

Dear Social Work Colleagues in the Asia Pacific Region

I would like to invite you to the 24th Asia-Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference, from October 25th to 29th, 2017 in Shenzhen, China. We have waited for a long time for an international social work conference to be held in China and are now very excited by this event in 2017.

In China, social work practice is developing quickly with a principle aim of enhancing people's lives and well-being. To respond to numerous social problems resulting from factors such as the considerable gaps in living standards between urban and rural development, an ageing society, societal growth and changing family structures, both the government and civil society are making significant advances regarding the establishment and development of the social work profession. These include the training and education of social work professionals as well as the development of practice models for how social workers benefit people in their communities.

Within this context, the China Association of Social Workers are hosting the Asia Pacific Regional Social Work Conference in 2017. Social workers and social work educators in the Asia Pacific Region and across the world are keen to learn about how the social work profession in China responds to the diversity of social problems across its huge population and support our colleagues in their work.

The conference theme is *Innovative Social Work and Sustainable Development* with particular reference to the next theme of our Global Agenda

I look forward to your participation in our next [Asia Pacific Regional Conference](#) to be held in China in 2017.

Mariko Kimura
Regional President,
IFSW Asia Pacific

International Hosts



International Federation of Social Workers
Asia Pacific Region



Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Education

Local Hosts



China Association of Social Workers



The Open University of China Social Work School