

**WIM MENTAL HEALTH FORUM**  
**12 OCTOBER 2024**  
**SPEECH BY**  
**Y.BHG. DATO DR. NELLIE S.L. TAN-WONG, J.P**  
**Co-Founder/Chairman, Women's Institute of Management**

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1. Her Royal Highness  
Tuanku Zara Salim  
Raja Permaisuri of Perak Darul Ridzuan
  
2. Y.Bhg. Dato Dr. Marina David  
Chairman, WIM Mental Health Committee
  
3. Distinguished Speakers Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Women's Institute of Management is very proud and honoured that today's Forum is graced by Her Royal Highness Tuanku Zara Salim, Raja Permaisuri of Perak Darul Ridzuan.

The WIM Mental Committee is the newest Committee formed by WIM and under the able leadership of Dato Dr. Marina David and the enthusiastic support of her diligent Committee Members, they have swiftly organized this important Forum today.

Mental Health has become a very important issue in the lives of many individuals not only in Malaysia but around the world. These individuals come from all strata of society, from those who are lonely to those at the highest level of society. Mental Health affects both men and women including leaders, professionals, students, office workers, housewives and even children. The Women's Institute of Management will always give special focus on Mental Health and do our utmost effort to support such people and take some steps to educate, assist and promote the correct understanding of Mental Health in Malaysia.

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen: I will be failing in my duty if I do not share with you on the historical development of the Women's Institute of Management which was co-founded by the late Tan Sri Dato Napsiah Omar and myself way back in 1993. WIM was incorporated as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital, which means we do not have any shareholders and there is no distribution of dividends to anyone. All leaders of WIM serving in WIM Boards and Committees are 100% volunteers and do not receive any form of remuneration or allowances.

Our WIM Slogan is “Excellence through Professionalism, Partnership and Caring.”

On Professionalism, our Board of Trustees comprises a Chartered Accountant, a Medical Doctor, a retired Under Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, a Dental Surgeon, a Lawyer, an Investment Banker, a former Head of the Malaysian Insurance Institute, a Company Director and the World President of Soroptimist International.

On Partnership, we have men as our Associate Members and we enter into collaboration with many organisations and individuals.

On Caring, we have a strong record of conducting Training Programmes for marginalized women in all the States of Malaysia, including Perak, Sabah and Sarawak. Up till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, WIM has conducted 787 events, mostly benefitting 37,373 marginalized women.

WIM does not received any annual recurrent grant from the Malaysian Government but we have been fortunate to receive support and grants from the United Nations Population Fund, the OSK Foundation and other Foundations, members of the Corporate Sector, the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, the Canadian International Agency and many other wellwishers. Telekom Malaysia Berhad provided us with a grant to WIM to have a professionally designed Website. This resulted in WIM having a very active Website. As at 30.9.24, WIM's Website has been visited by 156,420 visitors from 175 countries around the world. This resulted in requests to visit WIM from important foreign visitors, e.g. the Queen of Denmark the First Lady of Zambia, a Queen Mother from South Africa, a Delegation of Women in Government, USA comprising US women senators and congressmen, government delegations from Mongolia and Bangladesh and many others.

WIM is also very active in the area of publications, having produced two 432 pages Books on The WIM Story and on Women's Leadership. Other publications of WIM include a Finance Handbook for the Entrepreneur produced in Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mandarin and Tamil, thanks to a grant given to WIM by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. WIM has produced other publications including a Business Journal called INSPIRE which is currently at its 55<sup>th</sup> issue. Surprisingly, INSPIRE, since its first issue, is purchased by the Library of the US Congress in Washington, D.C.

In the early years, WIM was one of three women NGOs asked by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department to submit a Proposal of what WIM proposes to do for the next five years. WIM's proposal was chosen by the then Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed. This resulted in WIM being cited in the Women in Development chapter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan and the Federal Government

awarding a grant for WIM to conduct Small Business Training Courses for disadvantaged women in all the States of Malaysia.

WIM also owns this 6-storey complex named Wisma WIM, which is free of encumbrances. This is a rare achievement for any NGO.

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I conclude by saying “Junjung Kasih” to Her Royal Highness by honouring WIM with her gracious presence today. This really means a lot for WIM. I also wish to extend my appreciation to Y.Bhg. Dato Dr Marina David and her active Committee, the two distinguished Speakers, the Forum’s Moderator, Y.M. Raja Puan Sri Dato’ Noora Ashikin bte Raja Abdullah, our capable emcee, Mrs Anita Devaya-Mueller, Ms Cecilia Chin, WIM’s Senior Manager and all the hardworking WIM Staff and last but not least, all of you participants at this event.

Junjung Kasih, Tuanku.