

United Nations Development Fund for Women



ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Note on source information: Data in this report are drawn from the most recent available statistics from UNIFEM and other UN agencies. Annual reports prepared by UNIFEM country offices.

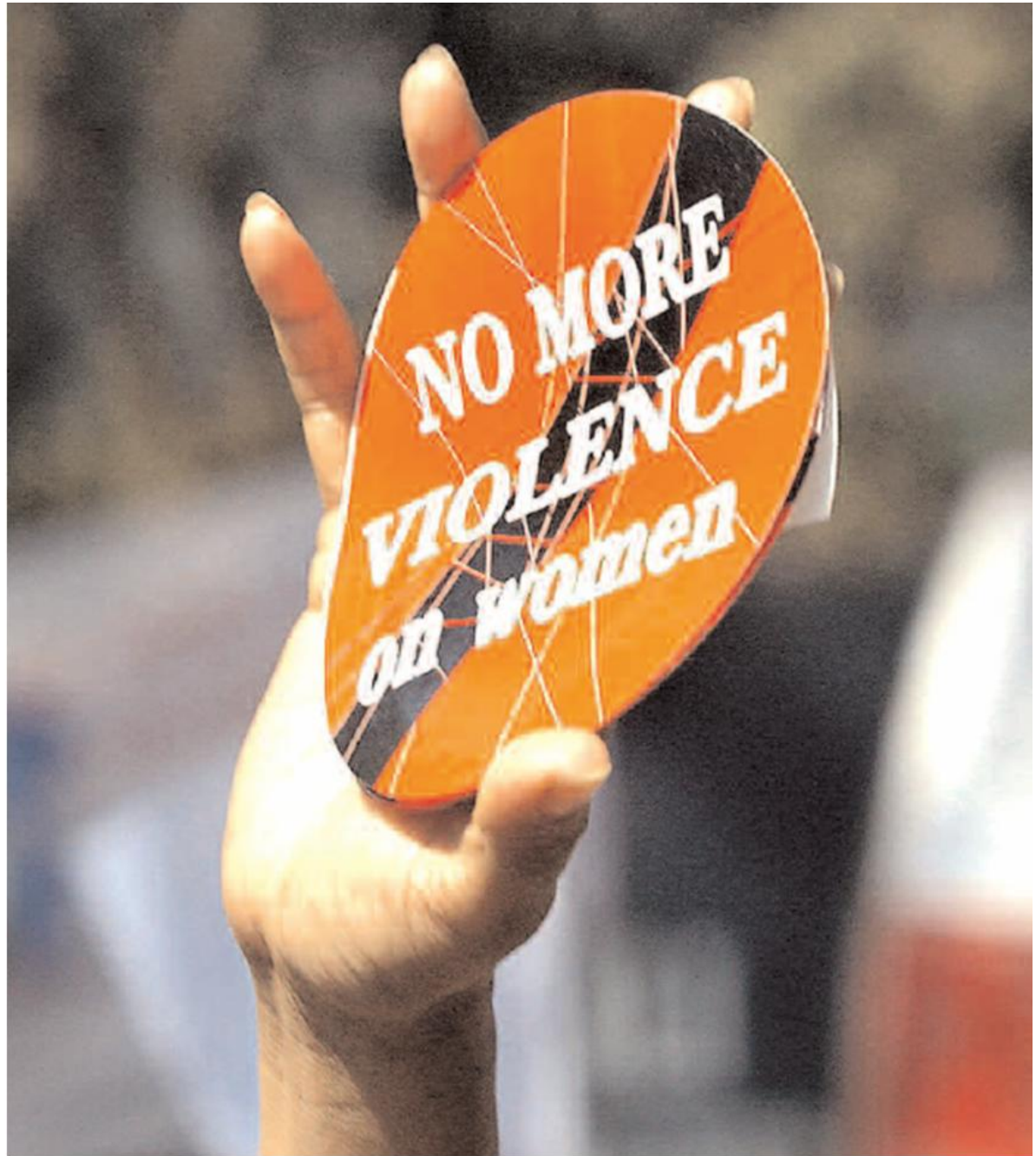
Note on resources: All amounts unless otherwise specified are in Singapore dollars.



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1. ABOUT UNIFEM NC SINGAPORE

ABOUT UNIFEM

The National Committee for UNIFEM NC Singapore is a non-profit international organization that uses fundraising activities, membership drives, and public education to advocate women's rights in developing countries. Established in 1998 and headquartered at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in New York, the organization supports programs that provide women and children with access to education, healthcare, economic independence, and abuse-free living.

OUR MISSION

UNIFEM NC Singapore helps women and children in the region improve their lives by providing funds and support for:

- Economic Empowerment Programs that enable women to develop the business and entrepreneurial skills they need to access local, national, and global markets as well as finance, technology, and information;
- Governance and Leadership Programs that encourage women to find voice and visibility in their everyday decision making processes;
- Conflict Area Programs that assist women affected by war and armed conflict, and promote their role in peace building; and
- The UNIFEM Trust Fund, which supports projects to eliminate violence against women in the areas of HIV/AIDS, female infanticide, trafficking, forced prostitution, domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape.





2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FOREWORD



We are deeply grateful to your support, without which we cannot fulfill our objectives of empowering women and protecting women's status and rights through UNIFEM programs in the region.

You are wind beneath our wings. You help made the year wonderful and enlightening.

International Women's Day on 8 March was celebrated with a 'Women Mean Business' luncheon, jointly organized with the Australian High Commission, providing a forum for business people to unite, network and learn from one another. Also, in celebration of IWD 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore along with Susan Lim Surgery and Parkway Health collaborated to

present free medical check-ups for domestic workers at the Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre on 9 March 2008.

In May 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore launch a year long campaign titled 'Day Off' to encourage Singapore employers to voluntarily give their domestic workers a day off.

In September 2008 UNIFEM NC Singapore organized the United Nations Day of Peace in Rochester Park. The event underscored UNIFEM's efforts to highlight the predicament of women trapped in the crossfire of aggression, especially victims of wartime sexual violence.

UNIFEM's 'Say NO to Violence against Women' campaign is a global awareness-raising effort to end violence against women, designed to support UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's multi-year UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. In November 2008, representatives of the Singapore government – Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Mrs. Tan Kwee She, Coordinating Director / Corporate Management for Community Development, Youth and Sports have signed onto UNIFEM's campaign. In December 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore successfully organized the 'Take a Step to Make a Change' walk in effort to end violence against women.

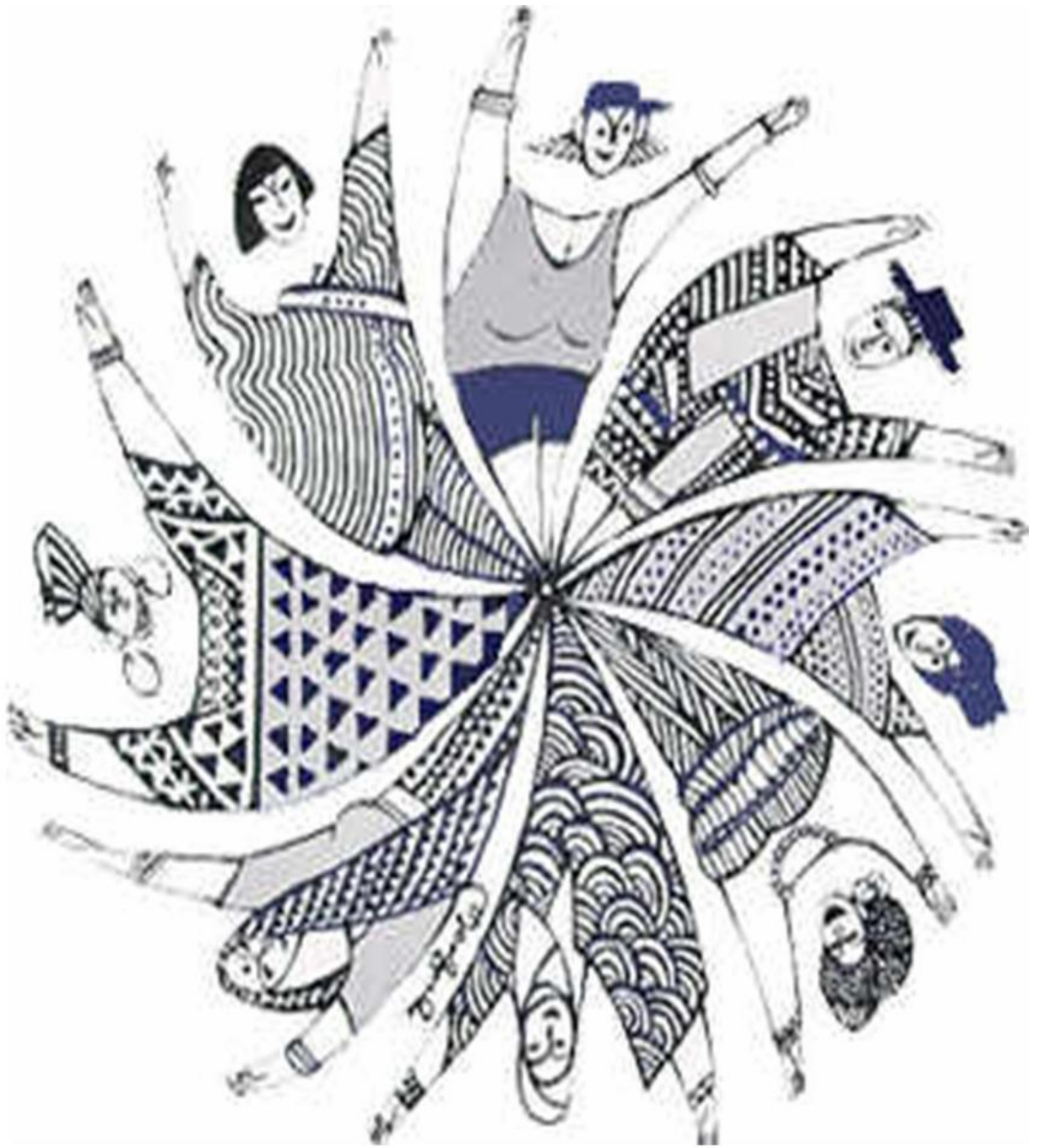
UNIFEM NC Singapore emerged from 2008 more engaged in strategic collaborations. In 2009, UNIFEM will be seeking creative, collaborative ways to make full use of the experience, the data and the knowledge gained in 2008 to deliver even stronger results for the empowerment of women.

As we look towards 2009, we will increase our efforts towards creating more equitable, prosperous societies that uphold gender equality. We remain deeply grateful to you for your support despite the current economic climate.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saleemah Ismail". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Saleemah Ismail
President



3. PEOPLE

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

National Committee for UNIFEM Singapore operates from a rented office at 2 Nassim Road, Singapore 258370. The organisation employs one full time staff member, the General Manager, who oversees daily operations.

The direction, strategy and management of UNIFEM NC Singapore is guided by an executive committee, and supported by a patron and panel of advisors.

Executive Committee (2006 – 2008)

President	Ms. Saleemah Ismail
Vice President	Ms. Fadilah Ahmad
Hon Secretary	Ms. Claudine Lim
Treasurer	Ms. Pia Bruce
Member	Ms. Deepa Pillai
Member	Ms. Andria Hutchins
Member	Ms. Jacqueline Loh
Member	Ms. Jasmeet Walia
Member	Ms. Sarah Mavrinac
Member	Ms. Poornima Hatti

Patron

Dr Aline Wong

Advisors

Professor Tommy Koh (*Ex Officio*)
Ambassador Chan Heng Chee
Dr. Kanwaljit Soin (*Founding President*)
Professor Koh Tai Ann
Dr Jennifer Lee (*Ex Officio*)
Ms. Tisa Ng (*Ex Officio*)
Ms. Audrey Chin
Ms. Melissa Kwee (*Ex Officio*)





4. FUND RAISING EVENTS

'THE MAGIC OF COLORS'

...@ Victoria Theatre

In line with Rotary International's theme of 'Make Dreams Real' for children, Rotary Club of Victoria Singapore organized a charity magic and fashion show, 'The Magic of Colours', at Victoria Theatre to raise funds in aid of women's and children's causes. The beneficiaries of this event were UNIFEM NC Singapore and Make-A-Wish Foundation Singapore.

Renowned local magician Kiki Tay conjured flying confetti for the crowd. In his address, guest of honor District Governor Edward Sung Burongoh expressed his pleasure at being a part of an occasion that helps to actualize the wishes of children stricken by life-threatening illnesses. He also noted that the empowerment and education of women in underdeveloped countries would improve children's quality of life, as women are usually the caretakers of the young.

In the spirit of these causes, the evening's programme was filled with various international performances to celebrate the different cultures of the world. These ranged from the singing of Maori folk songs from New Zealand to a fashion parade that showcased the colourful and breath-taking traditional costumes of countries such as Holland, China, India and Mexico.



The magic show by renowned local magician KiKi Tay that included fire-eating, juggling and other clever sleights of hand also kept the audience enthralled and entertained. Indeed, it so delighted the children in the audience that several could be spotted playing with the streamers and confetti in the aisle after the performance. The event was a resounding success and raised a total of \$11,500.

UNIFEM NC Singapore would like to thank Rotary Club of Victoria Singapore for its commitment and generosity towards our cause, and Esther Siah for her contributions.

'FEMMES' PHOTO EXHIBITION

'Femmes' was conceptualized by a group of friends who decided to blend their fervor for photography and women's issues into making a difference to the community. The charity photography exhibition was launched on 16th November at Verve Bar & Bistro in Gillman Village. UNIFEM NC Singapore is honored to be the beneficiary of this event.

Comprising works that celebrate the female form and explore the experience of being a woman, the event was a success, with the raffle and silent auction raising more than \$3,000 for UNIFEM NC Singapore. At the end of the event, a total of \$7,800 was raised.



We would like to extend our gratitude to the following Femmes volunteers for their assistance.

Photographers

Theresa Chan

Erica Denison

Carmen L Valasquez

Ong Ju Yi

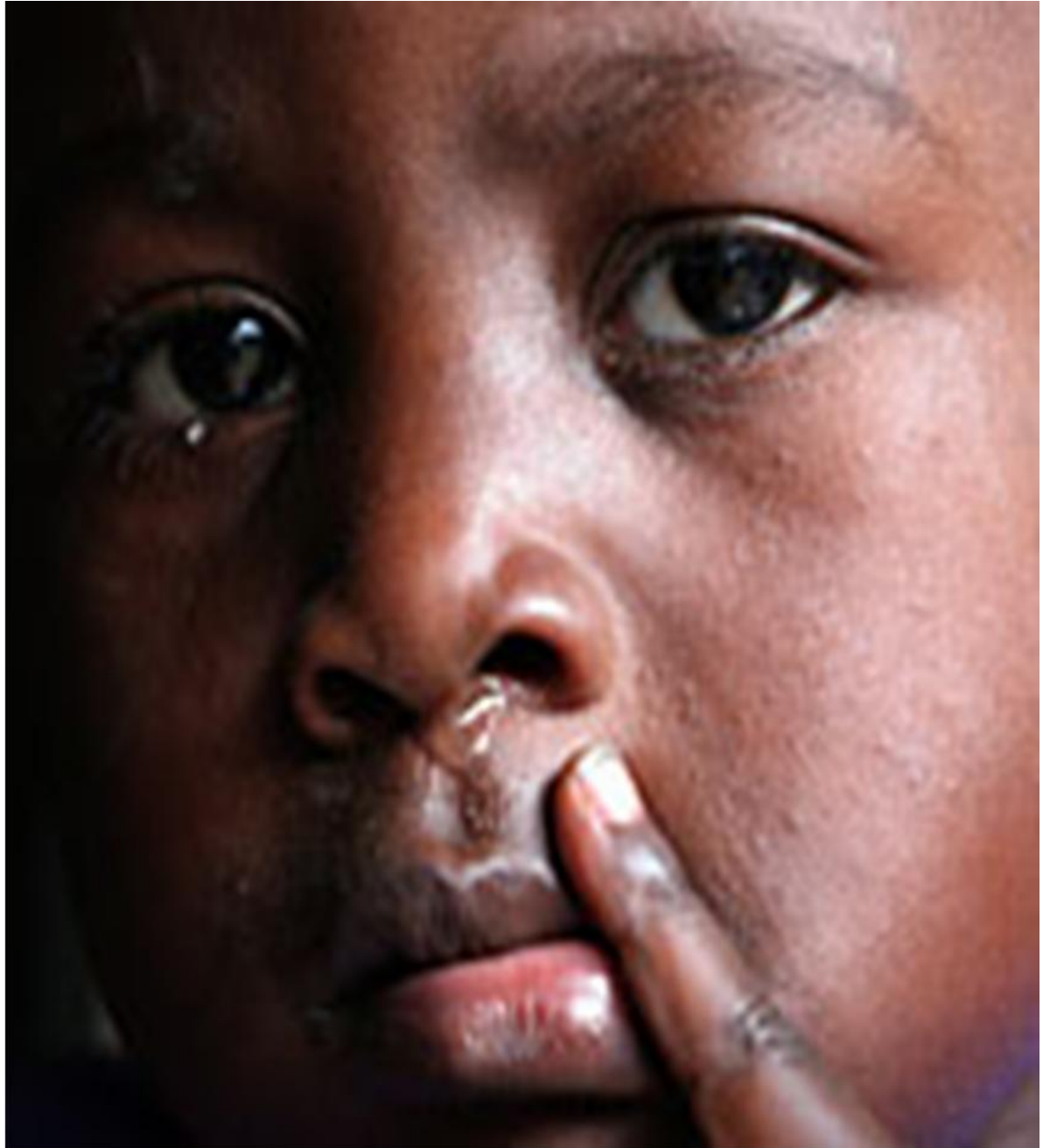
Volunteers

Ning Wong

Lian Miew Ching

Elaine Hollmann

Also, we appreciate all sponsors for their commitment and generosity to our cause, and all guests and well-wishers for their support.



5. PUBLIC EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2008

IWD LUNCHEON 2008 – WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

In March 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore was proud to collaborate with the Australian High Commission for the second consecutive year in celebration of International Women's Day. UNIFEM NC Singapore was honoured to have Ms. Chua Sock Koong – Group CEO from Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel) as our special guest speaker.

The luncheon held at the Fullerton Hotel was attended by several prominent women leaders in Singapore. In addition, over 150 professional women from various local and international corporations came to learn more about the usually private Ms Chua on her candid take on issues related to women in the typically male-dominated industry.

Named as the 15th most powerful female executive in global business by CNN's Fortune Magazine, Ms Chua shared her experiences about gender issues in the work environment. She stressed the essential need for today's women to prioritise what they want to do at different stages of life. She also addressed the need to balance the various gender-roles women face in today's society – from manager to mother to wife and daughter. Such tasks can be daunting but crucial for women to achieve success either in the workplace or at home. She emphasised that the future is bright for women who work hard.



Australian High Commissioner H E Miles Kupa with SingTel Group CEO Ms Chua Sock Koong and UNIFEM NC Singapore President Saleemah Ismail at the Fullerton Lobby



Ms Chua exudes personal confidence as she answers questions from the audience. On the left is MC Deborah Abraham.



Guests interacting and enjoying themselves at the luncheon

UNIFEM NC Singapore and the Australian High Commission would like to thank their partners and sponsors for making this event a success. These include SingTel, the Financial Women's Association of Singapore, Commonwealth Bank, Deutsche Asset Management, Standard Chartered Bank, M&C Saatchi and Macquarie Group of Companies.

FREE MEDICAL CHECKUPS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

In celebration of International Women's Day 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore along with Susan Lim Surgery and Parkway Health collaborated to present a free medical check-up for domestic workers at the Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre on 9th March 2008.

With guest speakers – Dr. Ann Tan & Dr. Cheong Lai Leng gracing the occasion, the event attracted over 600 domestic workers to the well-known Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre. Domestic workers from Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka & the Philippines were all eager to listen and learn from the series of talks as well. It was truly heart-warming to see the care that a handful of employers took to send their domestic worker personally to the event. Such a kind gesture must be noted and most importantly commended during a time when mistreatment of domestic workers' seem to be make frequent news here in Singapore.

UNIFEM NC Singapore would like to thank Dr. Susan Lim and her team for coordinating such a remarkable event for the migrant domestic workers.



Domestic Workers waiting in line to register for the free medical check up



Dr Susan Lim (Susan Lim Surgery) and Saleemah Ismail (President, UNIFEM NC Singapore)

DAY OFF CAMPAIGN



For a regular Day Off for domestic workers in Singapore

In May 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore teamed up with Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (H.O.M.E) and Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) to launch a year long campaign titled 'Day Off'. This public education campaign aimed to encourage employers in Singapore to voluntarily give their domestic worker a day off. Through campaign activities such as talks, events, news articles and the website www.dayoff.sg, UNIFEM NC Singapore hope that enough people become convinced of the importance of giving their domestic worker personal time off.

A day off is critical in creating and maintaining a positive working relationship between employer and employee. It can improve morale and productivity, and most importantly empower the domestic worker as an individual. And, with so much focus on the importance of a work life balance for all kinds of workers - the campaign is really only asking people to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Globally, one of UNIFEM's key programmes is to empower women migrant workers, with a specific focus on domestic workers - most of whom are female. Since 2003, UNIFEM has instituted programmes to support the rights of domestic workers in countries such as Jordan and Hong Kong, as well as in source countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and The Philippines. The Day Off Campaign is a contribution to UNIFEM's global effort to institute programmes that support the rights of domestic workers, and to improve the status and well-being of women migrant workers.



"Foreign domestic workers are productive individuals who make an extremely valuable contribution to the Singaporean society," says President of UNIFEM NC Singapore, Ms. Saleemah Ismail. " They take care of our homes and our children. And, like any other person, they deserve a day off. Time off is important for everyone's personal development, education, leisure and relaxation as well as for physical, mental and spiritual health. This can only result in a win-win situation."

At UNIFEM, we believe a day off is important because:

- A day off is a basic Labour Right. Domestic Workers are not currently included in the Singapore Employment Act that guarantees a day off a week by law for other employees.
- A day off improves morale and productivity of the employee and the working relationship between employer and employee.
- A day off gives FDWs the opportunity to use their free time to learn new skills, acquire knowledge and be empowered as individuals.
- FDWs are productive individuals who make an extremely valuable contribution to Singaporean society and like any other workers, they should be accorded a day off.

MEDIA COVERAGE & ONLINE SUPPORT

Date	Media	Country	Title
28-Apr-08	Today	Singapore	Two years on : Any change to Day Off
29-Apr-08	Reuters	International	Campaign for Singapore maids to get day off
29-Apr-08	Channel News Asia	Singapore	News item featuring key spokespeople and case study
29-Apr-08	Channel News Asia	Singapore	NGOs launch campaign for regular days off to foreign domestic worker
30-Apr-08	Straits Times	Singapore	Civic Groups campaign for maids' day off
30-Apr-08	ABS CNB	Philippines	Singapore advocacy groups campaign for days off for maids
30-Apr-08	Inquirer.net	Philippines	Singapore advocacy groups campaign for days off for maids
30-Apr-08	Independent Online	South Africa	Tired maids fight for a day off
30-Apr-08	Today	Singapore	Battle not won for rest days; three societies to launch campaign for maids
30-Apr-08	Dow Jones News Wires	International	Singapore advocacy groups campaign for days off for maids
30-Apr-08	Associated Press	International	Singapore advocacy groups campaign for days off for maids
30-Apr-08	Jakarta Post	International	Singapore advocacy groups campaign for days off for maids
30-Apr-08	Lianhe Zaobao	Singapore	Three NGOs work together to call for a day off for maids in Singapore
30-Apr-08	MSN News	International	Singapore groups to push for maids' day off
30-Apr-08	Yahoo!	International	Singapore groups to push for maids' day off
01-May-08	Her World	Singapore	Lobbying for leave
01-May-08	Female	Singapore	Day off for maids
01-May-08	Radio Australia	Australia	Push for day off for Singapore maids
01-May-08	Straits Times	Singapore	Foreign domestic workers need rest too
01-May-08	Radio Warna	Singapore	Interview with Saleemah Ismail
01-May-08	AFP	International	Singapore groups to push for maids' day off
01-May-08	The Nation	Thailand	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
01-May-08	Bangkok Post	Thailand	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
02-May-08	Straits Times	Singapore	No maid-to-order situation
02-May-08	The Irrawaddy	Burma	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
04-May-08	Sin Chew	Malaysia	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
04-May-08	Global Nation	Philippines	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
04-May-08	Sawf News	International	Singapore groups campaign 'Days Off' for maids
04-May-08	Vedior	Holland	Coalition pushes for Singaporean maids' days off
05-May-08	BBC World SERVICE	International	Interview with Saleemah Ismail
05-May-08	Straits Times	Singapore	Maids deserve a day off too...
07-May-08	Vasantham Central	Singapore	Interview with Malini Xavier
13-May-08	938 Live	Singapore	Interview with Lynn Tang and Jolovan Wham
15-May-08	CSR Asia	International	Migrant workers in Singapore: Day Off and Cuff Road
16-May-08	Straits Times	Singapore	\$5,000 bond has no place in day-off campaign for maids

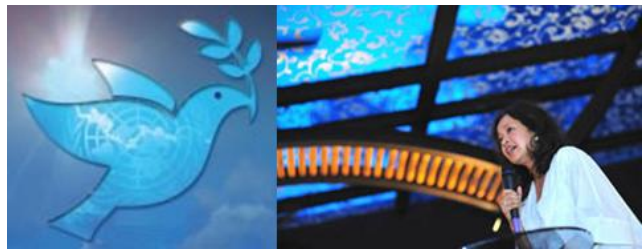
Our work with the Day Off website was impeccable. During the period 30 April 2008 (when we went live) to the morning of 21 May 2008, we had **3,392 visits** with **over 2500 unique visitors** and **10,000 page views**. We had readers from as far as Canada and Japan. We had over 2000 signing as supporters on the Day Off website and over 258 members on our Facebook site.

We had influential bloggers and online communities site such as Tomorrow.sg and Online Citizen featuring the Day Off campaign. The Online Citizen even ran the campaign banner on their site. A quick Google search showed more about 10 bloggers covering the campaign. We had more than 200 referrals from Tomorrow.sg.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

UNITED NATIONS DAY OF PEACE

On 21st September 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore organized the United Nations Day of Peace at CASSIS Restaurant in Rochester Park. The event served to underscore and promote UNIFEM's abiding efforts to highlight the predicament of women trapped in the crossfire of aggression, especially victims of wartime sexual violence. The need for continued effort in preserving the sovereignty of women's rights was reiterated by Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, a noted human rights activist and advisor to the Malaysian AIDS council, and Guest of Honour for the evening.



Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, our Guest of Honour

The event was a success and UNIFEM NC Singapore would like to thank our co-host Scarlett Magazine for their support and cooperation and also congratulate them on the launch of their magazine. We would also like to thank all our guests and well-wishers for their support.



Volunteers for the International Peace Day



PEACE FORUM

This year, UNIFEM NC Singapore was invited to speak at a Peace Forum held at Singapore Management University (SMU), where students and professionals alike were brought together to raise awareness on the plight of communities compelled by socio-political forces to ply the invisible human trade. As the forum drew to a close, it was clear that political advocacy requires a bedrock of supporters who are committed to take a stand on issues that require real and immediate remediation. Therefore, if action is pivotal to the purveyance of peace and freedom, the forum proved that there is no better occasion to ask ourselves what we as individuals can contribute. We would like to thank the Singapore Management University (SMU) for providing such great platform to showcase the cause.

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

UNIFEM NC Singapore is proud to announce that representatives of the Singapore government have signed on to UNIFEM's 'Say NO to Violence Against Women' campaign on 19 November 2008.

The three signatories were Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Tan Hwee Seh, Coordinating Director / Corporate Management for Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), and Mr Chew Hock Yong, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports (MCYS)

This expression of support is especially significant as 25th November marked the culmination of the first phase of UNIFEM's 'Say NO to Violence Against Women' campaign, which is part of the Secretary-General's 'UNiTE to End Violence Against Women' initiative.

To date, the campaign has been signed by more than 30 governments across the globe, including the governments of Finland, Chile, Pakistan, Iceland, Japan, Germany and Thailand. The campaign lobbies for the right of women to live free from violence, and it is hoped that the government's endorsement will urge Singaporeans to add their voices to the cause.



Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon



Mrs Tan Hwee Seh

In reiterating the government's commitment towards eradicating violence against women, Mrs. Yu-Foo said: "No one deserves to be hurt - even by their own family members." She also encouraged those affected by violence to approach the nearest Family Service Centre or call the police emergency hotline for help.



UNIFEM staff and volunteers for Take a Step to Make a Change



Ms. Sytra Lee performing at the UNIFEM event

On 6th December 2008, UNIFEM NC Singapore organized Take a Step to Make A Change, a walk to end violence against women, in partnership with MCYS, AWARE, SCWO, PUB-NEWater and Cafe Diplo.

The walk came under the U60 activities throughout November and December 2008, and commemorated the United Nations International Day for the

Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November 2008. Over 30 UNIFEM NC Singapore volunteers helped facilitate Take a Step to Make a Change on the day. UNIFEM NC Singapore would like to thank The Body Shop, The Jewel Box, CB Fleet, and buzzzar.com for their support.

ISEAS GENDER TRENDS SYMPOSIUM

Top local and regional academics gathered on December 4th to present and discuss their research on the complex issues women face, and will be facing in the social and political arenas of Southeast Asia. Held at the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) in conjunction with UNIFEM NC Singapore, the symposium covered a range of topics - from the changing family dynamics women are struggling with, to the intricacies of the politicisation of Islam in Indonesia and Malaysia and the impact these developments have on women's rights.

Guests were welcomed by Ambassador K. Kesavapany, the Director of ISEAS, along with a heartfelt speech by the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports. She broke the ice with candid talk about how to fulfil a woman's 3-in-1 dream - the need to balance work, marriage and childbirth - which she finds Singaporean women battling with everyday in the pursuit of happiness.

The issue of balance fit perfectly into Professor Gavin W. Jones's presentation on 'Woman, Marriage and Family in Southeast Asia'.

Apart from changes in family dynamics, the political representation of women in writing has not sufficed. Interestingly, Associate Professor Susan Blackburn of Monash University conducted research on texts written about Southeast Asian politics, only to find a lack of understanding and recognition of the role of gender in the field.

Changes in Indonesia and Malaysia also demand one's attention, as asserted by Professor Maznah Mohamad of the Asia Research Institute (ARI) in her research on 'Religion and Woman', which implies that with the rise of Islamic fundamentalism comes new regulations, laws and religious opinions (fatwas) that can have a deep impact on women's rights.

All in all, the symposium provided a wealth of information as the speakers imparted their knowledge alongside lively discussions on the major gender trends occurring in the region. One realizes the essential need for academics in this field, as their research and discoveries provide us with valuable insight into the key areas that are in need of continuous zeal and action towards gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

UNIFEM SCHOOL TALKS

The UNIFEM National Committee, Singapore as part of its objectives undertakes various public education programmes in Singapore. At the core of the public education programmes are school talks run by a dedicated group of volunteers for the UNIFEM NC Singapore. The school talks hope to achieve an increased consciousness about women's issues among school and college-going children and youth. Often a part of the school talk also ties in with ongoing campaigns and activities of the National Committee. This results in synergy with students volunteering to come back and participate in other UNIFEM NC events.

A few of the school talks have had a more specific focus (sometimes by special request) and have been tailored keeping in mind the age of the audience, interest and curriculum. The talks have centred on issues relating to violence against women and the plight of female migrant workers both in Singapore and in the region. The talks also give weight to our efforts and the initiatives of the Singapore government as well as other local and international organisations in addressing the issues. Over the past year, as part of its public education programme, UNIFEM NC Singapore has interacted with students and teachers from junior colleges, universities and secondary schools.

Volunteers from UNIFEM have raised and discussed issues with students of Nanyang Girls High School, Singapore Management University, Innova Junior College, Canadian International School, the NUS School of Journalism amongst others. In the coming year, with an increasingly dedicated group of volunteers, we hope to visit more schools and educational institutions in Singapore and also hope to encourage teachers to actively be involved in addressing issues close to UNIFEM's heart as part of the everyday school curriculum.

By increasing awareness among children and the youth we are increasing awareness about issues that UNIFEM locally, regionally and worldwide is concerned about. With a better and more sensitive approach to women and the problems that affect them, the next generation will hopefully ensure that the world is a better place for women and girls to live in.

UNIFEM School Talks 2008

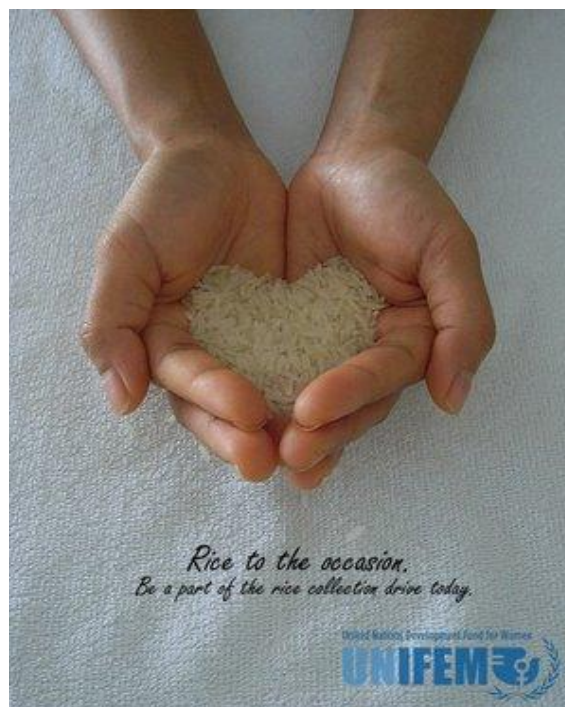
21 Jan		Chung Cheng High School	22 Aug		Nanyang Girls' High School
27 Mar		James Cook University	27 Aug		Nanyang Girls' High School
26 Jun		West Spring Secondary School	30 Aug		NUS High
01 Jul		Innova Junior College	15 Sep		NUS High
02 Aug		NUS School of Journalism	19 Sep		Singapore Management University
07 Aug		Nanyang Girls' High School			
14 Aug		Nanyang Girls' High School			

THE RICE DRIVE – PROJECT BY YOUTH TEAM

Recognizing that young people can effect positive changes in the society; National Committee for UNIFEM, Singapore Youth Team, a corollary of the National Committee for UNIFEM Singapore, was formed. Seeking to unite and empower members between 15 to 25 years of age, the Youth Team hopes to be a platform for encouraging young people to voice their opinions and ideas and to help further UNIFEM's agenda in the region. One of the successful projects by the Youth Team in 2008 was the highly acclaimed "Rice Drive", which was inspired by UNIFEM school talks.

The Rice Drive aimed to provide a platform for students to play an active and immediate role in helping the needy. The objective of the rice drive is three-pronged. 1) To collect rice from students to meet the needs of shelters run by H.O.M.E. 2) to raise awareness about migrant worker issues and violence against women, and 3) to cultivate a spirit of giving among youths. In the words of Rice Drive Leader, Flora Chan, "A cup of rice – seemingly insignificant and present in almost every household – can make a significant difference in the lives of others. And as each cup of rice is poured into the sack, as the grains are pooled together, the organizers hope that students will be able to understand, and see with their very own eyes, that their combined participation as a community can achieve a greater desired outcome. All students need is some initiative, and some heart, to bring a small and simple gift for those who need it the most."

The pilot run of the rice drive was conducted at Raffles Girls School (RGS) from Jan 28th to Feb 1st, 2008, and was a rousing success. In total, 320 kg of rice was collected from students. Following its initial success, another Rice Drive was held in April 2008 at Catholic Junior College, where a whopping 2,700 kilograms of rice was collected for H.O.M.E. shelters. Conducted over a mere two days, the Rice Drive saw students and teachers pitch in to make it a resounding success.



The highly successful Rice Drive project raised more than 300 kg of rice for H.O.M.E.



An overwhelming response



The shelter residents can barely contain their happiness as they receive the delivery of rice

UNIFEM SINGAPORE MEMBERSHIP

UNIFEM NC Singapore's membership base has been gradually increasing over the years. However, membership subscriptions dipped in 2008. Membership subscription on a December year-end basis decreased from 130 in 2007 to 100 in 2008. In efforts to boost membership, UNIFEM NC Singapore has put in place a new membership program for 2009.



6. SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

UNIFEM Singapore Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 December 2008

(in Singapore dollars)

2008

INCOME	
Donations received	9 593
Fund raising events	28 521
Membership renewals	5 225
Sub-total	43 339
Interest income	2 120
Other Income	15 780
Sub-total	17 900
Total income	61 239
EXPENDITURE	
Project & Events Costs	
Anti-trafficking programmes	4 616
Fundraising events & projects	47 807
Sub-total	52 423
General expenses	136 440
Total expenditures	188 863
Net income for 2008	-127 624

UNIFEM Singapore Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2008

(in Singapore dollars)

2 008

ASSETS	
Non-current assets	
Property, plant, and equipment	1 700
Total non-current assets	1 700
Current assets	
Cash and bank balances	214 583
Fixed deposits with bank	55 108
Other receivables	56 486
Total current assets	326 177
Total assets	327 877
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	
Current liabilities	
Other payables	141 549
Total liabilities	141 549
Net current assets	184 628
Total net assets/General fund	186 328

UOB GLOBAL UNIFEM SINGAPORE FUND (1999 – 2008)

The UOB Global UNIFEM Singapore fund was launched in 1999 as a pioneer in the region in terms of socially responsible investing. The fund focused on companies which show a commitment to the empowerment of women in any part of the world. The Fund highlighted women-friendly companies and simultaneously raised awareness of UNIFEM among investors. UOB also contributed to UNIFEM programmes through its donation of one-third of management fees.

We would like to acknowledge UOB Asset Management for pioneering this woman-friendly fund. We would also like to thank UOB for the support it has given to UNIFEM Singapore for almost a decade, until the UOB Global UNIFEM Singapore fund was terminated on 30 September 2008.

The fund was an open-ended unit trust with the objective of long term capital appreciation. It invested in global securities which showed a commitment to the empowerment of women. As at 31/12/07, the fund had SGD\$2.75 million under management, a drop from \$4.7 million as of 31/12/06. Redemptions and overall volatility in the equity markets had resulted in the decrease in assets. For the first time since its inception, the fund underperformed its benchmark, the MSCI World Index in 2007-2008. UOBAM continued its investment strategy, with the fund primarily invested in equities, however increasing its hold in cash. The fund's country allocation was primarily in US, followed by Switzerland, the UK, and France, Japan and Spain. The industry allocation was primarily in financial services and consumer products, while other major industries included industrials, IT, telecoms, and energy.

In assessing whether the securities in the fund showed a commitment to the empowerment of women, the UNIFEM Singapore Chapter's oversight committee provided UOB asset management with specific criteria for stock selection. Companies which derived more than 50% of their revenues from the five sectors deemed unacceptable by UNIFEM New York's policy for engagement with the private sector were eliminated. These sectors are armaments, pornography, tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. UNIFEM Singapore N.C. also entered into a contract with EIRIS Ltd, a social responsibility screening firm based in the UK, to obtain a subset of the 'most women friendly' companies within the investment universe.

This was achieved by giving the companies negative scores if they are engaged in women-unfriendly practices like discrimination and sexual harassment and positive scores if they are engaged in women-friendly practices, for example, being engaged in equal opportunity or having women on their boards. The companies with scores in the top 50% in each country were then chosen for inclusion into the UOBAM UNIFEM Fund's investable universe. It is believed that this 'best of class' approach was in line with industry practice, while providing a wide range of investment options for the fund.

Once again, we would like to thank UOBAM, and to celebrate almost a decade of woman-friendly investing in the UOB Global UNIFEM Singapore Fund!

APPENDIX I. THANK YOU SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

UNIFEM National Committee would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters without whom we could not have achieved all that we have. Your support has helped us bring programmes that work towards fruition of our mission. We have taken successful steps to achieve women's empowerment, reduction of poverty and violence but we still have a long way to go. We therefore need you beside us to achieve what we hope to always with the strongest conviction.



CHARLES & KEITH



ZEBRA CROSS PRODUCTIONS





National Committee for UNIFEM, Singapore
2 Nassim Road
Singapore 258370