



Organized by IFSW Asia Pacific

Sponsored by IFSW

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

The Role of Social Workers regarding the Assessment of Children/Dependents Crossing National Borders

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 globalized 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 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.

Date & time: 2017 September 26th, 13:30 to 16:30

Venue: The Coli Hotel, Shenzhen, China

Participation: free of charge; registration in advance needed

Program:

Opening (5 min) **Mariko Kimura** (President, IFSW Asia Pacific)

Lecture (60 min) **Anne Wollner** (ISS Australia)

Country reports: Hong Kong China: **Iris Kam-fung Liu** (ISS Hong Kong)

(20 min each) **Korea:** **So Youn Park** (Gyunggi University)

Sri Lanka: **Jayantha Premalal**

Open discussion (40 min) **Moderated by Rose Henderson** (Vice President, IFSW-AP)

*For further information, please contact IFSW Asia Pacific Office at asia.pacific@ifsw.org



***Profile of the Lecturer:* Dr. Ann L.Wollner**

Dr. Ann Wollner is the manager and co-founder of the legal unit at International Social Service Australia, which specializes 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 in 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 China):

Ms. Iris Kam-fung Liu 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)

Dr. So-Youn Park is a professor of Social Welfare at Kyonggi University, Korea. She received a Ph. D degree from New York University and post-doctoral fellowship training at Johns 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 utilization, substance abuse and mental health, and cross-cultural issues of immigrants.

Mr. Jayantha Premalal (Sri Lanka)

Mr. Jayantha Premalal is a senior social service officer of the Department of Social Services. He has been actively engaged in intercountry family assessment work.. He is now vice secretary of Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers.

Ms. Rose Henderson (New Zealand)

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