

**Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity  
in the Present and for the Future  
in the Asia Pacific Region**

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**IFSW-AP REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT 2025**



**International Federation of Social Workers  
Asia Pacific**

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## 1. Foreword

**Machiko Ohara**

President, International Federation of Social Workers Asia Pacific

On behalf of IFSW Asia-Pacific, it is my great pleasure to present this report on the activities supported by the IFSW Asia-Pacific Regional Development Fund (RDF) for 2025.

This report captures two key initiatives undertaken in the Asia-Pacific region: an online webinar held in September 2025, and an in-person workshop convened in Sri Lanka in November 2025 as a pre-conference event of APSWC 2025. Together, these activities reflect our ongoing commitment to advancing the Global Agenda and strengthening collaboration among social workers across the region.

The Asia-Pacific region is characterized by its diversity, dynamism, and complexity. Social workers in this region continue to respond to a wide range of social challenges while striving to promote social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. In this context, platforms for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective reflection are of vital importance.

The webinar provided an opportunity for broad participation and regional exchange, while the workshop enabled deeper, more interactive engagement through group discussions and shared learning. The insights and perspectives generated through these activities, as reflected in this report, highlight both common concerns and locally grounded responses across countries.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the IFSW Global Executive for their continued support through the Regional Development Fund. My thanks also go to all speakers, facilitators, and participants whose contributions made these events meaningful and impactful.

It is my hope that this report will contribute to ongoing regional dialogue and inspire further collaboration in advancing the Global Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Part I Webinar

### 2. Overview

#### Brief on IFSW-AP Webinar 2025

<b>Theme</b>	Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-being
<b>Background</b>	<p>In the face of shifting demographic patterns and the growing need for intergenerational connections IFSW-Asia Pacific is organizing a webinar with the theme “Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-Being,” aligned with the theme of World Social Work Day 2025.</p> <p>Care between peoples is at the heart of this theme and as social workers we recognise our role in shining light on and supporting the diverse range of care arrangements. The webinar will give specific attention to intergenerational caregiving for children and elderly people as well as strategies to strengthen intergenerational bonds.</p>
<b>Objectives and expected outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Enhance deeper understanding of the importance of intergenerational solidarity plays in caregiving for all ages.</li><li>2. Identification of best practices in the region for fostering care between living generations</li><li>3. Facilitate knowledge sharing and learning of models for intergenerational care and strategies for intergenerational exchange to improve intergenerational solidarity in the region.</li></ol>
<b>Date, Time and Platform</b>	<p>Date: 20 September 2025</p> <p>Time: 4.00-6.00 AM (UTC)</p> <p>(Japan Time 1.00pm, Singapore Time 12.00pm, Thailand Time 11.00am)</p> <p>Platform: Zoom</p>
<b>Panel Speakers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prof. Mai Yamaguchi (Professor, Tokyo Lutheran University, Japan)</li><li>2. Ms Asimah Beevi D/O Abdul (Assistant Senior Social Worker, Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore Family Service Centre)</li><li>3. Ms Nur Farhana Harun (Assistant Senior Social Worker, Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore Family Service Centre)</li><li>4. Ms. Yada Ponchamni (Project Manager, Mutual Ground, Thailand)</li></ol> <p>Dr. Teoh Ai Hua (Moderator)</p>
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Housekeeping announcement by the moderator 5 minutes before the Webinar.</li><li>2. Moderator invites Prof Machiko Ohara, President IFSW-AP to deliver her Welcoming Remarks. (3 minutes)</li><li>3. Moderator invites each speaker to briefly introduce themselves and their work. (2 minutes each)</li></ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Round One: The importance and challenges of intergenerational solidarity (40 minutes)</li> <li>5. Round Two: Strategies to foster intergenerational connections (20-25 minutes)</li> <li>6. Round Three: Best practices and successful stories (20-25 minutes)</li> <li>7. Question and Answers (10-15 minutes)</li> <li>8. Conclusion and closing of webinar (2 minutes)</li> <li>9. Participant to complete Evaluation Form.</li> </ol> <p>(Panel speakers, moderators and IFAP Exco can go into the main room 30 minutes before the webinar, while other participants will be assigned to stay in waiting room first. The participants will only join the main room once the testing is done.)</p>
<b>Notes to panel speakers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Panel speakers are welcome to deliver their presentations through prepared slides or any other audio-visual aid. Please refer to the time allocated. Round One each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes to speak. Round Two and Three will be about 5 minutes each and will be more interactive.</li> <li>2. To ensure the smoothness of the webinar, we request the speakers to share the slides and any other materials with the Secretariat two days before the webinar as backup. Kindly email to Dr Teoh (<a href="mailto:aihuateoh@gmail.com">aihuateoh@gmail.com</a>) and Yoko (<a href="mailto:mclennan@jaswhs.or.jp">mclennan@jaswhs.or.jp</a>).</li> <li>3. Panel speakers can come into Zoom 30 minutes before the webinar to test their audio visual presentation materials.</li> </ol>
<b>Housekeeping announcement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Microphone &amp; Audio Etiquette:</b> Ask participants to keep their microphones muted unless being asked by the moderator to speak</li> <li>2. <b>Recording Disclaimer:</b> Inform participants that the session is being recorded.</li> <li>3. <b>Chat &amp; Q&amp;A Instructions:</b> Participants can post questions and to whom through the chat box when the panel discussion is on-going. During the Q&amp;A session, participant who wish to ask question verbally needs to click the raising hand button and wait for the moderator to invite to speak.</li> <li>4. <b>Session Flow &amp; Timing:</b> Briefly outline the agenda, including speaker segments, Q&amp;A session, and evaluation form at the end of the webinar.</li> <li>5. <b>Evaluation:</b> Participants are invited to fill up a evaluation form at the end of the webinar (through link and QR code).</li> </ol>
<b>Recording of the Webinar</b>	<p>The whole webinar will be recorded.</p> <p>A report will be prepared and be presented at the 2026 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development (SWSD 2026), in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 29 June 2026.</p>

### 3. Presentation Summaries & Presentation Slides

#### 1 Presentation Summary – Japan

## **Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people: Japanese Working carers' challenging role in the digital era**

**Mai Yamaguchi**

MSG, PhD. CSW,  
Professor, Japan Lutheran College  
Director, Carers Japan

This presentation showed the importance and challenges of Intergenerational solidarity related to Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people, focusing Japanese working carers' challenging role in the digital era. It highlighted that Aging, intergenerational solidarity, and caring in Japanese Digital transformation are related. Firstly, in aging society, intergenerational solidarity and caring is very important. Due to depopulation and population ageing, Japan has become a hyper-aged society. Although traditional feeling of filial piety and sense of duty to support elderly parents are changing, female carers, especially wives and daughters, takes substantial caregiving roles. Secondly, we need to be aware the complex interface of Formal, Informal and Self-care. The public Long-Term Care Insurance system is the core of formal care. Despite the increasing demand for long-term care, formal care in Japan is shrinking because of public financial constraints, leading to many problems for informal carers. Thirdly, it is important to recognize that Intergenerational solidarity is experienced within Digital transformation of care. In situations where sufficient care provision is difficult, the digitalization of care is rapidly expanding as a tool to ease care shortages. Due to the strong governmental commitment to Digital transformation of the entire society, social work and care practices have been forced to change. Use of ICTs & AI in care practice are expanding. Digital transformation has an impact on people's lives and well-being and it is important promoting digital inclusion from intergenerational aspects.

How to support working carers is one of the most difficult challenges in intergenerational caregiving for elderly people. About half of more than 6 million Japanese carers work. One in three carers are male. The 2024 Web survey of Full-time-working primary carers aged 40s and 50s conducted by Carers Japan indicated that carers cannot quit their job even after they felt overwhelming burden and that they have anxiety on deteriorating their physical and psychological health. Japanese government has been making effort to stop the unwilling job-leave due to the caring roles and has gradually recognized the societal risks related to working carers quitting their jobs. According to the

Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, because of carer turnover, by 2030, society will suffer losses to the tune of 9 trillion yen. Based on the Childcare Leave/Caregiver Leave Act, there are Leave provisions to fulfill caregiving responsibilities are for up to 93 days per family member, but data shows that most of working carers do not use them. As many working carers have been struggling in order to balance work and caring role for frail elderly and are forced to leave their jobs due to caring responsibilities, it is crucial to address the issue of family carers into the debate of Japanese care policies.

Elder abuse and murder by family caregivers is another challenge of Intergenerational solidarity. More than 40,000 cases of elder abuse within the home were reported in 2024. Newspaper report often about Care-related homicides or murder-suicides. The Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters 2005 references family carers only to prevent abuse, and is insufficient as a policy to support carers.

There is some progress in carer support, especially in young carer support. We found best practices for supporting carers at local governments (ex. Saitama prefecture), carer support organizations (ex. Carers Japan), and workplace (ex. Taisei Corporation). As of April, 2025, 8 prefectures and 25 local municipalities enact carer support ordinance. At National level, we need for Carer support promotion act and more comprehensive national strategy for supporting family carers in all ages to foster intergenerational connections. Importantly, we need to know the impact of Digital transformation of care on international caregiving and develop strategy to foster intergenerational solidarity more comprehensively.

Presentation Slides 1 - Japan

## Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people: Japanese Working carers' challenging role in the digital era

Mai Yamaguchi, MSG, PhD. CSW  
Professor, Integrated Human Studies Department  
Graduate School of Social Work, Japan Lutheran College  
Director, Carers Japan

International Federation of Social Workers Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)  
2025 Webinar on Intergenerational Solidarity  
“Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-Being”  
**September 20, 2025 4:00–6:00 PM(UTC) Online**

This study was supported by JSPS, KAKENHI-C 25K05710.



ルーテル学院大学



一般社団法人 日本ケアラー連盟 (Carers Japan)

- Carers Japan (established in 2010) aims to raise public awareness of family carer issues and solve problems faced by carers.
- Carers Japan envisions a society in which care recipients and their carers can live without struggle.
- Carers Japan undertakes advocacy, research, policy recommendations, enlightenment and provision of information and advice to carers.
- Carers Japan addresses not only elder care but also the needs of various family carers, including young carers.
- Carers Japan is a member organization of International Alliance of Carer Organizations (IACO).



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## i. The Importance and Challenges of Intergenerational Solidarity:

Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people:

Japanese Working carers' challenging role in the digital era

1. **Aging, Intergenerational solidarity and Caring over the gendered life course**
  - ✓ Japan: a depopulating, hyper-aged society (Age 65+=30%; Age 75+=16%)
  - ✓ Changing feeling of Filial piety & sense of duty to support elderly parents
  - ✓ Trajectories of family carer over the life course (Fast et al. 2021)
    - Young carer, Young adult carer, Double carer, Working carer, Older carer etc.
2. **Complex interface of Formal, Informal and Self Care** (Yamaguchi 2023)
  - ✓ The public Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI) system as the core of formal care but shrinking
  - ✓ Informal carers' challenging role within the Japanese Long-term care system
  - ✓ Promoting Self care & Community Care
3. **Intergenerational solidarity within DX (Digital Transformation) of care**
  - ✓ Due to the strong governmental commitment to DX, use of ICTs & AI in care practice are expanding (Health care DX). (Yamaguchi 2025)
  - ✓ Importance for Promoting digital inclusion from intergenerational aspects (Zelenev, 2023)

3

## Who is a primary carer for the older person in Japan?

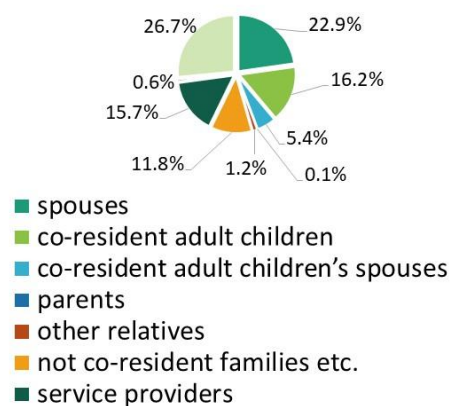
- The primary carers of eligible LTCI program care-recipients' families (2022 National life basic survey)

✓ Spouses (22.9%)

- 1 in 3  
33.4%
- ✓ Co-resident adult children (16.2%)
  - ✓ Co-resident adult children's spouses (5.4%)
  - ✓ Non-co-resident families (11.8%)

- The proportion of older carers
  - ✓ 1 in 3 dyads of co-resident main carers and care recipients were both over the age of over 75 years.
  - ✓ Adult children as non-primary carer
- Over 30% of co-resident primary carers daily spend an average of more than a half-day on caregiving.

Primary carer of LTCI users



4

## Working carers: Challenges in intergenerational caregiving for elderly people

Among all carers  
(**6.3m**), working  
carers are **3.5m**.

Over half (**55%**) of  
carers are working.

Female: **4.0M**  
(2.0M working);

Male: **2.3M**  
(1.5M working)

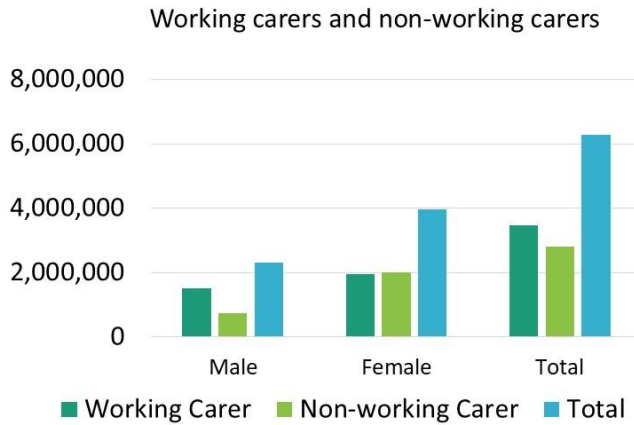


Table 2 Source : 2022 Employment Status Survey

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## Working carers' challenging role

- National initiative to ensure that people are not forced to leave their jobs because of their caregiving role
- Balancing working and caregiving roles
  - ✓ Important concern in the political agenda
- Number of people give up their work due to caring responsibilities in 2023 (2023 Employment Status Survey)
  - ✓ **73.1 thousands** (male 17 thousands, female 56 thousands)
  - ✓ About **77%** of those leaving job are female.
- Societal risks related to working carers quitting their jobs
  - ✓ Because of carer turnover, by 2030, society will suffer losses to the tune of **9 trillion Yen** (about US\$61 billion ) (Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) 2023).



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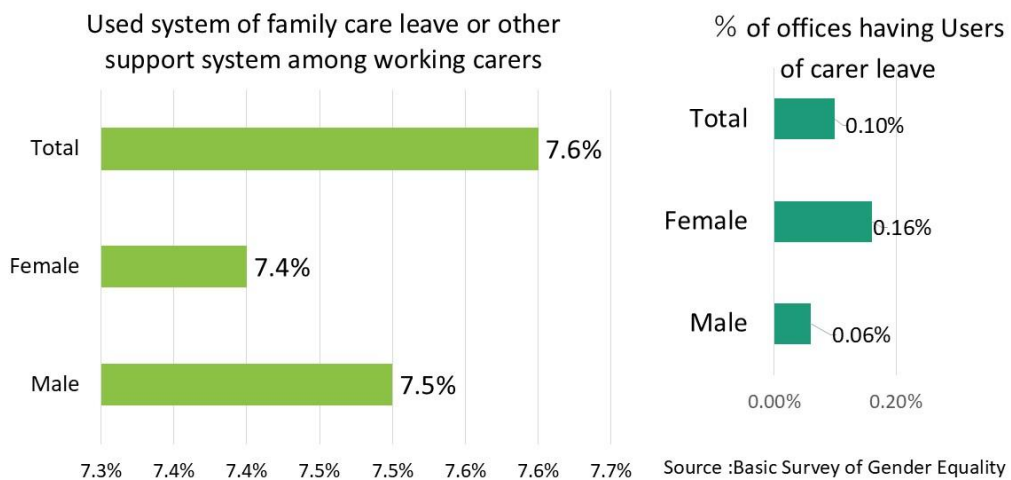
## National and Local initiative to support carers



- National initiative
  - ✓ National Long term care insurance program (LTCI program) (since 2000)
    - Socialization of Care
  - ✓ No National Carer Strategy/ Carer Act
  - ✓ The Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters (2005)
  - ✓ The Child Care and Family Leave Act (The 2016 & 2023 Amendment)
    - Care leave program
      - Allow to divide 93 days leave into 3 periods
      - Family care leave benefits rates: 67 % of wages on Employment Insurance
    - Other related programs
      - Time off for Carers'(up to 5 days) half-day basis
      - Reduction in working hours, flexible working etc.
  - ✓ Revision of Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People (June, 2025)
    - Establishment of Children and Families Agency (2023.4-)
    - Inclusion of Support for Young Carers

7 7

## Most of working carers do not use any kinds of support programs for carers.



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- Local initiative
  - ✓ Carer Support Ordinance
    - 8 Prefectures (as of 2025.4 ) in 47 prefectures in Japan
      - Saitama Carer Support Ordinance (enacted March, 2020)
        - Saitama Prefecture to provide support for caregivers as a system, the first in Japan
      - Ibaraki (2021.12),Hokkaido(2022.4), Nagasaki(2022.10) Tottori(2023.1), Tochigi (2023.3), Gifu(2024.3), Akita(2025.3)
    - 25 Local municipalities (as of 2025.4 )
      - Kuriyama, Hokkaido(2021.3), Nawari, Mie(2021.6), Bizen, Okayama(2021.12), Nasu, Tochigi(2022.4), Saitama, Saitama(2022.6), Kyoto, Kyoto(2024.12), Fujisawa, Kanagawa(2024.12) etc.

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2024 Web survey of Full-time-working primary carers aged 40s & 50s  
(Carers Japan, 2025) [ワーキングケアラー調査について - 日本ケアラー連盟](#)



1. Wide variety of working carers
2. About 70% of carers
  - ✓ No experience of leaving and changing job due to caring responsibility
  - ✓ About 40% of those
    - Reason of continuing job = Due to financial necessity
3. Carers caring more than 4 hours/day
  - ✓ 1 in 4 in weekdays, more than half in weekend
4. About 97% of carers: Working with anxious
  - ✓ Over half of single female carers co-resident with parent
    - Extremely anxious and at my limit
5. About half of carers (especially, about 70% of single female carers)
  - ✓ Having anxiety on deteriorating their physical and psychological health

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## Elder abuse and murder by family carers

More than 40,000 reported cases of elder abuse within the home in FY2024 (MHLW 2025)



- Physical abuse (65%), Psychological abuse (38%), Neglect (19%), Financial abuse (16%), sexual abuse (0.4%)
- Elder abuse by **sons (39%), husbands (23%), daughters (19%), wives (8%), grandchildren (3%) & daughter-in-law (2%)**
- 27 older adults died due to elder abuse by family members in FY2024

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/12300000/001366828.pdf>

Difficult cases in elder abuse for Local Comprehensive Support Center for the older person (Yamaguchi, 2017)

- ✓ Working Son in Age 50s caring Age 80s Mother with dementia (co-resident) (Physical abuse to Mother)
- ✓ Non-Working Son in Age 50s caring Age 80s Mother with dementia (co-resident) (Financial abuse (Living using Mother's pension), Refuse to use Care service)

Care-related Homicides or murder-suicides by family carers

- ✓ Age 64 unemployed son killed Age 91 mother in Kobe in July 2024.
- ✓ Age 70 daughter killed Age 102 mother in Tokyo in July 2024.
- ✓ Age 58 son killed Age 87 father in Beppu in Nov. 2023

## ii. Strategies to foster Intergenerational Connections

### A) Strategy for supporting carers

- ✓ National level
  - Need for Carer Support Promotion Act & Strategy
  - The Family Carer Support Manual for Municipalities and Community General Support Centers: Supporting the Lives of Carers to enhance the function of community general support centers (MHLW 2018)
  - The Guideline for Employers to support balancing work & care (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) 2024)



MHLW:  
"Tomonin"  
Mark to  
promote  
Work & Care



MHLW(2018) the Family Carer Support Manual for Municipalities and Community General Support Centers: Supporting the Lives of Carers to enhance the function of community general support centers



METI (2024) Guideline for Employers to support balancing work & care. (MHLW=Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website) [001268178.pdf](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/001268178.pdf)

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- Supporting Young Carers
- ◆ Special web site for young carers in Children and Families Agency Website
  - You Tube Movie, Leaflet, Poster etc.
  - Information on Online community
  - Information on SNS counselling
  - School social workers & counselors

**相談できる場所が増えています**

学校(先生やスクールカウンセラー、スクールソーシャルワーカー)や、都道府県の窓口、市区町村の子ども家庭センター、地域のヤングケアラー支援団体などに相談できます

**CHECK** | 子どもたちがこもたらしい時間を過ごすよう、社会全体で守っていくよ

<https://kodomoshien.cfa.go.jp/young-career/>  
ヤングケアラーのこと

子ども家庭庁



Children and Families Agency Website  
ヤングケアラーを知っていますか? | ヤングケアラー特設サイト

**B) Strategy for DX of care to foster intergenerational connections**

- ✓ Complex interface between formal, informal and self care in digital era
- ✓ Society 5.0: Strong government initiative for DX of Care
- ✓ Promoting Development and



- Areas of focus in use of technology for care
- (1) transferring
  - (2) mobility
  - (3) toileting
  - (4) monitoring & communication
  - (5) bathing
  - (6) information related to care work
  - (7) functional training
  - (8) diet & nutrition management
  - (9) dementia care

MHLW=Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website)  
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/12300000/001268136.pdf> (mhlw.go.jp)



### iii. Best Practices and Successful Case Studies

#### A) Best practice for supporting carers at carer support organizations



##### ◆ Carers Japan



Carer Handbook

- Carers Japan continues to actively advocate for the establishment of a national Carer Support Promotion Act and promotes legislation to support family carers at prefectural and municipal levels
- Carer Handbook and ‘Carer Support Guide for Your Town’ to provide carers with basic information
- DVD for supporters of carers
- Young Carers Project to promote support for young carer
  - Training program to support young carer (E-learning & on-site)
  - Online symposium



##### ◆ NPO Carers Support Network Center Aladin (Tokyo)

- Carer Salon for Single daughters
- Carer Salon for Single sons

Carers Japan Web site  
 IACO Web site: Global State of Caring  
[IACO-Global-State-of-Caring-July-13.pdf](#)  
 NPO Carers Support Network Center  
 Aladin Web site  
[介護者サポートネットワークセンター・アラジン | 新宿区の介護者支援](#) 15

#### B) Best practice for supporting working carers at community

##### ◆ Saitama prefecture

- Carers salon including Online café
- Supporting young carers
- You Tube Movie on Work & Care Issues (Including interviews of Working carers & TAISEI Corp.)

##### ◆ Tochigi prefecture

- Site for Supporting Carers “Tochikea”
- AI chat bot for carers
- SNS counseling for young carers
- Carers handbook developed by Carers Japan

#### C) Best practice for supporting working carers at workplace

##### ◆ TAISEI CORPORATION (Construction Industry, about 9000 employees)

- Care Support Program
- Paid Care Leave (up to 20 days/year)
- Meeting tools for boss & HR staff about caring issues



You Tube Movie on Work & Care Issues  
 Saitama Prefecture  
<https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0609/carer/shigotokaigoryoritsudoga.html>



AI chat bot for carers  
 Tochigi Prefecture  
<https://tochicare.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/>

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## Presentation Summary 2 – Thailand

**Yada Ponchamni**

Project Manager, Mutual Ground

The "Mutual Ground" concept posits that the city serves as a collective "living room" for its residents. Under this framework, urban design transcends mere aesthetics, focusing instead on the intentional engineering of social relationships through collaborative physical spaces.

As urban density increases, intergenerational solidarity becomes a critical pillar of social sustainability. The objective is to create a safe and inclusive environment where diverse age groups coexist with a sense of security and ease. By treating the city as a shared domestic space, the "Mutual Ground" approach ensures that urban development is city-owned and co-designed by those who inhabit it.

### 2. Strategic Methodology for Sustained Development

The transition from a public area to a "Mutual Ground" requires a three-phased strategy to bridge the gap between different demographics, specifically targeting young people and adults:

**Express to Empower:** This initial phase utilizes small, comfortable group settings to lower social pressure. By providing "voice spaces" and various expression tools—such as storytelling and mapping—participants can share their specific needs and opinions without the burden of large-scale public scrutiny.

**Sharing Ground:** To dissolve perception barriers, the strategy employs "Listen & Learn" sessions. This involves "coolness sharing," where different age groups exchange knowledge to align their perceptions and build mutual understanding.

**Co-Creation (Not Consultation):** The final phase moves beyond passive feedback. It focuses on actively co-shaping projects from identified mutual needs, ensuring that the community "co-owns" the process and the eventual physical outcomes.

### 3. Case Study: KidSpace, Kannayao District

The KidSpace project in the Kannayao District serves as the primary implementation of the "Mutual Ground" strategy.

### 3.1 Context and Adaptive Design

The project was initiated in a community lacking dedicated play spaces, where the only available land was an existing parking lot. The design solution is inherently adaptive and shared: children utilize the space for play during daylight hours, and the area reverts to parking in the evening after children return to their homes. This temporal sharing of space maximizes utility in resource-constrained environments.

### 3.2 Implementation and Participatory Process

The design process strictly followed the participatory strategies outlined in the presentation:

**Project Context:** Community leaders shared vital local knowledge to inform the design team of specific district challenges, such as resource limitations and shifting life phases.

**Participatory Prioritisation:** Children and youth were the primary designers—youth-led method, identifying their own needs and prioritizing features through collaborative workshops.

**Circular Economy:** In an effort to maintain local sustainability, the children's designs were constructed by local craftsmen (the children's uncles), ensuring that economic resources remained within the community.

### 3.3 Governance and Sustainability

Before construction commenced, the youth participants were required to present their designs to the community committee for formal approval. This served a dual purpose:

1. **Validation:** It gave the children a sense of agency and professional accomplishment.
2. **Mutual Respect:** Beyond physical design, the process included the co-development of "common rules" for maintenance and usage. These shared regulations are essential for long-term sustainability, fostering mutual respect between the youth and the community elders who manage the space.

## Presentation Slides 2 – Thailand



WHO is  
mutual  
ground?

### **A community impact lab**

a mutual space for every goodwill towards the more liveable city. We explore, learn, and curate tools for people who care about the cities they live in and love. :)

**"Mutual ground. Co-designed. City-owned."**

*[ mission ]*

**\* inclusive-safe  
collaborative space**

**\* participatory  
design**

**\* collaborative  
learning & tools**

**\* co-owned  
database**

\*

**33+** Activations & **projects** from 2023 - 2025

\*

**+ 1690** mutual **contributors**  
[the one who wants to contribute something meaningful with us in the long run]

**+ 325** mutual **friends**  
[the one with interests of participatory city development events, activities or what we do]

**intergeneration?**

gen z  
boomers  
elders  
silent gen  
millennial  
ALPHA KIDS  
gen y

gen z  
boomers  
elders  
silent gen  
millennial  
ALPHA KIDS  
gen y  
**everyone**

**everyone**  
**lives in**  
**the city**



*"Mutual ground. Co-designed. City-owned."*

- \* **safety & security**
- \* **accessibility**

**\* safety & security**

**feeling safe**

people feeling at ease to be themselves, express naturally and safely. Able to use any urban space feeling secure.

**safe environment**

providing safe environment for everyone. As the safest urban environment started with the safetiness of young people.

The diagram features a large orange semi-circle on the left containing the text 'safe environment'. To its right, a blue circle overlaps it, containing the text 'feeling safe'. Above the orange semi-circle, the text '\* safety & security' is written in orange. Below the blue circle, a definition of 'feeling safe' is provided. The background is a light beige color.

**\* safety & security**

**feeling safe**

people feeling at ease to be themselves, express naturally and safely. Able to use any urban space feeling secure.

**safe environment**

providing safe environment for everyone. As the safest urban environment started with the safetiness of young people.

these needs to be accessible for everyone

This diagram is identical to the one above, but includes a black speech bubble in the bottom right corner containing the text 'these needs to be accessible for everyone'. The background is a light beige color.

# challenges



shifting  
life phase



time  
&  
trust



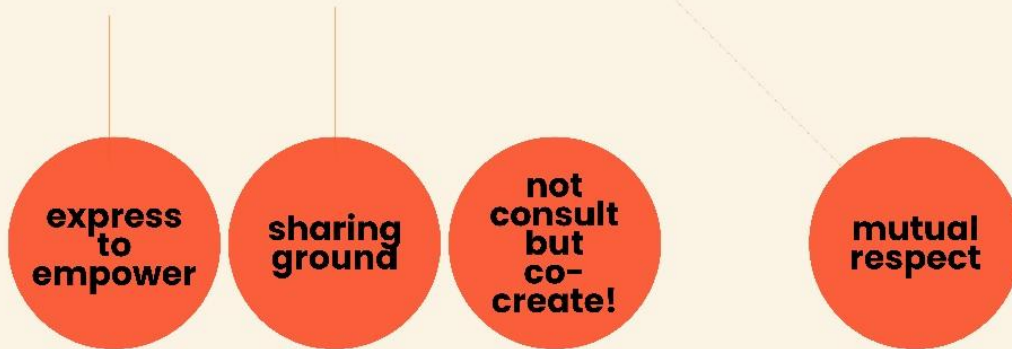
resource  
limitation



perception  
barriers

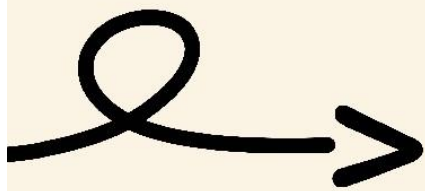
**Strategy for  
Sustained Intergenerational  
Urban Development**

# Strategy for **Sustained** Intergenerational Urban Development





**mutual  
respect**

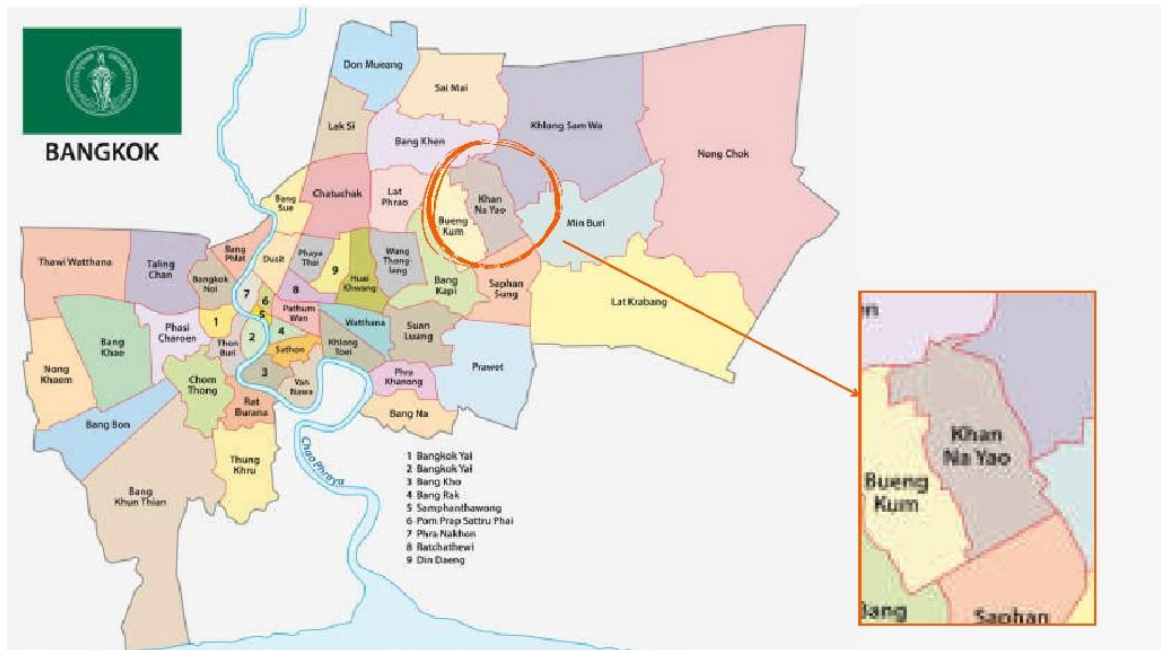


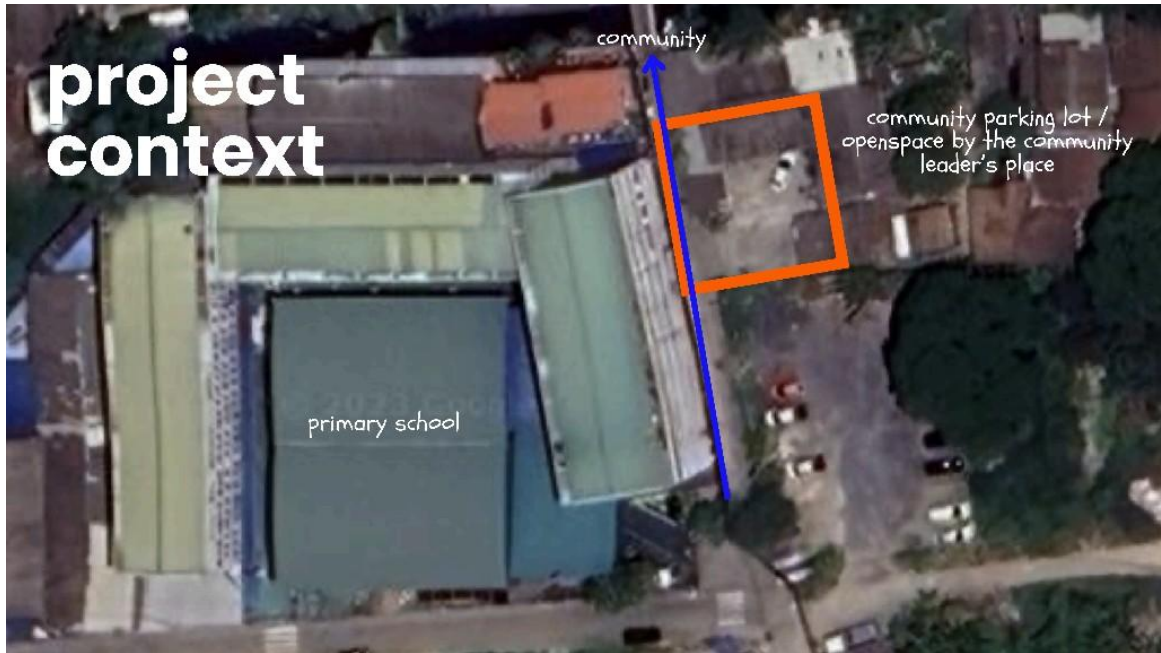
**keep it going !**

## **Best practices and succesful stories (20–25 minutes)**

map all the challenge and process  
highlight why we focus on kids then inclusive surrounding







## project resources

open-minded community leader

teenagers activity

space to modify

The 'project resources' section features three icons on a light yellow background. The first icon is a cartoon man with a mustache and a red book, representing an 'open-minded community leader'. The second icon is a yellow smiley face with two red stars above it, representing 'teenagers activity'. The third icon is a blue hammer and a yellow wrench crossed, representing 'space to modify'.

## project challenges



high number of teenagers and kids



no public space



primary school within the community



adult negative perception towards teenagers

## intergenerational challenges



shifting life phase



teenage grows apart while they change schools; no community space to connect



time & trust



young people never experience participatory workshop before



resource limitation



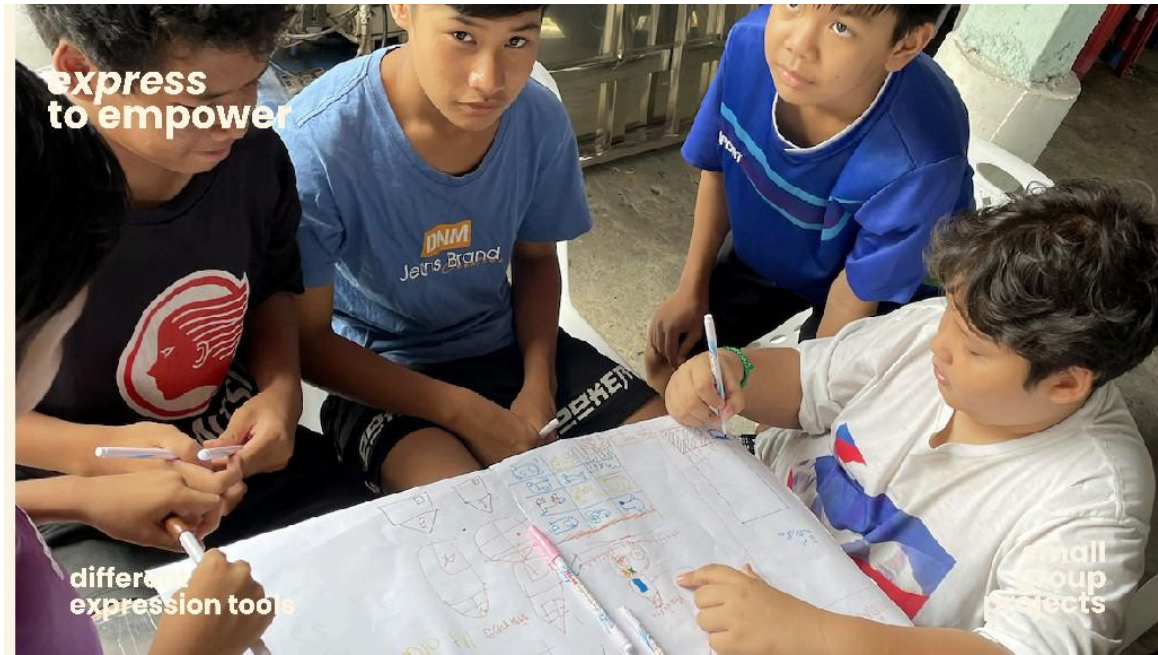
no budget for sustainable change, just event based



perception barriers



adult's negative perception towards teenagers













## **Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-being**

**Asimah Beevi Abdul & Nur Farhana Harun**

Assistant Senior Social Workers,  
Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore Family Service Centre

This presentation examines the significance of intergenerational caregiving in Singapore, highlighting how grandparents and extended family members serve as key caregivers amid rising dual-income households and evolving family structures. Intergenerational caregiving provides children with stability, emotional security, and cultural grounding, while supporting parents in managing work and family responsibilities.

Intergenerational caregiving plays a vital role in child development and family well-being, strengthening family bonds, supporting identity formation through the transmission of values and traditions, and fostering solidarity across generations. For working parents, the involvement of grandparents and extended family reduces caregiving stress and increases confidence in child-rearing arrangements. For children, consistent care from trusted family members contributes to emotional regulation, attachment security, and social development during early childhood.

Despite its benefits, intergenerational caregiving faces several challenges. These include shifting family dynamics, differences in parenting beliefs across generations, communication gaps, and caregiver stress among older adults who may face health or capacity constraints. Without adequate support, these challenges strain relationships and compromise caregiving sustainability.

Singapore's national support framework plays a crucial role in strengthening intergenerational caregiving. Family Service Centres (FSCs) provide accessible, community-based support, including casework, counselling, and parenting assistance. Specialised social service agencies address more complex needs such as disability, mental health concerns, and family violence. Additionally, community-based intergenerational programmes promote meaningful interaction between age groups, fostering mutual understanding and stronger community ties.

Several key national initiatives highlight ongoing efforts. The Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP) facilitates shared learning experiences between youths and seniors. The NTUC Intergenerational Programme encourages regular engagement between preschoolers and older adults. ActiveX brings different generations together through sports and interactive activities, while Values in Action (VIA), a mandatory school programme, nurtures social responsibility and community involvement among students.

The presentation also highlights effective programmes supporting children and families. These include Tinkle Friend, a confidential helpline offering emotional support and guidance for children; SHINE Children and Youth Services, which provides school social work, therapy, and targeted interventions; and national early intervention initiatives such as KidSTART, which focus on early identification, preventive support, and strengthening caregivers' capacity in early childhood development. The presenters also describe their agency's Early Childhood and Parenting (ECP) initiative, which supports children aged 0–12 and their caregivers by strengthening parent-child relationships, grounded in Vygotsky's social interaction theory.

Overall, intergenerational caregiving initiatives contribute to holistic caregiving, improved work–family balance for parents, children benefiting from both traditional and contemporary values, and stronger communities through sustained intergenerational connections. The presentation concludes that intergenerational caregiving remains a pillar of family life in Singapore. With continued policy innovation, programme expansion, and targeted support for grandparents, it continues to be a vital and sustainable caregiving model for the future.



Today's topic

**Intergenerational Caregiving:  
Family and Community Care  
for Children**

By Ms Asimah & Ms Farhana,  
Assistant Senior Social Workers  
from FRCS FSC

Decorative elements: yellow stars, blue wavy line, and hearts.



The importance and  
challenges of  
intergenerational solidarity


Decorative elements: hearts.



An illustration of a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) taking a selfie together. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right holding a smartphone, and two children are in the center. The background is a solid reddish-pink color with decorative hearts and stars.

### Why Intergenerational Caregiving Matters


- Rising dual-income households in Singapore
- Grandparents and extended family = key caregivers
- Emotional, practical, and cultural contributions
- Stability and support in a child's early years



An illustration of a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) standing together. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and two children are in the center. The background is a solid blue color with decorative hearts and stars.

### Benefits for Children & Families

- Strengthens family bonds
- Promotes identity formation & cultural grounding
- Reduces stress for working parents
- Encourages multi-generational solidarity



Challenges of Intergenerational Solidarity

- Shifting family structures
- Generational gaps
- Caregiver Stress

Decorative elements: yellow stars, blue squiggle, hearts.



Strategies to foster intergenerational connections

Decorative elements: blue squiggle, yellow stars, hearts.



Four yellow stars in the top left corner.

## National Framework of Support

- **Family Service Centres (FSCs)**  
Community-based support for families. Offer casework, counselling, and parenting support.
- **Specialized Social Service Agencies**  
Address specific needs such as disabilities, mental health, or family violence.




Four yellow stars in the top left corner.

## National Framework of Support

### Intergenerational Community Programmes

- Foster bonding across generations and strengthen community ties



## Key Initiatives in Singapore

The Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP) brings together the younger generation and elderly individuals.



**Smart Design - 3D Printing & Modelling**

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS INVITED!**

Interested in 3D printing? Share your passion with seniors today! You'll help guide and assist seniors through the creation of 3D art, recreating artworks of memories and souvenirs!

**DETAILS**

- 📅 8, 16, 22 Nov 2024
- 🕒 2.30pm - 5pm
- 📍 Blk 253 Tampines Street 21
- ☎️ #01-406 SS21253

**CONTACT US**

- 📞 84990717 (NATALIE)
- ✉️ volunteer@ecss.org.sg



**Little India Heritage Trail**

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS INVITED!**

This programme takes seniors and youths for an excursion to explore Little India, and have fun together roaming the street in a friendly game "Amazing Race" style.

Participants will engage in lots of interaction through discussion on these street art and playing 'treasure-hunt' games, and will have a great learning and fun-filled journey.

**DETAILS**

- 📅 29 Nov 2024
- 🕒 1pm - 4.30pm
- 📍 Little India

**CONTACT US**

- 📞 84990717 (NATALIE)
- ✉️ volunteer@ecss.org.sg

## Key Initiatives in Singapore

NTUC Intergenerational Programme aimed to promote regular interactions between preschoolers and seniors in Singapore.



## Key Initiatives in Singapore



## Key Initiatives in Singapore

ActiveX brings together the different generations together through sports and interactive activities.





## Key Initiatives in Singapore



## Key Initiatives in Singapore



Values in Action (VIA) is a mandatory learning programme for all students in schools under the Ministry of Education in Singapore.



3E at Allkin Active Aging Centre (Rivervale)



Student from 3P helping the elderly fold origami



## Key Initiatives in Singapore



## National Framework of Support

### Childcare Subsidies & Financial Assistance

Baby Bonus Scheme	KIFAS (Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme)	Comlink+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for parents with the cost of raising children</li> <li>Includes Cash Gift &amp; Child Development Account (CDA)</li> <li>CDA matched dollar-for-dollar by the government (up to cap)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsidies for low- to middle-income families</li> <li>Covers kindergarten fees at Anchor Operators &amp; MOE Kindergartens</li> <li>Helps ensure access to quality preschool education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole-of-community support for families in rental housing</li> <li>Dedicated officers to journey with families</li> <li>Provides proactive, coordinated, and holistic support</li> <li>Focus on long-term goals like stability, education, and employment</li> </ul>



### Tinkle Friend

Tinkle Friend is a confidential, toll-free helpline and online chat service by the Singapore Children's Society. It aims to provide:

- Emotional support
- Practical advice
- Information & resources

## SHINE Children and Youth Services

- School Social Work
- Educational Psychology
- Community & Family Work
- Targeted Interventions
- Therapy & Counseling (SH.IFT)



## Healthy Start Programme (HSP)

- One of Singapore's early childhood support efforts aimed at at-risk families.
- Aimed to reduce developmental delays through early identification and intervention.
- At-risk register: Identifies families with social or medical vulnerabilities.
- Monitoring: Regular follow-up to track children's growth and developmental milestones.
- Preventive Focus: Early intervention to reduce escalation of social or developmental issues.





## KidSTART



Aimed to give children aged 0-6 years old from low-income families a good start in life. It helps parents/caregivers build capacity in early childhood development. Key services:

- Prenatal Support
- Home Visits
- Health, Nutrition & Social Well-being
- Parent-Child Interactions & Learning Support
- Community & Ecosystem Support



## Early Childhood and Parenting (ECP)

- Initiative by our organization
- For children 0-12 years old & caregivers
- Builds strong Parent-Child relationships
- Based on Vygotsky's social interaction theory



## Early Childhood and Parenting (ECP)

Parent-Child Link (PCL)	Parent-Child Grow (PCG)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baby Steps (0–3 years old)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For parents of children 0–12</li><li>• Addresses mild behavioural/developmental concerns</li><li>• Based on Triple P principles</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Books &amp; Bond (4–6 years old)</li></ul>	

## Early Childhood and Parenting (ECP)



## Impact of these initiatives

- Families experience more holistic caregiving
- Children gain both modern & traditional values
- Parents supported in balancing work and family
- Communities strengthened through intergenerational links



## Looking Ahead

- Opportunities for policy innovation & programme expansion
- Greater emphasis on training & resources for grandparents
- Building resilient families through multi-level support





## Conclusion

- Intergenerational caregiving is a pillar of family life in Singapore
- Enhances children's development and family cohesion
- With the right support, it will remain a vital caregiving model for the future

Decorative elements: yellow stars, blue hearts, and a blue squiggle.

Illustration: An elderly man with a cane and a woman standing next to a young boy and a woman, all appearing to be in a joyful interaction.



## Thank You

Decorative elements: yellow stars, blue hearts, and a blue squiggle.

Illustration: A diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities standing together, representing a community.

#### 4. Visual Documentation - Flyer



**WEBINAR**

**PRESENTED BY IFSW ASIA PACIFIC**

## **Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-being**

**20/Sep**

**Time: 4:00-6:00 am (UTC)**

**Venue: Online (Zoom)**

In response to shifting demographics and the growing need for intergenerational connection, IFSW-Asia Pacific will hold a webinar under the theme “Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-Being.” The event will focus on intergenerational caregiving and strategies to strengthen bonds across generations.



Presented by

**International Federation of Social Workers  
Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**

**IFSW-AP**

# WEBINAR 2025

## Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-being

**Date & Time:** September 20 (Sat), 2025 4:00–6:00 AM (UTC)  
**Event Platform:** Online (Zoom)  
**Admission:** Free of charge  
**Closing Date:** September 17 (Wed), 2025  
**To register:** Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://forms.gle/Nh1FUMk6C9zbnkzy6>



### SPEAKERS

**Japan**

**Mai Yamaguchi**  
Professor, Japan Lutheran College



Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people

**Singapore**

**Thailand**

**Yada Ponchamni**  
Project Manager Mutual Ground



Intergenerational exchanges in community development



**Asimah Beevi Abdul & Nur Farhana Harun**  
Assistant Senior Social Workers  
Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore  
Family Service Centre



**Inquiry**

**IFSW Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**  
[asia-pacific@ifsw.org](mailto:asia-pacific@ifsw.org)

## Part II Workshop

### 5. Overview

2025 IFSW-AP Pre-conference Workshop  
***Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for the Future  
in the Asia Pacific Region***  
*Focusing on Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues*

**Date and time:** November 17 (Mon) 1:00-5:00 pm, 2025 (pre-conference)

**Venue:** Hotel Taj Samudra (Anthurium Ballroom)

**Venue capacity:** 50 ppl (speakers & staff + 40 applicants)

#### **Background**

The 2025 Global Agenda theme of *Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing* highlights that it is important for social workers to foster connections between different generations and thereby build resilient and supportive communities. Intergenerational solidarity includes connections not only between currently living generations, but also across time between present and future generations.

Not unlike the conference theme, the concept of intergenerational solidarity for the future emphasizes that we must address contemporary challenges such as climate change and other environmental issues in the present to ensure sustainable ecological wellbeing for the long term. Hence, this workshop aims to strengthen intergenerational solidarity for the future in the Asia Pacific Region by addressing relevant topics.

#### **Speakers**

Australia: Manohar Pawar (Professor, Charles Sturt University & Former President, International Consortium for Social Development)

***I am a social worker: How can I instill intergenerational solidarity?***

Cambodia: Sophanara Pen (President, Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia)

***Empowering Communities: Social Work for Climate Resilience in Cambodia***

Sri Lanka: Amarawansa Ranaweera (Former President, Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers)

***Climate Change and Intergenerational Solidarity: Insights from the Sri Lankan Experience***

Taiwan: Cheng-hsin Lee (Deputy Director, Rerum Novarum Center)

***The Environmental Solidarity Journey of Asia-Pacific Fishers, Beginning in Taiwan***

## Program

12:30	Registration	30 min
1:00	Opening	5 min
1:05	Presentations 1&2	40 min (20 min x2)
1:45	Group discussion A	40 min
2:25	Presentations 3&4	40 min (20 min x2)
3:05	<i>Break</i>	<i>15 min</i>
3:20	Group discussion B	40 min
4:00	Group presentations	40 min (8 min x5)
4:40	Speaker comments	20 min (5 min x4)
5:00	Closing	

## Questions for the groups to discuss

From the Australian speaker:

- Discuss and write your understanding of intergenerational solidarity.
- By reflecting yourself as a social work practitioner discuss some of your strengths to instill intergenerational solidarity.
- Some social workers are of the view that they do not have any role in developing intergenerational solidarity. Why do some social workers think in that way?  
Discuss what action are you going to take to change such views.

From Cambodian speaker:

- Discuss feasible examples or strategies of community-led climate adaptation
- What challenges do social workers face when addressing climate change in their communities, and how to address them?
- Discuss collaborative strategies between social workers and other sectors (health, education, environment) to enhance community resilience?
- How can technology and social innovation be leveraged to empower communities facing climate risks?
- How can communities maintain long-term resilience beyond immediate disaster response?

From the Sri Lankan speaker:

- What does intergenerational solidarity mean to you in the context of climate change?
- How do you see the responsibilities of different generations in addressing climate issues in Sri Lanka?

- How can we ensure the wisdom of elders, and the innovation of youth complement each other in climate action?
- Are current education and awareness programs in Sri Lanka doing enough to promote climate-consciousness across generations?
- What kind of policies could promote stronger intergenerational cooperation for environmental protection in Sri Lanka?

From the Taiwanese speaker:

- In the face of climate change, are fishers experiencing longer working hours and greater risks?
- How are the occupational safety and health of fishers affected by extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall, and typhoons?
- What forms of local wisdom and adaptive strategies do fishers across the Asia-Pacific region employ to cope with climate-related disasters?
- Has climate change intensified instability in fish catches, income fluctuations, and family pressures?
- How can social workers serve as a bridge between fishers and policy-making processes?

#### **Facilitators**

- Teoh Ai Hua (Vice President, IFSW-AP)
- Nattapat Sarobol (Publication Secretary, IFSW-AP)
- Viktor Virag (Treasurer, IFSW-AP)

#### **Objectives and expected outcomes**

- Deeper understanding of the importance of intergenerational solidarity for addressing climate change across living and future generations
- Identification of best practices in the region for fostering climate action across generations
- Mutual learning of models for intergenerational climate preparedness and strategies for intergenerational climate action to improve intergenerational solidarity in the region

#### **Main output**

Major results and findings are to be presented at the 2026 World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya (conference theme: *Harambee for Sustainable Shared Futures*).

# SCHEDULE

Time	Program	Duration
12:30 pm	Registration	30 min
1:00 pm	Opening (Machiko Ohara)	5 min
1:05 pm	<b>PRESENTATION 1 (Amarawansa Ranaweera)</b> <i>Climate Change and Intergenerational Solidarity: Insights from the Sri Lankan Experience</i>	20 min
1:25 pm	<b>PRESENTATION 2 (Cheng-hsin Lee)</b> <i>The Environmental Solidarity Journey of Asia-Pacific Fishers, Beginning in Taiwan</i>	20 min
1:45 pm	<b>GROUP WORK A</b> 1:45 Member introductions and selection of group chair (10 min) 1:55 Group discussion on presentations 1 & 2 (30 min)	40 min
2:25 pm	<b>PRESENTATION 3 (Sophanara Pen)</b> <i>Empowering Communities: Social Work for Climate Resilience in Cambodia</i>	20 min
2:45 pm	<b>PRESENTATION 4 (Manohar Pawar)</b> <i>I am a social worker: How can I instill intergenerational solidarity?</i>	20 min
3:05 pm	Break	15 min
3:20 pm	<b>GROUP WORK B</b> 3:20 Group discussion on presentations 3 & 4 (30 min) 3:50 Final preparation for group presentations (10 min)	40 min
4:00 pm	Group presentations (8 min x 5 groups)	40 min
4:40 pm	Speaker comments (5 min x 4 speakers)	20 min
5:00 pm	Closing	

\* Moderated by Viktor Virag

## Facilitators

Teoh Ai Hua (Vice President, IFSW-AP)

Nattapat Sarobol (Publication Secretary, IFSW-AP)

Viktor Virag (Treasurer, IFSW-AP)

## 6. Presentation Summaries & Presentation Slides

### Presentation Summary 1 – Sri Lanka

# Climate Change and Intergenerational Solidarity:

Insights from the Sri Lankan Experience

**Amarawansa Ranaweera**

Former President, Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers

IFSW–Asia Pacific Pre-Conference Workshop, 2025

Sri Lanka, a small island nation with diverse climatic and geographical characteristics, is highly vulnerable to climate change. Over recent decades, the country has experienced significant variations in rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, floods, landslides, and an increased frequency of extreme weather events. These changes have had widespread impacts across key sectors including agriculture, water resources, health, ecosystems, and livelihoods, with vulnerable populations such as children, older people, and low-income communities being disproportionately affected.

Climate change poses serious threats to food security, water availability, public health, and environmental sustainability in Sri Lanka. The increasing prevalence of vector-borne diseases, habitat loss, and climate-induced displacement highlights the need for collective and sustained responses. Addressing these challenges requires intergenerational solidarity, defined as the shared responsibility of all generations to act equitably and collaboratively to safeguard the environment for present and future generations.

Intergenerational solidarity is a well-established social characteristic in Sri Lanka, particularly within families and communities. Strong emotional bonds, shared values, mutual assistance, and collective responsibility are deeply rooted in cultural practices. This solidarity becomes especially evident during climate-related disasters, when individuals of all ages mobilize for rescue operations, food preparation, provision of drinking water, temporary shelter, and basic healthcare, often preceding formal institutional responses.

Older persons contribute valuable environmental knowledge derived from religious teachings, lived experience, and indigenous practices. This includes traditional farming methods, ancient cascade irrigation systems, natural pest management techniques, and indigenous weather

forecasting. The intergenerational transfer of such knowledge enhances community resilience and supports sustainable environmental management.

Youth and children play an increasingly important role in climate action in Sri Lanka. Evidence suggests that climate change is perceived by a majority of young people as the most significant risk to their future. Youth engagement is reflected in climate activism, environmental projects, and the application of innovative technologies, while children participate through school and community-based environmental clubs, tree planting initiatives, and environmental conservation activities.

Despite these strengths, several challenges hinder effective intergenerational collaboration, including generational gaps between traditional and modern lifestyles, the perceived lack of scientific validation of indigenous knowledge, concerns among youth regarding the future viability of agriculture, the digital divide, and the absence of structured mechanisms to promote intergenerational cooperation.

Strengthening intergenerational solidarity in Sri Lanka requires targeted awareness programmes, structured knowledge exchange and mentorship, inclusive community-based environmental projects, and joint advocacy for evidence-informed policy formulation. Encouraging youth-led innovation in green technologies, supported by the experiential insights of older generations, can foster a unified and sustainable national response to climate change.

# Climate Change and Intergenerational Solidarity: Insights from the Sri Lankan Experience

Presented at 2025 IFSW-AP Pre-conference Workshop

Amarawansa Ranaweera

Former President of the SLAPSW

17.11.2025

## Introduction

During the presentation I try to focus your attention on the following.

- Geographical and Climatic Context of Sri Lanka
- Climate changes observed over time
- Impacts of Climate Change
- Role of Intergenerational Solidarity in climate change
- Conclusion and Way Forward

## Geographical and Climatic Context of Sri Lanka



- Location and strategic position in the Indian Ocean
- General climate characteristics
  - tropical climate
  - average temperature 27.5 °C in lowlands and 18 °C in highlands
  - Annual rainfall 900-5000 mm)
    - Two monsoons (South-west and North-east)

### Climate changes observed over time

- Increasing average temperature
  - 0.8°C last century and increase of 3.06°C by 2100
- Rising sea levels
  - 2.5 to 3 mm per year
- Shifts in monsoon patterns
  - decrease annual rainfall and increasing variability
- More frequent droughts, floods, and extreme events
- Sri Lanka is in the top ten countries at risk of extreme weather events



## Impact of climate change

- Climate change affects everybody
- It affects all the sectors in the society
- Food security
- Water scarcity
- Loss of habitats and displacement
- Health challenges
- Vector-borne diseases
- The impact is more with the Vulnerable groups



## Intergenerational Solidarity

**Commitment of all generations to share responsibility, act fairly, and work together to protect the planet for both present and future generations. Following is a famous children's song in Sri Lanka, an example of elder's role.**



- The song tells the story of an old grandfather planting a mango seed. A small child asks him, "What are you doing, Grandfather?" and the grandfather replies, "I am planting a mango seed." The child is surprised and asks, "Why are you doing it when you never get to eat mangoes?" The grandfather replies, "We ate the fruits of the trees planted by those who came before us. So, it is our duty to make sure that those who come after us also eat mangoes"

## Intergenerational solidarity in Sri Lanka

- Intergenerational solidarity is very high within families in Sri Lanka. Emotional and physical close relationships, sharing common values, sharing responsibilities, mutual help are some of the characteristics in this solidarity
- The best example of intergenerational solidarity in climate change I have observed at community level is when there is a disaster happened
- People in all ages in the community come together first for rescue operations, provide drinking water, cook food, dry rations, making temporary sheds, provide medicine and all needs.
- The government and non-government services are coming late

## Use of wisdom of elders

---

- Studies show that majority of senior citizens in Sri Lanka are aware of climate change and the need of protecting environment. This wisdom developed through
  - Religious teachings and life experiences
  - They transfer this wisdom to younger generations
- Indigenous and traditional farming knowledge
  - Ancient irrigation system (cascade)
  - Traditional farming
  - Traditional methods of pest and weed control
  - Whether forecasting methods



# Youth and children in climate change

- Youth and children engagement
  - 66% of Sri Lankan youth view climate change as the most significant future risk (British council 2021)
  - Youth engage in conducting projects, use new technologies
  - Youth Activism
- Children's participation
  - school and community environmental clubs
  - Tree planting and cleaning the environment



## Challenges in developing inter generational solidarity

- Generation gap – Traditional vs modern way of life
- Elder's wisdom is challenged as lack of scientific depth
- Youth question about future viability of agriculture
- Digital divide
- Absence of proper planning and mechanism in developing intergenerational solidarity



## Conclusion and Way Forward



### Reflection on the effectiveness of current measures

Older and younger people in Sri Lanka can work together on environmental protection through intergenerational awareness programs, joint conservation projects, and supporting sustainable living initiatives like organic farming and agroforestry, fostering a unified voice for environmental action that involves both experienced elders and vibrant youth



### Strategies for collaboration across generations

Knowledge Exchange and Mentorship  
Community-Based Projects encouraging the participation of all age groups  
Conduct Lobbying and Awareness Campaigns jointly for policy formulation  
Encourage young people to develop and implement innovative green technologies while older community members support their efforts and offer practical insights

Thank you



## **The environmental solidarity journey of Asia-Pacific fishers, beginning in Taiwan**

**Cheng-Hsin Lee**

Deputy Director of Rerum Novarum Center Taiwan

APSWC 2025 Pre-Conference Workshop

Situated at a strategic maritime crossroads, Taiwan boasts rich marine resources that have long sustained its fishing industry. However, this sector now faces unprecedented challenges as climate change reshapes the oceanic environment. Rising global temperatures and ocean acidification are altering fish migration patterns, while the frequency and severity of extreme weather events make fishing operations increasingly perilous and economically unstable. These environmental pressures intersect with a profound social shift: as younger generations turn away from traditional fishing careers, migrant workers have become the backbone of the industry. Yet, these fishers often endure harsh working conditions, prolonged isolation at sea, and systemic vulnerabilities such as inadequate healthcare access and language barriers that impede their ability to seek justice in labor disputes.

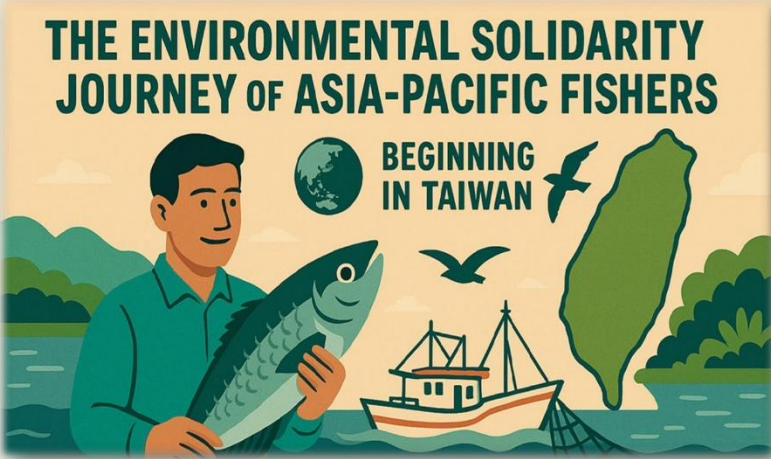
In this complex and evolving landscape, social workers play a pivotal role. Acting as advocates and mediators, they provide multilingual legal assistance and medical support, ensuring that migrant fishers can access essential services and protect their rights. Their work extends beyond immediate aid; social workers are catalysts for resilience in the face of climate uncertainty. Through disaster preparedness training and environmental education, they empower fishers to integrate traditional maritime knowledge with modern technologies, fostering safer practices amid volatile conditions.

Equally important is their contribution to cultural integration. Social workers facilitate dialogue and collaboration between local fishers, migrant workers, and different generations, cultivating an inclusive and harmonious community. This cultural ecosystem strengthens social cohesion and drives collective advocacy for policies that safeguard both livelihoods and ecosystems. By

bridging divides and promoting shared responsibility, social workers help transform the fishing industry into a model of sustainability and solidarity.


Ultimately, Taiwan's path forward lies in this collaborative approach. Through the combined efforts of social workers, fishers, and policymakers, the nation can adapt to environmental challenges while preserving its maritime heritage. Together, they can build a future defined by ecological balance, social justice, and resilience ensuring that the fishing community not only survives but thrives in an era of profound change.

Presentation Slides 2 - Taiwan




THE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLIDARITY  
JOURNEY OF ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERS  
BEGINNING  
IN TAIWAN



APSWC 2025  
17 Nov 2025 Colombo, Sri Lanka



新華社會服務中心  
RERUM NOVARUM CENTER



TAIWAN  
Cheng-Hsin  
Lee  
Deputy Director,  
Rerum Novarum  
Center



新華社會服務中心  
RERUM NOVARUM CENTER

# Taiwan's world ocean geographical location and climate environment



## Taiwan's geographical location in the Western Pacific



### Geographic hub location

Taiwan is located at the intersection of important seas in East Asia, connecting the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the Philippine Sea, and has strategic transportation value.

### Diverse marine ecosystems

It is close to multiple seas, creating a rich and diverse marine ecosystem and natural resources.

### Enrich fishery resources

Abundant fishery resources support the development of local economy and marine culture.



## Taiwan is adjacent to the sea area and major ocean currents

### The influence of the Kuroshio current

The Kuroshio Current is a warm current that flows through eastern Taiwan, bringing rich nutrients to promote the growth of marine life.

### Southwest monsoon

The southwest monsoon brings seawater circulation, facilitating the transport of nutrients in waters and supporting fisheries development.

### The marine ecology is rich

The nutrients brought by ocean currents promote the prosperity of marine ecosystems and enhance the sustainability of fishery resources.



## The impact of climate conditions on Taiwan



### **Subtropical climate features**

Taiwan has a subtropical climate with warm and humid temperatures, suitable for the growth of a variety of marine life.

### **Monsoon impact**

Monsoons bring seasonal wind direction changes, affecting the marine environment and the distribution of fishery resources.

### **Typhoon challenges and opportunities**

Frequent typhoons not only cause damage but also promote the renewal of marine ecosystems and resource recycling.



# Taiwan's current marine environmental challenges





## The impact of climate change on the sea

### **The sea temperature rises**

Climate change causes sea temperatures to rise, affecting the survival and distribution of marine life.

### **Sea level rises**

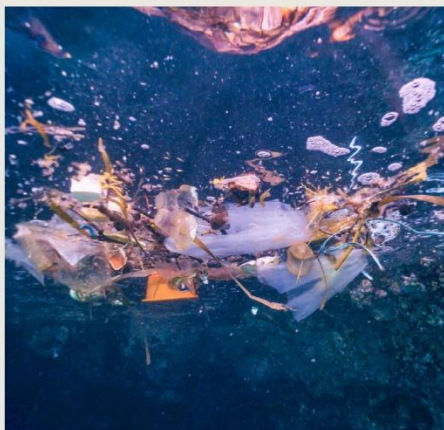
Rising sea levels have led to changes in coastlines, threatening marine ecosystems and coastal environments.

### **Extreme weather events**

Extreme weather events are frequent, increasing the instability and ecological pressure on the marine environment.



## Marine pollution and ecological environment change



### **Industrial wastewater pollution**

Industrial wastewater discharge has led to the deterioration of marine water quality, seriously threatening the living environment of marine life.

### **Plastic waste problem**

Large amounts of plastic waste accumulate in the ocean, damaging marine ecosystems and harming marine life.

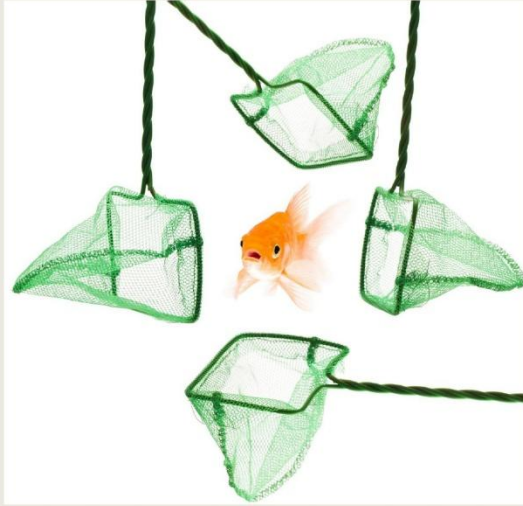
### **Biodiversity is declining**

Pollution causes changes in the ecological environment, leading to a significant decline in marine biodiversity.

### **Affect the sustainability of fisheries**

Marine pollution seriously affects fishery resources, threatening sustainable fishing and livelihoods.





## The dilemma faced by sustainable development

### Resource depletion challenge

Taiwan's fisheries face serious problems of overfishing and depletion of marine resources, threatening ecological balance.

### Environmental damage impact

Environmental pollution and habitat destruction exacerbate the decline of fishery resources, affecting sustainable development.

### Policy and industry cooperation

Effective policymaking and industry collaboration are key to promoting sustainable fisheries, and we should work together to address the challenges.



# The development of Taiwan's marine fishing industry and the historical context of fishermen



## The development history of the fishing industry



### Early coastal fishing

Taiwan's fishing industry began with small-scale coastal fishing, relying on traditional techniques for livelihoods and community development.



### Distant-water fisheries expanded

With technological advancements, distant-water fisheries are rapidly evolving, increasing catches and expanding international markets.



### Industrialization and technological innovation

The industrialization of the fishing industry promotes economic growth and introduces advanced technologies to improve efficiency and sustainability.



## The Historical Evolution of Local and Migrant Fishermen

### Fishing industry expansion

The rapid expansion of the fishing industry has led to a significant increase in the demand for labor, driving the introduction and growth of migrant fishermen.

### Migrant fisherman role

Migrant fishermen have become an important labor force in the fishing industry, supplementing local manpower shortages and changing the industrial structure.

### Social structure changes

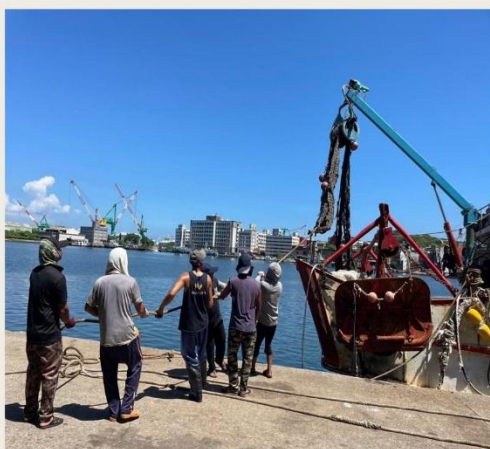
Workforce changes in fisheries reflect the evolution and diversification of social and economic structures.



## Changes in the labor force situation in Taiwan's fishing industry

- **Changes in Labor Sources**

In the past, Taiwan's fishing industry relied mainly on local fishermen. In recent years, due to harsh working conditions and declining willingness among Taiwanese workers, migrant fishers have become the main labor force.

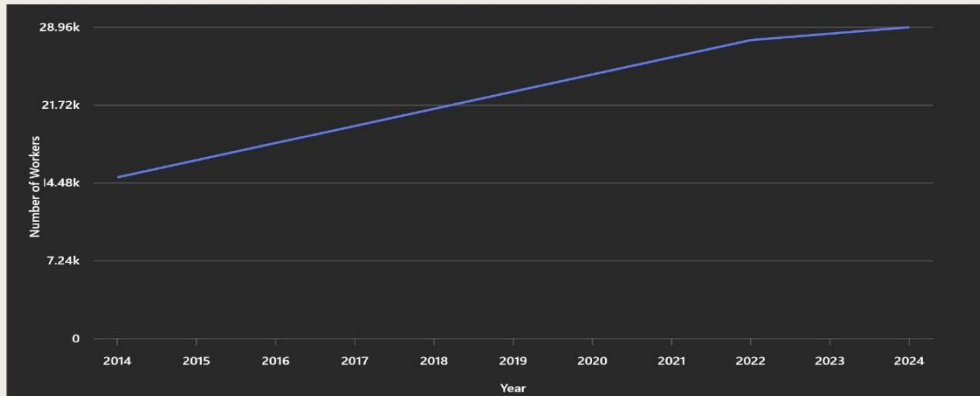


- **Number of Migrant Fishers**

According to 2024 statistics, the number of migrant crew members employed in Taiwan continues to rise. In the distant-water fishing sector, migrant fishers account for more than 98% of the workforce. At present, more than 80% of them come from Indonesia, followed by the Philippines and Vietnam.



## Trend of Migrant Fishing Workers



Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Workers	15,000	16,595	18,190	19,785	21,380	22,975	24,570	26,165	27,760	28,357	28,957



**Fishermen face the challenges of climate and environmental change**





## The impact of climate change on working conditions

### Extreme weather risk

Climate change has led to frequent extreme weather, increasing the danger and uncertainty of the fishing industry.

### Unstable sea conditions

Unstable sea conditions shorten operational time, reduce catch efficiency, and impact livelihoods.



## The impact of environmental degradation on fish catches and safety



### Marine pollution affects the catch

Pollution leads to an imbalance in marine ecology and a decrease in fish stocks, affecting catches and marine biodiversity.



### Fishermen's safety concerns

The deterioration of the marine environment makes the fishing process more dangerous for fishermen, increasing accidents and health risks.



### Increased pressure on livelihoods

Reduced catches exacerbate the economic strain on fishermen and their families, threatening their livelihoods and community stability.



## The working and living conditions of migrant fishermen in Taiwan

### Language barrier challenge

Migrant fishermen often find it difficult to communicate due to language differences, affecting work efficiency and quality of life.

### Insufficient work rights

The lack of comprehensive protection of work rights and interests exposes fishermen to excessive working hours and safety risks.

### Harsh living conditions

The living and living environment of fishermen is generally poor, and they need more attention and support from the society.



# Social Work Intervention: Assisting migrant fishermen in coping with climate and environmental changes



## Social workers support migrant fishermen's methods and services



### Legal advisory services

Provide legal advice to migrant fishermen to help them understand their rights and legal protections.

### Psychological care support

Provide psychological counseling to help fishermen deal with stress and emotional problems, and promote mental health.

### Language assistance services

Assist fishermen in overcoming language barriers and promote communication and exchange with society and the workplace.

### Life adaptation support

Help migrant fishermen adapt to the local living environment, improve their quality of life and social integration.



## Strategies to help fishermen adapt to climate and environmental change



**Education and training promotion** Social workers promote education and training to enhance fishermen's ability and knowledge to respond to climate change.

### Resource link support

Social workers help connect various resources to help fishermen improve their quality of life and work.



## Social action that focuses on the well-being and rights of fishermen

### Policy advocacy

Promote policy reforms, improve the working conditions and rights protection of fishermen, and promote fair treatment.

### Multi-party cooperation

Integrate the resources of governments, enterprises and NGOs to establish a cooperation platform to support migrant fishermen.

### Rights and Interests

Protection ensure that migrant fishermen receive necessary legal protection and social support during the transformation of the fishing industry.



## Summary and outlook

### Taiwan's role in the ocean

Taiwan plays an important role in the global maritime system, influencing the regional environment and economic development.

### Face the challenge

Environmental and industrial challenges have prompted Taiwan to take comprehensive measures to protect marine resources.

### Collaboration for the future

Policy formulation, industrial development, and social forces collaborate to promote ocean sustainability and inclusion.



**The sea connects us.  
Let's stand together for migrant fishers' dignity and rights.  
Join us in shaping a more just and sustainable future.**



## **Social Work for Climate Resilience in Cambodia**

**Pen Sophanara**

President, Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia

Cambodia is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in Southeast Asia, facing recurrent floods, droughts, storms, riverbank erosion, and rising temperatures. These hazards threaten agriculture, fisheries, housing, and health—sectors on which rural livelihoods depend.

Social vulnerabilities such as poverty, gender inequality, disability, and limited infrastructure compound the risks. Recent surveys show that nearly all Cambodians experienced at least one climate-related disaster in the past year, with three-quarters enduring multiple events. Rising temperatures and irregular rainfall patterns further intensify food insecurity, heat stress, and water scarcity, disproportionately affecting women, children, and marginalized groups.


Climate resilience in Cambodia is defined as the capacity of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from climate shocks while sustaining wellbeing. Social work plays a catalytic role by bridging policy and practice, amplifying the voices of vulnerable populations, and fostering inclusive participation in adaptation strategies.

The Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia (APSWC), founded in 2015 and a member of the International Federation of Social Workers since 2024, envisions a professional, ethical, and inclusive social work sector. By empowering social workers, APSWC seeks to reinforce the bond between people and the environment, ensuring that communities in Cambodia can adapt and thrive in the face of climate change.

In partnership with an NGO, Cambodian Organization for Living and Temporary-care, COLT, the community-led activities have empowered women, children and vulnerable people in resilience building and risk reduction through integrating disaster preparedness in community education, psychosocial support and livelihood programs.

The current local initiative in Baku village, situated northwest of Phnom Penh (the capital city of Cambodia), bordering to Kandal province, demonstrates the potential of grassroots social work in enhancing coping skills and adaptive capacity in climate variability.

However, challenges remain; these include limited technical capacity, unstable funding, gender and inclusion gaps, weak monitoring and evaluation, and rapid urbanization. Addressing these barriers requires stronger advocacy and integration of social work into national climate resilience policies.



**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

**Social Work for Climate Resilience in Cambodia**

**By: Pen Sophanara**  
**President of the Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia (APSWC)**

**CONTENT**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Key strategies and actions for building resilience**
- 3. Advocacy**
- 4. Local initiatives**

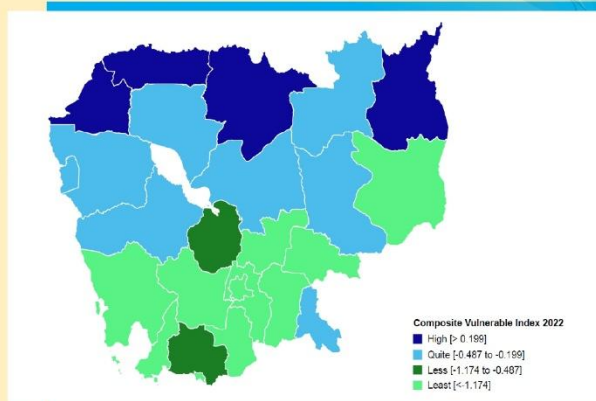


## Climate Challenges in Cambodia

- ❑ Cambodia is vulnerable to floods, droughts, storms, riverbank erosion, shifts in rainy seasons, and hotter temperatures.
- ❑ Key climate threats: Mekong River flooding, rising temperatures, irregular rainfall.
- ❑ Impact on rural communities, agriculture, housing, and health.
- ❑ Many communities depend on agriculture, fisheries, forests, water sources — all of which are sensitive to climatic changes.
- ❑ Also, social vulnerabilities (poverty, gender, ethnicity, disability, lack of infrastructure etc.) make the impacts worse.

## CHALLENGES IN CLIMATE CHANGE

- ✦ Cambodia is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including floods, droughts, and rising temperatures.
- ✦ 99% experienced at least one disaster in the past 12 months, with 75% experiencing at least three over the same period\*
- ✦ Cambodia has seen a rise of 0.8°C to 1.0°C over the past decades.



Source: National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS), (2022). Vulnerability to Climate Hazards: Vulnerability Index Data Portal

\* UN Women "Gender and Environment Survey 2024 Report"

## Who's who: Executive Board of Director



**Chan Ratha**  
Membership Director



**Pen Sophanara**  
President



**Chan Chakrya**  
Vice-President



**Sam Seth**  
Treasurer



**Gnim Channarith**  
Training Director

## Gender & **HEALTH** IMPACTS



- ✦ **Food Insecurity:** Women are often responsible for managing household food supplies, and likely to reduce their food intake during climate-related crises, especially single mothers and elderly women.
- ✦ **Heat Stress:** In urban setting among female garment workers - In the hot months, 88% reported heat-related symptoms, vs 68% in the cool months
- ✦ **Water and Sanitation Burden:** 80% of water collection is done by women and girls, especially in households without piped water. Climate-induced water scarcity increases their exposure to unsafe water and sanitation-related diseases.

PBC Public Health. 2025. *Perceived impact of heat stress on health and productivity of tropical female garment workers.* Cambodianess. 2025. *Gender Challenges Remain in Cambodia's Global Climate Action.* UN Women. 2025. *Gender and Environment Survey2024 Report.*

## What does “climate resilience” mean in Cambodia?

- ❑ Climate resilience means the ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from these climate-related shocks, while still pursuing sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing.



## Social Work as a Catalyst

- ❑ Social workers as connectors between policy, community, and resources.
- ❑ Promoting inclusive participation in climate adaptation strategies.
- ❑ Advocating for marginalized groups (ethnic minorities, women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly).



## Strategies for Climate Resilience

- ❑ Community education and awareness
- ❑ Disaster preparedness training and psychosocial support to social workers.
- ❑ Sustainable livelihood programs (e.g. daycare, health education) – partnership with local-based NGOs.



## Capacity Building and Training

- ❑ **Equip social workers** with climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) skills.
- ❑ Offer workshops on **community-based resilience planning and** psychosocial support.



## Community Engagement

- ❑ Facilitate **inclusive dialogue** with vulnerable groups—especially women, children, and elderly.
- ❑ Equip local people with knowledge about climate risks (floods, droughts, changing rainfall, WASH — Water, Sanitation, Hygiene).



## Advocacy & Policy Influence

- ❑ Collaborate with government and NGOs to **integrate social work into climate resilience policies.**
- ❑ Being their voice



## LOCAL INITIATIVES

- Community-led activity by social workers in Baku community



## Challenges

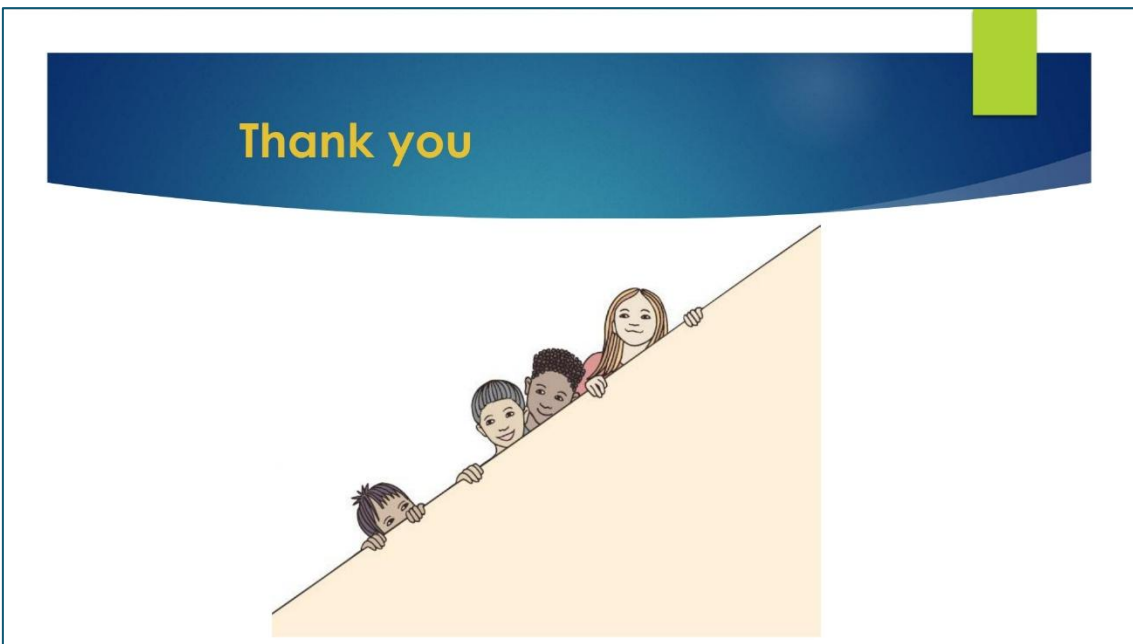
Limited technical capacity on climate issues

Inadequate and unstable funding

Gender and social inclusion gaps

Limited monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) for social outcomes

Rapid urbanization and unplanned growth



## APSWC IN BRIEF

- Founded by a group of professional social workers and professors in 2015 as an independent and autonomous body with non-political or religious affiliation.
- There are four types of membership include Honorary member, professional social worker, para-professional social worker and social work students.
- APSWC has become a member of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in April 2024.



## APSWC's vision, mission, goals

### VISION:

- ▶ APSWC has the vision to see social work become a profession in Cambodia with a high code of conduct, a strong support network, and a commitment to excellence in practice.

### MISSION:

- ▶ Strengthening the network and capacity of social workers to empower professional and inclusive social services in Cambodia.

### GOALS:

- ▶ With its main goal to strengthen the bond between people and the environment, while providing social workers with exceptional professional growth and support.

### HOW:

- Emphasizing continuous learning, adhering to standards and guidelines,
- promoting knowledge sharing, and advocating for research-based approaches.
- Unwavering dedication to enhancing the practice of social work in Cambodia.



## Presentation Summary 4 – Australia

# I am a social worker:

## How can I instill intergenerational solidarity?

**Manohar Pawar**

School of Social Work and Arts, Charles Sturt University

Former President, International Consortium for Social Development

Dr. Manohar Pawar, Professor of Social Work and Director, Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance, School of Social Work and Arts, Charles Sturt University, Australia, was one of the speakers at the pre-conference workshop on 'Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for the Future in the Asia Pacific Region', Colombo, Sri Lanka, 17 November 2025.

At the outset, Prof. Pawar appreciated the presentations by previous speakers and questions and discussion by workshop participants and he profusely thanked Professor Victor Virag and his team for their significant efforts in organizing and guiding the presentations.

The title of his presentation posed a question: What is the role of professional social workers in instilling and leading intergenerational solidarity, especially in environmental protection and climate action? He invited participants—both young and experienced social workers—to critically think about this question in light of their own practice. He stated that there are two types of social workers: non-trained, generally community-based social workers; and professionally trained social workers like you and me.

To illustrate effective intergenerational and environmental action, the presentation highlighted the Chipko Movement in India. Initiated in the 1970s, this non-violent, community-led environmental movement involved people—especially women—hugging trees to prevent deforestation. Leaders such as Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Sundarlal Bahuguna, and Gaura Devi, none of whom were trained social workers, successfully influenced national forest protection policies. The movement was rooted in values of non-violence, peaceful resistance (satyagraha), ecological balance, and community empowerment.

The speaker further presented examples of environmental leaders across the Asia-Pacific region—from Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, China, and Malaysia—who come from diverse

professional backgrounds such as nursing, journalism, anthropology, environmental science, and indigenous activism. Despite not being professionally trained social workers, these individuals have made significant contributions to sustainability, environmental justice, and intergenerational dialogue.

In contrast, only one prominent example of a professionally trained social worker engaged in large-scale environmental activism is Medha Patkar of India, who led the Narmada Bachao Andolan (A movement to protect Narmada River valley and people). Her work combined social justice, environmental protection, and grassroots mobilization, demonstrating the potential impact of social workers beyond individual and family-level interventions.

Contrasting these examples of environmental activism, questions were raised: Despite strong professional values such as human rights, social justice, equality, and empathy, why are social workers not leading environmental work/activism to build and protect intergenerational solidarity? Why do professionally trained social workers often focus on micro-level interventions, while broader social movements are led by individuals outside the profession? The speaker suggested that the gap may lie not in social work values or knowledge, but in virtues and character strengths—such as courage, commitment, conviction, and moral leadership. Using simple metaphors, the presentation explained that while roles and functions define what professionals do, virtues determine the effectiveness and impact of their work. Social workers, therefore, must cultivate strong character, qualities to inspire collective action and achieve large-scale social change and intergenerational solidarity.

The speaker emphasized that while individual and family-level work remains essential, leading movements and inspiring collective action can impact millions. Strengthening intergenerational solidarity is thus presented as both a professional responsibility and a moral calling for social workers in the era of climate change.

Presentation Slides 4 - Australia



**APSWC 2025**  
**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**  
\* Please do not forget to register for the APSWC2025 conference itself separately.



**Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity  
for the Future in the Asia Pacific Region**  
*Focusing on Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues*

**17/Nov 2025**

**Time: 1:00-5:00 pm** (Reception starts at 12:30 pm)  
**Venue: Taj Samudra Hotel** (same as APSWC venue)  
**Capacity: 40 participants** (need to apply in advance)  
**Free of Charge**  
\* Application results will be announced after the deadline.

Hosted by  
 **International Federation of Social Workers  
Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**



**APSWC 2025**  
**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**  
\* Please do not forget to register for the APSWC2025 conference itself separately.

**Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for the Future  
in the Asia Pacific Region**

**SPEAKERS**

 <b>AUSTRALIA</b> <b>Manohar Pawar</b> <small>Professor,  Clauses Sturt University  Former President,  International Consortium  for Social Development</small>	 <b>CAMBODIA</b> <b>Pen Sophanara</b> <small>President,  Association of  Professional Social  Workers of Cambodia</small>
 <b>SRI LANKA</b> <b>Amarawansa Ranawcera</b> <small>Former President,  Sri Lanka Association  of Professional  Social Workers</small>	 <b>TAIWAN</b> <b>Cheng-Hsin Lee</b> <small>Deputy Director,  Hsun Nvaram  Center</small>

**--- Intergenerational Solidarity for a Sustainable Future ---**  
This workshop explores how social workers can strengthen bonds across generations—today and tomorrow—to build resilient communities. With a focus on the Asia Pacific Region, we will address key environmental issues such as climate change to ensure long-term ecological wellbeing.

**Date: Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Time: 1:00-5:00 pm** \* Reception starts at 12:30 pm  
**Venue: Taj Samudra Hotel** (same as APSWC venue)  
**Admission: Free of charge** (need to apply in advance)  
\* Successful applicants will be notified by October 15 (Wed)  
**To apply: Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.apswc2025.org>**  
**Deadline: Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Inquiries to:  
 **IFSW Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**  
[asia-pacific@ifsw.org](mailto:asia-pacific@ifsw.org)

# I am a social worker: How can I instil intergenerational solidarity?

Manohar Pawar, PhD  
Professor of Social Work, Director, Social Work and Social  
Development Research Alliance  
School of Social Work and Arts, Charles Sturt University  
Hon./Adj./Visiting Professor: The University of Edinburgh, Monash  
University, The Central University of Karnataka

## I am a social worker



## Social Workers



## Social Workers

Pioneers	Education	Achievement
Chandi Prasad Bhatt	Did not complete a formal degree	The <i>Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh</i> (DGSS), Chipko
Sunderlal Bahuguna	Master's degree in Political Science	Popularized the Chipko movement nationally and globally through a 5,000-km foot march across the Himalayas.
Gaura Devi	No formal education	Led the first all-women Chipko action in Reni village in 1974, confronting loggers directly and becoming a symbol of ecofeminism.

## Values

- ▶ Nonviolence
- ▶ Satyagraha (peaceful resistance)
- ▶ Protect forests
- ▶ Preserve ecological balance
- ▶ Empower local communities

## Examples in the Asia Pacific Region

Name/country	Education	Achievement
Abdon Nababan Indonesia	Bogor Agricultural Institute	Environmental and indigenous rights advocacy
Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Philippines	Trained as a nurse at the University of the Philippines Manila	indigenous rights and environmental policy
Junko Edahiro Japan	Master's Degree in Environmental Studies	environmental journalist, founder of Change Agent Inc., promoting sustainability and intergenerational dialogue.
Ma Jun China	a degree in Environmental Management.	Created China's first pollution database and lead citizen-driven environmental accountability
Jannie Lasimbang Malaysia	Anthropology and Sociology at a university in Malaysia	advocacy for indigenous rights, cultural preservation, and forest protection in Sabah

## Professional Social Workers

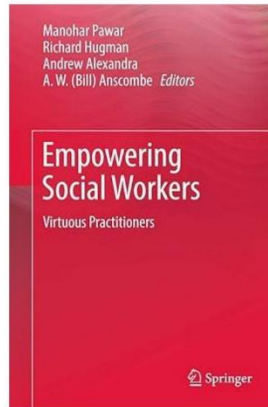


## Reflection

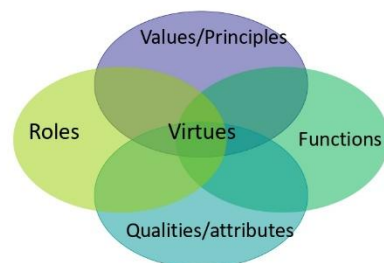
- ▶ Compare the work of General Social Workers and professional social workers.
- ▶ Why does professional social workers' work not compare with general social workers?
- ▶

## Focus on values and commitments Building qualities and virtues

Building  
qualities and  
virtues



## Concept of virtue Source:



Pawar et al (2017)

## Questions for discussion in small groups

- ▶ Discuss and write your understanding of intergenerational solidarity.
- ▶ By reflecting yourself as a social work practitioner discuss some of your strengths to instil intergenerational solidarity.
- ▶ Some social workers are of the view that they do not have any role in developing intergenerational solidarity. Why do some social workers think in that way? Discuss what action are you going to take to change such views.

## I am a social worker: How can I instil intergenerational solidarity?

Manohar Pawar, PhD

Professor of Social Work, Director, Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance

School of Social Work and Arts, Charles Sturt University

Hon./Adj./Visiting Professor: The University of Edinburgh, Monash University, The Central University of Karnataka

## 7. Questions for the groups to discuss

### Questions for the groups to discuss

#### GROUP WORK A

<b>Questions for</b>	<b>Questions by Mr. Amarawansa Ranaweera</b>	<b>Questions by Mr. Cheng-hsin Lee</b>
<b>Group 1</b>	What does intergenerational solidarity mean to you in the context of climate change in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?	In the face of climate change, are fishers (or famers) experiencing longer working hours and greater risks in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?
<b>Group 2</b>	How do you see the responsibilities of different generations in addressing climate issues in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?	Has climate change intensified instability in fishing (or farming), income fluctuations, and family pressures in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?
<b>Group 3</b>	How can we ensure the wisdom of elders, and the innovation of youth complement each other in climate action in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?	What forms of local wisdom and adaptive strategies do fishers (or farmers) in your country or in the Asia-Pacific employ to cope with climate-related disasters?
<b>Group 4</b>	Are current education and awareness programs in your country or in the Asia-Pacific doing enough to promote climate-consciousness across generations?	How are the occupational safety and health of fishers (or farmers) affected by extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall, and typhoons in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?
<b>Group 5</b>	What kind of policies could promote stronger intergenerational cooperation for environmental protection in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?	How can social workers serve as a bridge between fishers (or farmers) and policy-making processes in your country or in the Asia-Pacific?

## GROUP WORK B

Questions for	Questions by Ms. Sophanara Pen	Questions by Prof. Manohar Pawar
<b>Group 1</b>	Discuss feasible examples or strategies of community-led climate adaptation in your country or in the Asia-Pacific.	1) Discuss your understanding of intergenerational solidarity. 2) Some social workers are of the view that they do not have any role in developing intergenerational solidarity. Discuss what action you can take to change such views.
<b>Group 2</b>	What challenges do social workers face when addressing climate change in their communities in your country or in the Asia-Pacific, and how to address them?	1) Discuss your understanding of intergenerational solidarity. 2) Some social workers are of the view that they do not have any role in developing intergenerational solidarity. Why do some social workers think in that way?
<b>Group 3</b>	Discuss collaborative strategies in your country or in the Asia-Pacific between social workers and other sectors (health, education, environment) to enhance community resilience?	1) Discuss your understanding of intergenerational solidarity. 2) By reflecting yourself as a social work practitioner discuss some of your strengths to instill intergenerational solidarity.
<b>Group 4</b>	How can technology and social innovation be leveraged in your country or in the Asia-Pacific to empower communities facing climate risks?	1) Discuss your understanding of intergenerational solidarity. 2) By reflecting yourself as a social work practitioner discuss some additional strengths that you would like to acquire to instill intergenerational solidarity.
<b>Group 5</b>	How can communities in your country or in the Asia-Pacific maintain long-term resilience beyond immediate disaster response?	1) Discuss your understanding of intergenerational solidarity. 2) By reflecting yourself as a social work practitioner discuss how you can acquire additional strengths to instill intergenerational solidarity.

## 8. Summary of Group Discussions & Group Work Output

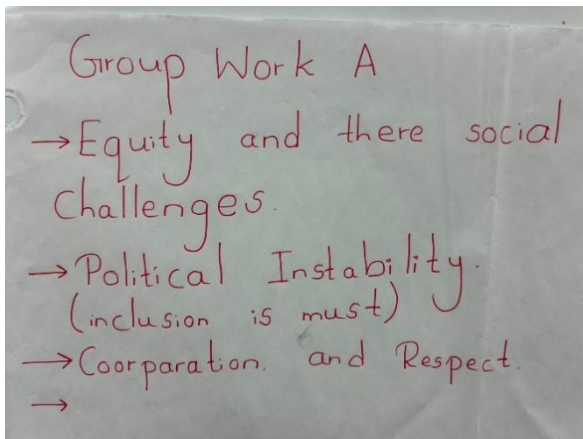
# Summary of Group Discussions & Group Work Output

### Group 1 – Group Presentation Summary

- **Intergenerational Solidarity**
  - Defined as different generations working together on climate action with equity, cooperation, respect, and community participation.
  - Emphasizes listening to all voices regardless of age and practicing solidarity, not just understanding it in theory.
  - Seen as essential for a fair and sustainable future in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Climate Change Impacts on Livelihoods**
  - Across Asia-Pacific, farmers and fishers face longer working hours, higher risks, and greater uncertainty.
  - Climate impacts include rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, droughts, floods, rough seas, stronger winds, and shifting fish populations.
  - These changes increase physical danger, economic instability, and stress for affected communities.
- **Community-Led Climate Education and Action**
  - Pacific-led advocacy (e.g. “1.5°C to Survive”) influenced the Paris Agreement, showing the power of regional and community solidarity.
  - Community education often brings elders and young people together, combining traditional knowledge with modern climate awareness.
  - Indigenous knowledge systems support environmentally friendly practices in agriculture, navigation, and environmental stewardship.
- **Role of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Leadership**
  - Indigenous and traditional environmental practices exist across Asia-Pacific (including Sri Lanka), but need stronger support and revival.
  - Community leaders, CBOs, schools, and disaster risk reduction initiatives are key platforms for environmental justice and climate education.
- **Role of Social Workers**
  - Social workers may not always be visible activists but play critical roles behind the scenes as facilitators, advocates, and policy brokers.

- Their work spans micro, macro, and policy levels, including legal advocacy (e.g. land rights cases).
- Group consensus: social workers must act more boldly, recognize their climate role, and engage courageously in intergenerational climate action.

### Group 1 – Group Work Output

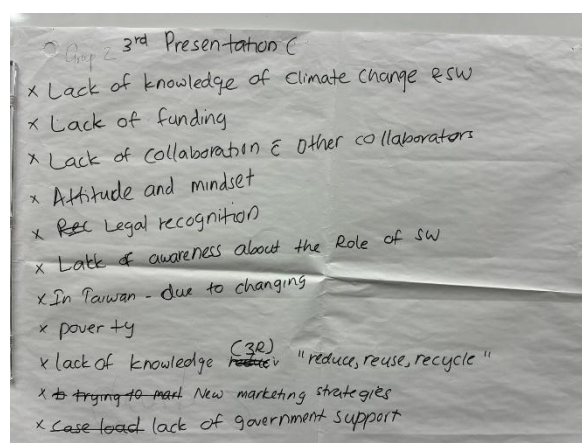
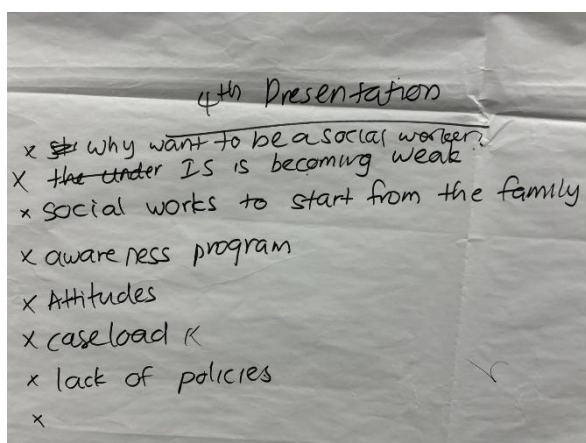


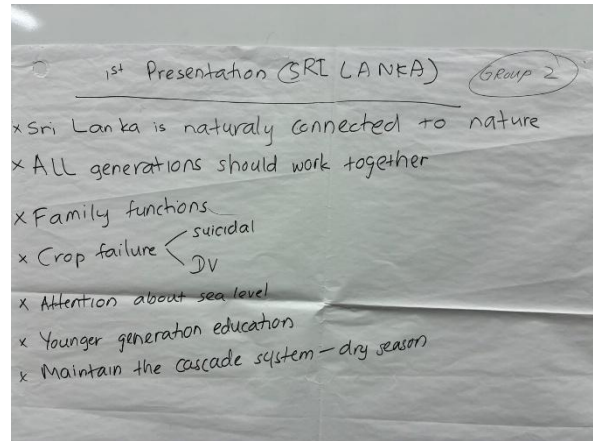
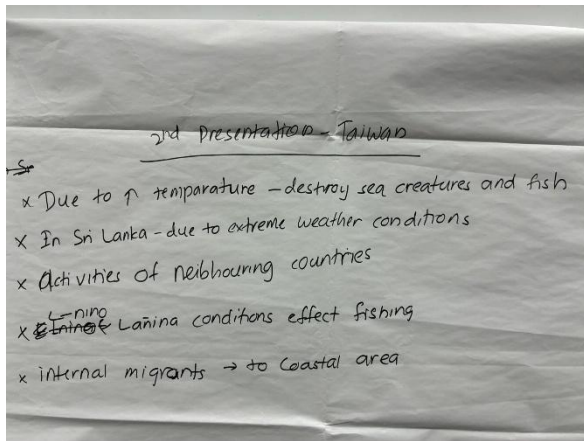
### Group 2 – Group Presentation Summary

- **Intergenerational Knowledge and Climate Awareness**
  - In Sri Lanka, strong intergenerational transfer of environmental and cultural knowledge existed historically, especially in agriculture and nature protection.
  - This knowledge (e.g. reading environmental signs, sea levels, fishing safety) is **not being effectively passed to younger generations**, weakening climate awareness and resilience.
  - Loss of traditional knowledge contributes to social stress, including mental health issues linked to crop failure, exams, and financial pressure.
- **Climate Change and Livelihood Instability**
  - In both **Sri Lanka and Taiwan**, climate change has intensified instability in fishing and coastal livelihoods.
  - Rising sea temperatures, extreme weather, and ecosystem damage reduce fishing opportunities, causing **income loss and family pressure**.

- Migration (internal and external) into coastal fishing areas has altered traditional fishing cultures and increased competition for resources.
- **Challenges Faced by Social Workers**
  - Key challenges include:
    - Limited climate change knowledge and awareness
    - Insufficient funding for social work, especially in Sri Lanka
    - Weak collaboration between sectors (disaster management, environment, education)
    - Lack of professional recognition and legal status of social workers
    - High caseloads, time constraints, and policy gaps
  - In Taiwan, medical social workers face challenges in communicating new health and climate-related risks to communities.
- **Environmental Education and Consumer Practices**
  - Low public awareness of **3R principles (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)**.
  - Poverty-driven consumer practices (e.g. sachet packaging) increase plastic waste.
  - Existing awareness programs exist but need strengthening, especially in schools and community education.
- **Intergenerational Solidarity and the Role of Social Workers**
  - Intergenerational solidarity is understood as supporting knowledge transfer and mutual responsibility across generations.
  - Technology and changing culture have widened generational gaps.
  - Some social workers feel disengaged due to workload, attitudes, lack of policy support, or viewing social work as “just a job.”
  - Group reflection emphasized the need for social workers to reconnect with professional values and recognize their role in climate and intergenerational action.

**Group 2 – Group Work Output**



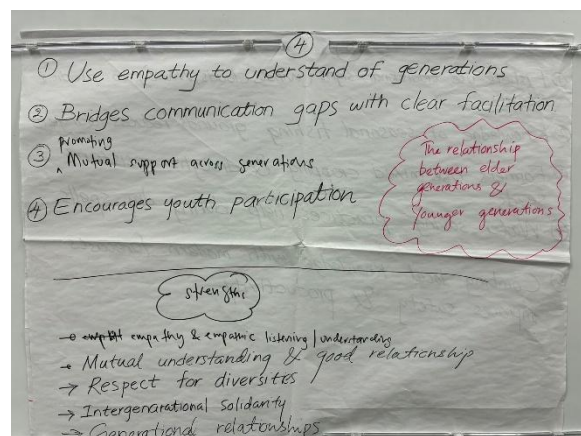
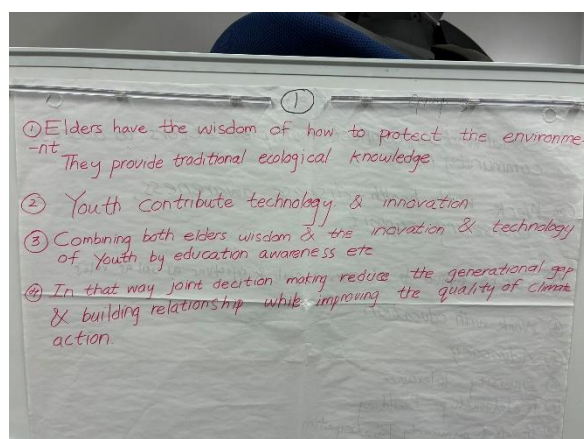
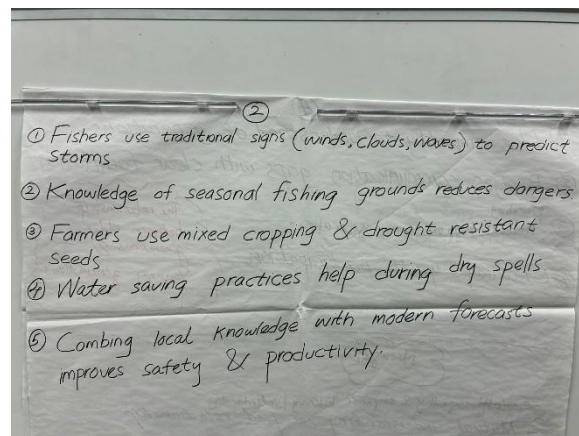
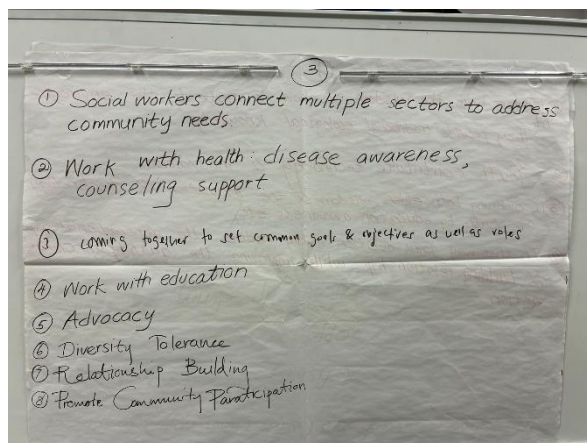


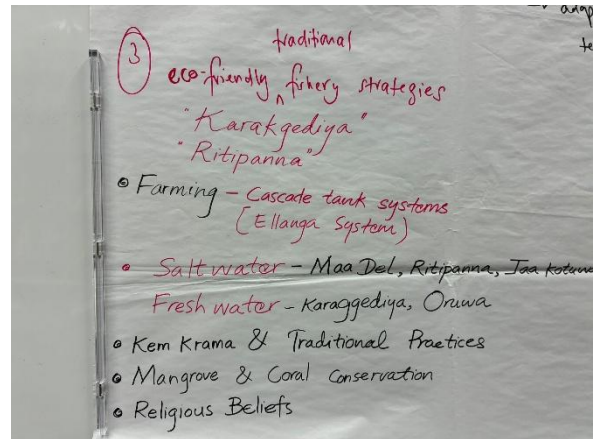
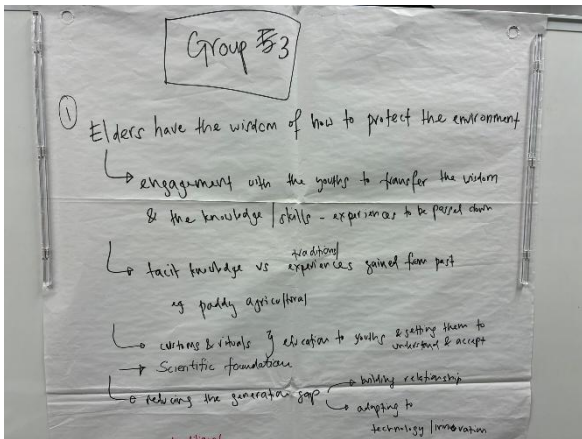
### Group 3 – Group Presentation Summary

- **Integrating Elders’ Wisdom and Youth Innovation**
  - Effective climate action requires combining **traditional ecological knowledge of elders with technology and innovation from youth.**
  - Elders contribute experience such as weather prediction, sustainable practices, rituals, and environmental protection beliefs.
  - Youth enhance these practices through modern technology, scientific methods, and renewable energy innovations.
  - Education, awareness, and collaborative programs help reduce generational gaps and strengthen joint decision-making.
- **Local Wisdom and Adaptive Strategies for Farmers and Fishers**
  - Fishers use traditional signs (clouds, waves, sky color, wind patterns) to predict weather and reduce risks.
  - Adaptive strategies include shifting fishing locations seasonally and avoiding high-risk conditions.
  - Farmers use mixed cropping, drought-resistant crops, water-saving practices, and indigenous seed preservation to ensure food security.
  - Combining local knowledge with modern forecasting improves safety, productivity, and resilience.
- **Collaborative Strategies Across Sectors**
  - Social workers collaborate with **health, education, and environmental sectors** to enhance community resilience.
  - Activities include awareness programs, counseling, disaster preparedness, research, and community participation.

- Collaboration occurs through both formal and informal mechanisms, often via community leaders.
- In Australia, regular inter-sectoral networking meetings and community events strengthen coordination, though climate-focused action remains limited.
- In Singapore, government-led collaboration promotes cross-sector cooperation to address community needs.
- **Intergenerational Solidarity and Social Work Practice**
  - Intergenerational solidarity is built through **empathy, active listening, respect, and mutual understanding** between generations.
  - Social workers play a key role in bridging communication gaps and encouraging youth participation.
  - Programs that bring elders and youth together strengthen relationships and improve community outcomes.
  - Social workers' people-centered skills position them well to promote intergenerational equity and solidarity in climate action

### Group 3 – Group Work Output





## Group 4 – Group Presentation Summary

### Context

Group 4 included delegates from Japan, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand (Aotearoa), discussing climate change through the lens of education, social work, occupational health and safety, technology, and intergenerational responsibility.

### 1. Education and Awareness on Climate Change

- Japan: Climate change is acknowledged, but education is narrow and limited by lack of expertise.
- Sri Lanka: People notice weather changes but lack understanding of broader climate impacts. Although *eco clubs* exist in every school, content is inconsistent nationwide and climate education is not formally embedded.
- New Zealand (Aotearoa): Indigenous Māori perspectives emphasize *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship), viewing land and sea as family. Climate awareness is linked to cultural values and collective responsibility.
- Policy Context: While climate-related institutions and legislation exist, action and implementation remain uneven. In New Zealand, *green social work* and climate action are integrated into social work education and professional policy.

### 2. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

- Japan: Aging fishers are transferring labor to younger generations. Climate-driven changes in fish species are causing economic instability and forcing changes in fishing practices.
- Sri Lanka: Coastal erosion, flooding, post-COVID impacts, and economic crisis have increased vulnerability. Many small-scale fishers face higher injury risks, with limited documentation.

- Response: Rising fishing injuries led governments (e.g., New Zealand) to strengthen health, safety, and fatigue management legislation in fisheries.

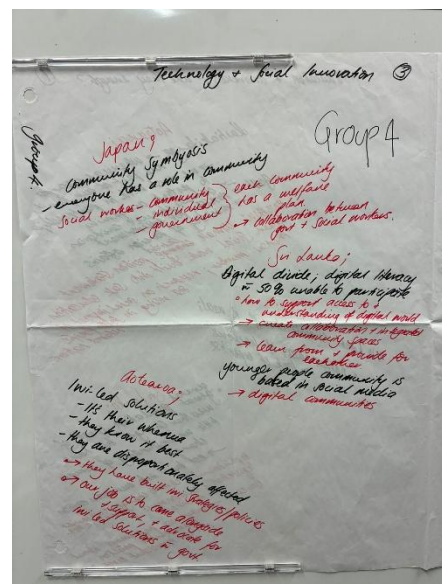
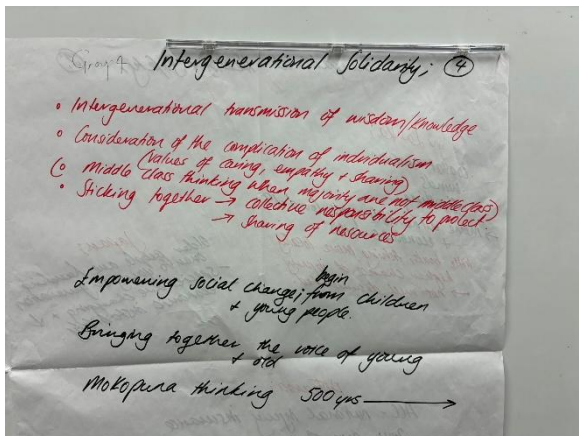
### 3. Technology and Social Innovation

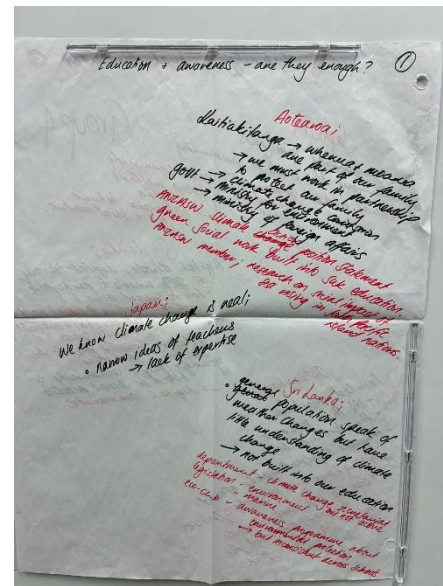
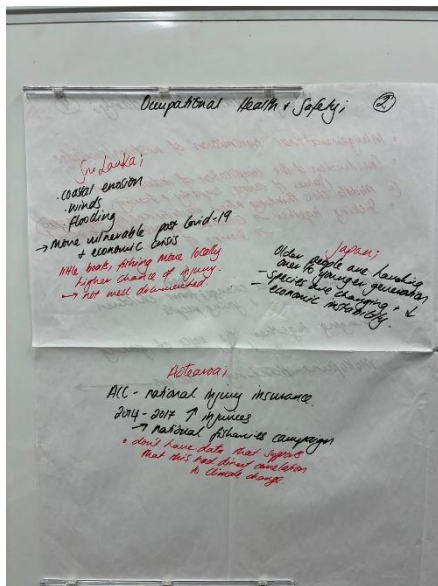
- Japan: Shift from hierarchical systems to *community symbiosis*, encouraging collaboration between communities, government, and social workers in planning and resilience-building.
- Sri Lanka: Significant digital divide—around 50% lack digital access or literacy. Emphasis on creating shared community spaces and improving intergenerational digital inclusion.
- Māori Communities: Climate strategies are grounded in local and ancestral knowledge. Social workers' role is to support and advocate alongside communities, not impose external solutions.

### 4. Intergenerational Solidarity

- Focus on the transmission of wisdom and knowledge across generations.
- Recognition of the risks of excessive individualism and the need for collective responsibility.
- Emphasis on empowering children and youth.
- Introduction of “Mokopuna thinking”—decision-making that considers impacts hundreds of years into the future, not just the next generation

### Group 4 – Group Work Output





**Group 5 – Group Presentation Summary**

- **Policies to Promote Intergenerational Cooperation for Environmental Protection**
  - Development of **green public spaces** to reduce energy use and encourage family and community interaction across generations.
  - **Education and curriculum reforms**, including school green gardens and early environmental responsibility education from preschool through workplaces.
  - Establishment of **village-level environmental councils** to support local participation.
  - Financial incentives such as **grants for organic and sustainable food production**.
  - **Legal reforms** to update outdated environmental and food-related laws.
  - **Cultural behavior change policies** (e.g. tree-planting initiatives) introduced from childhood to shape long-term environmental values.
- **Role of Social Workers as a Bridge Between Communities and Policymakers**
  - Represent community voices (e.g. fishers) in policy forums and NGO platforms.

- Conduct **capacity-building and rights-based education** on laws and policies.
- Mobilize communities and unify collective voices.
- Undertake **research and data collection** to inform evidence-based policy recommendations.
- Facilitate collaboration between communities, scientists, and environmental organizations.
- Support **conflict resolution** among fishers, environmental groups, and commercial fishing companies.
- Promote **women's empowerment** in fishing and coastal communities.
- Monitor programs and provide continuous feedback.
- **Building Long-Term Community Resilience Beyond Disaster Response**
  - Shift focus from short-term response to **preparedness and mitigation**.
  - Empower communities with knowledge and local resources.
  - Maintain momentum between disasters through continuous engagement.
  - Use technology to strengthen intergenerational communication and preparedness.
  - Promote **lifelong learning and skills training** (e.g. first aid, firefighting).
  - Invest in long-term health and mental health programs.
  - Strengthen local economies, small businesses, and insurance systems.
  - Invest in **climate-resilient infrastructure** (e.g. green roofs, fire-resistant buildings).
- **Understanding of Intergenerational Solidarity**
  - Seen as an **ethical commitment across generations**, ensuring protection of future rights.
  - Focuses on sustainable resource use, knowledge and cultural transfer, and accountability beyond the present.
  - Requires learning from history, building genuine relationships across age groups, facilitation, conflict management, and practicing mutual respect

## Group 5 – Group Work Output

③ long term Resilience

```

    graph TD
      Disaster --> Mitigation
      Disaster --> Preparedness
      Mitigation --> Resilience
      Preparedness --> Resilience
      Recovery --> Resilience
  
```

- Empower the local community with knowledge  
+ Establish a scientific logical mechanism to transfer knowledge
- Maintain Momentum between disasters
- Use technology  
Early warning system Eg: Flood sensor, heat alert
- Develop lifelong learning  
skill building such as First aid / Fire fighting
- Invest in long term Health programme  
Mental health support
- Strengthen local Economies  
+ support small business / Income
- Invest in Resilient Infrastructure  
Climate adaptive infrastructure Green roofs  
Fire resistant building  
Community own solar system

② Bridge

```

    graph LR
      SW[Social Worker] --- Bridge[② Bridge] --- F[Fishermen]
  
```

- Advocacy and representation  
(Represent the fishermen in policies)
- Capacity building and Education programme  
Eg: Educate laws on Policies / Rights and Subsidies
- Community mobilization: Unified voice  
Eg: Fish unions, Climate society
- Research and data collection  
(Findings to present for policy makers)
- Build Partnership  
connect fishermen with marine scientists, Environmental organizations
- Conflict Resolution  
Eg: with Environmental organizations / Commercial fishing company
- Ensure Social welfare concern reaches to fishermen  
+ Having rights in coastal fisheries
- Empowering women in fishing Communities
- Mentoring and Feedback

Policies for Intergenerational Cooperation

- Implement green public space in society Eg: Liv park
- Educational programmes / Curriculum reforms  
Eg: Establish Green garden concept
- Introduce village level environmental council
- Introduce Responsibility sharing Mechanism  
Eg: pre-school level
- Grants for Eco tourism / Organic food / Solar installation
- Reform the legal framework for modern society
- Introduce cultural behavior change Policies  
Eg: Tree planting competition

Intergenerational Solidarity

Ethical commitment towards society betterment

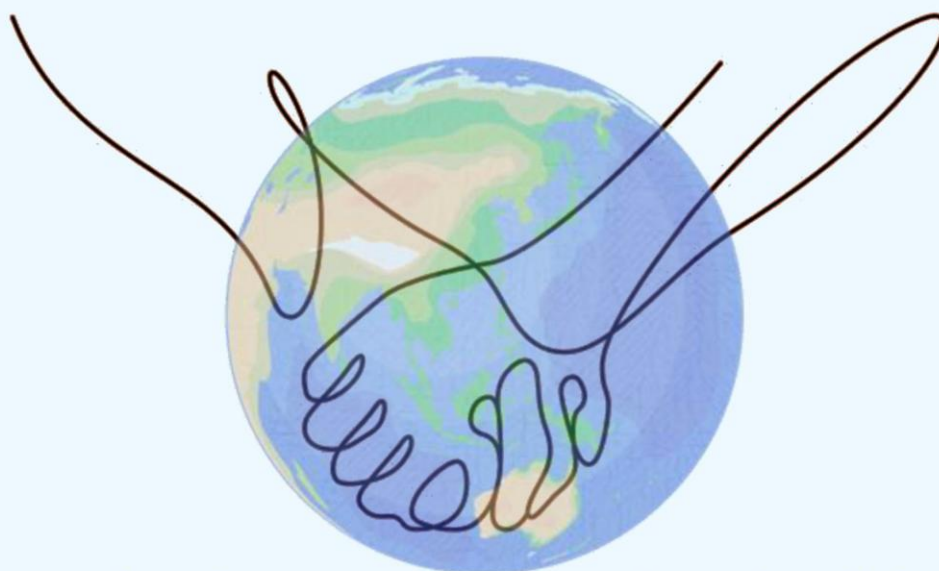
- Involve the Ethical context across generations
- Protection of future rights  
environmental health, social system
- Sustainable use of Resources
- Tx of knowledge and Culture
- Accountability beyond the present not be responsible for future

How to Acquire Additional Strengths

- Learn history and realities of each generations
- Build genuine intergenerational Relationship
- Facilitation and conflict solving
- Practice humility and mutual learnings.

# APSWC 2025 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

\* Please do not forget to register for the APSWC2025 conference itself separately.



## Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for the Future in the Asia Pacific Region

*Focusing on Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues*

# 17/Nov 2025

**Time: 1:00-5:00 pm** (Reception starts at 12:30 pm)

**Venue: Taj Samudra Hotel** (same as APSWC venue)

**Capacity: 40 participants** (need to apply in advance)

\* Application results will be announced after the deadline.

**Free of  
Charge**



Hosted by  
**International Federation of Social Workers  
Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**

# APSWC 2025

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

\* Please do not forget to register for the APSWC2025 conference itself separately.

### Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for the Future in the Asia Pacific Region

#### SPEAKERS



AUSTRALIA

**Manohar  
Pawar**

Professor,  
Charles Sturt University  
Former President,  
International Consortium  
for Social Development



CAMBODIA

**Pen  
Sophanara**

President,  
Association of  
Professional Social  
Workers of Cambodia



SRI LANKA

**Amarawansa  
Ranaweera**

Former President,  
Sri Lanka Association  
of Professional  
Social Workers



TAIWAN

**Cheng-Hsin  
Lee**

Deputy Director,  
Rerum Novarum  
Center

#### --- Intergenerational Solidarity for a Sustainable Future ---

This workshop explores how social workers can strengthen bonds across generations—today and tomorrow—to build resilient communities. With a focus on the Asia Pacific Region, we will address key environmental issues such as climate change to ensure long-term ecological wellbeing.

- Date:** Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
**Time:** 1:00–5:00 pm \* Reception starts at 12:30 pm  
**Venue:** Taj Samudra Hotel (same as APSWC venue)  
**Admission:** Free of charge (need to apply in advance)  
\* Successful applicants will be notified by *October 15 (Wed)*
- To apply:** Scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/r9CsyP4JUomiVzKR8>  
**Deadline:** Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Inquiries to:  
**IFSW Asia-Pacific (IFSW-AP)**  
[asia-pacific@ifsw.org](mailto:asia-pacific@ifsw.org)

## 10. Afterword

**Teoh Ai Hua**

Vice President, International Federation of Social Workers Asia Pacific

It is a pleasure to reflect on the activities presented in this report, supported through the IFSW Regional Development Fund (RDF) 2025.

In 2025, IFSW Asia Pacific convened an online webinar in September and an in-person pre-conference workshop in Sri Lanka in November, bringing together practitioners, researchers, community leaders, and young people under the theme *Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-Being*. The webinar examined caregiving across the life course and the impact of digital transformation, while the workshop translated these discussions into community-led strategies for climate resilience and local livelihoods.

Three key insights emerged. Family and community care remain central across the region, with examples drawn from various countries in the Asia Pacific. Policy and workplace gaps persist, particularly around carer support, leave uptake, elder abuse, and carer stress. Intergenerational exchange also proved to be a practical asset, with elders' knowledge and youth innovation generating promising pilot ideas during both the Sri Lanka workshop and the webinar case studies.

We thank all speakers, facilitators, host organisations, and participants for their contributions. The report will be presented at SWSD 2026 in Nairobi. Members are invited to apply the recommendations in their contexts, submit follow-up case studies, and join regional efforts to translate these ideas into practice.

The IFSW Regional Development Fund continues to play a vital role in enabling such initiatives and supporting regions to turn global commitments into meaningful local action. I hope the insights in this report will inspire continued collaboration across the region and beyond.

Thank you.