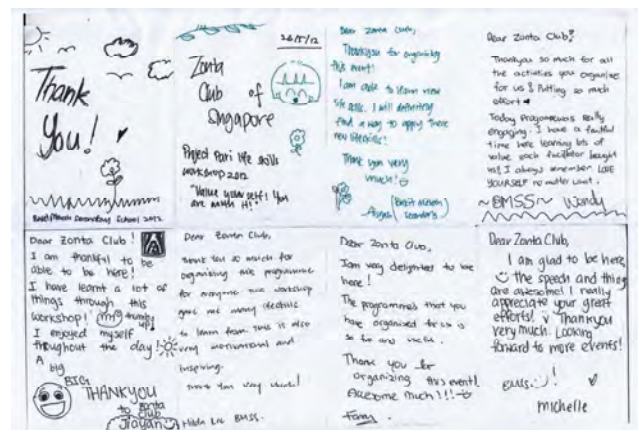


Ngee Ann Polytechnic/Zonta Scholarship

31.7.12 The annual invitation to Ngee Ann Polytechnic Award requested the representative of the Club to be the honoured guest at the Scholarship Awards 2012. Ter Yee went on behalf of the Club and some Ngee Ann Polytechnic staff also got to find out about the Club, what it stands for and the work that we do.

This year, the Zonta scholarship was presented on the first of the three days of the award ceremony, on 31 July 2012. The Zonta Scholarship holder is Miss Ng Kit May Vanessa. She is in the third and final year of her studies for Aerospace Technology. On the inception of this scholarship, our club had designated this to be given for a young woman who is studying in an area of engineering studies. Vanessa, fits the bill to a T; and to top it off, she is also Singaporean.

We were all very happy to have Vanessa at our dinner meeting on 15 August 2012. Many members were able to meet with her personally and get to know of her interests, her training and plans for her future upon graduation. She shared that she is happy to also know more about our Club and would like to help in our other projects.



Thank You Notes from the Project Pari Students

Project Pari Workshop 2012

It seemed like yesterday when we had the last Project Pari Workshop before it was upon us again.

This year, we chose the theme 'Valuing Myself: I am Worth It!' and the workshop programme centred around topics of self-esteem, aspiring to do your best, valuing and protecting oneself.

To begin with, the venue was an inspirational one: the NUS Guild House Kent Ridge, which is located right in the heart of the National University of Singapore campus grounds.

Turnout from Zontians (16) and Project Pari beneficiaries (60) and their teachers from 11 schools that Saturday was encouraging and allowed for great personal interaction.



The morning started with breakfast and then perennial crowd-favourite, Steve Huang from Mindchamps took our girls and Zontians through some ice-breaker games before conducting an interactive workshop called 'Stages of Learning'.



He was followed by a skit and workshop conducted by law students from the NUS Faculty of Law Pro Bono Group headed by its President, Sherrie Chong. Sherrie and her talented course mate, Syazana Yahaya, had gamely risen to the challenge of drawing up an original script for a skit tackling the challenging topic of 'Underage Sex and its Consequences', which saw them and other members of their group put on a 'live' enactment, video clips and then lead discussions in breakout groups comprising the PP girls as well as Zontians. Although a difficult and loaded issue, the discussion threw up themes of peer pressure and BGR which was equally applicable to other challenges faced by today's teenagers.



Past President of UNIFEM (now called UN Women), Saleemah Ismail, then delivered a very moving and personal account of her own life journey in a talk titled 'Lighting your Being from Within'. One of the girls later told me over lunch that it was the best presentation of the whole day for her as she could identify with the struggles of growing up in the heartlands with limited means.



The mood took a more adventurous spin after a sumptuous lunch when all of us were thrilled to watch and hear the presentation by Sim Yi Hui, a member of the Singapore women's Everest team, who ascended the world's highest peak in 2009.

This was followed by a hands-on demonstration by the Akido Shinji-kai Singapore group which saw the PP girls as well as Zontians learning some important self defence moves from renowned Aikido master, Sensei Philip Lee, thanks to the efforts of our friend, Nicholas Goh.



The PP girls were also treated to an unexpected but welcome presentation by GlobalChef Academy At-Sunrice founder and former Zontian, Dr Kwan Lui, who spoke of the work of her culinary academy and the opportunities it provided as a career path for those interested in the F&B and hospitality industry.



The day ended on a high note with the PP girls taking back goodie bags kindly provided by Zontian Rina Ham and expressing their deep appreciation to the PP Workshop organisers. In turn, as organisers, we were very encouraged by all our speakers and workshop facilitators who devoted their precious Saturday to us without any fee or expectation of reward in true volunteer spirit.

But the most touching experience for those who had put in the elbow grease (whether in the background or foreground) to see through the Workshop was when we were presented with an impromptu note of appreciation from the girls of Bukit Merah Secondary (see attached) which served to humbly remind us how the little that we do has the potential to transform lives in a real and meaningful way.



We are each gifted in a unique and important way.

It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light.

~ Mary Dunbar ~

The name ZONTA is derived from a Sioux Indian word meaning honest and trustworthy

Zonta Club of Singapore

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Eliminating Violence against Women Worldwide

Empowering Women to achieve

Educational Excellence

Advocating for Women's Equality around the Globe

Promoting Gender Equality in

Education

Advancing the Status of Women

Installation of 2012 to 2014 Board Members—20.6.12



20.6.12

From Left to Right: Dr Chua Li Eng, Esther Seet, Mary Ong, Jennifer Ng, Wee Wan Joo, Cheong Swee Ying, Tan Ter Yee, Cecilia Pang, Malathi Das, Caroline Loy, Mina Chan.

Visitors to Zonta

23.8.12

Ann Kearse of Zonta Club of Maryborough Queensland, Australia was hosted to lunch at the Guild House in Suntec City Mall.

Picture Shows Ann with Malathi, Jane & Mina



3.8.12

Linda Wang, Area 2 Director.

Cecilia, Keng Wah and Jennifer hosted dinner at Space@My Humble House at the Esplanade

New Members Installation



Julia Woo &
Jane Chan
15.8.12



Melissa Sands &
Jeanny Ng
18.4.12