



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

valued resource, we invest heavily to nurture every individual, to contribute to Singapore and the world at large. In 2006, for example, there were 1861 applicants for the Public Service Commission government undergraduate scholarships, out of which 47% were female applicants. After a gruelling selection process there were as many female

awardees as male awardees, despite the lower percentage of females who applied! This is

later. In an attempt to arrest the downward trend in fertility rates in Singapore, the Government had recently increased the period of paid maternity leave to 16 weeks. The most significant measure to promote family-friendly working arrangements is perhaps the creation of a Work-life Works fund (W-O-W! in short). This \$20 million fund was set up to help companies defray the costs of investing in family-friendly work arrangements.

7 In this regard, Singapore believes that there must be shared and equal responsibilities between men and women in society. The Association of Devoted and Active Family Men (ADAM) was set up in 2004 to raise awareness on men's responsibilities and roles in the society. This complements the efforts by the Centre for Fathering which was set up in 1999 to champion the role of responsible fatherhood in Singapore. The government also makes provisions for male civil servants to take paid childcare leave to care for their sick children while the Ministry of Education also extends the possibility of applying for flexi-work schemes to husbands. By spearheading this, the government sends a strong signal to employers and Singaporeans that each must play his part so that progress may be achieved for society as a whole.

8 Mr Chairman, Singapore has come a long way in its attempt to empower and enrich the lives of women who is an asset and rich resource to the country. As early as 1995, Singapore has acceded to CEDAW as a sign of commitment to this cause. In addition to the advancement and progress of women, Singapore is also committed to protecting them from violence through its Constitution, the Penal Code and the Women's Charter. Where health is concerned, good prevention and screening health services for common women-related diseases are made accessible and affordable to the majority of Singaporean women.

