



# IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

Issue 2, December 2014

## *This issue includes:*

### **Editorial**

#### **News from round-about**

- Report from IFAP Regional President, Mariko Kimura
- Report from IFSW Regional Member-at-Large, Rose Henderson
- Report on IFSW Asia Pacific Meeting – Melbourne, 9 July 2014
- Keynote Address by IFAP President at PASWI 31st Biennial Convention
- Introduction to the Social Workers' Association Nepal (SWAN)
- MASW - Brief News

### **Upcoming Events in 2015**

## *Editorial*

IFSW-AP has come through another eventful and exciting year in 2014. There has been inspiring stories of social work activities in fields of practice and in the development of social work education in the Asia Pacific. We know social workers in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, are striving hard to put professional social work on the map in their respective countries.

Some have succeeded in establishing social work education programmes from scratch, some are facing uphill tasks with the lack of social work expertise and funding. Some are challenged by very difficult political, economic and social variables, coupled with the all too familiar issues of poor recognition of social work as a profession.

Yet, some have succeeded in forming national associations and joining the regional fraternity of social workers. Here, we congratulate and welcome the Social Workers Association of Nepal upon its inclusion into the IFSW membership, and we look forward to their active participation and contribution to regional and global development of social work.

During the Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Melbourne, IFSW-AP elected a new line-up of members into the Executive Committee, as reported by the new Regional President, Mariko Kimura and the new Regional Member-at-Large, Rose Henderson. Added to that, we see a larger representation of members from the Asia Pacific on the IFSW Executive Committee. Congratulations to everyone!

We take this opportunity to thank John Ang for his unwavering focus and tireless efforts in leading the Regional Committee for the past six years. One of the outcomes from his term of office was the move for regional associations to organise smaller gatherings or workshops focussed on specific issues. This resulted in the first regional symposium on disaster management in Malaysia in 2007. With subsequent IFSW funding for Disaster Management Project, IFSW-AP was able to organise three workshops on disaster management. Japan took the lead in looking further into how social workers could cope with disasters at a workshop during the 21st Asia-Pacific Social Work Conference of July 2011. PASWI continued to explore this issue at the second workshop during the APRC of June 2013, while the final workshop was held in Indonesia in January 2014.

John and his team also strove diligently to support social workers in regional countries such as Indonesia, Iran, Macau, Yemen and Nepal to successfully gain membership into IFSW.

We wish you well in your continuous contribution towards the Global Agenda, John!

Thank you to all for an eventful year, and have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a restful holiday!

Be ~~with~~ someone  
that makes  
you happy.



## *Report from IFAP Regional President*

**Mariko Kimura, IFAP Regional President, IFSW 1st Vice President**

I would like to express my appreciation to all the member associations of the AP region for supporting me to work as the new regional president. At the global level, I have been elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of IFSW at the Melbourne Executive Committee Meeting. At the global level, I work with Ruth Stark, IFSW President, Rory Truell, Secretary-General of IFSW, four regional presidents, and Rose Henderson, Member-at-Large of AP Region. Eva Ponce-de-Leon, President of the Philippine Association of Social Workers (PASWI) has been elected as the global Treasurer. We now have a larger representation at the global level. Through our (industrious and innovative) work in the AP Region, we hope to send a unique message from the Asia Pacific to the rest of the world.

The Asia and Pacific Region being so vast and diverse, I realise how challenging it is for us to work as a single region (under IFAP). However, if we truly recognise and appreciate the history and diversity of so many cultures and peoples in the region, we should be able to see how gifted we are with tremendous resources and possibilities.

I would like to express my warmest welcome to Social Workers Association of Nepal (SWAN) as a new IFSW member association. I look forward to working closely with SWAN to strengthen our relationship.

As for my work with AP member associations, I attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention of the Philippines Association of Social Workers Inc. (PASWI) held in Manila, October 22-24, as a keynote speaker. More than 600 participants actively took part in the programmes focusing on disaster, crisis, and social workers as allies and partners.



Mariko with Eva Ponce de Leon and PASWI members

Right after Manila, I visited Bangkok and met Dr. Decha Sungkawan who is 2015 Asia Pacific Social Work Conference Chair, and Anyamanie Branakan, President of the Thai Association of Social Workers. We officially agreed to hold the Joint Regional Social Work Conference in October next year.



Meeting with Anyamanie, TASW President and TASW members

For the next four years, I would like to work on the following matters:

1. Strengthening of the organisational bases of the region -

- Networking among existing member countries (there are 22 member countries as of November 2014)
- Increasing new member countries.

2. Activities as IFSW Asia Pacific Region

- Promoting further advances of disaster project - Asia-Pacific is (one of) the most frequently disaster-stricken region. Based on the experiences of our member countries that have responded to disasters, we need to increase the resilience of the region by forming a strong organisational basis that can function in case of disasters, working on economic and financial issues, providing training for social work intervention, and building the collaborative system (networks) with governmental and / or non-governmental organisations.

▪ Linking with Global Agenda

Under IFSW Global Agenda, we gather and share information of the activities of each country and mutually support the development of tools (what kind of tools?) in the region. Specifically, I would like to take opportunities such as regional conferences and other gatherings to hold 'regional forums' to come up with various ideas to work on the Global Agendas in our region.

▪ Collecting and disseminating regional information

To promote the recognition and significance of the Asia-Pacific region worldwide, we need to effectively collect information in our region and actively disseminate it globally.

3. Resources acquisition for the activities

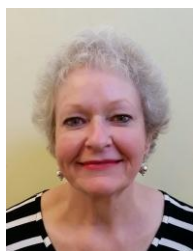
In addition to working on social work tasks in our region, we need to work collaboratively to seek funds to encourage and support our activities. In order to

strengthen the workability function of the region, setting up a regional secretariat office is essential.

Finally, on the global level, the IFSW Policy and Constitution are under review by the newly elected Steering Committee and Executive Committee members. We are also seeking more strongly how to generate financial resources for IFSW-Global.

[mkimura1951@gmail.com](mailto:mkimura1951@gmail.com)

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***IFSW Regional Member-at-Large  
Report - November 2014***



Rose Henderson  
IFSW Regional Member-at-Large

Firstly, I want to thank member countries for their support of my nomination as Regional Member-at-Large at the elections this year. It is a huge privilege and also a huge challenge to represent such a rich, diverse and geographically large region internationally and I look forward to working with you all. I welcome any thoughts and suggestions about how we can strengthen linkages and networks across our region to facilitate strong regional representation and effective working relationships.

The Tangata Whenua Social Workers Association from New Zealand, and more recently the Nepal Association of Social Workers, has recently joined our IFSW regional family and we welcome these new members into the fellowship and work of our region.

The joint APASWE and IFSW-AP Regional Sub-Committee considering a regional amplification of the new IFSW definition for social work, continues to work through the many thoughts and ideas about this. I encourage member countries to provide feedback on their work during the consultation processes.

It was a privilege to attend with colleagues from around the world. I had the pleasure of attending a learning journey to the north-east of the country which is still recovering from civil war. The Forum provided important networking opportunities. The government and people of Sri Lanka welcome international assistance.

Links have been re-established with the Sri Lankan Social Work Association which has been invited to re-establish contact with the IFSW Asia Pacific branch. Sri Lankan social workers welcome contact and visits.

Members will be familiar with the Global Agenda and the development of the Global Observatory facilitated jointly by the IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. The first Global Observatory Report was launched in Melbourne this year. The Global Agenda Observatory is the mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Agenda commitments and currently processes to establish the joint regional observatories are under way. If any member is interested in being our regional observatory representative please contact me. The next theme for the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development is "Promoting the Dignity and Worth of the Person" with the aim of completing the second report based on this theme in time for launching in Seoul in 2016. It is hoped that our region will be well represented in that publication.



Prof. Abye Tasse presenting 1st Global Report on SW & SD, on behalf of IFSW-IASSW-ICSW @ Melbourne Conference



Members of IFSW-IASSW-ICSW on stage with Prof. Abye Tasse

A recent highlight for me has been a visit to Jakarta, Indonesia to be the Keynote Speaker at the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation. Our Indonesian member Association is strongly involved in this and whilst there it was great to meet with a number of social workers and social work students. My thanks go to Nurul Eka Hidayati and Erna Dinata for their wonderful hosting and support of me during my stay in their country. We will complete a more comprehensive report on this event for the next newsletter.

I want to also thank Mariko Kimura, our Regional President for all the work she is doing for our region



and express my sincere thanks for the way she is working collaboratively with me on many of the issues for our region.

[Rose.Henderson@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Rose.Henderson@cdhb.health.nz)

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## *Report on IFSW Asia Pacific Meeting – Melbourne, 9 July 2014*



John Ang chairing his last meeting as outgoing Regional President

IFSW Asia Pacific Members who were able to travel to Melbourne gathered together for our regional meeting at the Convention Centre in Melbourne. Business included the regional President's report summarising the activities for the year, the financial report and reports from designated positions including ethics, publication and regional projects. Of special note was the dissemination of the CD following the completion of the Disaster Project led by Japan.

Suggestions for work to be undertaken in the future include strengthening the regional structure through developing some guidelines or standing orders to help clarify and support our regional committee.



Other members @ IFSW-AP Regional Meeting

Concern was expressed at the lack of progress from member countries regarding possible hosting of a regional event in 2015. Some suggestions were made and have been followed up with more information on the now confirmed event in Thailand in Mariko's Regional President's report. All members are encouraged to plan to be at this event where a further regional meeting will also be held.

At the IFSW General Meeting Ruth Stark was elected as the new IFSW President. Also at that meeting, Mariko Kimura was elected unopposed as the Regional President and Rose Henderson was elected unopposed as the Member-At-Large. Both Mariko and Rose look forward to working with and serving our regional members in the coming years. Additionally from our region Eva Ponce de Leon won the election for the IFSW Treasurer and at the first meeting of the IFSW Executive Committee, Mariko was elected as the First Vice-President of IFSW. All of this means that the Asia Pacific region has a very strong representation on the new IFSW executive committee.



IFSW-AP Members @ IFSW General Meeting, Melbourne University

In addition to Mariko and Rose, the regional committee elected in Melbourne is Michiko Hirata (Treasurer), Irene Leung (Secretary), Richard Hugman (Ethics representative), Elsie Lee (Publications), Ng Shui Lai (Human Rights), Karen Healey, Eva Ponce de Leon, Sung-Kyung Kang and Sarima Ruwaida Abbas.



Mariko Kimura, Eva Ponce de Leon & Teoh Ai Hua @ IFSW Booth

As this was the last meeting for John Ang as President of our region, tributes and a gift of acknowledgement

were presented to him in appreciation of the many years of service to our region.

Our next meeting will be in Thailand in 2015.



Group of IFSW-AP Members after the Regional Meeting

*Reported by Rose Henderson, IFSW-AP Member at Large*

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### *Keynote Address by IFAP President at PASWI 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention 22 – 24 October 2014*



Prof. Mariko Kimura, from Japan Women's University, presented the different disasters that struck Japan and pointed out that they too are as vulnerable as we are in terms of the prevalence of disasters whether it is man-made or natural. She cited points of how to be resilient such as

putting in place organisation and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society; assigning a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low income families, communities, businesses and the public sector; maintaining up to date data on hazards and vulnerabilities; investing in and maintaining critical infrastructure that reduces risk; assessing the safety of all schools and health facilities; applying and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles; ensuring that education programs and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities; protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards; installing early warning systems and emergency management capacities and hold regular public preparedness drills; and after any disaster, ensure that the needs of the affected population are placed at the center of reconstruction.

She also presented the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development which are categorised as follows:

#### 1. Economic Disparity Correction

2. Enhancement of Human Dignity
3. Maintenance of Environment
4. Enforcement of Human Relations.



Happy Closing to PASWI Conference

*Submitted by Josephine Cruz, PASWI  
paswi\_1948@yahoo.com*

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### *Introduction to the Social Workers' Association Nepal (SWAN)*

SWAN is a national professional association representing social workers in Nepal, and established on June 29, 2014. It is also a member organisation of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). It is a new organisation which signifies a major step forward for social work at the national level. Education in social service was available in early 1990 in Nepal, but the concept of professional social work education at Bachelor's degree level was started in late 1996 by some of the professional social workers. Professional social workers have realised that education in this profession is vital for improvement of social, economic, psychological and spiritual well-being of the deprived and marginalised individuals and communities. Quality education and practice, lack of understanding and recognition of social work as profession, lack of well qualified human resources in different fields of specialised areas, are the challenges of social work education in Nepal. The quality of social services in the human service organisations is also ineffective.



Founding Members of SWAN

SWAN as a national organisation aims to promote professional social work education by providing



technical support to its members so as to cope with the problems arising in Nepal's social development. SWAN aims to provide technical support to its members to enhance the quality of social work education, and to meet the challenges of social development. SWAN has established the following objectives:

1. To provide support to academic institutions for developing curriculum standards in social work education and its promotion.
2. To develop policy advocacy on social development issues, social security, social policy, social inclusion and human rights.
3. To conduct research on existing social, economic, cultural and indigenous social work practice in Nepal and publish the findings.
4. To establish networks at national and international level with social work communities and academic institutions.
5. To work in close collaboration with different social organisations for improvement of socio-economic conditions of marginalised communities.
6. To facilitate an exchange of technology and knowledge with international/regional/ national institutions.



Sanitation awareness education in the Bardiya district of Nepal

We are very thankful and excited in becoming a member of IFSW. We are interested to link with social work organisations at different levels and collaborate to promote this profession for the establishment of a just and equitable society. SWAN is exploring hosting a social work and social development conference in 2016 in Nepal and is looking for other IFSW members who may be interested in either co-hosting or supporting such an event.

Thank you very much.

Founding member of SWAN: Om Krishna Shrestha  
 President : Dr. Dilli Ram Adhikari  
 Vice-President : Krishna Sundar Khaitu  
 Secretary : Samjhana Bhetwal  
 Treasurer : Baidhya Ghale

**To contact SWAN**  
**e-mail: [swan.nepal.2014@gmail.com](mailto:swan.nepal.2014@gmail.com)**

## ***Malaysian Association of Social Workers - Brief News***

MASW congratulates its President, Teoh Ai Hua on his election to the Chair of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work at the COSW Meeting in Melbourne during the Joint World Conference of July 2014.



Teoh Ai Hua posing with COSW Members at Melbourne Conference

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## ***Upcoming Events in 2015...***

### ***APASWE-IFAP Joint Regional Social Work Conference 2015 - Thailand***

I made a visit to Bangkok in late October and met with Dr. Decha Sungkawan, Program Chair of the 2015 Asia Pacific Social Work Conference Committee. With my visit to Bangkok, it was officially decided that the IFAP Regional Conference for 2015 is going to be held jointly with APASWE. The theme, dates, and the venue will be as follows:

Theme:

Growth and Crisis - Social Work and Policy Discourses

Sub-Themes:

- \*Social and Economic Liberalisation
- \*Urbanism and Transition
- \*Social Disparities and Inequalities
- \*Poverty and Vulnerability
- \*Environmental Security
- \*At-risk Groups and Social Work Responses
- \*Human Security Discourses
- \*Lessons Learned from the Regions.

Dates: October 21- 24, 2015 with Pre/Post Conference Workshops

Venue: Dusit Thani, Bangkok, Thailand

- IFSW-sponsored Pre-Conference Workshop will be held, and participation of social workers, local and international, will be encouraged.

- IFSW President, Ruth Stark will be invited as Keynote Speaker.
- IFAP Regional Meeting will be held - venue to be announced.

In the second conference announcement of APASWE, it will be officially announced that 2015 Asia-Pacific Social Work conference is to be a joint one and the information will also be posted on IFSW website in January, 2015.

**Mariko Kimura**  
*IFAP Regional President, IFSW 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

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**6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Workers Conference**  
**10-12 June 2015 – Mongolia**

The focus of the Conference will be on promoting child friendly schools.

Contact Details:

e-mail: [info@massw.org](mailto:info@massw.org)

website: [www.isswc.massw.org](http://www.isswc.massw.org)

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The theme of the 19th International Symposium: "Transforming Society: Trends and Models in Community Leadership and Social Development" deals with key international social development issues and social change at the local, regional, and international levels. It emphasizes good governance, as well as new and emerging issues in social development requiring attention. Strong community leadership is needed to tackle the problems of an increasingly polarized and troubled world.

Website: <http://www.unisim.edu.sg/ICSD2015>

Contact: Dr. Steve Chan

Conference Secretariat: [icsd2015@unisim.edu.sg](mailto:icsd2015@unisim.edu.sg).

## IFSW Asia Pacific Regional Committee

<b>President:</b>	Mariko Kimura (Japan)
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Rose Henderson (New Zealand)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Irene Leung (Hong Kong)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Michiko Hirata (Japan)
<b>Members:</b>	Sung-Kyung Kang (Korea)
	Karen Healey (Australia)
	Eva Ponce de Leon (The Philippines)
	Sharima Ruwaida Abbas (Malaysia)
	Elsie Lee (Publications Secretary, Malaysia)
<b>Ex-Officios:</b>	Ng Shui Lai (Human Rights, Hong Kong)
	Richard Hugman (Ethics Representative, Australia)
<b>Regional Advisor:</b>	Justina Leung (Immediate Past President, Hong Kong)

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