

UN awards for three Singapore women

STBT000020061025e2a100001

Chen Huifen

366 Words

21 October 2006

Business Times Singapore

English

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Kanwaljit Soin, Ivy Singh-Lim and Geh Min honoured for their work
THREE prominent women yesterday received United Nations accolades for their professional work and their efforts in helping to create a better place to live in.

Former Nominated Member of Parliament Kanwaljit Soin was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Singapore for consistently excelling in her job and for her selfless contribution to society, especially towards the less advantaged.

Dr Soin is a consultant orthopaedic and hand surgeon in private practice. She is known for having founded the Association of Women for Action and Research (Aware) and has spoken publicly on issues concerning the elderly.

Just last month, she called for the establishment of a pension scheme for older Singaporeans.

An NMP from 1992 to 1996, Dr Soin is now vice-chair of HelpAge International, a British-based non-government organisation serving disadvantaged elderly people. She also chairs the Singapore Women's Initiative for Ageing Successfully (Wings) and is an adviser to The National Committee for Unifem Singapore.

Another social activist, former NMP Geh Min, received the Successful Woman Who Contributes to Society Award.

An ophthalmologist, Dr Geh is a nature lover, supporter of the arts and a committed conservationist of both natural and man-made heritage.

She is now serving her fifth term as president of the Nature Society, and sits on the boards of several environment-related agencies.

The third winner, Ivy Singh-Lim, is well known for making green living hip in Singapore.

Mrs Singh-Lim received the Stylish Achiever Award, having founded Bollywood Veggies, an organic farm located in Lim Chu Kang.

She is respected for her work in the development of netball in the region, having been involved in the sport since 1983. She served as president of Netball Singapore for 13 years before handing the position over to a new leader last year.

The awards ceremony is part of the Singapore JewelFest 2006, which was held at Ngee Ann City last night. The awards were presented by Housing and Development Board chairman Aline Wong, patron of the national committee for Unifem Singapore.