

## **Evaluation Report for IFSW 2016-2018 from Asia Pacific Region**

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### **1. IFAP Regional Work in relation to IFSW 2016-2018**

Producing GA Regional Report is one of the major responsibilities for the region, and IFAP has participated since 2012. The AP region did not have the financial or professional capacity to set the regional observatory for data collection, so we have utilized the regional conference as the place to gather regional data under the Global Agenda theme until the term of the next Global Social Work Conference. The difficulty for this Global Agenda working style is due to the huge geographic area of the region and the varied level of development of social work in member countries. It was also not possible that the regional member countries come to an agreement to set to work toward the specific goals during the two year term to produce a report as a region. Therefore the result of the report was made up of the exploration and a collection of data that are fit for the theme at the time for each member country.

There is room for improvement how to produce the Global Agenda Report, and how to utilize this material. The quality of the report is upgraded as the time progressed, and there is an abundance of information that we could extract to utilize to understand the social work situation of the world using the GA Report as a reference. Overall, we did best what we could. Up till now, we would like to thank all the people who has been involved to produce the wonderful work of Global Agenda Report, especially Rose Henderson.

### **2. Regional Goal 2016-2018**

One of the major work for the region is to build and strengthen the networks among IFAP member countries. With the limitation of the financial resources, we tried to utilize the resources we achieved as the regional goal of “strengthening the networks among IFAP member countries by project.” Through this regional project, the following three outcomes were produced: 1) Workshops were conducted to upgrade the professional skills and develop networks among professionals of the member countries and surrounding countries; 2) Contributing to the inter-organizational development of the member countries in the process of preparing the workshop by increasing membership and strengthen the ties among members; and 3) Enhancing the inter-organizational network development

between the member country and the IFAP. Below are the workshops held during 2016-2018 in the AP region with the funding of Japanese Social Welfare Promotion Centre. With the IFAP Policy of “Network by project” to enhance networks among member countries, the goals have been accomplished in Asian countries in the area of common topics such as disaster and child labour.

- Jan.2016 (for the 2015 Fiscal) Indonesia : Psychosocial Support in the disaster situations
- Mar.2016 (for the 2015 Fiscal) Philippines: Building Resilience against Disaster
- Aug.2016 India: Combating Child Labour and Child Trafficking
- Mar.2017 Malaysia (for the 2016 Fiscal) : Disaster Response Social Work
- November 2017 Nepal: Disaster, Child Labour and Human Trafficking
- Jan. 2018 Vietnam (for the 2017 Fiscal) : Disaster and Human trafficking

### **3. Other matters contributed to the network building of the IFAP Region**

Since Mariko Kimura was elected as the Regional President of IFAP in 2014, during the term 2014-2018, the Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW) allocated special funding to support the work of the Regional President. When requested by the IFAP member countries, she tried to participate the regional conference and workshops as much as possible with the fund of JFSW. The regional conferences and workshops she participated are: Philippines 2014, India 2015 before their joining IFSW, Vietnam December 2016 for the preparation of the skill development workshop, Conference preparation in 2016, 2017 for the China Conference September 2017, ASEAN Social Work Consortium 2017, Workshops in Nepal 2017, Iran Social Work Conference 2017 funded by IASW, and Kyrgyz International Social Work Forum 2018 funded by IFAP.

There are other IFAP individual members contributed to developing policy areas such as mediation and inter-country family evaluation. Some served as committee members affiliated with IFSW Global Commissions as the regional representatives. Some served for the Regional Executive Committee, and some contributed in providing knowledge and skills for social work leadership training in the area of social work and disaster management in the region. During 2016-

2018, IFAP region has developed the Regional Standing Orders, so that all the members work under the unified framework of the region.

IFSW Development Fund was allocated when IFAP applied, and this fund was effectively utilized for workshops by depicting the issues in relation to globalization. These workshops included Child Labour and International Migration (Bangkok) and Inter-country family assessment (Shenzhen, China) in the pre-conference workshop of the regional conferences.

Iran's social work anniversary event, which boosted Iran's interests in more active participating in IFSW activities, and they have expressed the wishes to serve on the Ethics Committee representing the AP Region as one of the two reps. There is a regional internal need of the country as well as their effort to help each other in the Mid-Asian member countries. When there is a will, there should be supportive atmosphere to help them participate by recommending the country to serve for IFSW committee as a regional representative, and this is one way to participate more actively within the region and globally.

#### **4. The outcome and the evaluation**

The Regional President's visit and interaction among the IFAP member countries and surrounding countries near IFAP Region have increased a great deal in the past two years. Through attending these workshops and conferences, we were able to build a better and stronger networks not only with these countries, but also other member countries in the surrounding countries in the IFAP and European Region who were attending these events. These are the outcome of the network building through inter-organizational collaboration and interaction. We were also able to create a stronger flow of information in understanding the situation of the region as well as the other regions and this contributed to the international collaboration among those involved in the inter-organizational network building.

Creating a new function to facilitate the regional communication was a necessity. With the funding of JFSW, we have appointed a special assistant to the Regional President to work on 1) Setting the central access point for the IFAP regional member countries, and 2) The special assistant was able to facilitate the communication through IFSW-IFAP website. And then, 3) IFAP created a face book and used it as the platform for the information dissemination. 4) IFAP News

Letter has been published as before by the IFAP Editor of the News. 5) The President cultivated the inter-organizational networks by physically visit the member countries with JFSW funding. 6) The regional workshops held as part of the “Building Networks by project” for the professional skill development and enhancement of the relationship between member country and the IFAP since these workshops were sponsored by the IFAP, JFSW, and the Local host, and 7) Surrounding member countries also participated with these workshops and made contribution to the professional development and building networks with the surrounding countries.

## **5. Regional Achievements**

IFAP is a diverse and broad region with variety of cultures, political systems, languages, and different levels of social work development. It would be important that we identify ourselves as IFAP members, and at the same time, the sub regional characteristics need to be recognized, and the networks should be built in surrounding sub-regional areas because of the geographic and cultural vastness of the region. Good organization and the governance of the region and how the leadership of the regional to govern the region is critical.

## **6. World Social Work Day Activities 2017 and 2018 in Bangkok**

Sponsored by the Thai Government in cooperation with the UN office in Bangkok, special event on the World Social Work day in 2017 and 2018 were celebrated at the Bangkok UN Office and IFAP President and Vice President participated under the request of the Thai Government.

## **7. Aspirations of the region 2018 – 2020 and beyond—the roles of the Global Office and the Region and beyond the structure of IFSW**

### **1) Coordination**

During our term of working as regional president and vice president, we realized “coordination” as one of most an important and critical functions. This can be said among IFSW member countries between the Global and the Region and this can be said beyond IFSW since we are working on Global Agenda, and if we were to work further.

The new member countries are joining IFSW every year, and the membership of IFSW is growing rapidly. The most of the newly joining members

are from developing countries-- there are many NGOs and UN agencies working in these country in the area of health, rehab, disabilities, education, and some other social welfare related areas. It has been pointed out that there seems to be lacking of inter-coordination and collaboration among these NGO activities in these countries.

The discussions and concerns how to effectively link each other to make more productive outcome in improving the situation of the countries should come as a next step for the further international and global collaboration regarding the global issues IFSW are trying to tackle. They may be producing the annual project report by each agency, however, the horizontal networking and collaboration and these developments may not be touched upon in these reports. One example for this from the speech by the President of SWAN (Social Workers Association of Nepal) in 2017 during the child labour workshop, there are more than 1000 NGOs in Nepal, and there is no inter-connections nor inter-collaborations among these NGOs. If IFSW develops further relationships with other NGOs, IFSW could do something about the inter-coordination issue to work with other agencies outside of social work.

## **2) The need for the Role definition of IFSW and IFAP region in future organizational developments**

The regional planning should work hand in hand with the Global goals and planning. Financial matters are critical: since a large portion of the regional work is working with developing countries, it requires some funding from Global office or with some kind of financial scheme. All the members are volunteers, and it is not possible for the regional members to devote time for fundraising. Therefore, it is critical if an agreement is made for someone to be hired to work on fundraising. Development Fund has been well utilized in IFAP Region for meaningful projects and the outcome has been exhibited in the development of networks among member countries, and seminars for globalization issues. Receiving adequate funding is also critical for IFAP Region.

## **3) Embracing autonomy as AP region to work closely with members of the region**

Global Office is responsible for the governance and management of the Global body, while working closely with the member countries is critical. It is the regional role to support the development process of the newly joining countries, and

this should be the consensus of the IFSW Executive members as well as all the members who are joining.

**4) Keep reminding that we share same values and sense of solidarity**

During the four years, it was such an encouragement that we always felt that there is a strong support and a sense of solidarity. This is because we are all professional “Social Workers” and it is importance of reminding members that there is a strong sense of support among social workers and social work bodies.

[ Photos]



Global Agenda Workshop in Bangkok 2015 as a process for data collection to produce Global Agenda AP Report





Workshop on Combating Child Labour and Human Trafficking 2016 in India



Child Labour, Human Trafficking and Disaster Mitigation Workshop in Nepal, November 2017



Celebrating the World Social Work Day in Japan March 2018 with invited guest Amran Jamil from Singapore, Seminar held at Japan Women's University



World Social Work Day 2017 in Bangkok UN Office Celebrated in April 26, 2017





World Social Work Day in Bangkok UN Office March 29 2018