

Election for Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific (2020-2024) Profile & Curriculum Vitae

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Professional Affiliation: Hong Kong Social Workers Association (HKSWA)

Position in Hong Kong Social Workers Association

Immediate Past President (2020-2021)
President (2016-2020)
Vice President (1996-98) (2011-2015)
Honorary Secretary (1993-96, 1998-99)
Director of Executive Council (1992-93, 2000-02, 2007-2011)

Involvement in IFSW

Vice President of Asia Pacific Region (2018-2020)
Honorary Secretary of Asia Pacific Region Executive Committee (2009-2018)
Representative for Hong Kong Social Workers Association in IFSW

Community Participation (Local)

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

- Executive Committee member (2011-2017, 2018-present)
- Vice Chair of Executive Committee (2018-2019)
- Vice-chair of Standing Committee for Sector Development (2011-2013)
- Chair of Specialized Committee for Sector Finance
- Vice-chair of Specialized Committee for Children & Youth Service (2007-2011)

Government & Public sector

- Member of Task Force on Lump Sum Grant Review (Social Welfare Department) (2017-present)
- Member of Advisory Committee on JC Fellow for social workers & teachers (2017-present)
- Lay member of Notaries Public Disciplinary Tribunal Panel
- Member of Town Planning Appeal Board (2017-present)
- Committee member of Community Investment & Inclusion Fund (Labor & Welfare Bureau) (2012-2018)
- Member of Admissions, Budgets & Allocations Committee, Community Chest (2012-2018)

Academic Institutes

- Hong Kong University Social Work Department Advisory Committee Member (1994-95, 1998-2002, 2008-2011, 2017-present)
- Hong Kong Community College of City University, External Professional Advisor of Associate of Social Science (2012- 2018)
- Hong Kong College of Technology, External Advisor of Higher Diploma in Social Work (2013-2016)

Brief Account of my social work history

I was graduated from HKU in 1981 with a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences (major in Social work). I started my social work career in children and youth service primarily in two scopes: children & youth centre and school social work. I completed my part time master program in HKU in 1991 and graduated with a MSocSc (social work). As I turned my frontline practice to a supervisory post in The Salvation Army, I was still engaged in youth and community services. I concluded my first 20 years of practice specialized in young people and community work. Until 2002 when there was a revamping in my organization, I got an opportunity to extend my scope of social work practice to the field of human resources and community network for organization administration & development. That was a challenge to me when I needed to look at professional practice and development from the angle of human resources, particularly related to the development of professionals as well as grooming of future leaders. The experience drawn in those 4 years enlarged my vision in social service management on one hand; and seeing the importance of our social work profession in the context of community development and solidarity on the other. I assumed the post of Chief Manager for Youth, Family & Community Services in 2006 before I took up the post of Social Services Director in 2011 until July 2018 when I retired from my job. The progression of my social work career up to the position as the Director for Social Services in a large NGO drove me not just an enlarged responsibility and authority but a total commitment in leading, shaping and developing the growth pathway of the profession & professional services for the community.

Reflection on the involvement in the social work professional body

I started the engagement with Hong Kong Social Workers Association (HKSWA) by joining the Executive Council as a Board member since 1992. I kept myself connected and aligned with different stakeholders (amongst fellow social workers, other professionals, the government and the NGOs) in promotion of social work professional image and development. This has been my major volunteer involvement outside my work. I find it very challenging and rewarding though it is entirely not an easy commitment at all. Frustration and burn-outs did occur and I considered to retreat. Nevertheless, at time when I face a rapidly changing world, I re-examine the mission of social work and how social workers can manage the changes and make changes.

Having completed my term of Presidency of the Association in February this year, I was grateful that the Association was taken forward to a new horizon by:

- i. Launching the “Hong Kong Academy of Social Work” –
This is a long-term goal of the Association and ground breaking move in developing a professional path for the social workers after graduation as a RSW by setting up a progressive social work development ladder based on a competence-based framework, credentialing the certified practitioners of different levels; establishing collages of specialized field of practice; setting up a continuing professional development system (CPD) and accrediting CPD courses.
- ii. Leveraging on the international & regional network, consolidate a hub for bridging Mainland China, Hong Kong and the globe on the development of social work profession and social work programs.

Reflection on involvement in International & Regional Development

Having a special passion and commitment in contributing myself to the social work profession in Mainland China, I started the exploration of social work development in China since 1986 with the youth work training in Guangzhou. During the past 15 years, I have been engaged in supervising and giving lectures for social work students from Mainland China. In 2011 onward till 2014, HKSWA entered into partnership with the local government and NGO for conducting an intensive evaluation of and providing consultation for their newly developed social service project in Guicheng and Xiqiao (Guangdong Province). The increasing number of social workers, development of social work education & set up the system of “licensed social workers”, growth of NGOs over past 10 years under the directive of Chinese Government make significant impact on the profession. The Regional Conference of IFAP hosted by China in 2017 demonstrated an important milestone of the social work development in China. Hong Kong Social Workers Association acted as a bridge and window for China with the international world. I hope that social work profession in Mainland China will continue to thrive on the right track with Hong Kong playing the functions of experience sharing, knowledge transfer and networking with possible resources in the global world.

My aspiration for social work professional development goes beyond the local arena as I am exposed to numerous international conferences and overseas study tours in previous years. The world is getting smaller with the fast-developed technology and the social media. The substantive experience gained from joining the International & Regional Liaison Committee under HKSWA is of great value to me. The involvement as a member in the Asia Pacific Region Executive Committee commencing in 2009 was a breakthrough to me in ascertaining the mission and objectives of IFSW. This was a process of knowing more the social work development in our neighboring countries, sharing the professional values and beliefs, building the network of social work fellows amongst various countries.

Platform for the Election

This is my second time to run the election of the Vice President of IFSW AP region. I shall finish my 2-year term in the General Meeting in July this year. During the past 2 years, I am brought to a higher and extensive exposure to the IFSW globe. The involvement in Executive Committee and the task forces has been eye-opening and rewarding. I appreciate the collaboration and solidarity of the Executive members and the Secretariat. Though members come from different culture and context, we are open, communicative, responsive and supportive to each other based on the shared goal and mission. That is the main reason for my running the election of the position again.

The year 2019 and at the turn of 2020 marked a tremendous change to my country, the neighboring members and the world. We envisaged the threat on our environment, social order & stability, continued poverty & social unjust. Social Workers in different context and pace of development tried every effort to advocate for social justice, enhance human rights, create social changes, promote the professional image & recognition and continue upgrade the knowledge and practice. I would like to continue pursuing the following agenda if I were able to continue to be elected:

1. To support members of AP region in continuing the social work professional development by engaging their involvement through cross experience sharing.
2. To facilitate the professional bodies of developing countries in joining the IFSW community by providing assistance, support, coaching through resources and mentorship matching.
3. To participate in the process of developing the Global Agenda for the upcoming ten years.
4. To explore feasible resources for implementation of the development initiatives of our Region.

Lately, the pandemic of Covid-19 swept over the world. The widespread virus damaged not only human lives but also people's well-being, human relationships, social behaviors and economic development. Nevertheless, social workers shine during the crisis. By upholding the values and principles, social workers made a difference in terms of approach, intervention methods and skills in the midst of the crisis. We have yet reached the end of

the crisis. Even when the pandemic would be over, we anticipate the world would never be the same and take an extended recovery process. We shall come up with a 'new normal' to replace the existing socio-economic operation and mode of living, social work profession & the practice likewise.

Let us continue to work from strength to strength, shoulder to shoulder for the mission and value of social work profession. I look forward to serving IFSW and the Asia Pacific Region in particular.

Thank you.

Name of the Nominee: LEUNG Pui Yiu, Irene (Ms)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Irene Leung Pui Yiu', written in a cursive style.

Date: 17 May 2020