



## Girl Guides Singapore

Girl Guides Singapore  
9 Bishan Street 14 Singapore 579785  
Tel: 6259 9391 Fax: 6259 5452  
Email: [info@girlguides.org.sg](mailto:info@girlguides.org.sg)  
[www.girlguides.org.sg](http://www.girlguides.org.sg)

Patron : Mrs Mary Tan  
President : Mrs Joy Balakrishnan  
Chief Commissioner : Ms Kim Lay Eng

**Embargoed till: 28 February 2015, 5.30pm.**

### **Girl Guides Singapore Celebrates World Thinking Day 2015**

WTD 2015 theme - *"Celebrating SG50; Commemorating Our Roots"* - honours Guiding Pioneers

Every year on 22 February, more than 10 million Girl Guides & Girl Scouts all over the world observe World Thinking Day (WTD). World Thinking Day is an opportunity to celebrate international friendship, learn about and take action on important issues, and raise funds in support of the World Thinking Day Fund.

In Singapore, more than 3,500 members of the Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) will gather on Saturday, 28 February, to commemorate World Thinking Day 2015. Participants will include Girl Guides, Brownies and Young Adults Branch members.

#### **WTD 2015 Theme & Event: "Celebrating SG50; Commemorating Our Roots"**

2015 marks a significant milestone for Singapore as we celebrate our nation's 50th year of independence. In line with this, the theme for World Thinking Day in Singapore is "Celebrating SG50; Commemorating Our Roots".

This theme pays tribute to the Guiding Pioneers who established the Girl Guides Movement in Singapore and played an important role in community and nation-building. Their leadership, strong sense of civic responsibility and rootedness to Singapore continue to inspire the Movement today.

World Thinking Day 2015 will be a unique opportunity for Guides today to learn more about the contributions and achievements of the Pioneer Guides who have played a significant role in Singapore's Guiding history as well as national development over the last 50 years. It will be a meaningful occasion to reflect on GGS's continuing mission of enabling girls and young women to develop their fullest potential and to become responsible citizens in society.

GGS will be honouring the Guiding Pioneers at a tea reception and a campfire, hosted at Methodist Girls' School.

Early Guiding pioneer and Patron of Guiding in Singapore Puan Noor Aishah will be the Guest-of-Honour at WTD 2015. Also present will be Guiding pioneers including Mrs Anna Tham and Dr Eileen Aw, both of whom were recipients of the coveted Queen's Guides Awards in the 1950s and continue to serve actively in GGS today. (See Annex 1)

#### **GGS Empowers Girls for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Drawing inspiration from its Guiding Pioneers, GGS has worked tirelessly with many partner organisations to involve our girls in improving the community and nation today. Examples of recent programmes include: Green Ambassadors of Jacob Ballas Children's Garden and Gardens By The Bay Ambassadors with

NParks, Recycling Outreach Programme with NEA, Water Challenge Badge programme with PUB and Do Good Initiative+with FairPrice Foundation.

Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President of Girl Guides Singapore, said, *"As we celebrate SG50, it is timely for us to not only reflect on the strong foundation that our Guiding Pioneers have established, but to seek new opportunities to build upon this. The spirit and values of our Guiding pioneers, their sense of responsibility, resilience and care continue to inspire us to make a difference in everything we do. Girl Guides Singapore continues to focus on developing our girls and young women to reach their fullest potential and empowering them to become active contributors who will forge an even brighter future for our nation."*

ENDS

### **Programme**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1700hrs | Arrival of Pioneer Generation of Guides and Scouts and Guests                                 |
| 1730hrs | Arrival of Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President, Girl Guides Singapore                             |
| 1735hrs | Arrival of Puan Noor Aishah, First Patron of Girl Guides Singapore                            |
|         | Tribute to the Pioneers<br>Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation<br>Reception                |
| 1830hrs | Photography Session<br>" Pioneers<br>" Puan Noor Aishah Awardees<br>" WTD Competition Winners |
| 1900hrs | Pioneer Generation of Guides and Scouts and Guests proceed to Campfire venue                  |

**Puan Noor Aishah**

Puan Noor Aishah became the First Asian President of Singapore Girl Guides Association in 1959. In 1965, Singapore became a Republic and First Lady Puan Noor Aishah was installed as our Patron. Under her Patronage, changes were made to reflect Singapore's status as an independent nation. The Association's Constitution, structure, organisation, the Promise and the Law were revised. The uniform, badges and emblems were redesigned. A Five-Point Programme was introduced and Guide and Brownie Handbooks were published. Singapore Girl Guides Association became a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Girl Guides Singapore introduced the Puan Noor Aishah Honour Award in year 2000 to recognise good and effective Brownie and Guide Units.

**Mrs Anna Tham**

Mrs Anna Tham joined the 11th Coy in 1949. An independent and adventurous girl, she progressed rapidly through the programme. She is one of Singapore's first three Queen's Guides in 1951. Later as a Ranger, she served for many years as Captain on the 1st Singapore Land Rangers. Because of her knowledge and experience on both Singapore and International Guiding, she held office as the International Commissioner and Deputy Chief Commissioner and, for many years, she was the active Chairman of the Programme Committee. She believes that Guiding prepares girls for life, inculcating values, independence and moral obligation; promoting the dictum "Whatever you do, do your best".

**Dr Eileen Aw**

Dr Eileen Aw became Chief Commissioner of the then Singapore Girl Guides Association in May 1977. She remained as Chief Commissioner to May 1994. However her association with the Guide Movement dates back to 1949 when she joined the 11th Singapore Guide Coy (Open Unit). A keen and proficient Guide, she distinguished herself when she gained the coveted Queen's Guide Award in 1955.

Dr Aw is loyal and dedicated to the Movement. She was the editor of the Guide News from 1969 to 1972 and Vice President/President of the Trefoil Guild from 1972 to 1977 and again from 2010 to present. Her approachability and gracious manner have gained her the respect and affection of all those who know her and those who work with her. Dr Aw was awarded The Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat) at the 2014 National Day Honours.

At the age of 76 years I am still passionate about Guiding and actively involved in it. I believe Guiding can really develop the girl to her full potential to be a responsible citizen. At the age of 11 years when I joined as a Girl Guide I embraced the Guide Motto, the Guide Promise and the Guide Law. I loved the outdoor experiences of camping and hiking in developing resourcefulness. Through the badge system I ventured into Bird Watching, Astronomy and Sailing. I loved my Patrol. We cared and supported each other, planning and seeking fun outdoors. Guiding also gave me the opportunity to venture overseas, to represent Singapore in International Camps and widen my horizons as I meet girls from 120 Countries. I want to share this tremendous Guiding experience with many more girls.

## **More about World Thinking Day**

World Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide / Girl Scout International Conference held at Girl Scouts of the USA's Camp Edith Macy (now known as Edith Macy Conference Center). Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for their sister+Girl Guides/Scouts. The delegates chose February 22 as it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife, Olave, who served as the World Chief Guide.

In 1932, during the seventh World Conference held in Poland, a Belgian delegate suggested that since birthdays usually involve presents, girls could show their appreciation and friendship on Thinking Day by extending not only warm wishes but by offering a voluntary contribution to the World Association. This is how the World's Association Thinking Day Fund began. The fund helps offer Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to more girls and young women worldwide.

To emphasize the global aspects of Thinking Day, members of the 30<sup>th</sup> World Conference, held in Ireland in 1999, changed the name *Thinking Day* to *World Thinking Day*.

World Thinking Day provides an opportunity for Girl Guides/Girl Scouts around the world to put their thoughts into action by participating in activities that promote international understanding.

## **Girl Guides Singapore**

Started in 1917, Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) is a non-profit Uniformed Group that is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Guide Scouts (WAGGGS). It has over 9,000 members in Singapore and is the largest and choice Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) group for girls. There are more than 10 million Girl Guides and Guide Scouts in 145 countries today.

GGS teaches leadership, promotes resourcefulness and supports cultural diversity in today's world, for today's girls. We offer opportunities and challenges that shape each girl into a leader of courage, confidence and character. As she takes her place and makes her mark in the world, the Girl Guides experience is something a girl will carry with her for life.

### **Media contact:**

Ms Jalilah Johar  
Executive Officer  
Girl Guides Singapore  
Tel: 6259 9391 / 9487 4595 (Mobile)  
Email: [jalilah.johar@girlguides.org.sg](mailto:jalilah.johar@girlguides.org.sg)  
[www.girlguides.org.sg](http://www.girlguides.org.sg)