

National Workshop in India on Combating Child Labor and Child Trafficking Report

The *Workshop on Combating Child Labor and Child Trafficking* was held for two days between August 18th and 19th, 2016 in Bengaluru, India. From all over India, 50 professional social workers, academics, and students participated. It included provision of information from specialists including legal professionals, policymakers, and NGO, as well as UN consultants. Discussions were quite lively and the event was concluded successfully.

This workshop was planned by the International Federation of Social Workers Asia Pacific Region (IFSW-AP) and the Japanese Coordinating Body (JCB) for IFSW Membership, subsidized by the Japanese Center for Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination. The program was designed and organized by the professional associations of social work in India.

As for the workshop venue, it took place at the conference room of Christ University in Bengaluru, hence the event was held with the full support of the university's Faculty of Social Work.

On the first day of the workshop, IFSW-AP President Dr. Mariko Kimura took the stage and greeted the participants at the opening ceremony and policymakers held keynote speeches. Later, legal professionals and researchers of policy development on child labor spoke. In the afternoon, practitioners introduced the challenges they face and statements were made about working together with UNICEF, NGOs, and public agencies. On the second day, presentations were made on policy issues regarding child labor and methods of assisting children. Following these, participants were divided into three groups and engaged in discussions. Finally, they presented the content of these discussions and the closing ceremony took place after feedback from the participants. According to many opinions from participants, it was a very meaningful workshop to learn skills and activities necessary for social workers when engaging with child labor and they wished for further organization in the future.

Simultaneously with the workshop, the India Network of Professional Social Workers' Associations (iNPSWA) that was formed one year ago held its General Assembly to which presidents of six regional organizations attended and gave activity reports. To promote organizational membership, they engaged in promotion during the workshop and it was clear that they firmly communicated the significance of becoming a member of IFSW.



iNPSWA President Gandhi and IFSW-AP President Kimura at the opening ceremony



Participants



Group photograph of all workshop participants



iNPSWA members and staff gathering around Secretary General Sriganesh



General Assembly of iNPSWA



Japanese IFSW-AP delegates with iNPSWA members and Christ University faculty