



IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

Issue 2, December 2013

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Editorial

We are again close to the ending of another tumultuous year. We have yet to see peace and good governance restored in several countries; we still hear of terrorist bombings and gun violence; we know that globally people are impacted by economic crises, corruption and greed; we feel the pain and suffering of people experiencing torture and abuse, and horrific climatic and man-made disasters.

On November 8th, Super Typhoon Haiyan dampened preparations for any year end cheer for the people and our social work members in the Philippines. PASWI members are on the ground to assess and respond to needs, and the President, Eva Ponce de Leon has shared with us some of her photographs.

Earlier, on June 17, two Asian countries were traumatised by the Himalayan floods which hit the North Indian States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and various districts of Nepal. An excerpt of Dr. Bala Raju Nikku's report is included in this issue.

On the up side, it is in calamities and tragedies such as these that we also witness the amazing resilience and strength of those affected, and the compassion and generosity of helpers, rescuers and donors. This issue starts by highlighting IFSW-AP's response to the Philippine situation. The Executive Committee has approved the donation of proceeds from the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of 2013 on climate change and disaster management to the Philippines Association of Social Workers Inc., to purchase blankets for victims of the devastating storm. The EC also highlights the story of Mohammad Ejajuddin Chowdhury Kaikobad, a Bangladeshi volunteer who died after rescuing 26 garment factory workers from a collapsed building in April 2013. The EC hopes to raise some funds to support his widow and 2 young children.

To add some cheer in this Newsletter we have a pictorial report on the APRC held in Manila. Rose Henderson has also submitted a report on the IFSW-AP Special Project on Disaster Management which was discussed during the Manila Conference. The Iran Association of Social Workers is to be highly commended for the hive of activities undertaken between March 2012 and March 2013, and they share a brief history of social work development in Iran. Japan sends news of their celebration of World Social Work Day 2013. This leads us to remind members to prepare for the next World Social Work Day to be held on 18 March 2014. Information on the theme and sub-themes, and the poster and banner designs are publicised here. Macau social workers are working towards registration. Another exciting development is the launching of a new online portal for social work training launched on 7 November 2013. The website was set up by the Global Institute of Social Work, founded by Professor Tan Ngoh Tiong, Dean of the School of Human Development and Social Services at SIM University, Singapore.

With the advent of a new year, we hope for lesser calamities and we pray for the care, safety and protection of those affected by disasters, and those who are providing courageous assistance and support in the areas of devastation. Social work and social workers will continue to make a difference!

IFSW-AP Makes a Donation to PASWI for Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

After a successful conference on climate change and disaster management in June 2013, PASWI members are, sadly having to face another climatic crisis in the aftermath of an extreme weather catastrophe on several islands in the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, smashed into coastal communities on Friday, November 8th, destroying buildings, paralyzing transport, communications and supplies, killing and injuring thousands, and leaving millions homeless. It has been reported that Typhoon Haiyan is the most 'intense tropical cyclone ever observed' and its destruction of the land 'apocalyptic'.

PASWI has the added task of trying to locate missing social workers and to provide support to affected members while mobilising appropriate welfare assistance and social work support for families of victims.

On behalf of IFSW-AP, John Ang sent a message to Eva Ponce De Leon, President of PASWI on 14 November expressing concern over the scale of destruction and loss of lives suffered by her fellow citizens. He added that the IFSW-AP family stands with her in solidarity and share her sadness, and would like to support PASWI's efforts in some way.

Subsequently, when Eva indicated the need for blankets, the Executive Committee agreed to donate USD1500.00 due to the IFSW-AP from the APRC of June 2013 through PASWI. Eva has acknowledged the donation with appreciation and gratitude, and shared the following pictures of activities of assessing and supporting some of those who were affected by the traumatic event.



Pictures of PASWI social workers at work



agricultural fields, irrigation canals, domestic water sources, dams, roads, bridges, and buildings. Downstream, the Ganga, Yamuna and other rivers have reached levels not seen in years, posing difficulties even in Delhi, the country's capital.

The floods have also impacted badly on the far western development region of Nepal. All in 21 districts were affected. The BBC reported that there were up to 20,000 Nepalis — pilgrims and workers — in Uttarakhand when the floods struck (*The Hindu dated June 23, 2013*). Thousands of Nepalis, mainly from western Nepal, were working in Uttarakhand as porters, palanquin bearers and manual labourers. A majority of those reported missing in the June 16 disaster are pilgrims visiting the Hindu shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.

Media played a role in reporting this disaster like any other event but it seemed to be disjointed and fragmented. To cite: the Himalayan flood was titled as Himalayan Tsunami without any sense of what a tsunami was. Also there was huge coverage for political personalities who seemed to be competing for future voters and their support. So everybody not only love a good drought but a great disaster too!



Source: AP

Last few days I have been reading and relying on secondary sources to make a mental picture of this event for myself as a social work educator. I have not come across any reports about the role of civil society and non-governmental organisations (other than few reports on the role of Red Cross and political outfits like Rashtriya Svayam Sevak [RSS]), or of individuals who are putting their lives at stake in rescuing their fellow human beings. The tragedy saw the best and worst of human attitude. If rescue teams did a wonderful job at grave personal risk, greedy elements fleeced the stranded pilgrims in ways that can only be called cruel (*H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana, The Hindu, dated June 24, 2013*).

It is easy to pass the buck to nature but it is clear that greed, corruption and politician-bureaucrat-builders nexus have contributed to the tragedy in no small measure. The Mafia wooed villagers to grab their land

Himalayan Flood Tragedy – June 2013

Excerpts from Report by Bala Raju Nikku, Member of IASSW Committee on Sustainability, Climate Change and Disaster Intervention
Email: nikku21@yahoo.com



Source: AP

Having suffered devastating flash floods in August 2012, the North Indian States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh once again experienced widespread loss and damage when several rivers flooded the area in June this year. The rivers were the Malakini, Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Karnali which inundated the several districts, sweeping away mountainsides, villages and towns, thousands of people, animals,

for the construction of hotels. Rules are subverted to flout compliance.

Many reports (including ICIMOD) have already started raising many questions: *The unfolding Himalayan disaster raises two questions: is this extreme rainfall in the Himalayan region due to climate change and global warming? And what issues does it flag to all of us- the professionals, policy planners and politicians? How to respond and what role should social work play to these events? Is Green Social Work an answer?*



Source: AP

Mohammad Ejajuddin Chowdhury Kaikobad – a courageous volunteer



Kaikobad died from severe burns while trying to rescue a young female worker trapped in the rubble of a collapsed garment factory in Savar, after having saved 26 others.

On 24th April 2013, the 8-storey Rana Plaza in Savar, Bangladesh, collapsed and caused the deaths of 1,129 people, mainly female garment factory workers and their children placed in the building's day care centre. By the 13th of May, 2,438 people were rescued alive.

On the second day of the disaster, Kaikobad volunteered to help with rescue operations and he alone succeeded in bringing out 26 survivors over a period of 5 days. Sadly, during one of his attempts to reach a young female worker, a fire broke out and engulfed both him and the worker and they died. Rescue personnel spoke highly and respectfully of Kaikobad's valiant efforts, and he was laid to rest with full state honours.

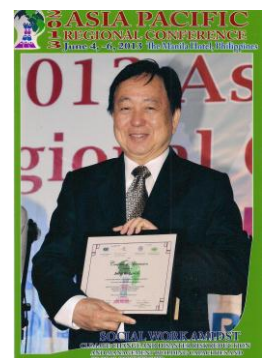
Kaikobad's story was reported to John Ang by Bangladeshi social worker, S. M. Morshed, who wrote the Kaikobad was the youngest of 2 brothers and 2 sisters. He grew up in the capital's Farmgate area and had his education at the Ideal School and the College in Dhaka. He was working as a construction supervisor, and was married with 2 children aged 6 years and 2 years. Family and friends said he had

always been generous and helpful, and committed to the ideals of social work. His family only learned of his involvement in the rescue through cable news, and he called his wife to say he could not go home until he had done all he could for the trapped workers.

The Army has provided housing for the wife, Jarnin Akter, and the children but they have not received any other forms of support. John Ang has written to the Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd where Jarnin has an account, to explore the possibility of directing donations directly to her. Members will be informed of further development on this.

It was a tragedy waiting to happen. Despite clear signs of structural defects in the building, the management insisted that workers report to work. It is well known globally that low paid workers in Bangladesh and many other less developed countries are forced by their economic needs to work in less than satisfactory conditions by world occupational safety standards. It again highlights the sad lack of corporate social responsibility by companies who prioritise profit margins over human lives and continue to practise modern day slavery in the industries.

Pictorial News from the APRC on “Social Work amidst Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Building Capacities and Global Partnership” – 4-6 June 2013 Manila





IFSW Special Project Report – Manila 2013

“Good Practices in Responding to Natural and Human-made Disasters”

Mariko Kimura, IFSW Asia Pacific member at large introduced the session with a brief overview of the IFSW project which was the focus of this session. The Disaster Management Project funds are being used to convene three workshops across the region culminating with the production of a professional resource for the region. Japan was acknowledged for providing the leadership and financial oversight for the project. The first workshop was held last year in Tokyo, the second workshop is this special session in Manila and a third is anticipated in the coming year.

The IFSW Asia Pacific project funds and general funds had sponsored two of the speakers in this session: Marlina Adisty from Indonesia, the recipient of an IFSW Asia Pacific scholarship funded by Regional project funds and Dr. Morshed Syed from

Bangladesh, the recipient of IFSW Asia Pacific scholarship funded by Jane Hoey proceeds.

The session chair and moderator was Rose Henderson, IFSW Asia Pacific regional secretary. The four presenters in the session were –

- Honourable Jose Maria Clemente-Salseda (Governor, the Philippines)
- Marlina Adisty (Indonesia)
- Morshed Syed (Bangladesh)
- Masanobu Oohashi (Japan).

The presenters have a wealth of experience of disaster experience across the region and an extremely informative session was valued by all. All presenters referred to national legislation within their respective countries which provides the framework and guidelines for responding to disasters. The profession of social work is an integral part of the disaster management strategy for all countries. Each of the presenters built on the previous discussions and the summary here is a very brief overview of some of their key points and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of each presentation.

Honourable Jose Maria Clemente-Salseda encouraged us all to:

- change disaster ‘response’ to ‘reduction’
- ensure programmes are rights-based
- ensure programmes are inclusive of the whole of government, the whole of society and the whole of budget.

The Governor also encouraged us to use the scientific tools that are available to help define disaster risk and vulnerability. Based on the assessed risk and vulnerability (hazard and exposure), a vision and goals based on safe and shared disaster management, need to be developed. Decisions about whether to relocate, to defend or to evacuate need to be planned and prepared for in advance. It is also important that community knowledge about what to do in a disaster begins to be built from an early age.

Marlina Adisty spoke of the experiences and context of disaster work in Indonesia noting the use of the following Disaster Management cycle in this field of work. This cycle is inclusive of –

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Rehabilitation.

Marlina also highlighted the social work roles in each of the aspects of disaster response work including housing, infrastructure, social, economic and cross-sectoral work.

Morshed Syed added to the conversation by building on the role of social work in disasters. This included considering the profession’s role in pre-disaster preparedness building as well as post-disaster work including needs assessment, gathering information, rescue work as well as recovery work (e.g. social workers providing financial support for building cyclone shelters).

Masanobu Oohashi added further to the role of social work, discussing the roles and responsibilities to assist wherever indicated including in the shelter houses. Masanobu also recognised the value of utilising existing national professional networks to help people e.g. through the network of psychiatric social workers.

Masanobu also raised the important point of recognising that those involved in the disaster response were also victims of the disaster, noting the importance of recognising this dilemma and supporting the workers.

Conclusion

All presenters were acknowledged for their contribution to the ongoing development and refinement of the role of social work in each of the phases of disaster management from planning and preparation, to immediate aftermath of an event, the ongoing longer term recovery and the building of community awareness, preparedness and resilience.

Rose Henderson, Moderator of Session



Brief History of Social Work in Iran

Sattareh Farmanfarmaianiⁱ who had received her degree in social work from UCLAⁱⁱ, brought the new policies in social work to Iran in 1958 after she was experienced enough as a social worker and social services officer in the UN, and established the first Social Work School in Iran.

The school started with 20 students in Tehran. It was a two-year training course containing both theoretical and field work. Seven years later this course was developed into a BA degree with four years of study according to university syllabus. The graduates were qualified to be employed in social work positions in different areas of social services such as hospitals, nursery schools, rural development agencies, family and children services, industries, social welfare and development.

In 1960 the School joined the International Association of Schools of Social Work. In 1970 the School developed a two-year course for social workers interested to study for MA degree. During the following years other social work institutes/schools were established but, after the revolution in Iran some schools and educational institutes had to merge into one, and was named Allameh Tabatabaie. However, there was a huge need for trained social workers that led the government to establish the University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences in 1992.

Now, there are a lot of universities, governmental or private, that are training social workers for various degrees all around Iran. Social workers in Iran have variety of career choices. Fields that social workers are employed in are as follows:

Health and Medical:

Social workers offer social services and financial aid for patients who are in need. They also offer social and welfare services to those who suffer from mental illness or are affected by HIV or AIDS. Social workers in this field work in hospitals and treatment centers.

Industries:

Social workers offer social and welfare services to the staff. If needed, they play the role of a mediator/facilitator between the employer and employees. Social workers in this field work in factories and organizations.

Justice system:

Social workers in this area offer counseling services, reports to the court especially in domestic conflict which are reported to the court for divorce by any one of the couples. Social workers also offer empowerment programs in cases of juvenile delinquency and to imprisoned individuals and their families. Social workers in this field work in the Ministry of Justice, judiciary, courts, police force, state prisons, security and corrective organizations, correction centers for juvenile delinquency.

Social problems:

Services in this area consist of research, crisis intervention (domestic violence, divorce, addiction, suicide, etc.) and social emergency helpline. Social workers in this field work in Welfare Organization, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Interior, Municipalities, Drug Control Headquarters, Police Force, and courts.

Children services:

In this area social workers are employed to offer interventional and empowerment services in the fields of child abuse, foster care, day care, working street children, child labor, runaway girls. Social workers in this field work in nursery schools, Ministry

of Health and Medical Education, Welfare Organization, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Aging and disabilities:

Services are offered in the rehabilitation and residential centers both in the areas of disability welfare and empowerment. Social workers in this field work in senior citizens' centres, nursing homes, Welfare Organization, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Red Crescent, Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affair, and the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundationⁱⁱⁱ.

Women and family services:

These services are offered by social workers and other professionals on the basis of team work in family courts, family counseling clinics, social work clinics and financial aids. Social workers in this field work in Welfare Organization, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, and the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation.

Natural disasters and crisis interventions:

Social workers in this field work in Red Crescent, and National Disaster Management Organization.

Revolutionary organizations:

Social workers offer psycho-social and financial services to veterans and families of martyrs. Social workers in this field work in Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affair, Mostazafaniv Foundation^{iv}, and Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation.

Informal settlements:

Social workers are employed by Welfare Organization to offer community work and community development in marginalized areas and informal settlements. Social workers in this field work in Welfare Organization.

Education and Training:

Social workers in this field work in Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, schools, special education schools, consulting centers of universities, professional education and training centers.

Please note that according to Iran's law, in the most fields mentioned above social workers are also employed in private organizations.

References:

- i. **Sattareh Farman Farmaian, Dona Munker:** Daughter of Persia: A Woman's Journey from Her Father's Harem Through the Islamic Revolution, 2006.
- ii. **University of California, Los Angeles**

iii. The **Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation** was founded in March 1979 as a charity organization to provide support for poor families. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imam_Khomeini_Relief_Foundation)

iv. The **Mostazafan Foundation of Islamic Revolution** formerly Bonyad-e Mostazafan va Janbazan (Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled or "MFJ") is a charitable foundation, in the Islamic Republic of Iran. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mostazafan_Foundation).

Performance Summary of Iran Association of Social Workers (21.03.2012-20.03.2013)

- Holding the conference on "Social Work in Disaster" in partnership with Red Crescent Youth Organization;
- Holding the conference on "Social Work in Prisons" in partnership with prisons and security and corrective measures organization of Tehran province;
- Holding 27th National Social Work Congress with the theme of "Social Work and Social Prevention";
- Production, registration and unveiling of social work national anthem on 13.06.2012;
- Membership of the Association with the International Federation of Social Workers on 07.06.2012;
- Launching the association's technical committees such as:
 - ✓ Technical committee on research and education
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in revolutionary institutes (like Martyrs Foundation or Veterans Foundation)
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in informal settlements
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of health
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work and social damages
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of industries and labor relations
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in educational institution
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in disasters
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of HIV and AIDS
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of aging
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in military and police
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of family
 - ✓ Technical committee on social work in the area of children

- ✓ Technical committee on social work and social policy
- ✓ Committee on international affairs

- Appointing a coordinator for IASW's technical committees;
- Launching committee on public communications;
- Appointing a head for each technical committee of the Association;
- Appointing an executive director for each branch of the Association in these provinces: Alborz, Ardabil, East Azerbaijan, Chahar Mahaal and Bakhtiari, South Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, Semnan, Fars, Qom, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Lorestan, Gilan, Golestan, Mazandaran, Markazi, Yazd;
- Appointing an executive officer for each branch of the Association;
- Preparing and sending board, stamp and flag of the Association to each branch;
- Participation and academic contribution in the conference on "Social Working and Health of Family" in Markazi province;
- Contribute towards social work celebration in Rasul Akram Training, Medical and Research Center;
- Participation and academic contribution in 6th Seminar on "Mental Health for University Students";
- Participate in social work directors' meeting of National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC);
- Participate in celebration of praise for social workers in Gonabad city;
- Contribute in celebration of praise for social workers of welfare organization of Tehran;
- Holding one day conference of "Social Working" in Alborz province;
- Holding one day conference of "Social Working" in Mazandaran province;
- Academic and administering participation in the 1st Congress of "Cyberspace and New Social Problems";
- Academic participation in the 4th National Conference on "Hidden Social Problems" in Kurdistan;
- Academic and administrative participation in the 2nd National Conference on "Applied-Science Social Working" in Khomeini Shahr city in Isfahan province;
- Academic and administrative participation in the 2nd National Conference on "Promotion in Nutrition of Vulnerable Group";
- Holding workshop on "Social Work in Disasters" in partnership with Red Crescent Youth Organization (workshop venue: Anzali port city);
- Signing of memorandum with the Red Crescent Youth Organization;
- Signing of memorandum with Police;
- Presence and social work intervention in earthquake zone of East Azerbaijan;
- Interaction with relevant organizations;

- Presence in Medias (National television, Radio and cyberspace)
- Thesis tips for students;
- Recording social workers' experiences and memories;
- Making database of members of IASW;
- Developing scheme of "Database of Social Ideas";
- Participation in social policy and social planning meetings of different organizations such as: Expediency Discernment Council of the System, Parliament (social committee, The Research Center of parliament), Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, prisons and security and corrective measures organization, municipality, National Crisis Management Organization, Iran Drug Control Headquarters, state welfare organization of Iran, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Red Crescent, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, etc;
- Holding intimate meeting of social worker couples in Yalda night (longest night of the year);
- Trying to get copyright for social ideas in Iranian copyright policy council based on Ministry of Justice;
- Setting up online registration for IASW;
- Participation in planning entrepreneurship program for addicted improved in Iran drug control headquarter;
- Participation in the Congress on "Car Accident Social Consequences" in partnership with Scientific Association of Social Science Students of Allame Tabatabaee University;
- Setting up SMS center and database for SMS center of IASW;
- Publication of the first issue of IASW online magazine;
- Trying to get license for holding workshops for relevant organization's officers from the president's department of management development and human resource;
- Holding workshops;
- Preparing analytic report about social conditions of Iran;
- Participation in planning disaster victims' rehabilitation program in the Ministry of Interior (National Crisis Management Organization).

Celebrating Japan's Social Workers' Day: Focusing on Global Agenda for 2013

Social & Economic Equalities in Japan: the present state and challenge

Poverty and inequality are attracting increasing social attention in Japan as the number of people on livelihood protection (public assistance) has been

rising rapidly. Especially, poverty of the young and workable is now seen as a serious problem. The revision of the Livelihood Protection Law and the new bill of the Law for the Support of Independence of People with Livelihood Difficulty were discussed in national Diet in June and will be re-submitted in the next session. The Child Poverty Law was enacted, backed by a surge of movement for children who lost their parents in disasters and accidents.

The system of livelihood protection, which should be a safety-net to assure minimum livelihood stipulated by the Constitution, is not working well enough in Japan and there are cases of solitary death and even death from hunger. The complicated character of the needs of people who are under, or about to apply for, livelihood protection requires comprehensive and continuous support. We social workers face a big challenge whether we can provide enough and proper support, utilising wide-ranging social resources and in coordination with other professionals and relevant persons.



"Social Workers' Day" Initiative

There are now approximately 220,000 social workers with certification in Japan. Social workers working in a variety of institutions engage in consultations of people who find it difficult to make their living and in support activities for their independence and social participation. However, we cannot say that Japanese people in general recognise the existence and understand the roles of social worker very well.

The Council of Social Care Service Practitioners, which is made up of 17 national associations related to social work practice and education, including Japanese Coordinating Body for IFSW, designated the Marine Day (a national holiday, July 15, for 2013) as "Social Workers' Day" in 2009 and started to hold annual events to promote social work in Japan. This year we chose "Promoting Social & Economic Equalities," 2013 priority of Global Agenda, as the theme of "Social Workers' Day" and asked our local branches to deal with this issue, together with the national event held in Tokyo.

The National Event of “Social Workers’ Day”

The national event of “Social Workers’ Day” consisted of plenary lectures and a symposium. After a government official’s report on the prospect of Law for the Support of Independence of People with Livelihood Difficulty, a renowned social activist on poverty and inequality expressed serious concern for the distress of people in livelihood difficulty and called for renewed energy for social action. In the symposium entitled “social workers tackling poverty,” three social workers working in the field of child welfare, medical service, and suicide prevention, talked about their practice and raised issues that provoked discussion involving the floor participants. The reports of the three speakers, although coming from different fields, pointed to the common objective and roles of social work: i.e. to prevent isolation, bring about sense of security, and facilitate self-affirmation and social participation by constructing effective support system and actually connecting people in need to the system. About 350 people including many students in social work education took part in the event.



Local events of “Social Workers’ Day”

Since many national associations have local branches organized at prefectural level, we have been encouraging the local bodies to join hands and hold prefectural “Social Workers’ Day” events in their own prefectures. We saw 34 prefectural events this year, while there were only 16 in 2010. Many local organizations had lecture meetings and symposiums related to the issue of poverty/inequality, addressing child poverty, poverty in local communities, livelihood protection, Law for the Support of Independence of People with Livelihood Difficulty, etc. “Social Workers’ Day” has been acquiring more recognition among local organizations and the scope of their “Social Workers’ Day” events and activities is expanding. The number of participants is also increasing, reaching roughly 2,700 in total this year. The “Social Workers’ Day” initiative provided a valuable opportunity for local social work professional and educational bodies to create and/or

strengthen network in their areas. Many local networks thus developed acted on local newspapers and TV stations to propagate their events. To keep holding this kind of local events throughout the country is essential to make social worker more familiar and useful to Japanese people.

Atsuko Otsuka, Managing Director
Japanese Association of Psychiatric Social Workers

World Social Work Day - 2014

IFSW has announced the date, theme and sub-themes for next year’s celebration of WSWD and provided very appealing and attractive poster and banner designs for promoting the special day.



In the light of ongoing social crises and pressures, social workers, members and partner organisations are encouraged to find sustainable social work solutions to make a difference.



Let’s all make it another memorable and meaningful day for social work on 18 March 2014!

Macau Continues Legislative Debate on Registration of Social Workers

The legislature in Macau is considering a draft bill to create a registration system for social workers. A recent report in the [Macau Daily Times](#) provided an insight into the process. Discussion of social work registration in Macau has been continuing since 2011, as reported earlier by the [newspaper](#).

Five components of the registration system had previously been identified, including professional training requirements, quality control, staff training duty, a body to oversee professional practice and licence issuing which will be a compulsory requirement for social workers.

The President of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), Iong Kong Io told the newspaper in July 2013 that the amendment to the draft bill creating a registration system for social workers is on the right track. He promised there would be a second round of consultations after the amendment process is complete.

'The taskforce already held its first meeting in May, during which the team discussed basic questions such as the definition of social work and working guidelines', Iong said.

The taskforce will continue to discuss legal issues, including registration requirements for social workers and formation of the registration affairs committee.

The first consultation was held in mid-2012. The newspaper reports that many social workers were against the proposal that stipulated compulsory registration for private social workers but exempted social workers in public entities.

Macau is one of a number of countries around the world seriously considering legal registration of social workers. Nearby, Hong Kong set up a registration system in 1998, overseen by the [Social Workers Registration Board](#).

IFSW is always ready to provide support and assistance to local associations and groups of social workers involved in negotiating legal registration. 'Registration can bring benefits to service users and social workers alike', said IFSW Secretary-General Rory Truell. 'However there are also risks. The profession MUST be closely involved in developing any proposals for registration and similar schemes', Rory Truell concluded.

The Macau Daily Times report can be read [here](#).

Global Institute of Social Work – launch of new online portal for social work knowledge and training

Professor Tan Ngho Tiong had a dream and he made it come true by founding the Global Institute of Social Work, a non-profit organisation and its new online portal for social work knowledge and training. The website provides free access to all social work practitioners all over the world. The launching on 7 November 2013 was officiated by the Former President of Singapore and one of the pioneer graduates of the Diploma in Social Studies programme of the then University of Malaya, Singapore, Mr. S. R. Nathan. This is an important and significant development for social work education and training, especially with current emphasis in the Asia Pacific on building competency and regulating practice of social workers but also in capacity building the thousands of welfare and social service practitioners. Congratulations to Professor Tan and all the members of the Advisory Board and Fellows of the Institute.

For more information, please go to website: thegisw.org/.

Upcoming Events in 2014...

Research for Social Change – Addressing Local and Global Challenges

15th -19th January 2014

Venue: Grand Hyatt San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, USA

Organiser: Society for Social Work and Research

11240 Waples Mill Road Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22030 USA

E-mail: info@sswr.org | www.sswr.org

Disaster Management Workshop for the Collaboration among Asian Pacific Social Workers in Indonesia: "Building Disaster Resilience: Strengthening the Collaboration among Asian Pacific Social Workers"

27th – 28th January 2014

Eva Ponce de Leon from the Philippines will make a speech as an international speaker.

Venue: University of Indonesia, Jakarta

Sponsor: IFSW-Asia Pacific Region

Organising Committee: Indonesian Association of Social Workers/Indonesian Association of Social Work Education.

The Changing World and the Face of Social Work Education

19th -23rd March 2014

Venue: Louisville Marriott Downtown 280 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, KY, USA
Organiser: The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Inc.
Website: www.marriottlouisville.com

The WorldPride Human Rights Conference 2014
25th – 27th June 2014

Venue: University College, University of Toronto, 15 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON CANADA M5S 3H7
Hosted by the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at University College, University of Toronto. For more information about the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, visit www.uc.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversity.

Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2014
9th – 12th July 2014

Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Organised by the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the local Organising Committee.

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23rd -26th July 2014

Venue: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2600 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Registration Opens in January 2014

email: naswconference@naswdc.org

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