

Sprint queen, humour writer and educator among 10 lauded

They are now part of the 192 inductees of the S'pore Women's Hall of Fame

Thian Wen Li

When educator and author Hadijah Rahmat started out as a writer in the 1970s, many fields were dominated by men.

"I was very determined to show (my male friends who were writers) that I'm capable, I'm as good, or in certain areas, I'm better," said the 66-year-old.

Her first Malay-language short story, titled *Idah Tidak Menangis Lagi* (*Idah No Longer Cries*), was published in a student magazine in 1974. She wrote it to remind all girls not to give up, she told *The Straits Times*.

"They should have a strong sense of fight, and be positive about the future. They can shape their own future, not the people around them."

Dr Hadijah was among the 10 women inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame on March 8, which is International Women's Day.

The others include sprint queen Shanti Pereira, former national bowler and charity fund-raiser Grace Young and mountaineers



(From left): Humour writer Sylvia Toh; mountaineer Sim Phei Sunn; educator and author Hadijah Rahmat; founding executive director of the Singapore Environment Council Kirtida Mekani; Tsao Foundation chairwoman Mary Ann Tsao; the late TV producer and newscaster Tan See Lai's grandniece Christina Chan; mountaineer Vincere Zeng; sprinter Shanti Pereira's mother Bridget Jeet Pereira; and former national bowler and charity fund-raiser Grace Young at the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations' 10th Singapore Women's Hall of Fame ceremony, held at The Fullerton Hotel on March 8. Advertising industry trailblazer Linda Locke was also honoured at the event. ST PHOTO: GIN TAY

Sim Phei Sunn and Vincere Zeng, who are the first Singaporean women to summit the two highest peaks in the world, Mount Everest and K2.

Pioneering educational TV producer and newscaster Tan See Lai, who died in 2017, was inducted into

the hall of fame posthumously.

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) set up the hall of fame in 2014 to honour Singapore's most outstanding women in different fields. There are now 192 inductees.

The 2024 induction ceremony,

held at The Fullerton Hotel, was attended by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and his spouse, Ms Jane Ittogi, who is the patron of SCWO.

Dr Hadijah said she had tried

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