

Social worker to report from China earthquake zone

IFSW's President for Asia, Justina Leung, has recently travelled to the earthquake-hit province of Sichuan, China. Ms Leung was with a group of 12 experts from Shanghai and Hong Kong who were assessing the impact on social workers and rescuers of working in the devastated area.

The group met local social workers and attended media interviews and also visited refuges in Mianyang, where many people have sought safety after losing their homes.

Professor Zhang Yu, a vice dean at East China University of Science and Technology, was also with the group. He told Chinese media that the disaster will particularly affect children's social relations.

"They may also have lost some friends in the earthquake. The change of the family and social environment will affect their life for a long time," he said.

More than 71,000 people are now known to have died or are missing following the 12 May quake and tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed.

Read more:

<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/sp/article/2008/200805/20080521/article_360286.htm>