

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating our Nation-Building Heroes
NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY POWER LUNCHEON
"Women of Great Times: Turning Promises into Actions"

Bandar Sunway, 21 August 2019 - The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) held the National Women's Day Power Luncheon on 21 August 2019 at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa. Themed, "Women of Great Times: Turning Promises into Actions", the power luncheon honoured the immense contributions of Malaysian women by highlighting their exemplary works in transforming society.

Melissa Ong, ASLI CEO, in her welcome address, stressed the significance of empowering women as they are Malaysia's most valuable social capital. Empowering and advancing their agenda are key action points to a sustainable and more inclusive society. She further added that ASLI strives to reform the structural barriers and promote women's participation in the decision-making arena and firmly believes that lifting women to their potentials can positively change their lives and reduce poverty.

The power luncheon's main highlight was the inspirational talk sessions by the six speakers: Muhaini Mahmud, Siti Rahayu Baharin, Kiew Boon Siew, Anja Juliah Abu Bakar, Usha Gopalan and Advina Julkifle. whose transformative works have positively helped with nation-building. Freda Liu from the radio station, BFM moderated the talk.

Muhaini Mahmud opened the session by delivering a presentation on her work of merging technology with alleviating parents' concerns. She co-founded a convenient app that connects seeking parents to available babysitters. The session then continued with an inspiring story by Siti Rahayu Baharin, an advocate for accessible education for street children. Through the non-profit organisations she helps found, her work has positively impacted the lives of many marginalised children. Siti Rahayu makes sure that no one is left behind.

The third session was opened by Kiew Boon Siew whose cause helps empower young people with a range of physical disabilities. Her understanding comes from being diagnosed with a disability herself. The next session saw a presentation by Anja Juliah Abu Bakar, who despite facing failures and setbacks growing up, created a social enterprise making reusable sanitary and maternity pads. Apart from making sustainable sanitary products, Anja also offers education on hygiene and personal care to Orang Asli girls as well as girls in rural areas, who miss at least a week of school every month due to lack of supplies.

The penultimate presentation was delivered by Usha Gopalan, a social activist whose work empower women behind bars. She told her story of educating women and their children on personal cleanliness, especially with regards to menstrual hygiene. The last presentation saw by Advina Julkifle, a passionate researcher on sustainable food development and nutrition. Determined to address pertinent issues of stunting and obesity among the young Malaysians, the ultimate aim of Advina's research is to ensure effective and sustainable deliverance of nutrition, from farm to table for the purpose of food security and improved nutrition.

The overall theme of ASLI National Women's Day Power Luncheon, "Women of Great Times: Turning Promises into Actions" encompasses the "Women Empowerment" thrust in the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (particularly UNSDG 5, "Gender Equality"). ASLI and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF), which owns and governs ASLI, have embraced the 17 UNSDGs and are deeply committed to advancing the sustainable development agenda in Malaysia and the region.

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About Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)

The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit Think Tank headquartered in Malaysia. ASLI is committed to creating a better society and to help organisations enhance their competitiveness, leadership and strategic capabilities through its Public Programmes, Conferences, Publications, Policy Research, Business Councils and CEO peer groups. With over 25 years' experience, ASLI is the super-connector between Government, Business and Civil Society, having managed high-level business partnerships in Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Japan, China, Australia, USA, Canada, Britain, Germany and South Africa. ASLI is wholly owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF). Further information of ASLI is available at www.asli.com.my

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