

# YAHOO! SINGAPORE ENTERTAINMENT

## Irene Ang, newsmakers have fun 'trading' for charity

By Elena Torrijos | [Singapore Showbiz](#) – Wed, Dec 7, 2011 6:10 PM SGT

Celebrities and newsmakers brokered financial deals on Wednesday to raise money for charities of their choice.

Taking part in interdealer broker ICAP's global "Charity Day" at the firm's Singapore office, local actress Irene Ang didn't know what the numbers she was quoting at the prompting of the firm's traders meant, but she knew she was doing so for a good cause.

For its annual global event, ICAP invites charities' celebrity patrons to join the company in speaking to its customers and help boost trading volumes. All revenue and commissions on the day are given away to chosen charities.

"I did a few deals and it was really fun. We were dealing with millions," said Ang, adding that her artiste management agency, FLY Entertainment, just this month adopted the Singapore Hospice Council (SHC) as its charitable organisation.

"I thought this was such a great opportunity to give back," said the comedienne, who was dressed as the Chinese goddess of mercy Kuan Yin for her visit to ICAP's offices on Marina Boulevard to "bless" the company's efforts.

Around the office, in celebration of the Charity Day, ICAP employees were dressed up in a wide variety of costumes, from members of the band KISS to sunflowers to superheroes.

"I used to do a lot of charity auction for tsunami and earthquakes and all, but this is a different way (to raise money). Like if I make money then they (charities) get some donations as well," she noted.

The actress explained that she chose to support the cause of SHC because "I would really love for people to find out more about hospice, and know that there's a lot of medical help, day care and support from the hospice association and council that they can go to."



Irene Ang pretends to bless the offices of ICAP during the firm's Charity Day. (Photo courtesy of Grayling)



Actress Irene Ang (centre) dressed up as the goddess of mercy, Kuan Yin, at ICAP's office on Marina Boulevard. ...

She recalled that in 1996 she hardly did any work as she helped take care of her sick grandmother, who died the following year.

"Singapore is an ageing population and a lot of people have a lot of misconception about hospice, that it is the place to go and die, but it is not. It is the place to live, to live your best last leg," Ang said.

Former president of Singapore, S R Nathan, also took part in ICAP's event -- and even did some big deals. Marcus Hackett, ICAP chief information officer for Asia Pacific, said Nathan did three transactions, including a S\$100 million interest rate swap deal between two European banks.

Also at ICAP's office to support the firm's initiative was Gerard Ee, National Kidney Foundation chairman, though he said he didn't do any trades.

"I cannot understand this (financial trading) for the life of me," he said. "I was looking at it and was so

fascinated by the work they do. I'm really impressed and wonder how someone can do this high tension work all day long."

He praised the "creative" approach taken by the broker to support charities.

"I think this is a very good example that you can be doing your business and still be thinking about the underprivileged people you can help. It involves the whole office and you can see the amount of fun they are having whilst doing charity," he pointed out.

Last year, ICAP raised 12.1 million pounds and transacted over 197,000 trades for the charity event. Celebrities globally that participated in the past include: Prince Harry; actors Daniel Craig, David Tennant and Sarah Jessica Parker; and musician Elton John.

This year over 200 charities globally will benefit. In Singapore, the Charity Day beneficiaries this year are: Apex Day Rehabilitation Centre for Elderly, Beyond Social Services, HCA Hospice Care, MILK (Mainly I Love Kids), Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore and Viriya Community Services.



[Left to right] Former Singapore President S R Nathan and Dr Sheryn Mah joined ICAP AP (Singapore) CEO Anthony ...