



Zonta Singapore -Project Pari Fund Annual Report - 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025

Zonta Singapore-Project Pari Fund ("the Fund") was set up by the Zonta Club of Singapore in Dec 2009. It is a registered charity since 21 April 2010. It was granted IPC status since 1 May 2010 and has been renewed till 31 October 2026.

Corporate Information of the Fund:

UEN	T10CC0004L
Registered Address	96 Waterloo Street Singapore 187967
Banker:	DBS Bank Standard Chartered Bank
Auditor:	Tassure PAC

A. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Fund is a service project of the Zonta Club of Singapore (Zonta Singapore). A Management Committee comprising 2 Zonta members and 4 non-Zontians form the trustees of the Fund.

	Name	Role	Date of Appointment	Attendance at meetings	Company/Job Title
1	Tan Soh Keng	Chairman	1 June 2024 (1 st appointed in 2020)	4/4	Alexandra Health Fund Limited / Director
2	Winnie Lee	Honorary Secretary	1 June 2024 (1 st appointed in 2020)	4/4	Retired
3	Peklyn Teo	Honorary Treasurer	1 June 2024	2/4	Financial Consultant, Finexis Advisory Pte Ltd
4	Caroline Loy	Member	1 June 2024 (1 st appointed in 2016)	4/4	National Neuroscience Institute/CFO
5	Jonathan Ng	Member	1 June 2024 (1 st appointed in 2020)	3/4	Singapore Chinese Cultural Center/Senior Assistant Director

6	Grace Chiam	Member	1 June 2024 (1 st appointed in 2016)	4/4	Retired
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B. OBJECTIVE OF THE ZONTA SINGAPORE-PROJECT PARI FUND

The Fund grants awards (Project Pari Award) to female students who need financial assistance. The objects of the Fund are:

- a) To improve the status of women through the field of education, community-involvement, culture and sports.
- b) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them provided that nothing shall be done for commercial reasons or solely for profit. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Fund may exercise the powers:
 - i) to provide financial assistance to needy female students.
 - ii) to conduct life skills programs such as personal well-being and presentation skills.
 - iii) to organize personal enrichment activities such as art workshops, outings and adventurous activities in nature parks.
 - iv) to provide guidance with respect to discipline and personal development.
 - v) to actively work with other like-minded organizations which subscribe to similar aims and objects.

Nature of the Project Pari Award (PP Award)

Project Pari is open to young girls of all races and religion. Zonta Singapore selects candidates in close collaboration with the school principals based on the students' financial background, positive attitude and willingness to learn.

The Zonta Singapore's Project Pari Committee identifies schools to participate in the Award. Participating schools submit a list of deserving needy students from Secondary 1 or 2 for consideration. In May 2019, Zonta Singapore approved the extension of the PP Award to recipients of the PP Award for their post-secondary education upon graduation from their secondary schools. PP students graduating in 2019 will be eligible to apply for this extended Award known as the Project Pari-Plus Award for their post-secondary education such as at the ITE, Polytechnics and National Junior colleges. The first awards commenced in May 2020.

Under the PP Award during their secondary school education each student receives a monthly pocket allowance of \$75 per month for each of the years the duration of their

secondary school education provided they gain a 50% pass in the school's final examinations or promoted to the next higher level each year. To help with the financial difficulties of PP students and their families during the COVID 19 crisis, Zonta Singapore gave approval in April 2020 to increase the \$50 monthly allowance to \$100 for each of the months of May to August 2020. The monthly allowance was revised in May 2023 to \$75 per month, in line with rising cost of living. Other than financial assistance, enrichment programmes for the girls are also organized. Enrichment programmes are organized by the Zonta Singapore for the beneficiaries.

For the Post-secondary PP Plus Award, students who qualify will receive a one-time financial gift of \$300 upon joining PP Plus and a monthly pocket allowance of \$100 each month for each year and they must also attend the enrichment programmes for the PP students. The PP Plus award requires the student to pass all modules in a given academic year and the student must re-apply the Award on an annual basis.

The Enrichment programmes include –

- i) Annual Life skills workshop to impart skills and to help instill in the teenagers a sense of self-worth
- ii) Annual Year-end event
- iii) Ad Hoc activities such as attending musicals, corporate visits, outdoor activities, art workshops and attending educational forums.

KEY POLICIES

Financial Policy

The financial policy is to work within our financial capacity. We must ensure that there are enough funds for each of the recipients of the Award for the 4/5 years of her secondary education and for the 3/4 years of her post-secondary education and sufficient funds to finance the enrichment programmes for the duration of their secondary and post-secondary education where applicable. Projections are done on this basis to enable us to determine if we can enroll more students into the programme.

Reserve Policy

Ensure that there are sufficient funds to support a student for the 5 years of her secondary education and 4 years of her post-secondary education where applicable before embarking to recruit new applicants. Quarterly reviews are also done by Management Committee and Honorary Treasurer to ensure the provision of funds is sufficient

Financial and Operational Control Policies

There are clear policies and procedures to ensure the accurate recognition, recording, and reporting of revenue by outsourced party. All expenses on payments to student allowances and events have proper documentation. Budget for engagement activities

have established approval processes requiring endorsement of committee. Payments require a minimum of 2 authorized signatories.

All audit checks comply with standards of qualified external auditor. PPMC agrees that financial risk and reputation risk are low. For reputation risk, there should be no negative news that will have implication to Zonta International and Zonta Singapore.

Conflict of Interest Policy

- a) Management Committee members shall declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Management Committee at the earliest opportunity. Whenever a member of the Management Committee is in any way, directly or indirectly, has an interest in a transaction or project or other matters to be discussed at a meeting, the member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion on the matter begins.
- b) The member concerned should not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter and should also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the Management Committee shall decide if this is required. The basis in arriving at the final decision on the transaction or contract shall be documented in the minutes of meeting. The Management Committee's decision on all conflicts of interest situations shall be full and final.
- c) During the year under review, there were no matters that involve conflicts of interest.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Statement

We prioritize integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles throughout our work. Our goal is to create meaningful, lasting benefits for the communities we support, while maintaining high standards of transparency and accountability.

a) Governance

The Fund complies with the Code of Governance 2023 and submits its Governance Evaluation Checklist annually through the Charity Portal. The Fund complies with the Governance Evaluation Checklist requirements and submits its checklist annually through the Charity Portal. Our governance framework is regularly reviewed to ensure alignment with the Code of Governance 2023 and best practices in the charity sector.

For FY2024, we continue to enhance our policy in the area of "Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism".

b) Environmental Responsibility

We are committed to minimizing our environmental impact. To reduce carbon footprint, we discourage report printing. In the area environmental initiatives, we participate in tree planting day and create awareness by organizing talks on sustainability. For activity

catering, we try to engage companies that use sustainable source of ingredients for meals. We continuously seek innovative ways to lower our carbon footprint and contribute to environmental preservation.

c) **Social Impact**

At Project Pari, our objective is to provide financial assistances to needy female students.

Whistle-Blowing Policy

We are committed to fostering a transparent and ethical culture. Our whistle-blowing policy is designed to encourage volunteers, and outsourced partners to report unethical or unlawful activities without fear of retaliation.

Fundraising Policy

We are committed to conducting all fundraising activities in a transparent, ethical, and legally compliant manner. To avoid financial misuse, including money laundering, the following principles must be observed:

- a) **Transparency in Transactions:** All donations must be fully documented, with clear records of donor identity. Online donations are accepted only via the use of Giving.sg for local donations and Benevity.com for overseas donations. Anonymous donations may be restricted or refused if they pose a compliance risk.
- b) **Reporting and Accountability:** All financial records will be regularly reviewed by external auditors to ensure compliance with this policy.
- c) **Ethical Fundraising Practices:** The organization will avoid accepting donations that could damage its reputation, compromise its independence, or conflict with its mission and values.

Financial state of the charity

During the year under review, the funds from reserves and donations/pledges were sufficient to fund the programme. The donations/pledges received were used to fulfil current obligations, i.e., the monthly allowance of the girls selected for the programme and the 2 yearly enrichment programmes, ad-hoc activities as well as to fund obligations to new students identified during the year. We are financially healthy. Please refer to latest audited accounts in the Charity portal.

Administrative expenses include book-keeping and audit fees and outsourcing of accounting functions and donation management (record keeping /issuance of tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible donation records) to Chatsworth.

The management committee members do not draw any salary.

ZONTA SINGAPORE – PROJECT PARI FUND complies with the **Governance Evaluation Checklist**.

Update on PROJECT PARI Programme Activities

1. **23 May 2024: On-boarding**

We successfully conducted a three-day onboarding programme for the new Project Pari beneficiaries from Woodlands Secondary School, Marsiling Secondary School, and Kent Ridge Secondary School. This initiative was supported by nine dedicated volunteers from the Zonta Club of Singapore. Meals and refreshments were provided to the beneficiaries during the sessions.

2. **8 June 2024: Welcome Tea Session**

A welcome tea session was held at Raffles City for the onboarding of three new Project Pari Plus recipients: Ms. Shiashta Praga, Ms. Kang Xin Ci, and Ms. Lee Xuan Yee.

3. **13 June 2024: Apple Life skills Workshop**

One of our Project Pari Plus recipients had the unique opportunity to attend Take Flight 2024, facilitated by member Ms. June Tan. The participant experienced a flight simulation, contributing to her personal development and confidence.

Project Pari Plus is committed to empowering young women by providing them with exposure to unique and impactful experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom setting.

4. **2 July 2024: Apple Life skills Workshop**

Project Pari recipients participated in a Swift Coding Workshop held at Apple's Innovis Campus. The workshop was led by Project Pari Plus recipients and supported by 20 volunteers from Apple and 15 volunteers from Zonta.

For many participants, this was their first experience with coding. Feedback indicated that the session was both enjoyable and instrumental in building their confidence in technology.

Attendance: 73 out of 75 beneficiaries (2 were on medical leave).

5. **29 August 2024:**

Project Pari Plus recipient Ms. Nur Ellysha attended a talk on resilience by Olympic bronze medalist Max Maeder. She was subsequently invited to a sailing experience aboard a DBS sailboat. This opportunity was made possible through Ms. Simone, Zonta Singapore member and co-founder of City Sprouts.

6. **26 October 2024: Annual Amazing Race at Gardens by the Bay**

The Zonta Club of Singapore hosted its annual Amazing Race for Project Pari beneficiaries. The event was organized by Ms. Joanne Soo, founder of Ace Adventure Expeditions, and saw participation from 15 Zonta volunteers, 20 Apple volunteers, and 8 Micron volunteers.

Participants, guided by Project Pari Plus leaders, navigated Gardens by the Bay and completed challenges at seven stations while safeguarding uncooked eggs. The event fostered teamwork, resilience, and community spirit.

Attendance: 75 out of 75 beneficiaries.

7. 12 December 2024: Cultural Exposure

Project Pari Plus recipients attended a performance of The Wizard of Oz by Wild Rice. This cultural outing aimed to enhance the recipients' appreciation of the arts and broaden their perspectives.

8. 18 December 2024: Annual Year-end

The annual Christmas dinner for Project Pari Plus recipients was held, during which the girls received teddy bears generously sponsored by Ms. Faye Lee and Ms. Angel Chong of Jurassic Nest/Hersing Culinary.

The evening included a time of reflection on the challenges and achievements of 2024, with many girls expressing deep gratitude for the friendships and support systems they have developed. Their resilience and optimism continue to inspire all who work with them.

Attendance: 8/11

9. 14 to 30 April 2025

Interviews were conducted for prospective Project Pari candidates. Depending on availability, these interviews were held either in person at schools or via Zoom.

At the end of the school year for 2024, we have the following number of **Project Pari** beneficiaries in the following schools:

School	No of students
KENT RIDGE SEC SCHOOL	24
WOODLANDS SEC SCHOOL	22
MARSILING SEC SCHOOL	24
Total	75

At the end of the school year for 2024, we have the following number of **Project Pari Plus** beneficiaries: **11**

Our Donors & Supporters

We are grateful to all our donors and supporters for their generosity and for volunteering their services at the Project Pari events.

Our volunteers and Management Committee members are not remunerated for their services.

The donors include Zonta members and friends, DS Lee Foundation, and regular donors on the Giving.sg platform which include Marco Li, a regular donor who is a strong supporter of Project Pari for many years.

There are donations from Apple employees, as besides donating their time during our life skills workshops, they also give monetary support which the company matches.

Fundraising initiatives and activities during the year

- **Donations** from our regular donors for Project Pari continued through the year – members and friends and the public via **givng.sg**.
- **Donation for Project Pari from CLOOP Pte Ltd** from their International Women's Day Market
- **Donation for Project Pari from City Sprouts** from their May Mother's Day farmers market initiative.
- **Grant from Micron Foundation**, their Micron Women's Leadership Network (MWLN) Employees Resource Group nominated Project Pari as the recipient.
- Second year for Compass One Mall for a **Christmas donation drive**, via the sale of a **limited edition ezlink card**. The artwork for the card was designed by one of our PP Plus girl Rebecca Sim. The card was sold at \$10 with a card stored value of \$5 and for every card sold, \$2 was donated to Project Pari.
- Sale of **CNY homemade Granola & Buckwheat tea**
- **Fund & Fun Campaign** through private dining events
- **Corporate Partnership**: Summit for a Cause with Forvis Mazars
- **Special dinner at Kanves**
- **Self-initiated fundraising dinners** by guests

Project Pari donations received for the year under review:

Tax – deductible	\$ 96,242
Non-Tax – deductible	\$ 31,966
Total donations/pledges	\$ 128,208

Project Pari notable donations received for the FY 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025:

• Marco Li donations:	\$13,200
• Donations from Giving.SG:	\$44,676
• Benevity (primarily Apple Computer):	\$19,086
• EZ Link card sales:	\$ 2,647
• Forvis Mazars:	\$ 3,000
• Fundraising events:	\$20,185

Project Pari Budget Allocation for FY2026

Total Budget: \$99,040.00

1. Allowances	\$85,500.00
- Project PARI (75 recipients): \$75.00/mth × 12 mths =	\$67,500.00
- PARI PLUS (15 recipients): \$100.00/mth × 12 mths =	\$18,000.00
2. Onboarding & Reconnecting	\$ 2,490.00
- Project PARI (75 recipients): \$15.00/person =	\$ 1,125.00
- Pari Plus (11 recipients): \$15.00/person =	\$ 165.00
- Pari Plus (4 new recipients):	
One-time upfront allowance of \$300.00 =	\$ 1,200.00
3. Engagement Activities	\$ 3,050.00
- Pari Plus social engagement (15 pax × \$50 × 2 events) =	\$ 1,500.00
- Befriender programme (15 pax × \$15 × 4 sessions) =	\$ 900.00
- Project PARI graduating celebration (10 pax × \$65) =	\$ 650.00
4. Outdoor Activities	
- Outdoor activities (90 pax × \$70) =	\$ 6,300.00
5. Other Expenses	\$ 1,700.00
- Prizes for Apple Workshop (10 × \$20) =	\$ 200.00
- Miscellaneous expenses =	\$ 1,500.00

End of Report
