

24 Ogos 2003

Sambutan
Ulang Tahun
NCWO
ke
40



Hari
Wanita
ke
41



*Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong
Tuanku Fauziah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid*



*Bagai pohon tegak berdiri
Terbukti kau tahan diuji
Cabaran datang cabaran pergi
Segalanya tabah kau hadapi*

*Semenjak lahir di dunia
Sehingga menutupi mata
Bagai sungai yang terus mengalir
Bebanan tugas tak pernah berakhir*

*Wanita engkau bulan
Engkau juga suria
Wanita kerana keistimewaanmu
Terpikul segala amanah di atas
bahumu*

*Kerana langkah sering terbatas
Adakalanya engkau tertewas
Namun begitu engkau tetap gagah
Tiada pernah berputus asa*

*Demi kebahagiaan semua
Api kau genggam menjadi bara
Jasad lebur semangat tak luntur
Wanita mithali engkaulah obo....*

Terpikul segala amanah di bahumu





Ode To Women



*Like a sturdy tree
You stood the test of time
Facing all the challenges
With a heart so strong*

*From the time of your emergence
To your departure from this world
Like a river you flow
Fulfilling all your responsibilities*

*Oh, women of Malaysia!
You are the moon
You are the star
You are special
Hence your ability to shoulder all your burdens*

*There were times when you regressed
Due to trouble waters
But steadfast as ever
You continued on*

*For the good of all
You strove for success
even if you suffer in the process
You are a role model
You are the light at the end of the tunnel*

Indeed you are the bearer of hope and trust

Translated by: Datuk Dr Nik Safiah Karim





**YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir
Bin Mohamad**
Perdana Menteri Malaysia

Saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada NCWO yang meraikan usia yang ke - 40 pada tahun 2003 ini. Sebagai sebuah NGO yang menggabungkan 115 persatuan wanita yang mewakili suara pelbagai kepentingan dari pelbagai lapisan, NCWO merupakan rakan penting bagi membantu Kerajaan menggubal dan melaksanakan dasar-dasar untuk pembangunan negara.

Dalam tempoh 40 tahun ini, NCWO telah banyak memberi sumbangan kepada kemajuan wanita khususnya dan kepada pembangunan negara secara amnya. Kita boleh berbangga dengan kemajuan yang dicapai golongan wanita Malaysia dalam banyak hal, malahan ada yang setanding atau melebihi status wanita dari kebanyakan negara, termasuk negara maju.

Kemajuan ini telah dapat dicapai kerana NCWO telah berjaya mengguna kaedah yang berkesan dengan membentuk perkongsian dan kerjasama yang erat bersama Kerajaan dan juga pihak swasta dalam menjalankan advokasi dan program-programnya. Dengan cara ini NCWO telah dapat membantu Kerajaan menangani berbagai isu, terutamanya isu-isu sosial dan juga sebagai pelengkap kepada pelaksanaan dasar-dasar Kerajaan. Dalam hal ini saya dapati NCWO tidak lengah-lengah dan bersedia untuk memberi khidmat sukarela, terutamanya apabila diperlukan.

Bagi pihak Kerajaan saya mengucapkan terima kasih di atas sumbangan besar yang diberi secara sukarela oleh pemimpin NCWO dan ahli-ahli daripada persatuan gabungannya.

Saya berharap NCWO akan terus memberi khidmat bakti kepada negara dan rakyat.



DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
Putrajaya
5 Ogos 2003





YABhg Dato' Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Binti Haji Mohd Ali

Tahniah kepada NCWO kerana menjangkau usia 40 tahun. Dalam tempoh masa ini NCWO telah merintis jalan bagi kemajuan wanita dalam semua aspek kehidupan dan masih menerokai peluang-peluang baru. Inilah satu-satunya badan sukarela memahami dan menghayati tanggungjawabnya dalam memelihara nilai-nilai yang disanjung masyarakat – nilai yang penting untuk perpaduan hidup yang beriman, berintelekt dan berbudaya serta dapat membentuk masyarakat bersatu padu yang bertaraf sosio-ekonomi yang baik.

NCWO bukan sahaja memberi sumbangan kepada Negara bahkan memainkan peranan penting di arena antarabangsa. Sebagai salah seorang penaung ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO), saya telah melihat sendiri bagaimana NCWO mengasas dan menguatkan ACWO. Melalui kerjasama dengan pertubuhan-pertubuhan yang serupa di Negara ASEAN, NCWO telah memberi banyak sumbangan kepada program peringkat ASEAN melalui ASEAN Women's Programme dan ACWO sendiri. Malahan NCWOlah pertubuhan yang pertama yang menganjurkan persidangan HIV/AIDS bagi wanita Asean yang saya rasmikan pada tahun 1986. NCWO juga telah menerajui usaha meningkatkan kesedaran terhadap potensi teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi kepada ACWO. NCWO turut serta dalam semua persidangan Wanita Sedunia yang dianjurkan oleh Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu dan sering diundang untuk menyumbangkan kepakaran dalam berbagai mesyuarat, persidangan dan bengkel antarabangsa.

Saya yakin NCWO akan terus memberi khidmat bakti kepada masyarakat dengan memperteguhkan tanggungjawabnya untuk memajukan wanita secara saksama sebagai individu, ahli masyarakat dan isteri.

DR SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI
Putrajaya
4 Ogos 2003





**YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Bin
Haji Ahmad Badawi**
Timbalan Perdana Menteri Malaysia

Alhamdulillah, salah sebuah NGO yang sangat berjasa kepada negara telah mencapai usia ke 40. NCWO, sebagai pertubuhan induk kepada 115 persatuan wanita bergerak aktif dalam pelbagai lapangan dan banyak membantu Kerajaan dalam usaha meningkatkan status wanita Malaysia.

Satu lapangan penting yang dimainkan dengan sangat berkesan oleh NCWO ialah dalam memupuk perpaduan kaum dan integrasi kebangsaan. NCWO bukan sahaja berjuang untuk hak wanita malahan mengguna kaedah yang menitikberatkan perpaduan. Rekod khidmatnya membuktikan NCWO sentiasa patuh kepada prinsip perpaduan ini yang amat penting bagi sebuah negara seperti Malaysia.

Ahli gabungan NCWO terdiri dari persatuan yang mewakili pelbagai kepentingan yang termasuk kaum, agama, wilayah, budaya, kesihatan, ekonomi, kebajikan, alam sekitar, sains dan teknologi, perundangan, politik dan sebagainya. Namun dalam tindakannya NCWO telah dapat menyatupadukan semua persatuan ini dengan matlamat dan strategi yang jelas dan di mana semua pihak akan berasa gembira dengan hasil tindakan. Kesedaran kepada nilai perpaduan yang dipupuk di kalangan ahli-ahli persatuan sudah tentunya dibawa ke dalam keluarga dan masyarakat masing-masing.

Kerajaan berterima kasih kepada segala usah NCWO ke arah pembangunan masyarakat majmuk yang bersatupadu dan akan memberi segala kerjasama untuk membolehkan NCWO meneruskan khidmatnya. Tahniah sekali lagi.



DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI





YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood

Tahniah kepada NCWO kerana telah mencapai usia 40 tahun dengan 'track record' yang baik dalam usaha memajukan status wanita Malaysia. Sebutan NCWO secara automatik membawa fikiran saya kepada kumpulan wanita yang telah memimpin pertubuhan ini sepanjang empat dekad. Mereka telah memberi khidmat sukarela tanpa mengira tenaga dan masa. Pemimpin-pemimpin awalnya seperti Tan Sri Khamsiah Ibrahim, Tun Fatimah Hashim, Puan FR Bhupalan, Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Puan Sri Dr. Fatimah Hamid Don, Puan Sri Chong Hong Nyan dan Toh Puan Uma Sambanthan menjadi sumber inspirasi kepada generasi yang lebih muda yang sekarang memimpinnya dengan tradisi yang sama.

Berkat usaha NCWO dicerminkan dengan salah satu pencapaian terulungnya iaitu rundingan bersama penggubalan dan pelaksanaan Pelan Tindakan Wanita Negara. Pelan ini merangkumi secara komprehensif semua aspek kehidupan wanita. NCWO telah berusaha mengadakan pelbagai rundingan di pelbagai peringkat di seluruh negara terutama wanita di peringkat akar umbi untuk mengumpul maklumbalas yang menggambarkan keperluan sebenar wanita. Maklumbalas ini telah digunakan untuk menghasilkan syor-syor yang telah dimuatkan dalam Pelan Tindakan Wanita oleh Kerajaan.

Justeru, saya mempunyai harapan yang tinggi terhadap NCWO agar meneruskan usaha-usaha meningkatkan martabat dan kecemerlangan kaum wanita di Malaysia dalam pelbagai bidang pada masa akan datang. Selamat menyambut ulangtahun NCWO yang ke 40.

DATIN PADUKA SERI ENDON MAHMOOD





**YB Dato' Dr Hajah Siti Zaharah
Binti Haji Sulaiman**
*Menteri Perpaduan Negara dan
Pembangunan Masyarakat*

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh
Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Perpaduan

Sukacita saya mengucapkan Selamat Hari Wanita ke-41 kepada semua wanita Malaysia dan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada NCWO kerana meraikan usia penubuhannya yang ke-40 tahun.

Mengimbas kenangan manis saya tentang NCWO, ia berkisar kepada penggubalan Dasar Wanita Negara pada akhir tahun lapan puluhan. NCWO ialah NGO terulung yang mengambil inisiatif paling proaktif untuk menggubal Dasar Wanita Negara yang dikemukakan untuk dipertimbangkan oleh Kerajaan. Syor NCWO telah diserahkan kepada saya selaku Timbalan Menteri yang bertanggungjawab terhadap hal ehwal wanita pada wasa itu. Alhamdulillah, Dasar Wanita Negara telah diterima oleh Jemaah Menteri pada tahun 1989.

Dalam tempoh 40 tahun ini, NCWO telah memikul tanggungjawab bukan sahaja terhadap wanita, bahkan juga terhadap masyarakat. NCWO berpegang teguh kepada prinsip bahawa pembangunan dan kesaksamaan gender hanya akan berlaku dalam suasana yang aman dan sejahtera. Oleh yang demikian, kebanyakan programnya berasaskan perpaduan dan keamanan. Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dan Pembangunan Masyarakat sentiasa menyokong program perpaduan dan mediasi komuniti yang dilaksanakan bersama-sama demi kesejahteraan semua.

Syabas dan tahniah kepada NCWO atas kejayaan yang telah dicapai setakat ini. Semoga NCWO akan terus berjaya dan berbakti untuk negara yang tercinta.

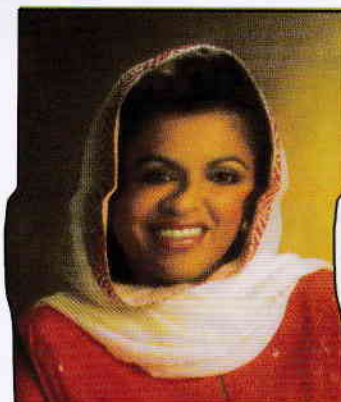
Sekian, terima kasih,

DATO' DR HAJAH SITI ZAHARAH BINTI HAJI SULAIMAN





YB Dato' Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil
Menteri Pembangunan Wanita
dan Keluarga



Assalamualaikum w.b.t. dan salam sejahtera.

Alhamdulillah syukur ke hadrat Allah s.w.t. kerana di atas limpah perkenanNya Majlis Makan Malam sempena Sambutan Hari Wanita 2003 dan Ulangtahun ke-40 Majlis Kebangsaan Pertubuhan-Pertubuhan Wanita Malaysia (NCWO) telah dapat dianjurkan buat sekian kalinya.

NCWO merupakan rakan kongsi bijak Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga yang telah sekian lama memberikan sokongan, sumbangan serta kerjasama kepada pelbagai usaha Kerajaan untuk meningkatkan status wanita dan kesejahteraan institusi kekeluargaan Malaysia. Sesungguhnya, sebelum penubuhan Kementerian ini lagi NCWO telah mempunyai sejarah khidmat bakti yang gemilang sepanjang tempoh 40 tahun usianya.

Sesungguhnya pihak Kementerian mengiktiraf semangat dan prinsip kerjasama dengan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) kerana NGO merupakan di antara jentera penting untuk menyampaikan segala program dan dasar Kerajaan kepada pelbagai lapisan masyarakat sehingga ke peringkat akar umbi. Sebagai sebuah badan induk kepada 115 buah persatuan wanita, NCWO telah berjaya memainkan peranannya dan bertindak menyalurkan maklumat dengan pantas dan berkesan kepada pelbagai golongan sasarannya.

Adalah diharapkan NCWO akan terus berjuang dan menyumbang kepada pembangunan wanita, keluarga serta negara agar rakyat Malaysia terus mencapai kecemerlangan. Selamat Menyambut Ulangtahun ke-40 buat NCWO dan Selamat Hari Wanita 2003 buat semua wanita Malaysia!

Salam Hormat,

DATO' SERI SHAHRIZAT ABDUL JALIL





**YBhg Dato' Dr Sharifah Hapsah
Syed Hasan Shahabudin
Presiden NCWO**



Assalamualaikum dan salam sejahtera

Syukur Alhamdulillah kita dapat bertemu sekali lagi pada perayaan Hari Wanita tahun 2003 dan sambutan ulang tahun NCWO yang ke-40.

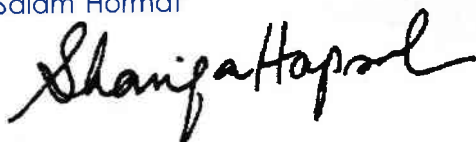
Semenjak Hari Wanita dirayakan 41 tahun dahulu, NCWO sebagai peneraju utama yang menggabungkan usaha untuk mengiktiraf sumbangan wanita kepada negara telah dapat merakamkan pelbagai sumbangan dan pencapaian wanita Malaysia yang makin meningkat. Hari Wanita amat penting untuk mengingatkan kita semua supaya merenung sejenak dan bersyukur kerana telah diberi nikmat Allah Subhanahuwataala untuk berjasa kepada negara dan bangsa.

Pada tahun ini juga kita bersyukur kerana NCWO dapat merakamkan usia ke-40 tahun dalam penuh bakti. Malahan NCWO telah dapat memainkan peranan yang lebih berkesan dalam pelbagai bidang dengan bertambahnya kepakaran dan khidmat bakti yang disumbangkan ahli-ahli gabungan yang mewakili pelbagai kepentingan. NCWO telah dapat menjejak zaman dalam usaha untuk memastikan wanita tidak ketinggalan dalam semua aspek pembangunan. Dari aspek pekerjaan, pendidikan, kesihatan, alam sekitar, sains, teknologi maklumat, perundangan, perdagangan, keselamatan dan kekeluargaan, NCWO turut terlibat dengan perkembangan-perkembangan untuk memudahkan wanita merentasi dan menangani cabaran alaf baru seperti globalisasi dan k-masyarakat.

Persamaan, Pembangunan dan Kedamaian. Inilah kata-kata penting yang menjadi pegangan NCWO bagi memajukan kedudukan wanita. Kedamaian dalam individu, keluarga, masyarakat, negara dan dunia menjadi panduan segala kegiatan NCWO. Kerjasama dan mengukuh jaringan dengan pelbagai pihak adalah strategi utama yang positif dan sangat berkesan.

Akhir sekali saya merakamkan ribuan terima kasih kepada ahli jawatankuasa Hari Wanita Tahun 2003 yang sekali lagi bertungkus lumus sebagai sukarelawan ikhlas.

Salam Hormat

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sharifah Hapsah'.

DATO' DR SHARIFAH HAPSAH SYED HASAN SHAHABUDIN





Aturcara

Sambutan
Ulang Tahun
NCWO
ke **40**



- 7.45 malam** Ketibaan Dif-Dif Jemputan
- 8.15 malam** Ketibaan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga
YB Dato' Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil
- 8.20 malam** Ketibaan YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood
- 8.25 malam** Keberangkatan Tiba YMM Raja Perempuan Besar Perlis
Tengku Budriah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Ismail
- 8.30 malam** Keberangkatan Tiba Seri Paduka Baginda
Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah binti
Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid
- 8.40 malam** Bacaan Doa
Ikrar Hari Wanita
Nyanyian lagu Hari Wanita
Nyanyian lagu NCWO
- 9.00 malam** Majlis Santapan
- 9.45 malam** Ucapan Presiden NCWO
YBhg Prof Dato' Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan
Shahabudin
- Ucapan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita Dan Keluarga
YB Dato' Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil
- Penganugerahan Pingat Tun Fatimah
- Persembahan Khas
- 11.00 malam** Keberangkatan Pulang Seri Paduka Baginda
Raja Permaisuri Agong





*I*t all began with a resolution by the YWCA of Malaya to bring together all non-political women's organizations under a single consultative and advisory body and by December 1960, a protem committee had been set up.

In August 1962, the first "Hari wanita" celebration was held at Stadium Merdeka.



• **First "Hari Wanita" 1962**

After the successful Women's Day, the protem committee proposed an amendment to the Constitution which resulted in the inclusion of women's sections of political organizations into the NCWO.

By 25 August, 1963, the National Council of Women's Organisations, NCWO was officially established with 8 founding members:

1. YWCA of Malaya.
2. The National Association of Women's Institutes Federation of Malaya.
3. The Women Teacher's Union Federation Of Malaya.
4. The Malayan Trained Nurses Association.
5. The Girl Guides Association Federation of Malaya.
6. The Muslim Women's Welfare Council Federation of Malaya.
7. Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association.
8. The Women's International Club.

Today NCWO serves as the main NGO-coordinating, consultative and advisory body and its goal has been single-minded: to eliminate major disadvantages and inequalities affecting women by encouraging women's organizations to work within a broad arena, with women, at grass roots level, as an important component.

Unity, understanding, co-operation, sacrifice, conviction and determination are the core values of the NCWO. Many fundamental changes have been implemented using these values. Through advocacy, discriminatory laws have been amended and new laws passed.

It is to the credit of the NCWO that the status of women has been raised and their equal partnership role in society acknowledged.



• **First "Hari Wanita" Committee**



Four Decades Of NCWO... Reflections

Sambutan
Ulang Tahun
NCWO
ke **40**

Since its inception, NCWO has been a catalyst for positive change in numerous areas. In the 1960's, NCWO successfully campaigned for the Civil & Diplomatic Services to be opened to qualified and competent women.

During this time, the NCWO president, YB Tan Sri Fatimah Hashim was appointed as the first woman minister in the Malaysian Cabinet while Datuk Paduka Aishah Ghani was selected to sit on the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Some outstanding achievements include The Pensions Amendment Act of 1968, giving women permanency and pensionable status; the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value in 1969, women graduates were able to enter the MCS / PTB Scheme; the Children's Protection Act 1990, which guaranteed greater protection of the child. Today it is replaced by the Child's Act of 1 March 2001.

NCWO advocacy also led to the inclusion of a woman member in the Majlis Kebangsaan Hal Ehwal Islam - the National Islamic Council.

An NCWO memorandum also resulted in the establishment of a Royal Commission to study the Marriage and Divorce Act 1976 for non-Muslims. The Law Reform Marriage and Divorce Act 1976 for non-Muslims deemed monogamous, after 1981.



• **Kemaraan Wanita 1975**

The 1975 International Year for Women witnessed a Rally and March Past "Kemaraan Wanita" and a Regional Conference with representation from ASEAN women's organizations which led to the formation of the ASEAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME (AWP) and later the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO).



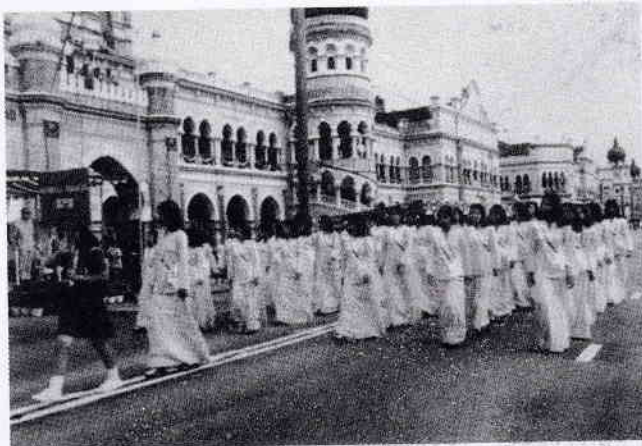
• **1975 Conference**



• **ACWO Board Members 1994-2002**

The United Nations Year of the Child in 1979 saw NCWO holding a series of workshops which led to a National Conference on Children. The outcome of which was a Children's Charter and Report which was forwarded to the Malaysian Government.

In 1985, in order to identify legislations that discriminate against women, NCWO held a national workshop that resulted in a memorandum containing 7 resolutions with far-reaching effects for all Malaysian women.



• **Kemaraan Wanita 1975**

NCWO stepped up its advocacy work on the seven resolutions, together with its affiliate members and other NGOs which resulted in the following: -

Resolution 1: Rape

Rape & Molestation Laws were amended in 1989. A Malaysia Rape Investigation Kit was produced and a One Stop Rape Crisis Centre was established in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital. A Special Investigation Unit of Women Police Officers was started.

Resolution 2: Domestic Violence Act (1st Draft)

The Domestic Violence Act was passed in 1994 and came into effect in 1996.

Resolution 3: Custody, Guardianship and Maintenance,

The Guardianship of Infants Act 1961 was amended in 1999.

Resolution 4: Inheritance and Property rights for Women,

The Distribution Act was passed in 1998.

Resolution 5: Labour Laws,

Maternity leave was extended from 42 to 60 days.

Resolution 6: Income Tax Laws,

Income Tax Laws saw to separate taxation for women.



• **Food Packages for Malaysian Servicemen Abroad**

Resolution 7: Social Security.

Social Security recommendations on major legislations that discriminated against women, was presented to the Government.

NCWO has been responsible for many pioneering initiatives. These include the sending of food packages to Malaysian servicemen abroad.

NCWO was instrumental in the setting up of the Malaysian Aids Council to address the serious issues concerning HIV/AIDS.

In 1990 NCWO reiterated its stand on setting up a Women's Hospital to do research on women's wellness to which the Ministry of Health agreed in principle. Arising out of this the Ministry of Health has set up a Women & Children Hospital.

The Council has also taken the lead in eradicating poverty. NCWO's pleas for more well coordinated programmes for low cost housing, those living in squatter areas and slums have been constant and consistent during the annual budget dialogue sessions with the Minister of Finance. Starting in 1981, towards this end, the Council also works in close partnership with the Ministry of Women & Development.

Since 1974, the Tun Fatimah Gold Medal Award has been presented to outstanding women on Hari Wanita.



Tun Fatimah Gold Medal Award



1974 - YBhg Tan Sri Hajah Ibu Zain bt Munshi Sulaiman receiving the award from Tun Razak



1977 - YBhg Dr Soo Kim Lan receiving the award from Tun Hussein Onn



1982 - YB Senator Puan Sri Datin Athi Nahappan receiving the award from Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir



1985 - YABhg Dato' Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah receiving the award from the Queen

At the 20th Anniversary of NCWO in 1983, special efforts were made to honour women in all walks of life - the rubber tapper, the dulang washer, etc. These presentations were made at the National Museum during the opening of an exhibition on leading women in the various sectors.



• **DYMM Tengku Hajjah Afzan Officiating Pameran Kejayaan Wanita**



• **Tan Sri Fatimah & DYMM Tengku Hajjah Afzan**

In the 1990's, NCWO setup various Commissions based on the sectors contained in the National policy on Women. Each Commission drew up an action plan and these were incorporated in the NCWO NGO Plan of Action for the implementation of the National Policy on Women.

In 1998, NCWO set up a Women's Watch to protect and further enhance the rights of women. This would be done through close liaison with government to assess the current status of women and push for reforms. This will be reviewed by the NCWO Management Committee.

Work of the Commissions

The NCWO's Commission on Poverty recently embarked on a community service, grassroots project to raise awareness about breast cancer. Breast cancer is the number one cancer and leading cause of death in Malaysian women.

Financial support came from the Ministry of Women & Family Development and works in collaboration with the College of Radiology of the Malaysian Academy of Medicine, the Breast Cancer Welfare Association and FFPAM.

The objective of this campaign is to educate women and men about breast cancer and train women, especially those in the grassroots to carry out self breast examinations for early detection. The 2002 Campaign covered Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan, Penang, Kelantan, Pahang and Sabah. The 2003 Campaign, in collaboration with LPPKN will cover the other 9 states.



• **Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign 2002**

During 1998 - 2002 this Commission also conducted Mentorship-Leadership Training of Trainers Programme for NCWO affiliates. This program is being carried out in the ASEAN Countries at the request of the ACWO Board members.



• MLTP In Myanmar

The NCWO's Commission on Environment

The Commission launched its Recycling Buyback Community Centre in Petaling Jaya on February 16, 2002.

Members of the public were encouraged to bring in old newspapers, boxes, aluminium cans and other recyclables.

A fitting event to usher the New Millennium was Global Knowledge 11, held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2000. It comprised 3 related components – a Global Knowledge Forum, a Global Knowledge Partnership Action Summit and a Knowledge Fair. The focus was on the challenges of harnessing information and knowledge as tools for development at local, national and global levels.

Within this umbrella, the GK 11 Women's Forum was organized. It brought together about 130 women from all over the world and ASEAN youth to discuss opportunities and challenges facing women in the new information age.

Later in the year, in October 2000, an international forum on women and ICT was organized by NCWO's Science & Technology Commission, HAWA, UNDP, MIMOS and Third World Organisation of Women in Science.

The project, under the auspices of the "Networking Women" project led to the provision of infrastructure of hardware and software to participating associations.

Websites were developed and designed for these associations. Related hands-on training was also provided.

To the benefit of all women. The NCWO website was created. With this came the creation of a women's portal.

In year 2002, the e-pasar module was added to the portal with the aim of providing opportunities for women to conduct their business in the global market. The module was created with the co-operation of DRB-HICOM Information Technologies Sdn Bhd, Telekom Malaysia Bhd and TM Net Sdn Bhd.

In 2002 - 2003, supported by the Ministry for Women and Family Development, the Science & Technology Commission is carrying out ICT Programmes in Sabah & Sarawak.

The Poverty Commission is carrying out capacity building programmes for young girls from the marginalized sectors and for Orang Asli Women.

The NCWO Youth Commission is conducting "Equal Wing's Road Show" a gender sensitization program for young people to address issues of gender equality through the use of songs, dance and drama.



Three thousand volunteers have been mobilized by NCWO under the NetMas programme to provide 'hands-on' and 'on-site' assistance to ensure the smooth implementation of the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English in schools this year. This Programme is a collaboration between NCWO and the Ministry of Education, supported by The Ministry for Women And Family Development. Telekom Malaysia Berhad provided a toll-free line for this programme.

On 24th February 2003, the First Ladies and accompanying spouses to the NAM Conference held a dialogue with NCWO affiliates and prominent women from several women's organizations on "Investing in Peace" at the Shangri-La Hotel in Putrajaya. The dialogue session was organised by the Ministry of Women and Family Development and NCWO. The dialogue session ended with a resolution appealing to governments to end war at all cost.

NCWO also furnished the children's room of the High Court Civil Division no.8 (Family Court) and the Wilayah Persekutuan Syariah Court in order to make it children friendly.

Another important project launched this year by the government is the Micro-Credit Scheme to provide financing up to RM20,000 for women to start new business as well as for existing micro enterprises. NCWO signed a Memorandum of



• **Equal - Wings Road Show**

Understanding with FEM (Federation of Women Entrepreneur) and NAWEM (the National Association of Women Entrepreneur Malaysia) to identify and assist women to access the loan.

Today NCWO continues to work on major issues which will contribute to the betterment of the Malaysian family.

Work on advocacy matters continues in the legal department of the PM's office. We remember in particular the role played by Datin Hajjah Fauziah Ramly the Director-General, and the Minister in charge of the Legal Department, Dato' Rais Yatim.

Efforts to reduce the need for already traumatized child sexual abuse victims to answer questions in Court led to the construction of a therapy room where videotaped interviews with the victim can be conducted, which can be heard in court.



A section of the Participants at the International ICT Forum



• Participants to the 1st Ladies' Dialogue Session

In the future, NCWO will continue to promote the development and advancement of women at all levels.

By 2005, the Council aims to ensure equality for all women and achieve a 30% participation of women in the decision making process at all levels – in the legislature, the judiciary, the executive, civil service and the private sector.

By 2005, NCWO aims to reform laws, including Syariah, both in substance and enforcement to eliminate discrimination.



• Signing of MOU on Micro-Credit with FEM and NAWEM

To integrate women as equal agents and beneficiaries in the K-Economy.

Reduce the incidence of all forms of violence against women and children.

Ensure the fulfillment of the commitment taken at the International level.

Ultimately there will be a just society, free from discrimination in which women at all levels enjoy equality through the promotion and protection of their human rights.

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