

Sabah-born Ursula is the area president for Southeast Asia and the Far East of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), an international organisation based in London with a membership of over nine million worldwide.

Ursula's contributions spread further when she was appointed chairman of ACWW's projects committee where she was involved in carrying out projects and monitoring visits to communities around the world in order to gain the attention of funding agencies.

She has served in the Sarawak Federation of Women's Institutes which has a membership of over 14,000, the largest women's organisation in the State.

She is the chairman of the Board of Visitors to Taman Seri Puteri (a protection home for women and girls) in Miri, president of the Consumers Association of Sarawak, vice-president of Pemadam, committee member of the Marriage Tribunal, assessor of the High Court, advisor to the Juvenile Court, and committee member of the Sarawak Family Planning Association.

Siti Zainon, who is currently a fellow at the Institut Alam dan Tamadun Melayu of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, is a writer, artist and poet.

Her poems have been translated into many languages including English, Japanese, German, Korean, Thai, Sanskrit and Hindi. She has also been invited to recite her poems and has held art exhibitions in many countries.

She has written 25 seminar working papers, more than 100 articles for newspapers and magazines, and 21 books. Her latest publications are *The Moon Is A Candle* and *Picking Flowers*, both completed in 1992. The same year she also completed her research in traditional Malay costumes and obtained her Ph.D.

She has won numerous prizes and recognition for her works where she expresses her feelings and thoughts on people, especially women's role in society.

She says women should be courageous in voicing out their thoughts and opinions as they are an integral part of society.

"They should be critical, responsible and disciplined and be able to overcome the challenges confronting them."

Fatimah, who was visibly touched by the recognition given to her, had her family members turning out in full force that night.

She was the **country's first woman Cabinet Minister** and became the **first president of the National Council of Women's Organisations**, a post she held for 24 years during which many improvements were made for women.