



IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

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Editorial

Firstly, my apologies for not being able to come through with the December 2016 issue, partly due to work and family demands but also because there were hardly any contributions from member countries. Unfortunately there has not been much improvement for this issue also but thank you to the IFSW-AP Office, India, Iran, Palestine, Bangladesh and Malaysia for filling up the pages this round. Hopefully the next 6 months and the Asia Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference in Shenzhen, China, will generate more articles for the next newsletter.

With the celebration of World Refugee Day on the 20th June 2017, the plight of refugees, stateless people and asylum-seekers was well highlighted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through statistics obtained from its own and several other sources. At the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, violence, or human right violations. Half of the refugee population were children below 18 years of age. The scope for social work practice in this area is vast and challenging.

UNHCR Malaysia has developed strategies to draw on resources from within the refugees themselves, the Government, the NGOs and stakeholders. MASW will be a part of the community support network in raising awareness about managing the refugee problems in social work education programmes and the public. One of the strategies is to have social work students placed in UNHCR for field practice to encourage graduates to view working with refugees as a viable area of social work employment.

Moving on, the Executive Committee Secretary, Irene Leung, has sent a reminder about submissions for a logo competition for a prize of USD100.00. Proposals must be original and should express the region's characteristics. All proposals have to be submitted by the 30th September 2017 to asia.pacific@gmail.com. Irene also posted an invitation for national bodies in Asia Pacific to host the next Joint Regional Conference in 2019. Bidding is to be submitted on the prescribed form available on the website to the Executive Committee by the 15th July 2017 to facilitate coordination of the event between IFSW-AP and APASWE.

Wishing IFSWAP/APASWE and the Organising Committee of the Joint Regional Conference in China a happy and meaningful meeting, sharing, and renewing of fellowship!

Report from IFAP Regional Office

President's Visit to Shenzhen, China

The Asia Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference will be held in Shenzhen at the Coli Hotel between September 26th and 29th, 2017. The conference theme is scheduled to be 'Challenges and Responsibilities: Innovative Social Work and Sustainable Development'. The China Association of Social Workers and The Open University of China are engaged in preparations in collaboration with the local social work association and department of social services. From April 18th to 22nd, IFSW-AP President Mariko Kimura, accompanied by Hong Kong Social Workers Association President Irene Leung, visited Shenzhen to meet with the local organizing committee and to have a look at local facilities and the progress of preparation.

On April 20th, the President received a report from China Association of Social Workers President Gang regarding the state of preparations for the conference. Preparations are proceeding well: more than one hundred volunteers are standing by in Shenzhen with English and other language skills, field visits are being organized, the scientific committee is already reviewing presentation abstracts, and cultural events are being prepared. Regarding the selection of keynote and plenary speakers who will provide the backbone of the conference, IFSW and IFSW-AP are giving extensive advice and a list of speakers from a wide range of fields is taking final shape. Furthermore, the Chinese organizing committee will be providing a number of scholarships.

Shenzhen is designated as a special economic zone and has good location accessible in about one hour by train or bus from Hong Kong. Also, utilizing the IFSW Development Fund, a pre-conference symposium on 'Intercountry Assessment of Children and Family Members' will be held on September 26th. We would like to have as many participants for as possible. Program details are available at <http://www.apsw2017.com>.

First UN World Social Work Day Celebration in the Asia Pacific at the Bangkok Office



Mariko with APASWE President, Fentiny and Thai officials

2017 saw the 34th World Social Work Day celebration at the UN. Events celebrating World Social Work Day are held on the third Tuesday of March at the UN Headquarters in New York, and the UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna. On April, 26th, the first World Social Work Day UN celebration was held in the Asia Pacific region at the United Nations Bangkok Office.

The opening ceremony was held in a grand fashion with the Minister of Social Development and Human Security attending. With 200 participants, including local social workers, academics, UN personnel, the general public, and educators, a symposium was organized about this year's theme of the IFSW/IASSW/ICSW Global Agenda, namely 'Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability'.



Mariko with members of the Organising Committee

IFSW-AP President Mariko Kimura was invited as a keynote speaker. In her speech, the president touched on issues such as the geographic conditions in the Asia Pacific region, the frequency of disasters, the significance of social work in long-term post disaster interventions, problems related to poverty and demographics in Asia, social work interventions aimed at maintaining families and communities, empowerment of people, multi-sector and multi-professional collaboration between social workers and other actors such as governments and multinational corporations etc. However, most of all, the president made a strong case for our mission to communicate the presence of social workers to the world by making interventions that focus on the empowerment of people visible.

After the keynote speech, a symposium on social work education was held with the participation of such experts as APASWE President Fentiny Nugroho, Thammasat University Professor Decha Sungkawan,

and Special Advisor on Social Services Chinchai from the Thai government.

This event and the following day provided an opportunity for networking between participants through further exchange of ideas including social workers from the private sector. The organizers of this event in Bangkok are enthusiastic about holding a similar celebration again next year.

Report from the Office of Prof. Mariko Kimura, IFSW-AP

Report from the Department of Social Work, B.C.M College, Kottayam-686001, Kerala, India 2016

International Conference: Social Work Intervention against Drug Abuse among Children – 7 & 8 November 2016

BCM College Kottayam and Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS) in India organized an International Conference on 'Social Work Intervention Against Drug Abuse Among Children'. The event titled Samanwaya (means –blend of all) was on 7 & 8 November 2016 in association with IFAP and INPSWA (India Network of Professional Social Work Associations). Prof Mariko Kimura (President IFAP) inaugurated the program and took a session also. Mr Sriganesh and Mr Sanjay Doss (both from INPSWA), Fr Dr Prasanth Palakkappillil, Prof Sheela Cherian, Fr Philmon Kallathra, Dr Ipe Varughese, Mr Benoy Kattayil, Dr Anish KR, Dr Victor Paul, Dr Sonny Jose, Dr Cherian P Kurian, and Mr Visak Mohan were the other leaders in the program.



Prof Mariko officiating during the Inauguration Ceremony

Fifteen people (including social work practitioners and educators, research scholars and social work students) presented papers related to the main theme. There were serious deliberations based on the papers. The first Social Work Practitioners Congress also was held along with the conference in which 12 practitioners presented their experience in social

work interventions in different fields. The program saw the participation of 717 people (including practitioners and students).



Prof Mariko addressing the participants

There were theme based competitions for the students. Eight institutions presented research based scientific posters. The participant institutions were asked to prepare a model against drug abuse and implement it in their community/nearby schools. Nine colleges had done interventions and presented their models. Theme based street play competition provided a chance for students from different institutions to work in a team, thus improving cooperation between the institutions. Two professional social workers, Mr Subhash T. V. and Mr Anu S. Nair who made good achievements in their career as civil servants, were honoured at the function.



Meeting of teachers and student representatives

A meeting of the teachers and student representatives from various colleges was also conducted during the event. This meeting discussed different concerns faced by the profession and need for strengthening the profession. The representatives had a meaningful interaction with the international and national leaders during the session.



Presenting the social work song

A cultural infotainment program against drug abuse among children was also presented. About 160 participants comprising all faculty members and students of the Department of Social Work, students from other departments, children from 6 child-

centred institutions of different kinds, participated in the two hour long show.

The event was a great success as its name suggests 'blend of all'. It was a milestone in the history of professional social work in Kerala. The social work students and practitioners had a wonderful opportunity to come together and deliberate on a social issue, plan intervention strategies, discuss professional growth and improve unity. It was the first experience for the social workers in Kerala to interact with an international leader. The presence of Prof Mariko Kimura was a different experience and a real motivation for the entire social work fraternity present at the event.



Celebration after the conference

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Report from the Iran Association of Social Workers

Summary of the Report of the Association's Measures for Sustainable Recreation of Target Neighborhoods in Sabzevar (Country's first Social City)

In the summer of 2014, after approval of the Cabinet and integrating and combining all the activities aimed to recreate slums, informal residences, old settlements, obsolete historical sites, villages integrated into the cities, and other urban contexts that to some extent are considered as unsuitable for urban life, "the national document for recreation, improvement, reconstruction, and enabling old and inefficient urban contexts" was prepared and sent to all related agencies. According to this document with its new approach of intervening society-oriented and comprehensive recreation of the residences, it is decided that along with physical reconstruction social, economic, and cultural aspects of the neighborhoods should be taken into account. Accordingly, many of the agencies affiliated to government and public

institutions like municipalities were assigned to design and perform society-oriented projects under supervision of the President and in the national committee for implementing the document. This document is superior as compared with the previous ones since it considers the social and cultural aspects of the neighborhoods and focuses on cooperation-oriented development too. Six cities were selected for implementing this document and the target neighborhoods in Sabzevar, Khorasan Razavi in east of the country were dubbed as the first social cities of the country to implement the national document as a pilot project.

The history of urban improvement activities shows that experts of urban management, engineering, urban geography, and architecture have been always consulted for improvement of inefficient neighborhoods. However, this time the Iran Association of Social Workers is appointed to implement society-oriented projects through neighborhood development approach. The association is contracted to prepare the document of action plan for developing target neighborhoods through studying past documents and to schedule its implementation.

The specialized team of IASW including some experienced social workers, a sociologist, an urban geographer, a psychologist, and a researcher was sent out to target neighborhoods. The target neighborhoods were south, central, and north Kaal-e Eidgaah and a neighborhood called Posht-e Niroogaah-e Bargh.

The first stage included primary studies and evaluation through observation, reviewing past documents, and individual meetings with all stakeholders. As a number of unsuccessful past measures have disappointed people with such efforts, there was some resistance to a new one and hence there were obstacles to starting the plan from both local people and officials. Yet the common techniques of the social workers such as advocacy, negotiation, and attracting national support helped to overcome many of such resistances. Stakeholders were consulted so that their views were considered in the evaluation of the neighborhoods and they would understand the significance of their views for the plan as well. The existing literature was reviewed and updated and 160 minor actions were proposed accordingly. Some of these actions were defined as short-term trust-building projects and some as mid-term (6 months) and long-term (3 years) projects all approved by the local officials in the provincial committee and also the local trusted peoples. Executive proposal was prepared for all of the measures and a gant table (schedule, budget, objectives, etc.) was developed for every action.

To build capacity in the neighborhoods a few small educational programs and facilitator groups were developed and the first national conference on recreation of sustainable target neighborhoods was held on 27 and 28 January 2015 with attendance of two national authorities (2 deputy ministers of Cooperation, Labor, and Social Welfare Ministry). The conference included capacity building workshops where a number of top instructors of the country taught different related topics. These programs were covered by several media and welcomed by the public. Papers and reports presented in the conference will be collected and published as a book.

Creating a social services base and forming local sustainable facilitator groups were among the important measures performed to achieve sustainable development in target neighborhoods. Currently, report of the first phase of the measures conducted in this town is finished and due to satisfaction of the authorities with the reported results, it is decided to extend social workers' contract till all the measures are finalized so that the sustainability of the projects is secured. Also, it is decided that after finalizing this mission successfully, the services of social workers for improvement and recreation of target neighborhoods of the national document should be offered in other cities too.

Full report of the activities and measures for recreation of the target neighborhoods is available from IASW; if possible it will be published.



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From the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists

World Social Work Day 2017 in Palestine

The General Secretary of the Association of Palestinian Social Workers and Psychologists organized WSWD 2017 in the Hall of Martyr Lina Nablus in Nablus Governorate building in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, Al-Quds Open University, Gernata College in the Palestinian Galilee, Nablus Governorate, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), under the theme of promoting society and environmental sustainability - dignity - justice - building - development, with the

participation of dozens of relevant civil and official institutions and universities.



In his speech, Dr. Eyad Othman welcomed the attendance of the PUSWP professionals and the partner institutions represented by the Minister of Social Development, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shaer, the Governor of Nablus, Major General Akram Al-Rajoub, Dr. Yousef Diab, the representative of Dr. Younis Omr, the President of Al-Quds Open University, Prof. Rory Truell, Secretary General of IFSW, Dr. Taha Amara, President of the Faculty of Gernata - Galilee and Ivar Kvadshim, Chairman of the Solidarity Council of the Norwegian Federation of Social Work and Education (FO), Ms. Alice Arsdeter, Executive Director of FO, representatives of civil institutions, officials, international branches secretaries, and the administrative bodies and members of the General Conference of the Union, explaining that this central ceremony, which is embraced by the mountains of Nablus, is the first in Palestine.

Othman expressed his thanks and appreciation to Prof. Rory Truell for his efforts in supporting the social work process throughout the world and in Palestine as a professional reference for this important specialization and professional guidance and consultation in the drafting of the Palestinian law. At the end of his speech, Othman praised all the social workers in Palestine and the educational counselors at home in the Ministry of Education and UNRWA. He stressed the importance of the role of the guide in the school as a safety valve, stressing that the union will defend their rights and entitlements as a result of marginalization and ignoring of their fair rights.



Governor of Nablus Governorate, Mr. Akram Al-Rajoub welcomed the attendees and appreciated the efforts of the Union and its role in all sections, and the need of the Palestinian society for social workers and educational counselors in light of the political, social and economic conditions that are afflicting the Palestinian society as a result of the occupation and its racist practices.

Minister of Social Development, Ibrahim Al-Shaer explained that the ministry is working with all partners to move towards a purely local development, and work is continuing towards the development of the Community Responsibility Law to put all the resources into one basket to meet the needs of the poor. He added that the development and construction of a system of social services for the marginalized with special needs and battered women and children, in addition to fighting poverty through the empowerment of marginalized groups are the main axis of the new vision of the ministry aimed at sustainable development and freedom from occupation.



In his speech, Dr. Youssef Diab, the representative of Dr. Younis Omr, President of Al Quds Open University, addressed the strategic plan of the university and its role in the development of educational curricula, especially the social service department through a number of qualified professors and the development of a number of programs aimed at keeping up with students' needs. During his speech, he thanked the Union for this day and its efforts, stressing the University's support for the efforts of the Union.

President of the Faculty of Gernata for Social Work, Taha Amara pointed out the importance of this celebration which brings together the Palestinian people as one and dedicated to the concept of professional diligent work, and expressed his thanks for this effort and generous gesture.

Secretary-General for IFSW, Dr. Rory Truell, delivered a speech on the outstanding achievement of the social workers in Palestine, stressing his support for the social workers in the circumstances surrounding them and the challenges they are able to overcome because they believe in this humanitarian work.

Mr. Ivar Kvadshim, Chairman of the Solidarity Council of the FO, referred to their support as social workers and as a Union for their colleagues in Palestine who face all challenges in order to serve their cause and their people. Social service is a global profession that requires coordination and cooperation without borders.

In the second part of the celebration, Dr. Emad Ashtiyeh, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Family Development at Al-Quds Open University presented a paper entitled "The specialization of social service in Palestine: reality and challenges."

On the role of the Ministry of Social Development in Palestine, Mr. Anwar Hamam, Assistant Under-Secretary for Directorates at the Ministry of Social Development presented a paper entitled "The Professional Status of the Social Service in Palestine".



Raed Amira, member of the Secretariat General pointed out in his working paper on the organization of professional work in Palestine, the importance of the law and the relationships that will be organized by the field and institutional and to promote the values of professional social systems in the Palestinian society, referring to the efforts exerted by the Union to end this file in 2017.

Report from Raed Amira
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Memorandum of Understanding between Plastianianes Union and Norwage Federation for Social Work and Education in Norwage



Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists General Secretary has signed an agreement with Nonwage Federation for Social Work and Education to address coordination and cooperation between the two parties as our goal and attention to improve the current situation for social services in Palestine. Both agreed and based on the social work rule which is an international sharing of experience and skills among social workers. That is considered valuable mechanism through the national and cultural borders to strengthen communication and to communicate with each other on an international level. This agreement comes during the occasion of celebrating International Social Work Day and the theme 'Promoting Communities and Sustainable Development'. It was attended by the General Secretary for IFSW, Dr. Rory Truell. The agreement was signed by Dr. Eyad Othman, Secretary General - Palestine and Raed Amira, International Officer PUSWP Palestine and Ms. Allis Aresdatter, Executive

Officer & International Secretary and Mr. Ivar Kvadsheim, Chair of FO Solidarity Board.

**Reported by: Raed Amira - Palestine
Human Rights Representative, IFSW-AP
Coordinator of Public and International Relations
PUSWP-Palestine
Member, Arab Federation of Social Workers**

Bangladesh Association of Social Workers

*World Social Work Day 2017 – Report by
Habibur Rahman*



We had a two day long event to mark the significance of WSWD 2017. On 21st March, we had a very colourful rally and pre-seminar workshop. On the 22nd we had a day long national seminar. Eminent social work academics and development activists were present as speakers on the agenda.



Approximately 200 social work students were present. As mentioned by the social work legendary personalities, this is really a path breaking and pioneering national seminar which we did for the second time so successfully. This year we communicated and motivated other organisations to participate in the event.



News from Malaysia...

Report on the MASW / IFSW-AP Regional Workshop: Capacity Building Social Workers for Disaster Response in Malaysia 6 & 7 March 2017



Greetings from the President, Teoh Ai Hua

The Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW) collaborated with the International Federation of Social Workers – Asia Pacific (IFSW-AP) to conduct the third in a series of regional workshops on enhancing social workers' response to disasters. The theme was 'Capacity Building Social Workers for Disaster Response in Malaysia' and it was held at the training centre of the National Council for Welfare and Social Development, Kuala Lumpur on the 6th & 7th March 2017.



Viktor delivering message on behalf of Prof Mariko



Prof Nobuyuki addressing the audience

The workshop was largely funded by the Japanese Centre for Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination via the Japanese Coordinating Body for IFSW Membership (JCBIFSWM). Prof Nobuyuki Kataoka was present to represent the Japanese Coordinating Body while Mr Viktor Virag delivered a message from the President of IFSW-AP, Prof Dr Mariko Kimura during the Opening Ceremony. The

Opening was officiated by the Deputy Director- General (Operations) from the Department of Social Welfare, Encik Zulkifli bin Ismail who read a message from the Director-General, Dato' Haji Zulkipli bin Ramli in the latter's absence.



Encik Zulkifli being presented with a gift

The trainers were Assistant Professor Luz Maria Martinez from the College of Arts and Sciences, Miriam College, Quezon, Philippines, and Ms Sharima Ruwaida Abbas from the School of Applied Psychology, Social Work and Policy, Universiti Utara Malaysia.



Dr Luz is Assistant Professor in Social Work for the past 7 years teaching undergraduates, graduate students in the International Studies Department and conducts training on disaster management for professionals and local government officials. She has served in administrative capacities and has designed educational programmes on disaster management as part of a team of experts. She revised the Bachelor of Science in Social Work curriculum making it the first social work programme in the country to include disaster management and humanitarian studies in the curriculum.



Ms Sharima teaches undergraduate and graduate students social work practice subjects among which are Crisis Intervention and Disaster Management, Social Work Intervention with Community and Organization and Foundation of Social Work. She conducts training on disaster management and psychosocial intervention for professionals and local government officials. She is a life member, core volunteer and part of the team expert in psychosocial intervention with MERCY Malaysia; an international non-profit organisation which focus on disaster management and humanitarian services. She has been on humanitarian missions locally and internationally in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan and Chile to conduct psychosocial assessments and interventions.

The Workshop was planned to meet two main objectives:

1 To equip social work practitioners with appropriate understanding of issues related to

disaster management, and with the skills to make Psychosocial Assessments and to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) to disaster survivors, especially vulnerable children and families;

2 To assist social work practitioners in self-preparation and building resilience to cope with psychological experiences of responding to disasters.

There were three components to the programme content:

1 Immediate Psychosocial Approach – Participants were given an overview of disaster scenarios, the ethics and values in disaster response, and the need for undertaking psychosocial assessments and interventions. They were put through an exercise of identifying vulnerabilities contributing towards disasters;

2 Intermediate Psychosocial Approach – Participants learned best practices in managing disaster situations, the creation of safe spaces for different vulnerable groups, and conducting of Psychological First Aid to support the survivors;

3 Long Term Psychosocial Approach – This session focused on social work skills in rehabilitation of affected communities but also in empowering communities to work on prevention of disasters while ensuring appropriate self-preparation for deployment and psychological stress management.





problematic situations, use of case studies, role play and videos to visualise learning and application. Many also expressed the need to explore ideas of how to create safe spaces for different target groups.



It is expected that there will be different learning curves in any group comprising of those new to the topic as well as those who have had significant exposure to disaster situations. It was a challenge for the trainers to meet different levels of needs within a two-day programme. It was clear that small group discussions and presentations, and the large open group discussion generated a lot more interest and sharing towards the end of the workshop. On the whole, the workshop did bring like-minded people who shared similar goals into a network where further exchanges, engagements and cooperation could be realised in disaster management. For MASW, there is encouraging potential for developing ongoing training at different levels to continue enhancing the knowledge and skills of social workers and other disaster management personnel and volunteers.

Reported by:
Elsie Lee for MASW

Diploma in Social Work in Malaysia – A Dream Come True



The 1st Cohort of 14 with Head of Programme, Elsie Lee

Following a long and tedious process of brain-storming and consultations and filling umpteen forms by a group of non-government organisations including MASW, in collaboration with a private educational institution, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur, the first ever English medium Diploma in Social Work (DipSW) Programme was launched in April 2017 with 14

Although 86 registered for the workshop, 7 did not eventually show up so the final head count was 79, of which 20 are social workers. There were 5 participants from Indonesia and 1 each from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Singapore and Palestine. Mr Viktor and Prof Nobuyuki also participated fully in the workshop sessions.

There were 8 non-profit organisations already involved in disaster management while others were looking at exploring their capacity to get involved. A number of individuals had also had the experience of providing PFA and therapeutic counseling to families of airline disasters survivors, and various other catastrophes in the region as well as the ongoing wars in the Middle East. There was a very interesting mix of age groups, cultural, religious and educational backgrounds, and occupational experiences.



Participants were asked to complete evaluation forms to gather feedback on key messages learned and challenges anticipated in applying learning in disaster response. Only 37 out of 79 participants returned the forms, and a few only partially filled. From these, it can be gathered that generally participants received the key messages presented by the trainers though a number of participants indicated the need for more explanations and demonstrations of how to apply the PFA and the PiE in psychosocial interventions. A number felt the need for more sharing of examples of

students. This is another milestone for MASW and for social work in Malaysia, and a historical development for the first private college to run a social work education programme in English in Malaysia.



Representatives of the NGO Group of 5 sign on

The DipSW curriculum was developed with input from an Australian Social Work Consultant, Dr Pauline Meemeduma, based on the National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice endorsed by the Government in 2010. The programme was mainly aimed at meeting the needs of frontline workers in social welfare fields of practice without social work academic qualifications or training. However, it will also offer a pathway to social work as a career for school leavers who are unable to qualify for tertiary education and are interested to become social workers.



Happy response from NGO Stakeholders



Welcome address by Ms Moey Yoke Lai, CEO, MCKL

With recognised credentialing from the Government, DipSW graduates will have better access to undertaking undergraduate social work degrees locally and globally, if they wish to pursue higher education. DipSW graduates will also have the option to apply for full membership with MASW, and to be

registered and certified as a practising Associate Social Worker with a National Social Work Council when the Social Work Profession Bill is enacted.

The programme hopes to increase intakes in the coming years to allow for the many passionate and committed grass-root practitioners and volunteers to gain the professional expertise necessary in meeting the complex and multidimensional nature of psychosocial problems in the country.

Report from the Secretariat of MASW
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World Social Work Day Activities in Malaysia 2017

On 17th March, social work students from 4 universities gathered at the Science University of Malaysia (USM) to kick-start the celebration with a symposium highlighting the role of social work students in advancing social work in Malaysia. Photo below.



On 21st March, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) celebrated its Social Work Program 20th anniversary in conjunction with World Social Work Day with a colourful event "A 1000 Steps Forward" where the lecturers and students toured the campus to symbolise this year's theme 'Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability' - 20th Anniversary of Social Work Programme @ UUM. Photo below.



On 25th March, the MASW celebrated WSWD2017 by organising a Public Forum on the theme "Social Work and Sustainable Development Goals" at the Methodist College Kuala Lumpur. Around 60 people made up of social workers and social work students and others, attended the Forum.



Denison, Jasmine, Suhaimi and Lin



Speakers and participants

The Forum started with a welcoming remark by Mr Teoh Ai Hua, President of MASW, who also moderated the session. The first speaker, Dr Lin Mui Kiang presented the historical development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its relations with the creation of the United Nations, the UN Charter and other relevant conventions. She highlighted Malaysia's achievements and shortfalls in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the current work of the government and Civil Society in planning the SDGs, and the need for input from the social work profession.

The second speaker Datuk Dr Denison Jayasoria linked social work with the SDGs, highlighting the ideals and language of SDGs are consistent with the values and principles of social work, and the opportunities for social workers to step up and play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs.



Response from the participants

Mrs Jasmine Adaickalam shared her experiences working with the urban poor community. She highlighted the importance for social workers to be aware of the complexity of issues faced by the urban poor and the need for multidimensional and sustainable approach in addressing urban poverty.

Dr Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad shared his experience in his research and community outreach program with the indigenous community. He noted the need for social workers to have deeper understanding of the social, cultural and political aspect of the community when engaging them. He highlighted the close relationships of the community with the natural environment, and the underlying factors that contribute to resistance to change from the community.

On 29th March 2017, the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia celebrated World Social Work Day 2017 with its officers organising a forum "Sustainable Community and the Role of Social Workers". The Director-General of Social Welfare officiated the event. Mr Teoh Ai Hua, President of MASW was invited as panel speaker, along with Executive Committee Member, Prof Dr Azlinda Azman, who is also Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences at Science University of Malaysia (USM). The other panellist was Puan Ruhaini Hj Zawawi, Director of Policy and International Relations of the Department and also a member of MASW. Photo below.



*Reported by Teoh Ai Hua
President (2015/2017)
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Social Work Day (Hong Kong) 2017 - Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability

In response to the World Social Work Day, Hong Kong has been organising Social Work Day (Hong Kong) since 2007. As the convener of the organising committee, Hong Kong Social Workers Association joined hands with more than ten organisations, including Social Welfare Department of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Social Workers Registration Board and social work training institutes, to promote social work to the local community by raising public awareness and recognition of social work contribution and to enhance our advocacy role and professional image. Concerns on contemporary social issues are addressed through such campaigns.



Guest Speakers

Social Work Day Seminar

Echoing the theme of 2017 “Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability”, a seminar on “*Sustainable Development and Diversified Practice*” was held on 21 March 2017. Insights of scholars gave a conceptual framework on the topic, added by practical experiences of social workers and sharing of service users. The event drew more than 150 participants from over 30 agencies, including frontline workers, social work teachers and students. The open forum after the presentations provided a platform for discussions and exchange between the speakers and the floor.



The Long Run

Prelude to Social Work Day – “Long Run” and other activities

The Social Work Day (Hong Kong) was actually launched one month earlier with an activity named as “Long Run”. The main idea of the event was to bring about the message and spirit of “togetherness” and “perseverance” among social workers and the service users through action demonstration. The event was

featured by a joint participation of social workers, social work teachers & students as well as service users. It has become a popular event among social workers and service users since its launching in 2009. More than 700 participants from over 20 agencies were attracted to participate on that day.



Beside that other highlights were also carried out, including snapshot collections, setup of social media platforms, rearrangement of the Social Work Day theme song, and cartoons with social work messages, so as to arouse the awareness and momentum of the Social Work Day in the sector and general public.



Supportive Supervision Scheme

Three years after its debut, the Supportive Supervision Scheme (SSS) has come to its final cohort. SSS is the initiative of the Hong Kong Social Workers Association (the Association) aiming at setting standards and establishing accreditation for social work supervisors. With funds approved from the Social Welfare Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, this 3- cohort pilot Scheme has successfully nurtured 99 local social workers into competent and effective supervisors.

Graduation ceremony for the final cohort was held on 30 June 2017, seeing the thirty-two graduates off to provide quality supervision for practitioners in the field. The graduation was attended by government officials, consultant supervisors of SSS, the Association’s council members, local scholars, NGO heads and representatives as well as beneficiary NGOs receiving free supervision from our certified supervisors. We are privileged to invite Professor Monit Cheung from University of Houston to speak on social work clinical supervision and conduct workshop on “Use of therapeutic games and guided imagery in mental health”. The Scheme marks an important milestone in our professional development which devotes to deriving a competency-based curriculum cum supervised practicum leading to accreditation of social work supervisors. Through such, we look for a new paradigm for enhancing our professional standard and ensuring a quality service.

After the evaluation and consolidation of the past 3 years, the Scheme will be taken further to an enhanced version of “Supportive Supervision Scheme 2.0”. Based on the fundamental course structure, the upcoming Scheme will be enhanced to include a wider scope of training modules, increase practicum

requirement and expand the mode of learning such as group tutorial. We shall also connect the renowned scholars and consultants from our international networks for delivering public lectures and workshops on the advanced practice in order to keep our professionals abreast of the latest knowledge and practice.



SSS Ceremony group photo

Report from the Hong Kong Social Workers Association hkswa@hkswa.org.hk

A Call for Help from Sri Lanka...

Disastrous Floods of May 2017



The IFSW-AP Office has received a request for help from the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers (SLAPSW). President Mariko is urging regional member organisations to respond, especially towards the needs of children, whether through financial aid, educational materials, technical assistance or joint collaboration among social workers to provide relief. The JFSW is planning to collect donations which will be sent to the SLAPSW by the end of July 2017.

E-mail from the Secretary of SLAPSW, Mr M.G. Upali:

"In May 2017, people in some of the districts faced the worse disaster ever in over 70 years. More than 600,000 people were affected by the floods and rainfalls. Fifteen out of the 25 administrative districts were badly affected. Over 220 people have died and over a 100 people are missing. One fourth of the affected are school children. Many children have lost their educational facilities and many have been rendered homeless. They have lost everything including

books, uniforms, and their notes for the year. The worst damages are seen in Ratnapura district.



As social workers, we are very concerned about this situation and would like to invite our fellow social workers internationally to hold hands with us to support the school going children. We want to provide books, uniforms, and school equipment, and to copy the notes that they have lost as some of the children are planning to sit for the High School examination and the Grade 5 scholarship examination in August.



We appeal to all our friends and IFSW members to help us to help the children with their school necessities. Our theme being: 'Give your hand to help you stand'. Your kind attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. For further details please contact Ms. Kanthi Perera. Her mobile number is 0094-775215699.

Thank you."

Upcoming Social Work Events in 2017

IFSWAP-APASWE Regional Joint Conference 2017 in Shenzhen, China



***Challenges and Responsibilities – Innovative Social Work and Sustainable Development
26th – 29th September 2017
The COLI Hotel, Shenzhen, P.R. China***

APSW2017 Secretariat
No.6 Jia Rd, Baijiazhuang Rd,
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100044
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Email: apsw2017@gmail.com or apsw2017@163.com

Pre-Conference Symposium (Asia-Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference)

The Role of Social Workers Regarding the Assessment of Children/Dependents Crossing National Borders - 26th September 2017

*Organised by IFSW Asia Pacific
Sponsored by IFSW*

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is developing the "Guiding Principles for Social Workers Concerning their Role in the Assessment of Children and Dependents' Cases that Cross Nation State Borders", and IFSW-Asia Pacific has agreed to host this Symposium to assist with the further development of these guiding principles.

The Asia Pacific is made up of a variety of ethnic groups, races, cultures, religions, and customs. Social work assessment requires thorough consideration of such diverse factors. In an increasingly globalised world, the number of children and families who migrate and end up separated by international borders is growing.

The symposium will start with a lecture on general principles and the legal base such as the 1980 Hague Convention on Child Abduction delivered by Dr Anne Wollner from ISS Australia. This will be followed by country reports from Hong Kong, China, Korea, and Sri Lanka. Finally, an open discussion will be held among the speakers and with participants from the floor.

Through this multi-professional and multi-cultural symposium, social workers' role in dealing with international child/family cases will be clarified and a set of related guidelines will be proposed to IFSW.

Profile of the Lecturer:



Dr. Ann Wollner is the manager and co-founder of the Legal Unit at International Social Service Australia which specialises in International Parental Child Abduction. She has a Doctorate in Child Clinical Psychology from Melbourne University and a Master of

Comparative Law from George Washington University, Washington DC. She has practiced law and psychology in the private and public sectors and has particular interests in international children's matters, trauma and family violence. She was a Lecturer at the University of Melbourne Law School and is an Adjunct Fellow of Victoria University's College of Law and Justice. She is also a trained collaborative lawyer and cross-border mediator.

Symposium Speakers:

Ms. Iris Kam-fung Liu (Hong Kong) is the director of Program at International Social Service Hong Kong Branch. She graduated from University of Hong Kong and has a Master of Social Sciences (Social Work). She is a Hong Kong Registered Social Worker and has many experiences in inter-country adoption and inter-country casework.

Dr. So-Youn Park (Korea) is a Professor of Social Welfare at Kyonggi University, Korea. She received a PhD degree from New York University and post-doctoral fellowship training at John Hopkins University. In addition, she worked for seven years as a certified social worker at mental health settings in New York City. She is also licensed as a Mental Health Social Worker approved by Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare. Her research interests are health disparity in health care access and utilisation, substance abuse and mental health, and cross-cultural issues of immigrants.

Mr. Jayantha Premalal (Sri Lanka) is a Senior Social Service Officer of the Department of Social Services. He has been actively engaged in inter-country family assessment work. He is now Vice-Secretary of Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers.

Moderator:

Ms. Rose Henderson (New Zealand) is a mental health specialist in Christchurch New Zealand.

Date: 26th September 2017

Time: 13:30 to 16:30

Venue: The Coli Hotel, Shenzhen, China

Registration: FOC but advanced registration required.

Program:

Opening Address by Prof Mariko Kimura (President, IFSW-AP)

Lecture by Dr Anne Wollner (ISS Australia)

Country Reports by Symposium Speakers:

Hong Kong China - Ms Iris Kam-fung Liu (ISS Hong Kong)

South Korea - Dr So-Youn Park (Kyonggi University)

Sri Lanka - Mr Jayantha Premalal (SLAPSW)

Floor Discussion

Moderator: Ms Rose Henderson (Vice President, IFSW-AP)

For further information, please contact IFSW-AP Office at asia.pacific@ifsw.org



Borneo International Social Work Symposium
- Social Work in Multiculture Society
12th & 13th October 2017
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

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