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Queen presents WIM 2000 award to singer

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah today presented the Women's Institute of Malaysia Millennium 2000 life membership to popular singer Siti Nurhaliza.

Also awarded the life membership were Kedah princess Datuk Seri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Sultan Abdul Halim and Raja Puan Sri Noora Ashikin Raja Abdullah, wife of Deputy Transport Minister Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

The life membership drive was to encourage more women to participate in the non-profitable organisation's efforts to empower their gender to face up to life's challenges and participate in nation-building.

It was held in conjunction with WIM's seventh anniversary at its headquarters in Taman Tun Dr Ismail here. Also present were Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, WIM board of directors chairman Datuk Napsiah Omar and organising chairperson Datuk Dr Nellie Tan-Wong.

Tuanku Siti Aishah was briefed on WIM's achievements in empowering women's groups like single mothers, rural women, aboriginal women, teenage mothers, HIV-infected women and those serving jail terms.

The Queen also visited a handicraft exhibition which showcased hand-made items produced by women's groups.

Napsiah said WIM, which was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Dec 12, 1994, was satisfied with its achievements "in assisting women in all aspects of life."

"Our philosophy is based on professionalism, sharing and love which is the pivotal point in achieving our aspirations to provide training, expertise and opportunities to women to participate in nation-building.

"By combining women's strengths for their overall development, WIM has successfully placed its focus on all women' groups which need such training."

She said WIM would organise an "IT Development For Women Entrepreneurs" course to encourage its members' active participation in the knowledge-economy.

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