

Her World honours 8 women in virus fight

Winners of magazine's first collective award play key role in healthcare, medical research

Eight women who have played a significant role in Singapore's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic were honoured with Her World's Women Of The Year award yesterday. This is the first time the magazine is recognising a collective group of women in its annual awards.

The winners, who have contributed to the fields of healthcare and medical research, were picked as they are exemplary figures of strength, leadership and inspiration, Her World said in a statement yesterday.

Associate Professor Ong Biau Chi, for example, who is chairman of the medical board at Sengkang General Hospital, worked on the front lines at the height of the outbreak.

When medical teams from the hospital were deployed to nearby migrant worker dormitories, Prof Ong, 58, was seen attending to patients personally.

The other women at the top of their fields who have led the battle against the coronavirus include Professor Leo Yee Sin, 60, executive director of the National Centre

for Infectious Diseases (NCID).

Colonel Shalini Arulanandam, 41, chief medical officer of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), helps ensure the safety of medical personnel responding to Covid-19 cases.

Dr Sidney Yee, 53, chief executive of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research's (A*Star) Diagnostics Development Hub, led a team that helped to develop diagnostic tests used by healthcare professionals both locally and globally.

Dr Hoi Shu Yin, chief nurse at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, was part of a team that oversaw the conversion of two hospital floors into a dedicated area for Covid-19 patients. Dr Hoi, 41, also helped to equip more than 380 nurses with necessary skills to support operations at the neighbouring NCID facility.

Ms Katherine Leong, 49, assistant director of nursing at National University Hospital (NUH), led a team that helped set up the Tuas South community care facility for patients with mild or no symptoms.



Top row from left: House officer Sudesna Roy Chowdhury, 24; Associate Professor Ong Biau Chi, 58; staff nurse Shahidah Suhaimy, 30; Ms Katherine Leong, 49, NUH assistant director of nursing. Bottom row, from left: Dr Sidney Yee, 53, chief executive of A*Star's Diagnostics Development Hub; Prof Leo Yee Sin, 60, NCID executive director; Dr Hoi Shu Yin, 41, chief nurse at Tan Tock Seng Hospital; Colonel Shalini Arulanandam, 41, SCDF chief medical officer. PHOTOS: HER WORLD

Younger professionals also made valuable contributions.

Dr Sudesna Roy Chowdhury, 24, house officer at Changi General Hospital, developed Translate-For.sg, an English-Bengali translation website that helps migrant

workers better communicate with healthcare staff. Ms Shahidah Suhaimy, 30, who was doing marine conservation work in Thailand, returned to nursing in Singapore earlier this year to help in the front-line effort.

The eight women are featured in the 60th anniversary issue of the magazine, which came out yesterday. The awards were organised by Singapore Press Holdings (SPH).

Mr Eugene Wee, head of SPH Magazines, said: "As Singapore

works her way out of the disquiet of the pandemic, we hope our special group of Women of the Year 2020 will continue to lead and influence countless others to carve their own unique paths towards contributing to society."

Culture of Banjar Malay sub-group in Singapore on show

Ng Keng Gene

An exhibition showcasing the culture and heritage of the smallest sub-ethnic group in Singapore's Malay community opens today and will run for eight months.

Singapore's Banjarese community, mostly hailing from South Kalimantan, were known here for their diamond trade in the 19th and 20th centuries, and many set up shop in Kampong Intan, or Diamond Village, where Jalan Pisang is today. A 1911 census indicated there were 377 Banjarese in Singapore – the largest group in the Straits Settlements then – said Ms Suhaili Osman, a curator at the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC).

However, in a 1990 census, just 12 people identified themselves as Banjarese, she noted.

The spotlight on the Banjar community here is the MHC's fifth exhibition in its Se-Nusantara series of community co-curated exhibitions.

The Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore exhibition, will run from today until July 25.

Meanwhile, this year's Malay Cul-

tureFest, which was launched yesterday, will also feature Banjar cultural heritage.

The festival runs for two weeks until Dec 13, and will largely take place virtually but with in-person elements, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking at the exhibition and festival's launch yesterday, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong cited a Banjar idiom, "Haram menyarah waja sampai kaputing", which means "Let not the steel (of a blade) stop short until its very point".

He said the idiom "is an exhortation for a Banjar to undertake all endeavours with determination, and not to give up until his goals are achieved".

"It is through this steely determination that the Banjar community and MHC have succeeded in presenting Urang Banjar and Malay CultureFest 2020 to us, amid this pandemic," said Mr Tong.

Highlights of the festival include Kala: New Music for Gamelan Banjar, a gamelan performance in the Banjar style by experimental music group NSA Project Movement, and a cooking demonstration of Banjar kueh like talam banjar and bingka ubi.



Sisters Faridah Jamal, 58, and Fauziah Jamal, 64, whose father Haji Ahmad Jamal worked as a diamond trader and jeweller in Jalan Pisang for most of his adult life, said they were proud of their her-

itage and were honoured to have their stories told through the exhibition.

The sisters, who loaned artefacts such as their father's gem and diamond weighing tools to the MHC

for the exhibition, said recounting their stories for the showcase brought back many childhood memories, like that of watching their father practise his craft at the family's home in the 1960s, which

doubled as his office.

The public can find out more about the exhibition and festival at www.malayheritage.org.sg

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Among the contributors to the exhibition, which runs from today until July 25, are Banjar community members such as Mr Chazali Arshad (left) and sisters Fauziah Jamal (above, in purple) and Faridah Jamal. ST PHOTOS: JASON QUAH

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Number of people who identified themselves as Banjarese in a 1990 census, down from 377 in 1911, when the Singapore Banjarese made up the largest group of their community in the Straits Settlements.

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NOTICE

Please be informed that **Ms Tan Mong Ngho (Anna Tan), IC No Sxxxx870B**, had resigned on 27th Oct 2020. She is now suspended from work and been placed on Garden leave till 26th Jan 2021.

She is not authorized to represent company in any matters including monetary, treatment packages or any dealings with suppliers/vendors & customers with immediate effect. She is no longer authorized to act, in any form whatsoever on behalf of the company.

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Virtual Tamil Language Festival starts today

Malavika Menon

A virtual Tamil Language Festival will run from today till Dec 20, with 25 online programmes ranging from storytelling to dramas to musicals available on Zoom and Facebook.

Spearheaded by the Tamil Language Council (TLC), the virtual festival is open to all ages and promotes the language in Singapore.

TLC has organised the festival since 2007 with partner organisations.

Originally scheduled to run in April, the festival was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

TLC chairman S. Manogaran said: "Our partners have worked hard to adapt to new ways of programming, so we can continue to engage everyone in celebrating the richness of our Tamil language. We hope the community will be inspired and continue to use the Tamil language for many more generations to come."

This year's festival features six new partners.

Musical group Brahmastra will perform Kuralum Kuralum, a musical with a live band presenting

Thirukkural, a classic Tamil language text on ethics and morality. The Thirukkural and its explanations will be presented through Tamil songs.

Another new partner to the festival, arts organisation Kalamanjari, will present a musical performance with poetry recital.

The Nanyang Technological University Tamil Literary Society Alumni Association has organised a photography competition. The competition aims to engage participants to express their perspectives of local Tamil poems through photography.

Singapore Kadayannallur Muslim League, an active partner in the festival, will be presenting a cooking demonstration to share forgotten traditional Indian dishes and spices, and the history of early immigrants from Kadayannallur, a town in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in India. Participants will be able to bring home new recipes.

mmala@sph.com.sg

• More information on the festival is available on TLC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TamilLanguageCouncilSingapore/ or the website www.tamil.org.sg