


WIM HARI WANITA FORUM

26 August 2024-08-20 SPEECH

Dato Dr. Nellie S. L. Tan-Wong, J. P.

Chairman,

Women's Institute of Management

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1. Y. B. Dato Seri Hajah Nancy Shukri,
Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia
 2. Distinguished Guests
 3. Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my humble duty to welcome each and everyone of you to this WIM Hari Wanita celebrations event. May I share with you today that promoting Women's Leadership has also been one of the important core objectives of WIM. We are particularly honoured by the presence of our dynamic Minister, Y. B. Dato Seri Hajah Nancy Shukri.

In the early years of WIM's existence, we received a request from our Prime Minister's Department to submit a paper on the focus, objectives and programmes which WIM will concentrate on in the next five years. And we had to submit our Proposal to the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department within three days of receipt of the request! It was a tall order but we did it. We understand that two other women NGOs were also invited to submit their proposals, and the Prime Minister chose WIM's proposal.

As a result, WIM's proposal was accepted and WIM had a special mention in the Women in Development chapter of the 7th Malaysia Plan. WIM also received a one-time government grant to conduct small business training to marginalised women in all the states of Malaysia for five times!

Another good opportunity for WIM was when WIM was awarded a RM30,000 grant from Telekom Malaysia Berhad to appoint a professional to design WIM's website. We are so grateful for Telekom's foresight because up till today, 175 countries have visited WIM's website, and this has resulted in a number of international requests to visit WIM. Requests were received to host visits to WIM by the wife of H. E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations; a delegation of Women in Government, USA comprising US women senators and congressmen, HRH the Crown Princess of Denmark (now Her majesty the Queen of Denmark); the First Lady of Zambia; a Queen Mother from South Africa; the Lady Mayoress of London; government delegations from Bangladesh and Mongolia, the Global Diversity team from Shell Co., UK Headquarters; the Deputy woman Prime Minister of Australia and others. Such visits benefited WIM leaders and members tremendously.

As I look back over the years, I am so glad that my Co-Founder cum Chairman, the late Tan Sri Dato Napsiah Omar and I decided to engage in aggressive fundraising to be able to construct our Wisma WIM, a 6-storey complex with a Car Park, which today is free of encumbrances. This is a high achievement for any NGO.

WIM does not receive any annual recurrent grant from our Government, and we feel so blessed that we own Wisma WIM which allows us to be self reliant and earn income from rental of our office premises and conducting a British MBA Degree Programme, in which our student population is roughly 50:50 women and men, and with a good representation of all the three major races of Malaysia.

Madam Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WIM has been practising and enabling women's leadership, right from our early years of existence. We also respect men's leadership as men also serve in WIM's committees and we have men as WIM honorary members.

Our Slogan, which is printed on our WIM letterheads is: "Excellence through Professionalism, Partnership and Caring." WIM has complied with our Slogan, e.g.:

- a) **Professionalism:** Our Board of Trustees comprise women professionals from all the various races of Malaysia, i.e., a Chartered Accountant, a Lawyer, a Medical Doctor, a Dental Surgeon, an Investment Banker, a retired Under Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, a Company Director, a retired Head of the Malaysian Insurance Institute and even a World President of an international women's organisation, Soroptimist International.
- b) **Partnership:** WIM has men and women serving in our WIM Boards and Committees, as well as working with other organisations.
- c) **Caring:** WIM has so far delivered 785 courses and events which have benefited 37,134 participants, a majority of whom are marginalised women's groups from all the states of Malaysia. We gratefully acknowledge the grants we have received from the United Nations Population Fund and the OSK Foundation.

Also, I wish to thank the Moderator and the three esteemed Speakers of our Forum, namely Y. Bhg. Dato Freida Pilus, Ms. Tan Ai Chin and Dr. Kavitha Muthy, our Emcee, Ms. Tiffany Tan, and our hardworking WIM Staff.

In conclusion, Madam Minister, we look forward to working with your esteemed Ministry to promote women's leadership in Malaysia.

To all of you, Ladies and Gentlemen present, I say "Ribuan Terima Kasih" and a Thousand Thanks for your kind presence and support for today's event.

Thank you.