

## Brief Report for 27th PPSEAWA International Conference 2019

### New Taipei, Taiwan

The 27th PPSEAWA International Conference, held from June 23 to June 26, with a Council meeting on June 22, and optional local tours on June 27. We had a total of 351 people in attendance, including 13 registered PPSEAWA member countries, 143 delegates and local guests. The conference opened on June 23 with many esteemed guests, including President of Taiwan ROC, Tsai Ing Wen, former Vice President of Taiwan ROC Ann Lu, New Taipei City Mayor, etc. Official meetings started on June 24, with Business and Council meetings in the morning, and panel presentations in the afternoon. Besides successful conclusion of business meetings, council meetings, and Election, delegates enthusiastically participated in the panel presentations on the conference theme-“Life’s journey to wellbeing”. NMO presenters and local experts shared many ideas and best practices on the four topics. Topic 1: “Promote lifelong wellness habits”; Topic 2: “Share best practices for financial literacy and mindful decision-making throughout a women’s life course.”; Topic 3: “Advance women’s wellbeing-Promoting women’s economic empowerment and gender equality.”; and Topic 4: “Labor force shortage resulted from aging society, women’s prospective.”. In the evening, the dinners were filled with rekindled friendships and laughters. The highlight of the Cultural night, with the theme of “Flowers”, was the showcase of wonderful performances by respective NMOs. By incorporating environmental considerations throughout all stages of our conference meeting to minimize the negative impact on the environment, the 27th International conference was awarded the Taiwan Green MICE Award.

The following proceedings are brief descriptions of conference by date. Please see our full report for more informations.

June 23, 2019

Opening Ceremony commenced at 9 am with member countries’ National Flag procession. Led by goodwill ambassadors, with PPSEAWA Song of Peace played in the background, NMO Presidents and heads of delegations proceed onto the stage. Welcome speech was given by Conference chair Ms. Regina Chen. Recorded speech by PPSEAWA International President Date Rahmah Abdul Hamid was played. Welcome remarks was given by Dr. Pen-Tsao Chang, Chairman of Taiwan Federation of Commerce. The culmination of opening ceremony was the welcome speech given by President of Republic of China(Taiwan), Dr. Tsai Ing Wen, followed by introduction of PPSEAWA International Executives, Council Members and NMO Presidents. After her speech, President Tsai Ing Wen, accompanied by First Vice President Ms. Mondhiya Bhangsbha and Ms. Regina Chen, made visit to exhibition booths, which are longstanding tradition of PPSEAWA International conferences.

After lunch, all delegates were invited to join the complimentary visit the National Palace Museum.

In the evening, Welcome Dinner was opened with wonderful aboriginal dance performances by Zhangshu Elementary School students. Congratulatory and welcome speeches were given by Mr. Scott Lai, Director General of Department of NGO International Affairs, Mr. Hou You-Yi, Mayor of New Taipei City, and Annette Lu Hsiu-Lien, former Vice President of Republic of China(Taiwan). The highlight of evening was the speech given by Mr. Khairy Jamaluddin MP on behalf of International President Dato Rahmah Abdul Hamid, on “What women have to once again do to save the world.”

June 24, 2019

The morning commenced at 8:15am with announcements by International secretary Ms. Mei Chuan Chao and was followed by First Business Meeting and Second Council Meeting. In First Business meeting, there were roll call for delegations, President’s welcome and report, and Obituaries reports. Motion to adopt Agenda for 2019 Business Meeting in Taiwan was passed. Motion to approve Minutes of Business Meeting from 2016 Conference Malaysia was also passed. Secretary’s report and announcement of election slates was done. Financial Report 2016-2019 was reported and approved. Country Reports from Australia, Canada, Fiji, and Japan was presented.

In the afternoon, Panel presentations were held, with Topic 1: “Promote lifelong wellness habits” and Topic 2: “Share best practices for financial literacy and mindful decision-making throughout a women’s life course.” Panel 1 was moderated by Dr. Chaikran Hiranpruk(Thailand) with presentations from Ms. Jean Bennett(Australia) on “Dance for Parkinson’s and Dance for wellbeing”, Ms. Colette Young-Pohlman(Hawaii) on “Music and wellbeing”, Dr. Munirah Mohd Hassan(Malaysia) on “Fostering wellbeing for all ages thru education and community projects”, and Ms. Kazuko Kano, Ms. Etsuko Matsuoka, Ms. Chieko Serizawa, Ms. Sumiko Fukushima. Ms. Mariko Fujikawa(Japan), on “The milestones in a Japanese women’s journey to wellbeing”

Panel presentations 2 was moderated by Dr. Genie Trapp(Hawaii), with presentations from Ms. Jenny Yang(Canada) on “Practices for Financial Literacy and Mindful decision-making throughout a women’s Life Course”; Madam Adi Koila, Ms. Reshmi Deo, Ms. Titilia Vuataki(Fiji) on “Financial Literacy Training”; Ms. Lonie Martin, Ms. Melanie Swami(New Zealand) on “Strategies for budgeting for life-long financial security” and “New Zealand perspective for financial literacy”; Ms. Lantip Dvadasin(Thailand) on “Case studies in Thailand”; Ms. Akari Yamada(USA) on “A women must have money and a room of one’s own”; and Dr. Mandy Chen(Taiwan) on “Why financial literacy is especially important for women?-Taiwan’s experiences and best practices.”

June 25, 2019

The morning commenced at 8:30 am with announcements by International secretary and was followed by Second Business Meeting and Third Council Meeting.

In the Second Business Meeting, Country reports from Hawaii, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, Thailand, USA, and Taiwan were presented. Report from Vice Presidents and Directors, 2016-2019 Peace Ambassador's Report, Membership Convener Report were presented as well.

In the afternoon, Panel presentations were held, with Topic 3: "Advance women's wellbeing-Promoting women's economic empowerment and gender equality." And Topic 4: "Labor force shortage resulted from aging society, women's prospective." Panel presentation 3 was moderated by Ms. Akari Yamada, with panelists Ms. Martina Hwa-yuh Deng on "Advocacy on Women's economic empowerment", Ms. Ling-Hsiang(Sunny) Huang, and Dr. Hung-Ru Lai on "Empowering socially and economically disadvantaged women: from the perspective of adult never-married single mothers in taiwan". Panel presentation 4 was moderated by Dr. Raj Abdul Karim, with panelists Dr. Liang Kung Chen on "Labor force shortage resulted from aging society, how can women help?", Dr. Wen-chi Chou on "Possibilities into Realities?! Aging, Labor Shortage and Chances of Women's Participation", and Dr. Feili Lo Yang on "labor force shortage resulted from aging society: women's prospective; nutritionist's viewpoint".

In the evening, the highly anticipated Culture Night was unveiled with dance performance "Flowers bloom for prosperity" by PPSEAWA Taiwan, illustrating the theme of the night-Flowers. Short talk by Ms. Jean Bennet (Australia), Traditional dance by PPSEAWA Fiji, and "The Rose" sang by Ms. Colette Young-Pohlman(Hawaii) all conveyed the spirit of flowers. Delegates from Indonesia showcased different tribal dresses and dances. PPSEAWA Japan delegates sang "Hana" and "Rainy night flowers" in Taiwanese. PPSEAWA Malaysia incorporated dancing fan in their wonderful dance performance to pay tribute to host country Taiwan. PPSEAWA Thailand delegates demonstrated origin and characteristics of various flowers with beautiful self-designed dresses. Delegates from New Zealand dressed in various cultural dresses to represent New Zealand's multicultural society and performed a variety of dances. PPSEAWA USA delegates sang "What a wonderful world" by Frank Sinatra. Cultural Night performances ended with the final performance "All seasons red " by PPSEAWA Taiwan.

June 26, 2019

The morning commenced at 8:30 am with announcements by International secretary and was followed by Third Business Meeting, Election, and Joint Council Meeting.

In the Third Business Meeting, United Nations representatives reports, ESCAP representative report, Youth reports, and PDC report were presented. 2016 Conference report, progress on recommendation from August 2016, and Peace Development Award were presented by Dr. Raj Karim. Proposal of 2020 Midterm conference meeting in Tokyo Japan was presented by Ms. Sonoko Nishitateno, President of PPSEAWA Japan. Proposal of 28th International Conference 2022 in New Zealand was presented by Ms. Lonie Martin, President of PPSEAWA New Zealand.

After brief coffee break, Election was held. 2019-2022 Officers and Council were elected. Delegates voiced congratulations to Madam President Mondhiya Bhangsbha(Thailand). First

Vice President Madam Akari Yamada(USA), Second Vice President Dr. Raj Karim(Malaysia), Secretary Madam Mei Chuan Chao(USA), Treasurer Madam P. Genie Trapp(Hawaii), and council members. Joint Council meeting of the 2016-2019 Council (Fourth) and 2019-2022 Council(First) were held immediately after the election.

In the afternoon, Council members and NMO Presidents were invited to the Youth Park in Taipei for PPSEAWA Peace Activity. Eight young red Nanmu trees, donated by Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, were planted at the park. The tree planting ceremony symbolized PPSEAWA's mission of peace, friendships, and understanding. It also promoted environment awareness and UN sustainable goals. Concurrently, Youth Activity for youth members, led by International Youth representatives, was held at the same park, at the The Solar Library and Energy-Optimized House. It was constructed based on environmental sustainability principles. Youth members used the opportunity to mingle and exchanged ideas.

In the evening, the Farewell Dinner opened with closing remarks from Conference chair Ms. Regina Chen and Past President Ms. Teresa Hintzke. On behalf of Immediate Past President Dato Rahmah Abdul Hamid, Ms. Teresa Hintzke handed the symbolic necklace to newly elected International President Ms. Mondhiya Bhangsbha. Madam President Mondhiya Bhangsbha presented a commemorative plate to Dato Rahmah Abdul Hamid to appreciate her efforts in PPSEAWA. Madam President Mondhiya Bhangsbha then introduced all new council members and presented a commemorative plate to Ms. Regina Chen to show appreciations for organizing this successful conference. PPSEAWA flag and Emblem were handed over to PPSEAWA Japan, the host country of 2020 Mid-term Council Meeting. PPSEAWA Japan President Ms. Sonoko Nishitateno invited the new council and PPSEAWA members to Tokyo Japan in 2020. Conference chair Ms. Regina Chen also presented gifts to the new executives. After the ceremony, all delegates enjoyed singing Karaoke and dancing, the rest of evening. The farewell dinner concluded with delegates sing the song "al lang syne".

June 27, 2019

Two optional tours were offered to all delegates with fees. Optional Tour A (Folk Arts & DIY)-visit to Sanxia Old Street, Yingge Ceramics Museum, and DIY Xiao Long Bao(Steamed dumplings). Optional Tour B (Yangminshan National Park)-visit to Zhongxing Guesthouse, Jing Shan Recreation Area, Lengshuikeng, and Xiaoyoukeng.

Please find more photos on our FB page and official website.

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/PPSEAWA.TAIWAN>

Website: <https://ppseawa.org.tw>