



# IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

Issue 1, June 2013

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## *Editorial*

June 2013 is just round the bend and I'm racing to write this editorial and rush off the June issue to members! Wither thee, time?

It's amazing how much can happen in the blink of an eye yet leave one wondering what to say. Let me start by quoting this line from a propaganda poster used by the British Government in 1939 to raise the morale of the people at the beginning of World War II and in the aftermath of bombings on cities:



*(Scan of an original poster of the Ministry of Information, UK)*

I think that aptly describes the way social workers practise in the midst of escalating number of cases, problematic situations, challenging personalities,

reams of reports, competency requirements, organisational demands and scarcity of funding and resources. Personally, I need to keep that reminder in front of me all the time!

The Executive Committee has been busy preparing for coming meetings to be held during the week of the 22nd Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference to be held in Manila from 4-6 June 2013. The Executive Committee meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June while the AP Regional General Meeting and the IFAP Disaster Workshop will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. From all the emails criss-crossing the region before this, it is expected that the meetings will be generating some interesting discussions and outcomes.

The President is especially geared up to raise several issues at these meetings amongst which is the future directions of the Regional Office. Kudos to John Ang for his tireless e-mails and reminders to members in his visionary efforts to sustain the Office as an effective, efficient and current regional network for social work discourse, development and collaboration!

A positive development in membership is the inclusion of the Tajikistan Association of Social Workers into the IFSW membership. Our congratulations go to the President, Khuvaydo Shoinbekov and his members for their efforts in gathering their social workers into a professional association. Congratulations also to the Palestinian Union of Social Workers which was recently admitted while social workers in Nepal are working towards forming their association. We hope to have them join us in the near future.

In this issue, we have snippets of news and pics about observing World Social Work Day 2013 from Yemen, Hong Kong, Nepal and Iran, and reports on recent professional events from Morocco, Malaysia, and Hong Kong while Cambodia is given space to inform us of its International Social Work Conference on Children and Youth to be held in June 2013.

Till the next issue, happy meeting and conferencing in Manila and everywhere else social workers are gathering and sharing!

## *Reports on Observance of World Social Work Day 2013*

### ***Speech by John Ang, President of IFSW-AP to the Yemeni General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists on the observance of World Social Work Day 2013***

Mr. Refat Hassan, President of the General Union for Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists, Executive Committee Members and Members of the Union, Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Yemen, Representatives of International and Non-Government Organisations, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Federation of Social Workers and in particular, the Asia Pacific Region of the Federation, it is my great pleasure to greet you on this auspicious day in observing World Social Work Day which we will also observe at the United Nations General Assembly Headquarters in New York.

We observe this day with more than 750,000 social workers across 90 countries to underline the importance of social work in addressing the issues of economic and social injustice, poverty, hunger, ill health, illiteracy, unemployment, homelessness, crime, violence, the destruction of habitats and the environment as well as the protection of women and girls and children and young persons. In each of these fields, somewhere in this world, there are social workers who are working tirelessly and often at the cost of their own well-being, to make things better. I want to tell the members of this Union that by your membership of this vigorous and giving profession, you are in the company of some of the finest men and women of this world who know how to love and to care.

Although you are a young organisation, you have expressed the same concerns in your own society. You have recognised that children need to be nurtured at home, educated in school and protected in the community but poverty and ignorance have robbed them of a chance to grow up strong, healthy and literate. You have recognised that the position of women in your community has to be lifted up so that they are able to live more fulfilled lives to better contribute to the community and the society at large. There are refugees, war victims, people with disabilities and people who live desperate lives that you want to help but you lack resources and there is insufficient recognition of the mission, calling and capability of social work here in Yemeni society.

I call on the Government, the business community, our friends from International organisations, the

representative bodies of the United Nations and other non-Government organisations to make your best investment in promoting and supporting social work and social work education. In practical ways, you can provide scholarships, training grants, fund social work community development projects, and support the activities of the General Union. There are indeed such supporters among you.

In this connection, I take great pleasure in congratulating the recipients of the Certificate of Appreciation awarded by the Yemeni General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists to three very worthy candidates. These recipients are an inspiration to you for their work in promoting social development in your community. If you do not already know who they are, I would like to keep you in suspense for a little while longer till the actual award.

On behalf of the IFSW, I would also like to thank them for their support of social work through the General Union which represents them and wish all of you a very Happy World Social Work Day 2013.

*John Ang*  
*President, IFSW (Asia Pacific)*  
*18 March 2013*

### ***Extract from Report of the Republic of Yemen Yemeni General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists (YGUSSWP) First Celebration of WSWD 2013***



The YGUSSWP with more than 500 Yemeni social workers and Organizations celebrated the WSWD for the first time in Yemen. It was organized with the Department of Social Work, Sana'a University with



the theme "Promoting Social and Economic Equalities" which "is of fundamental importance to us all, as we know that unequal and unjust societies, where people cannot have influence their own lives, suffer significant social and health problems, and in many instances are forced to live in poverty and violence. This year's theme will assist each social work organization to develop their plans that enable the voice of ordinary people to be heard so that others will listen and engage", as Dr Rory Truell, Secretary-General of the IFSW wrote in his speech to the YGUSSWP members and social workers. This was one day after the Yemeni National Dialog Conference on 18 March 2013, so the YGUSSWP sent a message to all participants in the Yemeni National Conference that they must recognize "the importance of social work in addressing the issues of economic and social injustice, poverty, hunger, ill health, illiteracy, unemployment, homelessness, crime, violence, the destruction of habitats and the environment as well as the protection of women and girls and children and young persons", as stated by Mr. John Ang, President of the IFSW (Asia Pacific) in his video message of 18 March 2013.



The President of YGUSSWP, Mr. Refat Hassan congratulated all YGUSSWP members and Yemeni social workers, stating that "the time has come for all Yemeni social workers to prove that their role in the society is very important and that they will be important playes in building a new world for Yemeni people".

YGUSSWP awarded three appreciation certificates, one to an individual and two to organisations for contributions to the improvement and support of social work in Yemen in 2012. The three outstanding recipients were:

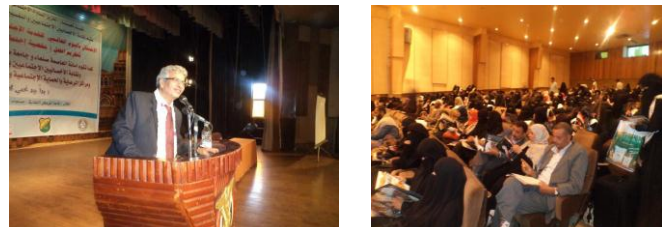
1. Mr. Abdalkadar Halal, Mayor of the Capital City of Yemen, most prominent governor and social figure for his contribution to social work, social development and peace in Yemen;
2. UNICEF Office of Yemen for their support in the establishment of social work education;
3. Al Hubaishi Import and Foods Marketing for providing financial support for social work activities.



YGUSSWP also gave recognition awards to 50 social work organisations and NGOs, and 100 social workers in Yemen for contributions to social work education, the profession and the people.



Special guest, Professor Abdarwaf Althaba, the International Relations Officer of the Egyptian Social Professions Union, said he was very happy to share the celebration of WSWD with Yemeni social workers and stated that "our Arab societies need good and active social workers and that is what our social work union plan to achieve, throughout this strong relation between the Egyptian Social Professions Union and the YGUSSWP. And we would like to thank the YGUSSWP for their great role in building good relations with and between Arab Social Work Unions to establish an Arabic Social Work Federation for all Arabic social workers".



The YGUSSWP will work very hard to make the World Social Work Day as a national day in Yemen.

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***From Hong Kong Social Workers Association...***

## **Social Work Day 2013**

It is the sixth year that the social welfare sector of Hong Kong organized a series of activities to celebrate World Social Work Day. Altogether there were 16 social work organizations forming the Organizing Committee of the Social Work Day (Hong Kong) 2013, of which the chairman elected is the representative of Hong Kong Social Workers Association. The theme this year was "Development and Way Forward".

Following the tremendous changes in Hong Kong in different aspects including the election of the Chief Executive last year, social workers have to think about the direction of society's development. The theme coincides with the theme of the World Social Work Day 2013 – Promoting Social and Economic Equalities. Definitely it is the mission of social workers to strive for social and economic equalities in the process of social development.

Three events were held for Social Work Day (Hong Kong) 2013 namely, the annual marathon held on 6 January 2013 with social workers partnering their clients to run; a survey on social workers' job satisfaction, future development and professional identification; and a forum on "Social Work and Social Movement" held on World Social Work Day of 19 March 2013. All the three events received encouraging feedback. While a record high of 388 participants entered the marathon on a sunny morning enjoying the beautiful seaside scenery, almost 600 social workers returned the questionnaires in response to the survey. The seminar also attracted around 300 social workers and social work students.

On social workers' job satisfaction, future development and professional identification, the survey showed that social workers think there are areas for improvement in the field including the high turnover rate of social workers, few promotion opportunities and intensity of professional supervision. Nevertheless, the survey has also showed that amid all the challenges, social workers have a high commitment to their profession and feel they can uphold the social work values in practice. A press conference was held to announce the survey result to the public.

The Forum on Social Work and Social Movement was a roundtable discussion and four concurrent panel discussions. Legislative Council Members, experts, social movement practitioners and scholars were invited as speakers. The four panel discussions were on Land and Environmental Protection, Labour, Livelihoods and Life Security and Deprived Groups. It was a good opportunity for social workers to reflect on their roles in the social movements which promote social and economic equalities.

The Social Work Day (Hong Kong) 2013 was a success, not only it helped social workers to come together to exchange their views on common concerns and the issues in the society, but also it was a good opportunity for the entire social work sector to join hands to work for the solidarity of the profession.

More information on the Social Work Day can be found on the website [www.socialworkday.org.hk](http://www.socialworkday.org.hk)

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## ***Nepal School of Social Work Celebrates World Social Work Day 2013***

Nepal School of Social Work celebrated World Social Work day on 19th March 2013 with the global theme of "**Promoting Social and Economic Equalities**" in the college premises. The inauguration program began with lighting of lamp jointly by Chief Guest Prof. Keshav Kumar Shrestha and Pradipta Kadambari, Board Chair person of NSSW.



The program began with the drama named **Bachieki Cheli (Trafficked Girl)** performed by Nepal College of Development Studies Year II (new) students. The main objective of the play was to highlight the emerging social problem of women trafficking and HIV/AIDS. The play focused on the role of social worker as a unified entity to sensitize the society. The Sangharsa project video clips were presented by Kavin Tse, an AYAD and representative of National Micro-Entrepreneur Federation Nepal focusing on pertinent issues of rural life of Nepalese women. The video clips highlighted the success stories of women entrepreneurs of marginalized women of different communities of western region of Nepal.



Next the Kadambari Memorial College 1st Semester students placed in Dhigragivi Voluntary Group (NGO) presented the field work activities done by the students during their field work practicum followed by an inspirational song with the social message to help differently able children and children suffering from cancer. The student of Kadambari Memorial College 3rd Semester students sang a song with the



theme of peace and love HEALS THE WORLD. The students of Kadambari Memorial College V Semester presented their library project activities implemented Dhading district. The students shared their mutual efforts for book collection, fundraising and challenges to establish library for rural children.

The Chief Guest of the day long program, Prof. Dr. Keshav Kumar Shrestha, Director of Curriculum Development Centre, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur addressed the function and urged the students to work to realize the theme of the day and its importance in their actions as well. Prof. Shrestha at that time shared the good news that Tribhuvan University is launching the MSW programme from this academic year. He also requested the BSW students of NSSW to explore other hidden serious social issues bring them into the limelight and advocate in the same way as they had presented in the drama.



The Chair of the executive board of Nepal School of Social Work, Mrs. Pradipta Kadambari expressed her best wishes on the occasion of World Social Work Day. She shared that students field work activities, play, and library project were really appreciative and she felt proud of it. She recalled the vision of the funding Director of Nepal School of social work, Dr. Bala Raju Nikku "Nurturing Young Social Workers to Create a Just Society". Her inspiring speech concluded with the need for commitment, honesty and professional social workers in Nepalese society which is transforming at this point of history. She also thanked all the committed faculty members and students who made NSSW a place of great learning and an institution of national prominence.

The guest of honour representing Peace for Nepal, Dr. Sushil Koirala expressed his best wishes on celebrating World Social Work Day.

The Chairperson of this program, Dr. Dilli Ram Adhikari, Principal of NSSW thanked the guests, students and faculty members for their active participation for making the program a meaningful and successful. He also called on social workers to focus on psychological, physical and mental aspects of promoting socio-economic equality. He thanked Dr. Bala Raju Nikku for promoting social work practice in Nepal by creating network and linkages in national and international arenas. The Chairman also mentioned activities of NSSW and the upcoming international conference on Child Friendly Cities to be held on June 27-29 in Kathmandu under the aegis of

Asia Pacific Child Friendly Cities Network. Dr. Adhikari congratulated TU second year students on achieving 100% results in annual examination and officially closed the program.

It was meaningful day for everyone to reflect on the social work profession and crucial role of social workers in post conflict countries like Nepal. Celebrating World Social Work Day since 2007 by NSSW is a unique event through which it aims to reach Nepalese society and seek wider recognition for social work as a profession. The programme was coordinated by Ms Samjhana Bhetwal and conducted by Mr. Keshav Nepal.



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### ***Iran Association of Social Workers celebrates WSWD 2013 with a poem...***

*Human beings are members of a whole,  
In creation of one essence and soul.  
If one member is afflicted with pain,  
Other members uneasy will remain.  
If you've no sympathy for human pain,  
The name of human you cannot retain!<sup>1</sup>  
(Saadi Shirazi<sup>2</sup>)*

Naming days or weeks in national or international levels in special occasions including professions is a convenient opportunity to appreciate that profession's activists and also present some information about that profession and express their ideas and expectations. One of these days is "international social work day" which is on 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. One of the traits of today's community is breadth and complexity of social issues and needs. In this situation, attention to enhancement of quality of life and developing indicators of social health is even more necessary. The practical realization of these needs to focus on social foresight and continuous assessment by taking advantage of global up to date knowledge and logical engagement in related areas of

<sup>1</sup> This poem is Inscribed On United Nations Building Entrance

<sup>2</sup> Persian poet of the medieval period

academic and administrative fields. In this regard, social work, because of taking advantage from different sciences and having diversified, real, expended and updated information, has a special place between different sciences in social and supportive sphere. To enhance this position it seems necessary to note the following points:

- Social work community to take advantage of global knowledge and experience;
- Presence of social workers in social policy at the national and international levels;
- Continuous production of knowledge in the field of social work;
- Notice to foresight and future research in the social sphere;
- Facilitate access of people to professional social work services;
- Community-based and community-oriented approach;
- Regard to the different levels of prevention;
- Continuous assessment of community health indicators;
- Avoid political bias (politicization) in areas related to social work;
- Questioning and accountability in the public domain;
- Social responsibility of organizations toward the society;
- Proper utilization of virtual capacity;
- The humanities and social ethics;
- Providing basis to enhance social vitality and social capital in the community;
- Providing basis to NGOs and people's participation in society;
- Using community cultural capacity.

Iran Association of Social Workers as a member of IFSW congratulates the global community of social workers and pays tribute to every single of them and all the others whose concern is caring for humanity, altruism and development of social health indicators.

*Seyed Hasan Mousavi Chalak*  
*President of Iran Association of Social Workers*

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### ***From the Moroccan Association of Social Workers...***

***Report on the 1st International Scientific Symposium: Social Work is our Motto***  
***ALHORIA Complex, Fes, Morocco***  
***Saturday 27 April 2013***

The Symposium saw a participation of 400 social workers from various fields of practice and research expertise from within Morocco and other countries. It was also widely covered by local and regional radio and television media. Its objective was to promote the importance of and necessity for developing the professional practice of Moroccan social workers.



In his opening speech, the President of the Association, Mr. Mohamed Elardi talked about the importance of organizing such symposiums to promote the profession and highlight the pertinent role of social workers in various areas of social services like working with individuals in schools and health centers as well as working with society in solving social problems which hinder the desired development of the country. In addition, Mr. Elardi pointed out the essential need for development of social and national policies for ensuring social justice and human rights and dignity.

Mr. Ahmed Dokkar, Professor of social work in the Faculty of Letter and Human Science Sais-Fes, emphasized on the essential need for social workers in schools to deal with problems impacting on the development of the education system in our country. Mr. Mohamed Ikij, Professor of the Higher Judicial Institute in Rabat discussed the crucial role of social workers in repairing justice system in Morocco. He shed light on the work of social workers in courts such as solving social issues of women in situations of violence, reconciliation between couples facing divorce and monitoring couples who wish to sponsor children to prevent abuse. Professor Ikij stressed on the necessity for reforming the legislation system to protect the rights of social workers in courts to carry out their roles and tasks, i.e. accompanying clients, listening to female victims of violence and working with the Justice of the Peace to resolve conflict for divorcing couples.

Mr. Mohamed Abaymi, Professor of social work in the Faculty of Amsterdam, Holland enriched the Symposium with his views on the state of the profession in many countries. He asserted the necessity for creating a professional concept of social workers in Morocco based on their practice and adherence to human rights, human dignity and social justice. Having said that he cautioned that social

workers need to also respect the privacy of Moroccan culture in relation to the global profession of social work.

The fourth paper was on ethical approach in social work by the Professor of Philosophy and social worker, Mr. Ahmed Farhane. He spoke about the moral duty that social workers have to adapt and put in his/her mind whenever he/she is treating any problem and discussing any issue without making distinctions between man and woman, black and white, Muslim and Christian or Jesus as well as rich and poor, etc.

The international contribution was by Madame Patricia Pellit who described the French experience in the composition and qualification framework for basic social assistance: working with singles, working with groups and the way society is organized, and the importance of a balance between the theoretical and practical training for social work careers.



Following that Professor Said Benkirane, Specialist in psychiatric treatment in Fes, dealt with real cases in her professional experience and the importance of psychotherapy for treating the problems of people and how social workers benefited by this concept in their career.



After the presentations, the President thanked all who contributed to the success of the Symposium and opened the floor for discussions. Participants agreed on the following recommendations:

- The State should give great importance to the profession of social work;
- Benefit from international experiences in the field of social work in level of training and legislation;
- Provision of social worker workforce in various fields: school, courts, local groups, local communities, prisons;
- Work on a unified perception of the profession of social work;
- The need to educate judicial officials, administrators and lawyers on the essential tasks of social workers in Moroccan courts;
- Improve and develop the teaching of social work in Moroccan university;
- Creating partnerships with different national institutions, Arab and international so as to develop the profession of social workers in Morocco.



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### ***Malaysian Association of Social Workers...***

***40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:  
1<sup>st</sup> National Convention of Social Workers  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013***

MASW celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by organising its 1<sup>st</sup> National Convention of Social Workers to promote the World Social Work Day theme of 2013 – *Promoting Social and Economic Equalities*.

The Convention was held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 followed by a buffet lunch and the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at Armada Hotel, Petaling Jaya. A total of 86 members and guests came for the Convention, officially opened by Dato' Norani binti Haji Mohd Hashim, Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare, and a Life Member of MASW herself.





Mr. Teoh Ai Hua as President of MASW wished members a Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and acknowledged in his Welcome Address the *40 Years of Passion* and commitment of past and present Executive Committees as well as the members and supporters of MASW who continue to drive the Association forward. While MASW has achieved significant milestones in the past 40 years, he reminded everyone that their continuing support and efforts are needed to prepare for the imminent regulation of practice, amongst a long list of short term and long term future plans.

Dato' Norani touched on her Department's on-going efforts to enhance the quality of social welfare services through administrative re-structuring, reviewing of policies, formulation of legislation, adoption of new approaches and new programmes and developing human resource to provide competent practice. She linked current efforts to establish National Competency Standards and the enactment of a Social Workers Bill to regulate practice as a strategy to promote social and economic equalities for target groups.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Christopher Hodshire from the University of Michigan, USA and currently a Visiting Lecturer at Science University of Malaysia in Penang. He provided an international perspective on the theme while four local speakers presented papers on Promoting Social and Economic Equalities in four specific areas of social work practice.



Dr. Hodshire shared his views on how social justice promotes human growth physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, etc., and how participative and distributive justice contributes to economic harmony. An inspiring and captivating example of social justice was the first free high school programme offered in 1858 by the Kalamazoo Public School in Michigan which went on to offer college/university scholarships to all its graduates, and in a rippling effect, impacted affirmatively on literacy rates, employment, housing, businesses and welfare of the people. He also presented some alarming global facts and figures of world poverty, child mortality and illiteracy, and how the wealth of the seven richest people in the world could free 41 countries from poverty!

Associate Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman from Science University of Malaysia then chaired the panel presentations of four invited speakers.



Ms Maya Fachrani Faisal, Social Policy Specialist from UNICEF Malaysia highlighted some statistical data on social issues in Malaysia linking to child protection concerns. She also presented indicators for child well-being where social workers could further promote social and economic equalities for children in Malaysia.

Dr. Farah Nini binti Dusuki, a law lecturer from the University of Malaya expounded on the need for the local juvenile justice system to move towards a more protective and reformatory approach to uphold children's rights as ratified under the United Nations' Convention on Rights of the Child. She emphasised that punishment is not the statutory purpose of a social worker's role, and advocated that the utility of the law must be based on the best interests of the child.

Associate Professor Siti Hawa binti Ali, Senior Social Work Lecturer at the School of Health Sciences, Science University of Malaysia, Kelantan Campus delivered a strong message on how inequalities and inequities still exist in accessibility to and delivery of quality health and medical care in Malaysia. She was especially concerned about the capacity and capability of medical social workers in public and teaching hospitals to deliver competency based services. She stressed on the need for medical social workers to be more visible and audible in advocating for patients' rights to affordable, accessible, effective and efficient medical treatment and health care.

Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow from the Institute of Ethnic Studies, National University of Malaysia provided case studies of communities or villages which are being marginalised or disadvantaged due to factors such as economics, politics, social class and geographical access. Such situations open up opportunities for social workers to play pivotal roles in advocating for social and economic equalities through the development of social policies, local governance, integration of services, and promotion of civil and political rights. However social workers in Malaysia lack adequate training and confidence in this arena of practice which is an issue for the profession and the Association to address.



The Convention was closed following constructive and positive comments from the participants who requested for more of such events.



Pioneer social workers, past presidents and current members of the Executive Committee posing for a commemorative photograph



Cutting of MASW's 40th Anniversary cake

Four pioneer social workers, two of them past presidents of MASW and members were invited to cut the anniversary cake and proceeded to enjoy a buffet lunch.

Members returned to the meeting table after lunch for the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM during which a new Executive Committee was elected for the term 2013/2015, as listed below:-

President: Mr. Teoh Ai Hua  
Vice-President: Dato' Hj Shamsiah Abdul Rahman  
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Amy Bala  
Hon. Secretary: Ms Elsie Lee  
Hon. Asst. Secretary: Dato' Meme Zainal Rashid  
Committee Members: A/P Dr. Azlinda Azman  
Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba  
Mr. Raymund N.A. Jagan  
Mr. Andrew Wong Eng Tek

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee!

The day ended on a relaxed and happy note with some members enjoying a karaoke session till 8pm.

## ***News from Hong Kong Social Workers Association...***

### **Supportive Supervision Scheme**

The issue of Supervisory Support and Guidance has been a key concern for the past decade, particularly when society changes with increasing new social demands while the supervisory ratio in welfare agencies is skimmed proportionately. We are aware of the insufficient supervisory support in the small NGOs and in the secondary setting. HKSWA has made numerous attempts in concerted effort with the academia, fellow practitioners and members to pursue a Pilot Scheme namely, the Supportive Supervision Scheme. The Scheme will provide a professional Certification Course featuring a programme of study and professional supervisory practice for senior practitioners/social workers in order to elevate the level of effectiveness and professionalism of these supervisors. After the completion of the Course, the participants will become Approved Supervisors (AS), a credential that would be recognized for providing effective supervision to social workers, especially for those in secondary settings or small NGOs. As for further advancement, the ASs will be encouraged to undertake continuous education and specialized professional development so that they can acquire the qualification as Certified Supervisors (CS).

The objective of the Scheme is not only for training purposes but to advocate for a cultural change and paradigm shift in the field. The skill in coaching will be one of the foci of this Scheme among all other skills required for an effective supervisor. Although all social workers have completed their fieldwork placement before entering into the field, ongoing professional development is vitally important. Continuous learning for social workers is proven to be more effective at their work place than in classrooms through taking direct observation, action and on-site coaching by experienced workers in real life situations. In doing so, the experienced social workers and supervisors would be further equipped to scale up their knowledge and skills in managing the challenge of coaching which may be a new experience for them. Most importantly, we aim at benchmarking the standard of supervisors and supervised practice for our profession so as to upkeep our professional standards. Besides, we also hinge on the invaluable experience and commitment of the senior practitioners in the field to nurture the young generation of social workers for sustaining our professional growth and development.

We have solicited the support from a number of renowned local and overseas scholars from universities and training institutes as our advisors for the accreditation of the courses. Meanwhile, our Association has submitted proposals to the Social

Welfare Department to secure funding resources for starting up a 3-year pilot project. We hope that the project will materialize in the near future when we obtain the necessary resources. We are also mobilizing the sector to address the supervisory needs of social workers and advocate for a cultural change and paradigm shift in the field.

Since this is a pilot scheme, we are moving forward with a bold but cautious step. We would keep our fellow members and friends in IFSW posted in due course of our progress. We would be delighted to receive views and sharing of experience from your country so that we may learn from yours as well.

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### ***News from Cambodia...***

#### **International Social Work Conference on Children and Youth**

##### **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**24 & 25 June 2013**

Organised by the Asian & Pacific Islands Social Work Educators Association (APISWEA) in the United States, in collaboration with the University of Washington-Royal University of Phnom Penh Social Work Partnership, this conference aims to foster rigorous, meaningful and forward-looking discussions on contemporary social issues affecting the wellbeing of children and youth. Conference topics include, but are not limited to, the following issues related to children and youth:

- Urbanization and its issues: drugs, street children, sex industry
- Rural/urban immigration issues
- Migrant labor/human trafficking issues
- Mental health (including contemporary and traditional forms of healing)
- Improving access to basic services—education, health, sanitation, nutrition, etc.
- Rural/indigenous social work
- Intergenerational social issues
- The role of pagodas in the lives of children and youth
- Child protection issues—abuse, neglect & exploitation
- Alternative care (kinship care, foster care, adoption, institutional care)
- Social work education—trends, successes and challenges

#### **THE CAMBODIAN CONTEXT for SOCIAL WORK and SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

This conference is being held at an important stage in Cambodia's healing, development and nation building.

While Cambodia continues to experience the consequences of civil war and colonization there are hopeful signs of recovery. Three decades after the fall of the destructive Khmer Rouge regime, many social and health indicators remain below expected levels. Thirty-nine percent of its population is under the age of 18 and the circumstances for these children remain challenging with approximately 90% of children classified as severely deprived. However, there are signs of healing and rebuilding such as increasing life expectancy rates for both men and women, and rising school enrollment rates.

The country is at a turning point with the government rallying to respond to the social welfare needs of the people. For example, the Procedures to Implement the Policy on Alternative Care for Children is a significant step in developing a more systematic response to child welfare issues, and the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development is launching the country's first cash transfer program within an overall social protection framework. Since the Ministry of Education approved the first college level degree program in social work in 2008, the program at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) graduated its first BSW cohort in 2012. The Ewha Women's University is supporting RUPP with a master's degree program in social work. The Ministry of Social Affairs also recently opened the National Institute of Social Affairs and enrolled their first cohort of undergraduates. These signal the timeliness of this conference, which will help to build this momentum in positive and significant ways.



#### **Optional Excursions**

Participants can join a half day field visit on June 26<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the context and some pressing issues in Cambodia. Additionally, for participants interested in visiting Angkor Wat or other incredible sites of Cambodia before or after the conference, linkages with organized tour opportunities will be made available.

**For further information**, please go to the website:

[www.APISocialwork.org](http://www.APISocialwork.org)

OR contact APISWEA Conference Co-Chairs:

Tracy Harachi, University of Washington:

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## Other Upcoming Events...

### Regional Conferences

#### **IFSW-APASWE 22nd Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference, 2013 Manila, Philippines 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Theme: "Social Work in Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response: Building Capacity and Global Partnership"**

Jointly organised by the Philippines Association of Social Workers, Inc. and the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Tel/Fax: (63-2) 453-8250

Website: <http://www.paswi-national.org>

#### **International Humanitarian Conference 2013**

**Venue: Swan Convention Centre, Sunway,**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Featuring HRH Raja Nazrin Shah Lecture Series**

**Theme: Sustaining Humanitarian Efforts, Over the Long Haul...**

Organised by Mercy Malaysia, the conference will consist of topics and workshops focusing on delivering humanitarian aid during conflicts and disasters, resilience, health issues and handling of media and politics amongst others.

Conference Secretariat:

Bloom Communications

Tel : +6016 2069 610 / +603 2242 0902

Fax: +603 6207 6795

Em: [secretariat@humanitarianconference-mercy.com](mailto:secretariat@humanitarianconference-mercy.com)

Website: [www.humanitarianconference-mercy.com](http://www.humanitarianconference-mercy.com)



#### **International Conference on ASEAN Women: "Empowerment: Issues and Challenges"**

**Bandung, Indonesia**

**10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Organized by the Northern Corridor Research Centre, Universiti Utara Malaysia (NCRC-UUM) and Pusat Studi Wanita, Universitas Islam Bandung (PSW-UNISBA)

SECRETARIAT ICW2013

Northern Corridor Research Centre (NCRC)

Level 2, Economic Building, College of Business,  
Universiti Utara Malaysia

06010, UUM Sintok

Kedah Darul Aman

Tel : +604-928 3895; +604-928 3653; +604-928 3652

Fax : +604-928 3647

Email : [icaw2013@uum.edu.my](mailto:icaw2013@uum.edu.my)

## International Conferences



#### **7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, Los Angeles, California 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Theme: 'Research to Practice: Completing the Circle'**

Hosted by the USC School of Social Work and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Southern California, USA.

Website: <http://pathways2013.com>



#### **'The Voices for Development' Conference Sandton Convention Centre, South Africa 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

The National Association of Social Workers South Africa, in association with IFSW, will be hosting The Voices for Development Conference. This conference will enable countries targeted by development policy, their communities and on-the-ground social workers to voice their practical experiences and make recommendations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when they expire in 2015. For more information, contact the conference secretariat on:

Tel: +27 87 080 4983

Fax: +27 86 545 8915

Emails: [nasw.southafrica@gmail.com](mailto:nasw.southafrica@gmail.com) or

[info@naswsa.co.za](mailto:info@naswsa.co.za) or [info@naswsa.co.za](mailto:info@naswsa.co.za)

Website: <http://www.naswsa.co.za/conference2013/>



#### **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2014**

**Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre,  
Melbourne, Australia**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Organised by the IASSW, ICSW, IFSW and the local Organising Committee, this Conference will bring together practitioners, researchers and educators from around the world who are engaged in Social Work and Social Development. The Conference will

continue the work of the Global Agenda, first set in Hong Kong in 2010 and then continued in Stockholm in 2012. Together with the Australian Association of Social Work, the Australian Council of Heads of Schools of Social Work, and the Australian Council of Social Service, we are planning an inspirational program in true Australian tradition.

Conference Organisers:  
Waldron Smith Management  
119 Buckhurst Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205 Australia  
T: +61 3 9645 6311  
F: +61 3 9645 6322  
E: [swsd2014@wsm.com.au](mailto:swsd2014@wsm.com.au)  
W: [www.waldronsmith.com.au](http://www.waldronsmith.com.au)

*We make them cry  
who care for us,  
We cry for those  
who never care for us,  
and we care for those  
who will never cry for us.*

## IFSW Asia Pacific Regional Working Group

**President:** John Ang (Singapore)  
**Member-at-Large:** Mariko Kimura (Japan)  
**Secretary:** Rose Henderson (New Zealand)  
**Treasurer:** Michiko Hirata (Japan)  
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