

IFSW ASIA PACIFIC

Summary Report

On

International Federation of Social Workers - Asia Pacific

Agenda Forum

22 October 2015

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Preface

This International Federation of Social Workers - Asia Pacific Agenda Forum was held on 22 October 2015 in a form of group. The report writer has to apologize to the readers if the information in this report is inaccurate due to low quality of the audio recording and insufficient provision of information, especially about the speakers. With only voices with noise being heard, it is hardly possible to identify who said what. Your understanding is very much appreciated.

Report Writer

Introduction

One of the concerns for the forum is that its activities are almost invisible. So they think it is particularly important to develop a good contribution in the future to make sure that the efforts taken in this region is well-documented and achieved internationally.

One thing that might be useful is just briefly going over what the global agenda is. So we are all starting on the same page for today. Three main international social work and social welfare organizations have teamed up, including educators, practitioners, and the council of social welfare. They are organizations that offer special services so that we could form a tripartite. Unfortunately, today we are only bipartite because we have not been able to successfully as yet engage with our partner on the international council of social welfare. However, it's such an important opportunity for us to meet face-to-face as we are progressing through this.

The reason for having to go over the global agenda very briefly is that it aims to increase the visibility and influence to provide us with some kind of common ground and in order for us to be able to move a little bit forward and to promote the proficiency and the profession in social work as well as its discipline. We also hope there is an increase in self-confidence with social workers and we will challenge some of this way of thinking. We had some of that this morning with one of the speakers. Let's be looking at how we continue to do that. We believe that it is a way of supporting national association and it works in our region to unite us with some common frames to develop the agenda.

So it started in a way back probably a bit before 2004 when the beginning of the conversion happened. David Jones, ex-president of IFSW, have invested a huge amount of time and energy to develop this up and promoted it from in the early days. So there was lots of pre-planning until 2010 in the first joint conference where the new format began to be promoted.

The 4 themes that were identified were social and economic inequalities within countries and between regions (which was the first one we've produced the publication in Melbourne) and the one that we're in right now is dignity and worth of a person and the next one once we have completed this one will be around environmental sustainability and the one after that will be around important relationships. So while we didn't have a great presence in

the first one, we've wanting to build a better presence on this one and even stronger presence for the next and the final one in a way that they are built upon each one. It was the publication launched in Melbourne last year in 2014 and it would be good to get a copy of it and have a look.

The theme that we are in amidst of now is summarized as human dignity and worth. Human rights, perhaps some would maybe use those languages as well but we are really excited to hear how you all look into that this afternoon. Most of you would be able to access those posters and display that.

The objectives have been identified as trying to pull together what we can to promote this across our regions and not just for this one but also the subsequent ones. We also have been working with individuals and collectively trying to shape up what we have today to contribute to the report.

We do not have any fixed way that these things should come to us so it could be that someone wants to write a formal paper that they made for other publications or it may be a video, audio, or a poster. What we just need to know is what you are addressing, what the topic you are talking about, and how that is linked around the global theme. Maybe there will be other organizations involved so might just want to include that. However, the most important thing is that how the people that are in need of what we are doing will be involved from the development of it or the impact or feedback.

Right now we have 10 or 11 speakers and there might be another 1 or 2. It would be best if everyone could try to limit each presentation to around 7-ish minutes because we do have quite a tight time and we do want to have an opportunity to have a bit of questioning time or conversation as most as possible.

Lectures

Speaker No 1 from India

We bring the existing professional associations together and form a network of social work. In Bangalore, we have to main activities: one at the Department of Social Work at Bangalore University and the other at Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers. We celebrated Social Worker's Day at Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers

India also encourages people to participate in a democratic institution especially women and also look at how the women can be able to develop themselves. We also look at the environmental issues. University students are told to reduce the use of plastic and sustain the environment.

Professional Social Workers Association also organized a run on Social Workers Day in 2014 at Marina Beach. Marina Beach is again, the polluted area, which helps creating awareness for the people.

Kerala¹ Association organized an activity on World Social Work Day. There was also a South Asian Conference of Professional Social Workers held at Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers on dignity and worth of people.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT University and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), runs the school for tribal children. It is the residential institute for 25,000 indigenous children that provide accommodation, food, health care for free and also with a job after completion of education.

Speaker No.2 from Bangladesh

The nature of social work in Bangladesh is simply a volunteering activity. The concept of voluntary, again, is related to charity and philanthropy originated from humanitarian sentiment. The reasons of doing social work in Bangladesh are 1) voluntary reason and 2) to reduce social responsibility as we are a part of rational being of the society.

¹ A name of state

Out of the 37 public universities, there are 5 conducting and coordinating social work as profession for living. They are producing more students to be social workers for various organizations.

Out of 87 universities, only 5 universities have been teaching social work. With the mixture of sociology and anthropology, humanity now comes first and social work comes second. People, therefore, are more familiar with the name “the department of sociology” – This is a drawback of academic practice in social work in Bangladesh.

There are two types of social work in Bangladesh. The first one is a government-initiated affords, through policies of the government, through process of the government, government employment. The second one is non-government initiative like NGOs support or philanthropist voluntary groups in a form of charity and so on.

There is a flaw in the Social Security Scheme of the Bangladesh government. For one thing, they give monthly allowance for old women around 400 takas yet without any form of nourishment, counseling, or motivation –simply nothing. Also, the money can be taken by others but recently the government just offered these women a bank account to make it safer which is a good initiative. For another thing, the Government provides employment of people for rural service; however, it is done without any knowledge, ideas, ethics, principles, norms, values, etc. So there is a challenge in the scheme and there is still a huge option in doing social work. To incorporate workers into the service, people that do the service are actually coming from other fields and that is the problem in this country.

A big problem in Bangladesh is that social workers are not recognized. They are perceived only as voluntary activists, with only a small area for teaching children and little financial support (only around 1,000 takas). What is needed in this country is professionalized social works that are systematic than today.

Speaker No. 3 from the Philippines

The Philippines is one of the most diverse countries in SEA. Being an archipelagic country, there are 3 major islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Tagalog or Filipino is the

official language of the country though a lot of people understand and speak English. The country's majority of population is Catholics.

The country officially started a social work profession from the passage of the Republic Act no. 4373 which recognizes social work as a profession. In this law, the establishment of the social work, work on the seminars under the professional regulation commission was institutionalized, taking the lead in the regulation of social work profession.

Over the years, as part of regulating the social work profession, a need of standardized course in a curriculum leading to a bachelor degree in social work was in the hands of Commission of Higher Education as part of the government institution for higher learning. It also provided basic qualifications for social work educators as well as supervisors and resource material for social work education.

Just recently, a law was passed, providing continuing professional education in any forms of learning for all professions. This further enhances the competencies of the professionals and the practitioners especially in the social work profession. This allows the social work professionals to earn at least 41 units of continuing professional development from a recognized social work service provider, accredited by the Professional Regulatory Commission through the Continuing Professional Education Council. He or she will be allowed to renew his/her license upon completion of at least 41 CPD or Continuing professional development units. Today, there is a challenge in terms of wanting more active members of social work organizations.

The initiatives are the following: social protection initiatives project is a convergent project which harmonizes the basic social protection programs and services of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation for the delivery of assistance. It converges into 3 main things into the program: sustaining intervention and poverty alleviation and governance, watching over mothers and babies of Department of Health and the field health.

Project HELPME or health, education, life and protection, monitoring and evaluation are another inter-agent convergence among the Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and

Development, Philippine National Police. The project aims to minimize, if not eliminate, the child labor problem in the country.

There is a program of Department of Social Welfare with caters the beneficiaries of 4.4 million indigent families in the country. Mostly, the direct beneficiaries of this program are women. This provides the children with 80% of school attendance every month.

Kalahi NCDDP is a community development-driven program participated by different communities in different parts of the country. They were able to develop and build base on community needs; different social economic and infrastructure projects founded with the national government and managed by communities.

The Sustainable Livelihood program of the Department of Social Welfare is a microenterprise, livelihood and facility-based program which cater up to 723,090 families. This is a community capacity-building program, which requests the participants to actively contribute to the production and labor markets by looking at available resources and accessible markets.

Gender responsive management initiated when the National Association of Social Workers, with funding support from UNICEF. This initiative is being conducted across the island and attended by social work educators from different universities.

The Seal of Good Local Governance is a policy of the Department of Labor and Employment. It is an assessment tool and will be the base in providing funding support from the national government. It champions sustainable economic, climate changes, and children and women protection.

Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process is another contribution for state social workers and gender development system.

Speaker No.4 from Malaysia

The first thing, social profession is not recognized, so what is being done at the moment is promoting it, and by that professional social workers have to work with the government.

They are working with the government since 2004 to develop the competency in standard, which was accepted by the cabinet in 2010, and with that they said we could draft the social workers bill, and that was time for the UNICEF funding, so that is now pending in the attorney general chamber. It's still waiting for the table in the parliament for debate

These are some of the pictures showing the announcement that the government has endorsed our memorandum to have the standard center for social workers

What social workers are trying to do now while waiting for the act to be tabled into the parliament is to start training social welfares officers, social work educators, practitioners, and non-government welfare agencies. With the UNICEF funding we have done quite a lot of training – professionally accountable practices, competency based social works and child protection especially because it is UNICEF funding. The training is still on-going. There will be two more to do this year in November.

For World Social Work Day, we have a public discussion on promoting the ethics and works in collaboration for the promotion of the human right and also an art exhibition promoting the rights of foreign workers.

Then there is a joint effort with the National Mental Health Association to celebrate world mental health day when we talk about dignity and mental health. There were 80 participants that day. It was quite good.

One of the universities actually took the initiative of assignment through work for its social work students and made them do this to practice the things in the social work day. This is a small effort from them. The possible outcome we hope to see an increase in knowledge and understanding, a high quality of practices, development of job market for social workers because right now there are like some issues for us, and also expansion of social works to the new area of practice like industries.

The implication in terms of commitment from the government and NGO in training of social workers and others involved in the affair, because there is always a problem of finance, access to training, the kinds of program being developed, institutional kind of facilities, and all that. Then there is also an issue about developing social policies and structures, an expansion of social workers, and the sustainability of the social work council. When the act

comes true, that is to establish that will regulate the practice and register the titled social worker.

Speaker No.5 from Indonesia

Indonesia is facing lots of social issues but will focus on mental health issues. To tackle this, Indonesian Association of Professional Social Workers was established in 1998. Right now there is a certification system.

In Indonesia, there is a workshop in collaboration with IFSW last year about Disaster Management, actively involved in the establishment of social work certification system for the associations to produce more implementations and also making a recommendation for them to become accepted. There is also collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs to help social workers every year.

In addition, social workers have also collaborated with lots of agencies that are responsible for mental health of the people such as those that deal with psycho-social rehabilitation and mental disorder such as schizophrenia.

Advocacy of social work and social work-related regulations have been stipulated such as the law on social work practice, the law on mental health, the law on poverty, the law on child protection and children in conflict. In total we have 11 national laws that link clearly to our profession.

One of the issues about mental health in Indonesia- the problem of anxiety – 6% of the total population from ages of 15 and over, which means that there are more than 14 million people suffering from this mental disorder. More than 400,000 people also suffer from severe mental disorder such as psychotic disorder. There is also a high suicidal rate in Indonesia, around 1,170 cases per year. Most of them were restrained. More than 3,000,000 people are drug users.

Quality of mental health service is the main focus of the country. We have 34 psychiatric hospitals and around 100 hospitals offer psychiatric service. There are around 900

public health centers around the country but only 30% of them have mental services. Still, there are lots of people that lack the access to the treatment.

There are few psychiatrists in Indonesia compared to the number of patients with mental illness, only around 800 psychiatrists for 250,000,000 of populations. Social workers in mental health services are marginalized and is the issue of Minister of Health and the Minister of Social Affairs

Achievement – Indonesian parliament passed a new Mental Health Act in 2014, took 6 years to be approved which set clearly the roles of social workers in psycho-social rehabilitation and mental health services in hospitals and psychiatric institutions.

The Indonesian networking of psycho-social rehabilitation is established together with other professions in the country to organize various seminars and workshops. They are actively involved in drafting government regulations related to mental health and psycho-social rehabilitation.

This is what we expect about the integration in psycho-social rehabilitation to enhance the existed quality and reduce stigma and discrimination.

Challenges and opportunity – social workers in Indonesia require long-term sustainable actions that make people become aware of mental illness. Right now they are doing for the education about mental health illness for communities especially the effort to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people with mental disability.

A “Pasung-free”– (Pasung is a form of restraining people with mental illness), has now been expanded into 23 provinces.

Right now there is also a lack of interest to work as a social worker in mental health field. The ratio between the number of social workers and the number of clients in some places is 1:200 or sometimes 4:700.

Speaker No.6 from Japan

The main focuses in social work in Japan are abusing people with dementia and social isolation. Japan respects the independence of people in the community. Japan also established Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers to ensure the liberty of living at the place of their choice.

New arrangement in Japanese government – this is a general strategy of the promoting measures of dementia. The number of aging people is rapidly increasing and by 2025. There are 7,000,000 aging people with dementia, which correspond to 20%. The center of this plan is to rearrange the society in which is aware of dementia and respect elderlies. They are allowed to choose a preferred place in the country or community.

Another activity includes the one done by many big organizations and communities. In this example, the client was a 90 year-old female with dementia was introduced to the neighborhood to let everyone including supermarkets and police officers recognize her and collectively look after of her. Social workers worked collectively to support her and showed others how to support to her too, also tried to develop the understanding of dementia and fostered the sense of helping in the community and family.

Foundation “Bright Future” by social workers, with a contribution by Mr. Suzuki of Japanese Association of Psychiatric Social Workers. Regarding the current state of people with mental disorders in Japan, there are 3,200,000 people with mental disorders. The foundation helps these patients as it is difficult for them to live in the community and receive a proper care due to limited social supports.

In 2013, a new law became in effect, aiming to promote living together with people with mental disorder in the communities.

There are plenty of the activities from NGOs. (Show picture of a futsal team) One of the members has a mental disorder. Although he did not have the experience in futsal, he did enjoy the team, learning futsal from basic and that entered the futsal game. Finally, he found a job to live a stable life. This shows that the organization have tried to promote the dignity and worth of the people by trying to develop the community which is good for the people with mental disorder to live and to be supported.

There is also a 3S housing project allowing freedom a place of living for the victims of the earthquake on March 11, 2011. Japanese Association of Social Workers had decided to establish an emergency headquarters and sent social workers to Ishinomaki, one of the worst affected areas. Many people lost their houses; 200,000 people still lived in temporary housing. The damage may be categorized into 3 phases: the first 2 years was the effect of the loss of their acquaintance and diseases, the second 2 years was the stress caused by environmental changes and the collapse of daily living, and the third phase was the massive change in human relationship, employment and loss of job and property. This was when the 3S housing project came in. The 3S stand for Security, Safety, and Stability. People need appropriate housing to live a decent life. The goal of the project is to construct a comprehensive rational system to preserve dignity and worth of the community people. First, the social workers made a day-to-day visit, asked what the people need and carried an assessment of each issue. Second, the social workers utilized the institutions. Third, they organized a regional alliance committee for cases with multiple problems. Fourth, the social workers created an environment to accept clients with problems, provided information to the community, made alliances with health, medical, and welfare professions, and enlightened the community with education. This way we helped dismissing their anxiety. Finally, the social workers made solution system and assured welfare.

The speaker provided some comments in order to promote worth and dignity of people. The main message from the report is that the society accepts diversity of living of people, a passion to preserve, share, and understand the people's dignity, a passion in the right of living in the way he/she wants, a passion to decide the place to live and die. With freedom, a passion is guaranteed. However, there are still lots circumstances that place social workers in difficulties today. Even if so, we have a mission to overcome such difficulties and establish new friends from social works.

Speaker No.7 from Australia

The speaker's name is Karen Healy. She is the National President of Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Her talk was about what the AASW is doing regarding to the promotion of dignity and worth of people.

For a background, there is no government regulation for social works and so they have to set up a professional association to establish social work in Australia. They will be celebrating the 70th anniversary next year. The mission is to promote social justice and professional excellence. People at the association are self-regulating profession, having 8 and a half thousand members and a strong growth in membership. There are 9 branches around the country, 27 staffs, and over 30 practice groups which can be joined both online and in-person. They receive no government funding whatsoever for the work that they are doing.

So a very important part of the mission is to promote social justice and over the last few years. What the association has done is to seek to be a strong voice in social justice, to engage with the state problems and to provide independent and visible advocacy. The big advantage of having no governmental funding is that it is one of the few groups that can really speak out against some of them particularly about the detention of children in immigration.

The association prepares position statement on cases related to social justice issues or gives some data to that. It has launched submission to very big rank public inquiries. It also appeared before those inquiries as well and published press release and opinion pieces. The association also collaborated with other big organizations such as Australian Council of Social Service.

A key strategy to promote a more justice society is to ensure AASW's position on social justice and policy matters are widely known. And by that it uses social media, Facebook, and Twitter and it also does lots of work in the media.

A number of submissions have been developed and 15 were done the last year, so they have a very active social policy agenda. The association draws very much on members' knowledge which is the great thing of having a big and growing membership. Whenever there is a big issue in the media such as disability support benefit changed to youth benefit or any other issue, they can call on members who are experts on this area to give forth their experience from their professional works without themselves compromising their professional roles. So the sorts of things that they put submission into have included changes to welfare legislation that was the idea of our government for short time to cut all benefits to anyone under 25 years of age for 6 months so when they became unemployed, they would have no benefit and the association was able to be a very strong voice against that and the

government soon backed down. And while AASW cannot itself take credit for that, they were one of the really strong voices out there arguing against it. The quality of our submission is such that they often asked to give evidence before world commission and so forth, representing AASW and the people they serve.

Some examples of various commissions were appeared in the last 2 years: the association appeared before the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, they appeared before Domestic and Family Balance Commission in Victoria and the of child protection system inquiry in Australia.

The association has even developed a range of position statements which are available on the website such as violence against women, death penalty, children in immigration detention, and has supported some of our members who have been social workers and defended them in the media from senators who wanted to penalize them for speaking out against what is happening to children in detention in detention centers.

The association does not speak on its own. It collaborates with other bodies such as Australian Council of Social Service and other organizations in speaking out the harm against children.

The basis for media discussion is that they regularly write opinion pieces, appear in the newspapers, target journalists, and try to get on television.

They to support initiatives that recognize in particular cultural diversity, for example, in the International First-Nations Social Work Conference that they had a reconciliation action plan focusing on promoting better relationships between the Aboriginal people and indigenous people in Australia.

And finally, the final way which the association seeks to promote professional standard is by having have a critical role in defending professional standards. Social work in Australia is registered but actually is self-regulating and government regulation is not that very common. So that it is the association that plays an important role in going to the government and seek for legal support to ensure that social work is publicly qualified and that the work is normative.

The association seeks to promote the dignity and worth of people by ensuring that its standard reflects the strong focus on indigenous knowledge, working with cultural diversity, understanding not just how to work with children and families but also the history and context related specifically to Australia, and having progressive ways of working with people with mental illness.

Speaker No.8 from Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a small country compared to other countries here. The area is around 1,000 km² with 7.2 million people but it has a rather long history of social work development. There are altogether 90,000 registered social workers. Practices in social work are around 13,000.

In Hong Kong, there is a history of social work development through the contribution of so-called the Voluntary Agencies. The country was celebrating quite a number of NGOs in the 50s-60s.

The presentation concentrated on few initiatives being helped by 3 major organizations in Hong Kong. There are more than 400 NGOs operating social services in Hong Kong. Amongst them, around 170 NGOs receive government money. The rest are either self-funded or have other kind of activities to raise money for their social services

The following are the 3 organizations which collaborate closely in Hong Kong for promoting the social work agenda developed from the 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development:

1. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, which is a federation of non-government social service agencies of Hong Kong. It's an agency-based membership currently with more than 420 members.
2. Hong Kong Social Worker Association, which the speaker works for, is a social workers' professional body. Now we have more than 1,000 registered social workers because of the voluntary-based system.
3. The School of Social Work in Hong Kong, which is just established this year, has provided 8 universities with social program.

So all along with these 3 bodies, even though the School of Social Work that established a joint collaboration this year, Hong Kong still has a close working relationship all throughout the year in promoting the agenda in community.

Looking into the achievement of these 3 organizations towards the fulfillment of the agenda, for example, the promoting of social and economic equalities, internationally, social workers in Hong Kong normally submit papers to different international bodies saying that they attend the commission on social development such as the commemoration of international days and solving the family issues in Chinese communities in Hong Kong.

Locally, what they have been doing as a part of promoting social and economic equalities – Hong Kong is a tiny place. The population is only 7.2 million people but according to our so-called Gini coefficient, it has reached 0.537 which is a big figure that suggested that the country is facing a problem in worth gap between very rich people and very poor people. Almost 10% of people own 8% of the worth in Hong Kong. So that is why there are many things in community that the government should address and NGOs or Social Worker Associations are working collaboratively to look at the issue of poverty.

Poverty is the number one in the government agenda. In the past few years, social workers in Hong Kong tried to push the government to face positively and actively towards the issue of poverty. In the past, they just ignored and denied that poverty is the issue in Hong Kong. However, during all these year, they have been providing evidence such as this Gini coefficient or showing that there are social problems popping up all around. Government later on addressed this poverty issue and set up Commission of Poverty. This is a government-led initiative, trying to draw up all the parties, all the communities to look at the poverty issue. What they do is to set up a poverty line. This is the first time they set up a poverty line to define who the poor people are. By doing this, the government was able to tackle the poverty issues. There are numbers of poverty issues such as lack of social protection after the retirement that makes people running very poor after they retired if they do not have a job. On the other hand, the upward movement mobility for the young people is also an issue. In the past few years, even though these people graduated from the university, they found themselves unable to move upward because the difference is so big in community that these young people just express their energies towards the negative ends. This is what the government so much worries about. These young people with good achievement in education, and not to mention about those who do not study well, can study well even though

they cannot write in social level. So this commission with the initiatives from all the corners becomes very active parts in this to advocate for different measures in tackling the issues of aging, social protection of the elderly retirement, and helping the disadvantaged groups of people such as people with disabilities as well as young people by moving them up in the social level.

Ensuring dignity and worth of person internationally, Hong Kong social workers submitted international papers. They focus on the issue of ethnic minorities. They still have quite a number of ethnic minorities in our community –mostly from South Asia: Indians, Pakistanis, and Nepalese – who stay there as the 2nd or 3rd generation in Hong Kong. So the government cannot ignore the issue of these ethnic minorities' opportunities in the society. Language is also the problem so they are trying to look into the language for making these people staying in Hong Kong by building up a curriculum for these groups of people.

Hong Kong social workers also assure an appropriate environment for practicing education. By doing this initiative, they have collaborate with Hong Kong University to set up an institution. They are trying to look at 2 issues – the space practice that social workers really look forward to and secondly about the governance. Talking about the governances, they are related to the building of the capacity for all the NGOs, including the capacity for the works, capacity for the being transparent and accountable, and the accountability for building succession. They need a lot of energy to build up people to do social services.

Social workers actually think about their position and in this sort of social movement – when they say social movement is it really social movement. They have been talking about the future of society including harmonious and participatory kinds of political system – so social workers get involved in this particular action – and they have found some of them are in trouble and being oppressed by the police and that they are saying that they need a reformation. This comes to a conflicting situation that whether what they are doing is actually seeking for harmonious society or that it needs to be reformed. It also comes to how they can respect dignity and worth of people at time when they are facing this dilemma. Social work is on one hand, doing the job to advocate for change, participation while on the other hand, how social workers can maintain the order and harmony so that people would not blame social workers for leading the kind of social movement. So they are going on, some prosecutions are also going on against social workers who take the lead in a movement and they still do not know the result. But they are sure, that in case, they will defend till the end that human

being should be treated equally, fairly with justice, so they object any kind of violence against them, even though they are peacefully demonstrating themselves on the streets and may cause some disturbance to the people, but at the end, they object any kind of violence against social workers at the expense of the freedom of expression.

Speaker No.9 from New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) has a small membership. The country's population is around 4.6 million in 2 major islands, north and south island. There are lots of social justice issues that face the country. There is Social Worker Registration Board that has about 6,500 registered members. The association does have around 3,500 members which are considered as professional bodies. Around 18,000 people in NZ call themselves social workers.

Social workers in New Zealand need to take part of action around privacy and promoting more justice society. They also work with the associations that are professional in strategizing and simulating staff and collaborate with a lot other big voices. The activists also use a lot of online method in training members.

They use a bi-cultural approach because NZ have two main official languages: Maori and English.

Social workers have provided a sort of education as there are around 17 education providers throughout the country. They, as an association, have supported the increase of social work degree to 4 years – a four-year degree and have been a part of National Qualification Authority as a panelist for proving programs inside different schools.

The main issues that social workers are facing in NZ are around housing and poverty particularly children. Around 260,000 children were living in relative poverty. Care and protection is a major reform that happening in our country, as well as the initiative to work with our young people.

Social workers associations also took action in relation to the aging society and take care of the aging workforce.

Speaker No.10 from Nepal

In Nepal, there is an organization called SWAN Nepal or Social Workers' Association Nepal which recently became a member of IFSW. There is also another institution called Nepal School of Social Work to promote social work education, social work progression, and social work activity.

There are lots of political changes happening in Nepal. With this, there are a lot of political, economic, and social problems follow along and social work contributes so much in solving national problems.

Social work has developed a lot in last 20 years. The formal social education began in 1996 and has grown up gradually. Up unit last month, there was a change in constitution that Nepal would soon recognize social work as a legitimate profession. As of now, social works are not yet registered as a profession; however, the education related with social service is still going on including bachelor and master degree in social work. Most of the social workers are working in NGOs and other sectors but not being recognized by the government as a profession.

The School of Social Work also celebrates World Social Day as the strategy since its beginning in 2007 and also to take social work in a global theme very seriously because they believe it is a push to step forward to document their which can be used for influencing in advocacy purposes with the state and other local and international organization.

The school also helped the victims from Nepal 2 major earthquakes in 2015 by using social work skills. The school also collaborated and supported IFSW, police, and governors to cope with the disaster. Because they themselves were also victims, responding to the disaster using social work skills are things that they are professional and confident in. Students from the school of social work also worked with children from the community as well as other organizations. The school became a place for people to come in and get some help, in this way; people can recognize them especially in a situation like disaster.

They are also trying to work with many other partners such as NASW, IFSW and ACSW to promote human worth and dignity.

Speaker No.11 from South Korea²

They are 3 main organizations: Korea National Council on Social Welfare, Korean Association of Social Workers, and Korean Council on Social Welfare Education. They provide educational training and international cooperation and support social workers in the country. Many NGOs also join them.

Korean Association of Social Workers is also approved by the government and is in charge of issuing licenses for social workers.

Many social works in Korea are aim to improve social welfare and are done voluntarily.

Discussion Session

1st male speaker

- Korea: focus on social work education and social insurance
- Nepal: the education and social skills needed during a disaster
- New Zealand: children poverty, youth issue, housing, and aging issue
- Hong Kong: poverty, pushing the government in recognizing social work, and the issue of worth gap and the position of social workers
- Australia: the use of media in promoting social work without the funding and regulation from the government
- Japan: working on mental disorders and other social service
- Indonesia: working on psychosocial issue and Pasung-free
- Malaysia: bring forth the training of social workers

² To substitute an absent speaker, so there is not much content in this section

- Philippines: contribute a lot to social work education and initiated lots of social work policies
- Bangladesh: look into social work education and how social workers can bring changes.
- India: there is a lot of work and campaigns for women; formation of Indian network of professional association is a good thing.

2nd speaker

There are issues viewed from wider perspectives than just looking at each country. The first one is the range of the development of social work from each member of this region. The discussion went from place like Bangladesh where social work profession is a training course but here are no jobs and people work in NGOs. This appears as a charity – something one volunteers to do. While on the other hand, Japan has an example of 3S housing project which is about a co-production with many professionals and the people who will live in these houses to produce what they really want to have, and that really speaks to sustain development. There are lots of differences in this region.

There is also on one hand very fast technology, while on the other hand poverty. Is it possible to try to get those on somewhere with equality and some respect for everybody

Some governments recognize it while some do not and it is a bit confusing. There's also an issue about how people see what social workers do.

The last one is that what the role of social works is in terms of what we really have to do since it seems that social workers in different countries seem to have different point of views like in Hong Kong that sees social work as a part of political responsibility as a profession.

3rd speaker

Despite the diversity and the differences, interestingly, Indonesia though has a lot of poverty and issue of migration; they have social workers working on mental health, which

would be looking in a more clinical way rather than community-based or developmental approach. This shows that this kind of regional sharing or indigenous practice has been influenced by western model. The diversity is more like the way of sharing indigenous model. The speaker hoped that the discussion on the global agenda will strengthen them rather than throw this indigenous aspect away.

2nd speaker response to the 3rd speaker

The second speaker wanted to stress how important the indigenous knowledge is. As a westerner, the second speaker would be overly delighted to see a really strong representation on that ground because the second speaker thinks some of the issues around social protection flaws that are promoted by the West are actually inadequate and the second speaker does not think that they will help social workers move on. So if report can stress on the indigenous knowledge and what we really take on board, the second speaker would be much appreciated.

3rd speaker response to the 2nd speaker

Ensure people's development, Community ownership, Community-directed work. These are areas that could be highlighted while respecting what everybody is doing although it is challenging and difficult.

4th speaker - Cambodia

In Cambodia, they have just formed the Association of Professional Social Worker of Cambodia. Social work in Cambodia is brand new. They started the professional program in 2008 and there already are social workers that graduated with a bachelor degree. Social work is not very recognized so they held a conference on social work education in July. They are trying very hard to convince other institutions to make social work becomes a part of them such as sociology and psychology because when talking about social work, people would think it as helping poor people, giving money and food to those in need, charity, but we look at social work as a more holistic approach that would ensure people's development, their dignity and freedom as it is quite hard for them to ask for social justice and change in Cambodia.

Social workers in Cambodia are facing lots of challenge recently because the government see them as the agent for change in the society, trying to fight to make change in the society etc.

5th speaker – a Japanese woman

The speaker studied some of the Asia-Pacific situations of children and family in relation to Japanese poverty. She thinks that there is a difference in the absolute poverty and relative poverty, yet, the issue is quite similar like the impact on the children and the future consequences and the generational poverty so that there are things needed to be done by social workers.

She sees the definition of social work that everyone works on the social system to act as a political empathy and practitioner of professional.

6th speaker from Indonesia– a response to the 3rd speaker

The mental health in Indonesia is not about clinical. It is about social values of people and even politics. This is what social workers can do to show how the community and the country support the people with mental health and how we empowering them.

At the end, one of the attendants asked every participating country to send IFSW a report about social work and a plan that would work to improve the dignity and worth of people.