

Message from Machiko Ohara

IFSW Asia Pacific President,
December 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues across the Asia Pacific Region,

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

In 2023, the Asia Pacific Region of the International Federation of Social Workers managed to achieve many accomplishments thanks to all of you. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all social workers for the support you have given us to tackle the challenges of our Region.

As President of the Asia Pacific Region, I was delighted to be able to host the 27th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference 2023 in Cebu, the Philippines. I am sure that we were all proud to meet again face to face among social workers in the Asia Pacific Region and to realize that we are always working for the well-being of all people around the world and for the development of better societies.

We are very pleased that the Afghanistan Social Workers Organization and the Kazakhstan Association of Social Workers have joined our team. We look forward to the future development of professional associations in new member countries.

On the other hand, we in the Asia-Pacific Region are still suffering from natural disasters such as the earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and Afghanistan, which have caused tremendous damage and other serious impacts as well. Man-made disasters also continue, such as armed conflicts, economic crises due to political turmoil in some countries, and repression of democratic movements. In these countries, we, as social workers, want to remain committed to peace, human rights, social justice and seeking the well-being of people around the world. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to all of you for the way you are facing these various challenges.

I hope that the new year of 2024 will be a glorious one for you and that the world will be at peace!

Warm Regards,

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Machiko Ohara
IFSW Asia Pacific President

