



Sarawak Women for Women Society  
(Pertubuhan Wanita Untuk Wanita Sarawak)  
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Dear friends,

Greetings and a Happy New Year 2007. We hope the new year will bring us new hopes, renewed strengths and stronger friendships. We also pray that the year will be a year of active participation and involvement of members in our existing programmes and new programmes for the year. Your continuous and unwavering support is greatly welcomed for SWWS to move to greater strengths.

This year will also mark a crucial turning point for SWWS. We had been allocated a government quarters (had been applying for it for years) and it had been renovated. The date of moving has not been decided as there are a number of administrative matters yet to be resolved. When that time comes, we all need everyone to lend a hand and we look forward to your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our 21st Anniversary Seminar and Dinner 2006 a great success.

God Bless you all.

Margaret Bedus  
President

Sarawak Women For Women  
Society (SWWS)

Office Bearers 2006- 2008

President: Margaret Bedus  
Vice President: Angie Garet  
Secretary: Jusy Nioh  
Vice Secretary: Liza Deen  
Treasurer: Alice Sim  
Vice Treasurer: Juliana Yeo

Committee Members

Ita Ling (OSCC)  
Diana Carol (CPL)  
Christina Yeo  
Margaret Julong

Drop-In Centre Coordinator:  
Nancy Sertimathii

Legal Advisors

Anna Teo  
Maria Jimmy Jalil  
Wendy Jorai

*SWWS's held its 21st Anniversary Diner on the 2 Sept 2006 in Kuching Park Hotel. The guests comprised a mix of the new and old members and members of the NGO's (120 pax) was aimed at bringing together everyone to evaluate the goals of the society, the vision, mission and to ensure we are working after 21 years of existence.*

*The President Margaret Bedus gave a speech and followed by the speech by Director of Biro Wanita, YBhg Puan Norjanah bte Razali who grace the function..*

*The evening was cheered by ballet dance by member and her group, "Sapè" musical by member's kids and music and karaoke. There was cake cutting to mark our 21st anniversary and a lot of lucky draws were given out. It was not all work, work, work but we had fun too.*

*Keep up the team spirit!!!!!!!*

*By Angie Garet  
Vice President*



*The First SWWS Souvenir Book entitled "Sarawak Women For Women Society 21st Anniversary Charting New Direction 1983 - 2006" was successfully produced to mark the 21st anniversary of the SWWS. It was Lunched and distributed to members during our Anniversary Dinner.*



*The Souvenir Book provides a detailed description of SWWS: its history, its services, people's experiences, as well as, the aspirations of SWWS. After 21 years of service, now is a good time for members to look back, look around and look forward. We are charting new directions.*

*We would like to acknowledge our sponsors who enabled us to print this book. Special thanks to the member fo the Editorial Board. This book would not have been possible if not of their contributions, teamwork and diligence. Please get your copy SWWS Souvenir Book at DIC..*

*Thanks Reported by Jane Buncan*

*I was asked to go to an international conference on Mechanisms and Legislation to Promote and Protect Gender Equality, held at Hotel Armada P.J. on 28 -30 August, 2006.*

*It was organised by Women's Centre for Change (WCC) and Women Living Under Muslim Law (WLUML).*

*It was attended by speakers from Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Participants were from The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, DAP, Universities and 11 NGO's*

*The opening speech was by the Right Hon. Chief Judge of Malaya, Tan Sri Dato' Siti Normah Yaakob. May 2006 -Malaysia presented it's first report to the Committee on UN CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) and though some steps have been taken to comply with the standards set by CEDAW, a lot more needs to be done. WCC took the initiative to propose to the government that gender equality legislation should be passed as the present laws are not adequate.*

*After listening to the international participants speak about the mechanisms to promote gender equality in their countries, Ms Zarizana Abdul Aziz of WCC introduced a proposed gender discrimination act for Malaysia, it was discussed by the participants and hopefully after modifications, it should be proposed to the government in the next year.*

*This conference was very informative and I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend.*

*Report by Marjorie Abdullah*

#### *Mental Health Day*

*I was asked to be in-charge of an Exhibition in conjunction with Mental Health Day by Mental Health Association of Sarawak on Sunday, 15th October, 2006 at Lower Ground Floor, Wisma Saberkas. There were 3 NGOs involved in the Exhibition namely National Cancer Society, Pamadam Daerah Kuching and Sarawak Women for Women Society. The opening of the booths was at 10.00 am until 8.00 pm and was officiated by YB Datuk Yong Khoo Seng. Our Exhibition booth was managed by our members Zurina, Ann Samuel, Juliana, Wong JJ, Lydia, Jamayah, Tisa and myself and they have shown their responsibility to take turn to be on duty on time. Thanks to them all. The objective of the whole programmes was for the awareness of managing stress followed by a drama by Unimas students.*

*Reported by Liza Deen*

#### *"World of Women 2006 Expo*

*From 3rd -5th November, 2006 jointly organized by Cahaya Teknologi and Women's Bureau in conjunction with the State Level Women's Day Celebration 2006. The event is organized to celebrate and commemorate the contribution of women towards nation building... Women who play key roles in government and business... women who striving to improve society in countless way.... while remaining as homemakers and mothers.*

*SWWS set up a booth during the Expo. YB datin Hajjah Fatimah bt Abdullah, Assistant Minister's Office and Assistant Ministers of Agriculture officiated the opening ceremony of this event. The response was overwhelming, people from all walks of life visited the expo.*

*Reported by Nancy Serimathi.*

*Info: By Liza Deen*

*Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak had a few meetings arranged since 5th July, 2006 "Agenda Social Negeri" mainly focusing on the Increase of Divorce rates in the state. Attended by KEMAS, LPPKN, JASA, JKSS, JAKIM,, Persatuan Gereja Sarawak, PITSA, BBG KPSU, Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Negeri Sarawak, JAIS-USK, PPWS@WI, Persatuan Buddha Sarawak, Persatuan, Kaunseling Sarawak, Dayak Bidayuh National Associations (DBNA) and SWWS. SWWS forwarded 3 projects that is Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment at the Workplace and Boys and Girls relationship. 2 out of the 3 projects had been accepted and the 3rd project that is the Boys and Girls relationship and was forwarded to KPSU directly to handle. On 10th October, 2006 Kementerian Pembangunan Social dan Urbanisasi (KPSU) had their 1st discussion on "Kajian anak-anak Remaja di Sarawak" Attended by NGOs, Governments Department involved including the Education Department. They voice out the financial support and the effort their Department had done to assist the youths and many suggested projects to be proposed to help them.*

*Not less support towards Women,, Biro Wanita had "Taklimat Kajian Keganasan Rumah tangga di Sarawak" held on 22 September, 2006 at Biro Wanita HQ at Petra Jaya, Kuching. Presented by Prof. Datin Napsiah Mahfuz and attended by NGOs, welfare Dept, BBG, JAIS, and other related Governments Department. The objective in this discussion was to expose existing knowledge and to impose more effective procedure to reduce Domestic Violence. I was touched by the last and the closing words of Pro. Datin Dr Napsiah Mahfuz were:-*

*I got flowers today,*

*It wasn't my birthday or any other special day. We had our first argument last night, and he said alot of cruel things that really burt me. I know he is sorry and didn't mean the things he said*

*Because he sent me flowers today.*

*I got flowers today,*

*It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day. Last night, he threw me into a wall and started to choke me. It seemed like a nightmare. I couldn't believe it was real. I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over.*

*I know he must be sorry -*

*Because he sent me flowers today.*

*I got flowers today,*

*It wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day. Last night, he beat me up again. And it was much worse than all the other times. If I leave him, what will I do? How will I care of my kids? I'm afraid of him and scared to leave. But I know he must be sorry.*

*Because he sent me flowers today.*

*I got flowers today,*

*Today was a very special day. It was the day of my funeral. Last night, he finally killed me. He beat me to death. If only I had gathered enough courage and strenght to leave him, I would not have gotten flowers*

*today.*

*To all members of Sarawak Women For Women Society AGM is around the corner, Please make yourself free and give support on 31st March, 2007 (Saturday) at 2.30 pm at Harbour View Hotel, Kuching.*