

SINGAPORE NATIONAL EYE CENTRE (SNEC) JOINS GLOBAL CRUSADE TO CONQUER BLINDNESS

The World Health Organization has estimated that the number of blind people in the world could double in the next 25 years. It has dedicated the 'World Sight Day' as a day to raise awareness on blindness, preventing visual impairment and restoring sight.

In Singapore, to combat the leading causes of preventable blindness, the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC), the nation's largest public eye-care institution partnered with People's Association Grassroots Organizations, Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) and Voluntary Welfare Organizations (VWOs) - to organize the Lions World Sight Day on 09 October 2011 in Eunus Community Club.

The aim of day's event is to promote public awareness of common blinding conditions such as diabetes and the importance of preventive eye care. About 500 residents got free general and diabetic eye screening



178 residents were diagnosed to have Cataract, 49 with Glaucoma (Suspect), and 13 with some degree of Diabetic Retinopathy. 20 other patients were with various other eye problems (refractive error, cornea, oculoplastic and uveitis). All were referred to an ophthalmologist for a review.



Minister of State for Health graced the event as Guest-of-Honour. She and entourage toured the eye screening stations and interact with residents who are doing eye screening. Plaques and certificates were also presented to honour those who have volunteered themselves to the cause of saving sight at the event.



The Annual Lecture was given by Dr Ho Ching Lin, Senior Consultant and Head of Glaucoma, Singapore National Eye Centre. Dr Ho's lecture titled "*Glaucoma- Can the Thief of Sight Be Stopped*" discussed glaucoma, which is fast becoming one of the top blinding conditions in the world. She also shared the latest advances in the treatment of Glaucoma, and what one can do to prevent and manage Glaucoma.





This is the 4th year of collaborative programmes among SNEC, Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore), and PA Grassroots Organizations. In addition to the day's screening, SNEC is working closely with the Lions to screen more elderly including residents at its 2 nursing homes.



SNEC's annual programmes include reaching out to the community in various aspects of eye care, be it through community eye screening and educational talks held locally, or internationally, through the Singapore International Foundation (SIF), a train-the-surgeon programme which was successfully carried out in neighbouring Myanmar and Vietnam.