



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination

Asia-Pacific Regional President

Candidate's Name and Country

Machiko OHARA (Japan)



Social Work and Other Educational Qualifications (include institution and date)

- 2005 Doctor of Social Welfare (Doctoral Program, Division of Social Welfare, Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Social Sciences, Japan Women's University)
- 1991 Master of Sociology (Master's Program, Division of Social Welfare, Graduate School of Humanities, Japan Women's University)
- 1988 Bachelor of Science in Gerontology (Trinity Lutheran College, USA)

Professional Affiliations

Membership in Professional Social Work Associations

- Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services (official member of the Japanese Federation of Social Workers with IFSW membership)
- Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare
- Japanese Association of Family Therapy
- Japanese Society for the Study of School Social Work
- Japanese Society for the Study of Social Work

Education related Experience

- 2015 - present Professor, Department of Clinical Social Work, Faculty of Social Welfare, Japan College of Social Work
- 2012 - 2015 Professor, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, Tokai University
- 2006 - 2012 Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, Tokai University
- 2005 - 2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Literature, Kurume University
- 2000 - 2005 Junior Associate Professor, Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Literature, Kurume University

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

Leadership related to IFSW and JFSW

2019 to present	Treasurer, IFSW Asia Pacific Region
2022	Research Director, JFSW International Study Project on ‘Multicultural Social Work: Coordination of Comprehensive Support’
2021	Moderator, JFSW International Symposium on ‘Social Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic’
2018	Project Member, JFSW International Workshop on ‘Disaster Social Work Leadership’ (with young social workers from the Asia-Pacific Region in the disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake)
2016 - 2017	Project Leader, JFSW International Workshop on ‘Child Trafficking and Child Rights Advocacy’ (in the Philippines and Vietnam)

Leadership related to Social Work Education

2022 - present	Dean, Graduate School of Social Work, Japan College of Social work
2016 - 2018	Director, Social Work Research Institute, Japan College of Social work

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

2020 - present	Vice President, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services
2014 - present	Member, International Committee, Japanese Federation of Social Workers (formerly Japanese Coordinating Body of IFSW Membership)
2004 - present	Chair, International Committee, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services

Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

2020 - present	President, Japan Friends Home Service Group (social welfare corporation)
2018 - present	Member, International Committee, Japan Society for Family Studies and Family Therapy
2017 - present	Board Member, Cancer Fitness, Inc.
2016 - present	Editorial Board Member, Social Work Research (journal)
2018 - 2022	Board Member, Chiba Bethania Home
2019 - 2021	Vice President, Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region
2016 - 2018	Board Member, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services

Are you aware of the job description, role and responsibilities attached to the position you wish to have within the IFSW Executive?

YES: X

NO:

What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

- 1) To gain an international perspective and to gain recognition for IFSW not only among member states but also among non-member states and other international organizations. To unify and unite social workers around the world in discussing the definition of social work and its role in the global agenda. In response to the global definition, I was involved in the development of the definition of social work, the development of the Code of

Ethics, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct at the committee level in Japan. In addition, as an international committee member of JFSW, I organized and managed workshops and symposia for local social workers for the development of social work in member and non-member countries.

- 2) To support Regions to be more open and proactive in their applications for the IFSW Development Fund to support their activities such as workshops, research and conferences. The Asia-Pacific Region has applied for the Development Fund several times in the past, and networking within the Region is well underway. In addition, using Japanese grants, ICT was used to organize workshops and symposia in the Asia-Pacific Region to strengthen social worker cohesion in this time of need, despite the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 3) To recognize the economic and socio-cultural circumstances and needs of people around the world and to help improve their well-being. The recent invasion of Ukraine by the Russian government has resulted in many refugees. For this reason, we have collected donations from Japan and have already transferred 8,000 francs to IFSW Europe. Thus, IFSW should work with social workers in each Region to seek peace.

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:

The Asia-Pacific Region includes many countries with many languages, cultures, and ethnic groups, and its people are at different stages of social and economic development, so needs in the Region are diverse. In light of these characteristics, I would like to set the following goals:

- 1) To build stronger networks and partnerships, improve communication, and promote mutually supportive relationships among member countries. The Asia-Pacific Region needs a central office to facilitate communication and manage operations among member countries. The Japan College of Social Work, to which I belong, is commissioned by the Japanese government's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) to serve as a hub for social work in Asia, and it will be able to collaborate with JFSW to develop such a central office for the development of social work in the Region. Therefore, Japan is a member country with the capacity to undertake such management.
- 2) To recognize the characteristics and strengths of member organizations in the Region and to build better and more effective social work strategies to improve the quality of life of people in the Region. Japan has contributed to local communities in this regard by holding disaster workshops in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines. There is a need for a central office in the region to continue to serve management functions, including record keeping and facilitating communication among member countries. Japan is an ideal country for such management.
- 3) In addition, JFSW has organized workshops on child trafficking, and child rights advocacy have been held in India, Nepal and Vietnam. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we contributed by inviting social workers from the Asia-Pacific Region to participate in a workshop utilizing ICT, and held a symposium on multicultural social work and supporting local communities. In the future, we will further unite social workers in the Asia-Pacific Region and promote their efforts in projects to foster resilience among social workers.

c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?

- 1) To consider how JFSW can contribute to the development of social work in other countries from Japan under the umbrella of IFSW and its Asia-Pacific Region. To encourage JFSW members to understand the work of IFSW from a global and regional perspective and to be able to take social action within the social work community to achieve multicultural understanding and well-being for people.
- 2) To promote the interests of international social work among social workers in Japan. To assist national associations to gather at the local level to celebrate World Social Work Day in Japan.

- 3) Japan has been able to obtain grants from the Japanese Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination Center for several years. These funds have been utilized for social work activities, thereby encouraging the revitalization of social work activities in the Asia-Pacific Region. We hope to continue to secure abundant funding and expand our mission through active social work activities in conjunction with IFSW funding for such activities.

Please demonstrate:

- Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in the Constitution

I am pleased that I, and the Japanese members of IFSW, have been reliable and active members and regional leaders with a particular emphasis on disaster, child rights advocacy and multicultural regional projects. I have also pleased to have made a significant contribution to the IFSW Asia-Pacific Region as Treasurer. I am more than ever committed to achieving IFSW's goal of making the world more just and humane through social work and through the solidarity of a global network of social work professional associations.

- Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)

I received my undergraduate education in the United States. I have collaborated with English-speaking researchers and practitioners in social work practice and knowledge formation, including through subsequent research. I have developed bilingual proficiency in speaking and using Japanese, which may not be sufficient. However, this can be well overcome by bilingual supporters in Japan. Furthermore, I have presented research and written papers at international social work conferences. In addition, I have served as a moderator and symposium presenter at international symposia.

- Identification with the region you represent, mainly by residence, work experiences, and knowledge of the main language(s) spoken in the region

There are over 3,000 languages spoken in the Asia-Pacific Region. Because of this linguistic diversity, and because many countries in the region were colonies in the past, English is commonly used for international communication. I am well able to communicate with many social workers in this region by using English.

I have lived in Japan for many years and have been actively involved in social work practice and education in various fields including the health care sector, school and child welfare, and people from multi-ethnic backgrounds facing social inequality and discrimination, as well as providing multi-layered support in Japan and in other countries through international networks.

- Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs

One of my most outstanding qualities is my two years of experience as the Treasurer of the IFSW Asia-Pacific Region. This experience has taught me how to work together and build reliable working relationships through communication with other regional executive members. I have also made international contributions from Japan through my experiences of interacting with global social workers and organizing international workshops and symposia.

I have also participated in a comparative study with an Asian family support organization on the current situation and challenges of families of adolescents in five Asian countries to understand the differences among countries, which I summarized in a research paper.

- A willingness and capacity to devote time to responsibilities in the Executive or Regional Committee

I am willing to devote time to serve as the Head of the Regional Executive Committee and to regularly attend Regional Committee Meetings. My current position as a faculty member at the Japan College of Social work allows me to do so.

- Ability, in so far as possible, to attend Executive or Regional Committee meetings

I am an International Committee Member of JFSW, a member organization of IFSW, and have attended all Regional Committee Meetings as a Member-at-Large for the past four years. I am available to attend Executive Committee and Regional Committee Meetings. My university will continue to support my international role in the IFSW, not only in the Asia-Pacific Region, but also worldwide.

- Participation, in so far as possible, as a delegate to the General Meeting and as a participant in IFSW Conferences

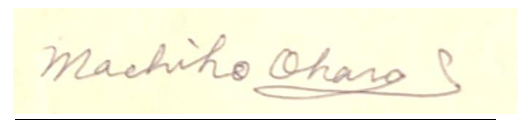
I have attended all General Meetings and other IFSW meetings since I started my activities as an International Committee Member at JFSW, an IFSW member organization. My university will continue to respect my international role in the IFSW.

- Any other information relevant to your nomination

If elected, I will work tirelessly on behalf of the Asia Pacific Region and IFSW as a whole, calling on the academic community to help social work gain recognition and to seek funding to encourage and support our activities.

I am also confident that with cooperation from JFSW, which consists of four member organizations, we will be able to enhance our secretariat functions at the regional level and contribute to activities throughout the Region.

Signature and Date

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Machiko Ohara" with a flourish at the end. The signature is written in brown ink on a light yellow background.

Machiko OHARA, Ph.D.

May 3, 2022