



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination

President, Asia Pacific Region

Candidate's Name and Country

Machiko OHARA, Japan

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

- 2005 Doctor of Philosophy (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
- 1989 Bachelor of Arts (Theology), Japan Lutheran College
- 1988 Bachelor of Science (Gerontology), Trinity Lutheran College (USA)

Professional Affiliations

Membership in Professional Social Work Associations

- Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services (member of JFSW, 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 to present: Professor, Faculty of Social Welfare, Japan College of Social Work
- 2012 to 2015: Professor, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, Tokai University
- 2006 to 2012: Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, Tokai University
- 2005 to 2006: Assistant Professor, Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Letters, Kurume University
- 2000 to 2005; Junior Associate Professor, Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Letters, Kurume University

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

Leadership related to IFSW

- 2022 to present: President, IFSW Asia Pacific Region
- 2020 to 2022: Treasurer, IFSW Asia Pacific Region
- 2022: Research Director, "Multicultural Social Work - Coordination of Comprehensive Support" Project
- 2021: Moderator, "Social Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic" Symposium
- 2018: Workshop on disaster social work with Asian social workers in the area affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Leadership related to Social Work Education

- 2026 to present: Director, Social Work Research Institute, Japan College of Social Work
- 2022 to present: Dean, Graduate School of Social Welfare, Japan College of Social Work
- 2016 to 2018: Director, Social Work Research Institute, Japan College of Social Work

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

- 2022 to 2024: Chair, International Committee, Japanese Federation of Social Workers
- 2020 to 2025: Vice President, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services
- 2004 to present: Member, International Committee, Japanese Federation of Social Workers
- 2004 to present: Chair, International Committee, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services

Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

- 2020 to present: President, Social Welfare Corporation Japan Friends Home Service Group
- 2019 to 2021: Vice President, Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region
- 2018 to 2022: Board Member, Chiba Bethania Home
- 2018 to 2022: Member, International Committee, Japan Society for Family Studies and Family Therapy
- 2016-2018: Board Member, Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services
- 2014 to present: Member, International Committee, Japanese Federation of Social Workers
- 2017 to present: Board Member, Cancer Fitness, Inc.
- 2016 to present: Member, “Social Work Research” Editorial Committee

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:

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

1) Strengthening Global Solidarity and Professional Integrity amidst Growing Social Divisions

In a world of deepening social divisions, it is essential for the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to strengthen its institutional capacity to support and advocate for social workers worldwide. This ensures that practice remains grounded in shared values, ethical principles, and professional standards.

These efforts should extend beyond member countries to include non-member countries and relevant international organizations, promoting broader collaboration and collective action. Particularly in the Asia Pacific Region, which faces significant vulnerabilities to natural and human-made crises, social workers must translate their mission into coordinated actions across borders. Such collaboration will contribute to more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

2) Strengthening Regional Capacity through the IFSW Regional Development Fund

IFSW is committed to strengthening regional capacity by promoting active engagement in the Regional Development Fund, which supports workshops, research, and conferences.

In the Asia Pacific Region, successful applications have contributed to steady progress in network-building and professional exchange. Through collaboration with universities and external funding, various initiatives have strengthened education, training, and regional solidarity. Moving forward, IFSW will continue to ensure that all regions can effectively access and utilize the fund to support sustainable development in practice, education, and research.

3) Promoting Peace, Social Justice, and Long-Term Support in Times of Crisis

Amid growing global challenges such as conflicts and climate-related disasters, IFSW plays a critical role in supporting affected populations through global solidarity. Beyond immediate responses, emphasis will be placed on long-term recovery and resilience-building, particularly for vulnerable groups. By strengthening inter-regional cooperation and sustained advocacy, IFSW can contribute to more inclusive, equitable, and resilient societies.

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

Advancing Inclusive and Context-Responsive Social Work in the Asia Pacific Region

The Asia Pacific Region is vast and highly diverse, encompassing a wide range of languages, cultures, and socio-economic contexts. In recognition of this diversity, it is essential to adopt inclusive, context-sensitive, and collaborative approaches to strengthening social work across the region. In this regard, the following priorities are proposed.

1) Strengthening Inclusive Regional Networks with Enhanced Pacific Engagement

I will strengthen regional networks and partnerships, with particular emphasis on enhancing engagement with Pacific countries and territories, whose perspectives have often been underrepresented. This includes exploring mechanisms to enhance Pacific representation in regional governance, such as establishing dedicated platforms, and creating opportunities for Pacific-led initiatives, including webinars and knowledge-sharing. Improving communication and fostering a more inclusive, participatory regional structure will be a central priority.

2) Advancing Social Work that Respects Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives

The Asia Pacific Region is home to diverse indigenous communities whose knowledge and lived experiences are essential to ethical social work practice. I will promote engagement with indigenous peoples and their organizations, support their participation in regional and global platforms, and encourage the integration of indigenous perspectives into education, practice, and policy. These efforts will advance culturally grounded and contextually relevant approaches to social work.

3) Promoting Sustained Regional Solidarity in Disaster and Crisis Response

Given the region's vulnerability to natural disasters and human-made crises, I will strengthen collaborative regional frameworks to support affected communities. Attention will be given to vulnerable populations, including children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups. Beyond immediate responses, I will promote long-term recovery, resilience, and community cohesion through enhanced cooperation, resource mobilization, and knowledge-sharing.

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

1) Strengthening Japan's Contribution to Global Social Work and International Engagement

Within the framework of IFSW, it is essential to further strengthen the contribution of the Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW) to social work development globally. This includes encouraging members to deepen their understanding of IFSW activities from a global perspective and to actively engage in professional social action, thereby promoting multicultural understanding and advancing social welfare grounded in core social work principles.

2) Enhancing International Awareness and Policy Engagement in Japan

It is important to foster greater interest in international social work among Japanese practitioners. This can be achieved through collective engagement of national associations, including initiatives such as World Social Work Day. In response to increasing migration, JFSW should also advance policy recommendations addressing multiculturalism, social inclusion, and the rights and well-being of migrants, grounded in social work values.

3) Strengthening Resource Mobilization and Regional Collaboration

Building on Japan's experience in securing funding for regional initiatives, continued efforts to ensure sustainable resource mobilization are essential. Strengthening coordination with IFSW funding mechanisms will support more strategic initiatives, enabling Japanese social workers to further contribute to regional development and global social work.

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

Demonstrated Leadership and Commitment to Advancing Social Work in the Asia Pacific Region

Over the past four years since 2022, I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Asia Pacific Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-AP), during which period I have actively led and supported a range of initiatives aimed at advancing social work across the region.

I have prioritized the development and implementation of workshops on social work in disaster contexts, recognizing the region's heightened vulnerability to both natural and human-made crises. Simultaneously, I have contributed to projects that focused on strengthening social work education and training systems across the Asia Pacific Region, as well as initiatives promoting multiculturalism. Furthermore, I have supported the dissemination of knowledge through the publication of e-books via the IFSW platform, thereby enhancing access to regionally relevant resources and promoting knowledge exchange.

Through these efforts, I believe I have made a meaningful contribution as a committed and proactive regional leader, working to strengthen the visibility, capacity, and impact of social work in the Asia Pacific Region.

These achievements have been made possible through strong collaboration and teamwork with the regional leadership, including the Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer. Together, we have fostered a dynamic and cooperative regional structure, enabling us to contribute significantly to the development of social work across diverse national and local contexts.

Building on this foundation, I remain deeply committed to further advancing the mission of IFSW. Through strengthening solidarity within the global network of social work professional associations, I will continue to dedicate myself to promoting a more just, peaceful, and humane world—one in which mutual support, dignity, and shared responsibility are at the core of our collective efforts.

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

I completed my undergraduate education in the United States, which provided a strong foundation for international academic and professional engagement. Since then, I have collaborated extensively with English-speaking researchers and practitioners, developing practical bilingual proficiency in English and Japanese.

I continue to strengthen my language skills and am supported by a capable bilingual team in Japan, enabling effective international communication and collaboration. I have also contributed to the global social work community through conference presentations, publications, and roles as a moderator and symposium presenter, facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange across diverse con

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

1) Promoting Linguistic Inclusivity and Context-Sensitive Social Work in the Asia Pacific Region

More than 3,000 languages are spoken across the Asia Pacific Region, reflecting its extraordinary linguistic and cultural diversity. In addition to this diversity, English is widely used as a common medium for international communication, partly due to the historical context of colonial influence in many countries within the region.

Within this context, I have been able to communicate and collaborate with a wide range of social workers across the region through English. At the same time, I firmly believe that it is essential to respect and engage with the linguistic and cultural contexts of each country and community. Accordingly, when necessary, I actively work with interpreters and local collaborators to ensure a deeper and more accurate understanding of local realities. Such an approach is fundamental to promoting inclusive, culturally responsive, and ethically grounded social work practice.

2) Extensive Practice and Engagement with Diverse Social Issues

Having lived in Japan for many years, I have been actively engaged in social work practice and education across multiple fields, including healthcare, school social work, child welfare, and support for individuals from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who face social inequality and discrimination.

These challenges are not unique to Japan but are widely shared across the Asia Pacific Region. Drawing on this understanding, I have sought to address these issues through both domestic and international engagement. Through my established international networks, I have provided multi-layered support that integrates practice, education, and collaboration across national boundaries. Building on these experiences, I am committed to further strengthening inclusive and contextually grounded social work approaches, while contributing to the advancement of social justice and professional solidarity throughout the region.

- **Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs**

Leadership Experience and Proven Capacity for International Collaboration

One of my key strengths is my four years of experience serving as President of the Asia Pacific Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-AP). Through this role, I have developed the ability to collaborate effectively and to build strong, trusting professional relationships with fellow regional officers, grounded in consistent and transparent communication.

Furthermore, through the planning and organization of regional workshops and international symposia, I have engaged with social workers from diverse countries and contexts, thereby contributing to the advancement of social work both within the Asia Pacific Region and globally. These experiences have enabled me to strengthen international collaboration and to promote knowledge exchange from Japan to the wider international community. Over the course of these four years, I have achieved a range of initiatives, including the organisation and participation in regional workshops and symposia. A detailed list of these activities is provided in the Appendix.

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

1) Commitment and Institutional Support for Effective Leadership

I am fully prepared to fulfill my responsibilities as the Asia Pacific Regional President on the IFSW Executive Committee. In this capacity, I will take a leading role in the planning, coordination, and facilitation of meetings of the Asia Pacific Regional Executive Committee, ensuring their effective and smooth operation.

At present, I serve as a faculty member at the Japan College of Social Work. I am deeply honored to have the strong and comprehensive support of my institution in undertaking my responsibilities as IFSW Asia Pacific Regional President. This institutional backing enables me to dedicate the necessary time and effort to my duties within IFSW and to carry out my role with a high level of commitment and accountability.

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

1) Consistent Engagement and Institutional Support for International Responsibilities

In my capacity as President of the Asia Pacific Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-AP), I have consistently attended Executive Committee meetings and actively contributed to their deliberations and decision-making. I have also led the planning, coordination, and implementation of regional Executive Committee meetings, ensuring their effective operation. I currently serve as a Member of the International Committee of the Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW) and have participated in all Regional Committee meetings over the past four years. These experiences demonstrate my sustained commitment to regional and international collaboration and my reliability in governance responsibilities.

I remain fully committed to ongoing participation in Executive and Regional Committee meetings. With strong and consistent institutional support from my university, I can carry out my responsibilities with continuity, dedication, and accountability.

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

1) Commitment to Governance and Responsibility as a Regional Leader

In my capacity as President of the Asia Pacific Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-AP), I have consistently attended every General Meeting as well as all regular IFSW meetings.

I fully recognize that such participation constitutes a significant responsibility, both as a representative of the Asia Pacific Region and as a leader entrusted with the authority and accountability of Regional President. Accordingly, I have approached these responsibilities with a strong sense of duty, professionalism, and commitment to contributing meaningfully to the governance and strategic direction of IFSW.

- **Any other information relevant to your nomination**

Advancing Inclusive, Collaborative, and Sustainable Social Work in the Asia Pacific Region

The Asia Pacific Region is characterized by profound diversity in languages, cultures, and socio-economic conditions, while also facing shared and complex challenges, including social divisions, inequality, disasters, and rapid social change. In this context, the role of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is more critical than ever.

As a candidate for Asia Pacific Regional President, I am committed to strengthening solidarity, advancing inclusive and context-responsive social work, and enhancing the collective capacity of our profession across the region and globally.

1) Strengthening Global Solidarity and Professional Integrity

In a world increasingly marked by social divisions, IFSW must strengthen its support systems and advocacy to ensure that social work practice remains grounded in shared values, ethics, and professional standards.

These efforts should extend beyond member countries to include non-member countries and international partners, fostering broader collaboration and reinforcing a shared professional identity.

2) Advancing Inclusive and Participatory Regional Networks, Including Pacific Perspectives

I will promote inclusive, participatory, and responsive regional networks across the Asia Pacific Region.

Priority will be given to strengthening engagement with Pacific countries, enhancing representation in governance structures, supporting Pacific-led initiatives, and improving communication to ensure meaningful participation.

3) Respecting Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Contexts

I will promote engagement with indigenous communities and organizations, support their representation in regional and global platforms, and integrate indigenous perspectives into education, practice, and policy, thereby advancing culturally grounded and rights-based social work.

4) Strengthening Regional Capacity through Resource Mobilization

I will support active engagement with the IFSW Regional Development Fund and other funding mechanisms to advance workshops, research, and conferences, while promoting sustainable resource mobilization in collaboration with academic institutions and partners.

5) Promoting Peace, Social Justice, and Crisis Response

I will strengthen coordinated regional responses to disasters and crises, prioritize support for vulnerable populations, and promote long-term recovery, resilience, and community cohesion, alongside advocacy for peace and social justice.

6) Strengthening Japan's Contribution to Global Social Work

I will promote Japan's contribution by encouraging global engagement, advancing international social work initiatives, and strengthening collaboration through international networks and policy dialogue.

7) Leadership, Experience, and Commitment

Over the past four years as IFSW Asia Pacific Regional President, I have led initiatives in disaster social work, education, multiculturalism, and international knowledge exchange. With strong institutional support, I remain fully committed to providing effective leadership.

Conclusion: A Shared Vision for the Future

The Asia Pacific Region faces both challenges and opportunities. As Regional President, I will serve as a bridge—connecting countries, amplifying diverse voices, and fostering solidarity.

Together, we will advance social work as a force for social justice, human dignity, peace, inclusion, and resilient societies.

Signature: 小原真知子

Name: Machiko Ohara

Date: 27 April 2026