

Celebration of World Social Work Day 2021 Jakarta, Indonesia,

As in Previous years, Independen Pekerja Sosial Professional Indonesia (IPSPI) or The Indonesian Association of Social Workers in collaboration with Indonesian Social Work Consortium has celebrated the World Social Work Day on March, 16th – 17th 2021. The event was supported by Directorate General of Social Empowerment-Ministry of Social Affairs of Republic of Indonesia.

The celebration was conducted virtually by IPSPI and invite social workers from all over Indonesia, stakeholders and other helping professional organizations. Using global theme: “Ubuntu: I Am because We Are: Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness. IPSPI will use it as a basis to strive for social work as the vanguard to strengthen social solidarity and respect diversity in unity.

The opening ceremony started by report from Ms. Susi Tanjung as committee chairwomen on the process of preparing of this year's WSWD. Continued by Mr. Sriganesh MV - the regional vice president of IFSW-Asia Pacific as a keynote speaker discussed on conceptual framework of Ubuntu in the context of human and cultural diversity.

The Minister of Social Affairs, HE. Tri Rismaharini emphasized the values of Ubuntu that also exist in Indonesian culture for centuries. The Ubuntu philosophy is in line with Twat Twam Asi, in Sanskrit that philosophically embraced by Hindu community including in Indonesia, which means ‘I am is you, you are I’. Twat Twam Asi has been long applied within social welfare services in Indonesia where social workers contribute into various service settings. The values of Tat Twam Asi are taught to all social work students in various colleges all over Indonesia and becomes social worker attribute. As a long-standing and universal profession, social work has carried the spirit of positive change for individual, families, groups, community and the country to interact, share, care and protect each other for the better life. Solidarity and connectedness among community is essential amid this pandemic that will be achieved because I am is you and part of us. Every “we” consist of I and I is connected beyond borders. Every I “become” because We are. Other values in Indonesian culture that have the same meaning with Ubuntu include: 'gotong royong', 'tepo seliro', 'musyawarah dalam mufakat', 'bersatu kita teguh-bercerai kita runtuh', 'pela gandong' and many more. The minister emphasized the foundation of the Indonesian state, namely PANCASILA which clearly describes the philosophy of the Indonesian nation.

Mr. Tata Sudrajat as the vice president of Indonesian Social Work Consortium in his remarks encouraged social workers in Indonesia to continue to build and develop the social worker profession to be strong and equal with other professions. At the end of the opening ceremony, Mr. Widodo Suhartoyo as the President of IPSPI welcomed the participants of the WSWD commemoration and invited all social workers to participate in voicing the message and philosophical meaning of Ubuntu and opening the event. Mr. Widodo officially opened the celebration of WSWD in Indonesia.

In this WSWD celebration a series talk shows was also held which was divided into several sessions featuring speakers from various backgrounds such as: Academics, practitioners and social work students.

The first talk show discussed on the first Anniversary of Social Worker's law. The speakers were Ms. Miryam Nainggolan, Secretary General of the Indonesian Social Work Consortium and Dwi Yuliani, PhD-Secretary General of IPSPI and also lecturer at Poltekessos Bandung, both are figures who contributed to the drafting and passing of the Social Worker Law.

The session was moderated by Maykel Situmorang from the IPSPI committee. It was a fruitful discussion, emphasized and strengthened the role of Indonesian social workers organization in advocating for further derivative regulations. Recognition and protection of the Indonesian state is for the profession of social work is very important for social workers in carrying out their role in providing services.

Topic of the second was a discussion on Social Work Education: challenges and innovations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The panellists were Dr. Rudi S. Darwis from University of Padjajaran, Bandung; Ms. Ellies Sukmawati, from Islamic State University, Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta; Mr. Agus Suriadi, from University of North Sumatera and moderated by Ms. Gilang Susalit, from Social Welfare STIKS Tamalanrea, Makassar-South Sulawesi.

The next session was talk show to discuss best practices of social workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The speakers were social worker practitioners from a variety of service settings: Ms. R. Wina, a social worker from the Banjarmasin Education and Social Welfare Training Center (BBPPKS), she has worked in a special hospital for Covid-19 patients, in Jakarta; Ms. Wati Nilamsari, she is a social worker at the IPSPI psychosocial hotline; Mr. Dindin Komarudin, a social worker who devotes himself to empowering street children by providing shelter, job training and facilitating access to education and health for street children. This session was successfully moderated by Mr. Arde Wisben from IPSPI.

The last session was talk show to discuss with the winners of a creative video competition about social work practices during a pandemic. The winners were Mr. M. Ikbal Sonuari, Mr. Fajar Ritonga and Ms. A'izza Wardatul Hamro Al-Rozi. In this session Ms. Risna Resnawati from Indonesian Association of Social Work Education acted as the moderator.

Two weeks before the celebratory event, IPSPI launched a campaign using twibbonize to introduce WSWD and raise awareness of what Ubuntu means. IPSPI's Twibbonize was followed by 16,000 users. Twibbonize was also enlivened by other social worker communities as well as several universities in Indonesia. The celebration was attended by more than 700 social workers from various work settings, those working in government and private sector as well as social work educators, NGOs & INGO as well as students.

At this event we also displayed message videos from: Ms. Sylvana Martinez, the President of Global International Federation of Social Workers and Mrs. Rose Henderson, the President of IFSW-Asia Pacific; We also displayed hundreds of photo collections and dozens of videos of congratulations from colleagues.

World social work days are also celebrated throughout Indonesia by the Indonesian Association of Social Work Education; University of Padjajaran; IPSPI Provincial branches and others. These activities enliven the commemoration of world social work days on their respective campuses and regions.

Thank you very much, each and all committee members for their hard work.

Our special thanks go to Mr. Sriganesh and Ms. Rose IFSW-AP for their support, as well as for IFSW Global

Happy World Social Work Day 2021

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