

First South Asia Rally of Int'l Inner Wheel held in Dhaka

A Monitor Report

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Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister for Home Affairs, International Inner Wheel President Zenaida Yangco

Dhaka : The two-day 5th South Asia Rally with the slogan "Pride and Performance" by International Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's voluntary service organisation, was held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital, on August 26-27.

The Rally, hosted by Inner Wheel Districts 345 and 328, was held for the first time in Bangladesh, and it was participated by over seven hundred Inner Wheel members from India, Nepal, Malaysia, Philippines and host Bangladesh.

To mark the beginning of the South Asia Rally 2022, International Inner Wheel President Zenaida Yangco Farcon and Dilruba Ahmed, Convener, 5th South Asia Rally informed about various aspects of the event, at a press meet held on August 26 at Sonargaon hotel. Representatives from participating countries also addressed the media.

In her speech, Zenaida Yangco Farcon, President, International Inner Wheel, said, "This year's themes for our projects are "Work Wonders" and "Strong Women, Stronger World" aimed at inspiring wonders for the good of the community.

"Also, this first of its kind South Asian rally of International Inner Wheel held in Bangladesh aims to energise all Inner Wheel member nations, districts and clubs of South Asia and the rest of the world after the hiatus following the Covid-19

pandemic to do better in helping respective communities."

"This South Asian rally also comes before our 100-years celebration of International Inner Wheel's establishment in 2024," she announced.

Due to visa restrictions, a number of member countries of South Asia could not participate in this rally, informed Dilruba Ahmed, Convener of this 5th South Asian Rally of International Inner Wheel.

In this regard, she urged the Bangladeshi Embassy to relax visa rules so that all the member countries could attend such mass meetings of the International Inner Wheel in the future.

At the press meet, Mollika Biswas, a Bangladeshi Inner Wheel District Chairman, mentioned that the association is currently working with women and children of the country at grassroots level through various projects on health, medical treatment, child marriage, education, environment, climate change and many others.

Shamsunnahar Haque, another District Chairman of Inner Wheel of Bangladesh further mentioned that the association is also working on training and skill development projects for women to increase their income generating capacity and avail job opportunities in an effort to drive women empowerment across the country.

Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister for Home Affairs attended the main session of the Rally as the Chief Guest on August 27.

The Rally included different programmes focusing on friendship, cooperation and understanding among the Inner Wheel clubs in South Asia, recognition of Inner Wheel clubs and individual members for their outstanding roles towards the society.

Two discussion sessions on the topics, "Inner Wheel towards 100: A course for the future" and "We the Members...." with the participation of Inner Wheel senior officials from South Asian countries was held during the Rally.

Currently, the women's organisation is spread across over 104 countries and regions and has more than 108,000 members in the world.

Inner Wheel members are involved in promoting friendship and fostering international understanding. Their aim is to bring a qualitative change in the lives of people, especially women, youth and children from marginalised communities.

There are over 100 Inner Wheel clubs divided in two Districts (District 345 and 328) are functioning in Bangladesh and running numerous social and humanitarian projects.