



IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

Issue 1, June 2015

This issue includes:

Editorial

News from round-about

- Jan-May 2015 Report from IFAP Regional President, Mariko Kimura & IFSW Regional Member-at-Large, Rose Henderson
- Report on IFAP President's Visits to Macau, Hong Kong and Mainland China
- News from Macau Association of Social Workers – WSWD 2015
- News from Hong Kong Association of Social Workers – Supportive Supervision Scheme and WSWD 2015
- News from Indonesian Association of Social Workers – Psychosocial Rehabilitation Seminar & Workshop 2014
- News on the Nepal Earthquake from the Nepal School of Social Work

Upcoming Events in 2015 & 2016

Editorial

The challenges to coping with the psychosocial effects of natural and human made disasters around the Asia Pacific region continue to place heavy responsibilities on all related response and relief services. In the last 6 months, several countries experienced human loss, infrastructural and environmental damage, the most significant was the Nepal earthquakes of April 25th and May 12th 2015. As reported by the Nepal School of Social Work in this issue, thousands were killed, tens of thousands were injured and millions struggling to rebuild their lives. In Sabah, Malaysia, an unexpected earthquake and its aftershocks impacted the 115 million year old Mount Kinabalu and killed 18 of the hundreds of climbers and guides caught in the rock-fall. Just a few months before this, Malaysians were caught unprepared for a serious flood crisis affecting 3 states, for which authorities are still in the process of mitigating. China is still recovering from earthquakes, flooding and the sinking of a cruise ship. There were severe hail storms in Sydney, a train crash in India, a train derailed and a mosque bombed

in Pakistan, a military airplane crash in Indonesia, and Cyclone Pam which caused widespread devastation in Vanuatu.

It has been reported that although tens of thousands of the population of Vanuatu were affected by the hurricane, there were remarkably only 11 fatalities. This was attributed by development experts to a “combination of traditional knowledge, improved communications technology and disaster preparedness” (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-01/explainer3a-why-was-the-vanuatu-death-toll-from-cyclone-pam-so/6363970>). Certainly there are lessons to be learned around risk reduction, disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and building resilience through regional cooperation

According to Natural Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: 2014 Year in Review report released by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), more than half of the world's 226 natural disasters occurred in the Asia and Pacific region last year. It is therefore a priority for IFSWAP to place emphasis on holding dialogues, brainstorming, preparedness training and capacity building of social workers which it did over the past years. It supported a joint Symposium on ‘Disaster Management and the Social Work Response’ with the Malaysian Association of Social Workers in Kuala Lumpur in August 2007. Japan initiated the Disaster Management Project which financed 3 workshops in Tokyo (2012), Manila (2013) and Jakarta (2014). Dr. Mariko Kimura, as IFAP Regional President is working on sourcing for further funding to support another skills building workshop in early 2016.

Dr. Mariko has also encouraged national associations in the region to raise funds and donate to the Nepal Association of Social Workers in support of their efforts to provide psychosocial support and rehabilitation to the earthquake survivors. In the meantime, the IFSWAP Executive Committee is looking forward to having its regional meeting while gathering in Bangkok in October 2015 for the APASWE - IFSWAP Joint Social Work Conference. High on the agenda is the bidding for the 2017 Conference and the New Definition of Social Work.

See you all there!

IFSW Asia Pacific Report from IFAP Regional President & IFAP Member at Large: January – May 2015



Mariko Kimura
IFAP President



Rose Henderson
Member-at-Large

1st Executive Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the IFSW Executive Committee was held in Geneva on the 15th and 16th March 2015. This was the first opportunity for the new Executive Committee to meet since the brief meeting immediately following the elections in Melbourne last year and, for those of us new to the role, I think it is fair to say that there is a very steep learning curve trying to get our heads around the roles and the workload – both in process and ahead of us. The diverse group of people making up the Executive Committee results in extremely rich debates and I believe robust decision-making. It was also great to hear of the range of activities being undertaken within the different regions. For most regions, this year sees the hosting of regional events and whilst each of these has their own focus, there is much commonality across the globe especially in relation to the global agenda and other topics of global significance.

There has been development of some new policies or position statements covering social workers working in countries other than where they are based, The Social Work Role in Social Protection Systems, and International Trade Agreements/Systems. It is also recognised that reviewing and updating existing policies regularly is desirable to maintain an accurate and current suite of policies.

We continue to value the work of our members representing IFSW in international forums such as the United Nations as well as our Human Rights and Ethics Commissions. Further development of the position descriptions and terms of references for these individuals and groups will enhance the clarity and understandings of these roles.

Considerable and robust debate was had in relation to the revision of the Constitution and further work on this is to occur prior to bringing this back to the General Meeting in Seoul.

UN AIDS International Social Workers Day

Following on from the Executive Committee meeting, we were very privileged to be able to join the International Social Workers Day event hosted by UN AIDS in Geneva on the 17th March 2015. The theme was “Ending AIDS, Promoting Dignity and Respect for All”. It brought together a range of speakers and experts for an informative and inspirational programme and, in raising the awareness within UNAIDS of the important role social workers can play in assisting with, not only the eradication of AIDS but also of working within the communities affected by AIDS.



IFSW Executive Committee



With UN AIDS Committee Members in Geneva

Launch of Facebook Page

The launch of our Facebook page in February this year has provided another important mechanism for global communication. The work of our colleagues in Japan to support the establishment and ongoing maintenance of this platform is much appreciated.

Global Definition of Social Work

During this period, across our region, work continues with the amplification of the global definition of social work and we look forward to working jointly with APASWE during our time in Thailand to bring this work to a conclusion. We acknowledge the challenges of international working groups and again express our appreciation of the work being done on this topic.

Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

A newer working group spanning across ours and neighbouring regions is on the Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement currently being formulated by many of our governments. Whilst this work from an international social work perspective is just beginning, we recognise that many of our members have been actively working on these issues at individual and/or country levels for some time. Again, we thank those of our membership willing to volunteer to participate in this work from a regional perspective.

APASWE & IFSW-AP Joint Regional Conference and IFSW-AP Regional Meeting in Bangkok

We are very much looking forward to our Regional Meeting in Bangkok in October this year. Much planning and preparation has been undertaken already and we urge as many members as possible to come together in Bangkok and make this a successful regional event. In addition to the myriad of opportunities to share and learn from the Conference programme there will be a regional meeting and time to discuss the definition as well as progress our regional work on the Global Agenda Report for 2016 on the theme of "Promoting the dignity and worth of the person". We are delighted that Dr. Bala Raju Nikku from Nepal has volunteered to provide leadership for this and plans are underway for a workshop and panel during our gathering in Thailand to progress this.

Nepal Earthquake

Finally, for this report, we acknowledge the devastating earthquake in our newest member country, Nepal on 24th April 2015. As many of us

live in earthquake affective countries we can relate to the range of responses at both personal and professional levels that are required after such a catastrophic event. Our thoughts are with our colleagues and their families in Nepal as they journey through the coming months and years of recovering and rebuilding their lives and communities.

Reported by:

Mariko Kimura, IFAP Regional President
Mkimura1951@gmail.com

Rose Henderson, IFAP Regional Member at Large
Rose.Henderson@cdhb.health.nz

Report on Presidential Visits to Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China

Dr. Mariko Kimura visited Hong Kong, Macau, and Shenzhen and Beijing in mainland China from April 22nd to April 30th 2015 and held meetings with local presidents of social work associations and heads of social service departments. This was the first time for the Regional President to visit Greater China after assuming her office last year.

Hong Kong

On April 23rd, I participated in a social work exchange forum held by Hong Kong Social Workers Association. Honoured by the attendance of President Dr. Yuk Tak Fun Alice, JP, we engaged in interpretations and discussions regarding the New Global Definition of the Social Work Profession with Mr. Ng Shui Lai as the moderator.

There were some 15 participants, including practitioners and academics. During the discussions, there was a concern raised by some participants that the new definition has left out the fundamental and historical 'person-in-the-environment' perspective. This concept will continue its existence and we shall keep it in mind. Overall, the perspectives are broader, embracing the social work academic and a preventive emphasis as well as engagement of social systems by professionals as a response to the changing social environment. This is to supplement the former definition that the role of social workers is to be 'the solution of social

problems'. According to some opinions, defining our role this way is more easily understood by the general public. Still, many participants shared commitment to the idea that the role of social workers is not limited to responding to directly faced problems.

Macau

I was thankful to Mr. Andrew Ng, President of Macau Association of Social Workers, who extended a kind invitation to me to deliver a short lecture about the new global definition at the Macau Social Work Day celebration on April 25th. Andrew wrote a report to the press on the Social Work Day in Macau. Macau has a population of 400,000 and similar to Hong Kong, it is a special administrative region of China after the handover from Portugal in 1999. Therefore, there are still a lot of Portuguese heritage and culture remaining in the territory of Macau.



Dr. Mariko on a panel of speakers at Macau's WSWD 2015

The training of social workers is mainly carried out at two universities. Master's program only commenced a few years ago. With the proximity of Hong Kong, Macau draws the expertise and professional experience from Hong Kong, government and non-government. Hong Kong Social Workers Association keeps a constant link and partnership with Macau Social Workers Association in conducting professional sharing and joint conference. Recently, there are more Macau young people studying overseas who choose to return to Macau to work. This brings remarkable impact on the professional manpower to the city. Furthermore, I learned about the latest development of strengthening the social work education and related job training in medical and health field in view of the aging society.

Macau has achieved economic prosperity through the casino industry. There is a rapid increase of tourists from the mainland. I visited a Gambling Counseling Center operated by a NGO. Unlike Las Vegas, local people are allowed to visit casinos. Hence, addiction has become a social problem. Macau government has introduced a number of measures such as establishing age control for entering into casinos, voluntary registration for gambling rehabilitation program, establishing gambling counseling services, advocate for responsible gaming in order to combat the issue of gambling addiction in the community.

Mainland China (Shenzhen and Beijing)

Concerning my visit to mainland China, I originally approached and made a request to Mr. Zhao, former Vice-President of the China Association of Social Workers (the current Vice-President is Mr. Liu Jing). I initiated the China visit with Ms Lu Xiao Wen, secretary-general of Shenzhen Association of Social Workers during the General Meeting in July 2014 in Melbourne. I continued the negotiations about the visit via the support of Miss Irene Leung, our IFAP Honorary Secretary. Finally after more than half a year's communication, the China visit was realized.



From left: Wendy, Irene, Mariko & Justina @ CFSW office

Shenzhen is designated as a special economic region in China and is a city with a diverse population coming from all over China. On my arrival to Shenzhen on April 26th, I held a presentation and a sharing session in the afternoon on the new global definition for 100 supervisors at a lecture hall of a Shenzhen Civil Affairs Bureau facility. These participants were between their mid-20s to mid-30s and have either completed their specialized social work training or passed the qualifying examinations.

A recent IFSW News report describes the Chinese situation as follows:

The number of specialized social workers in China has reached 300,000, including over 80,000 who qualified after passing the government exam, according to a government report published in Beijing on 12 August 2013, and reported by the Xinhua News Agency in Beijing. In China, "Social Work" refers to such sectors as social welfare, social assistance, poverty elimination, marriage and family affairs, mental health, disabled persons' rehabilitation, employment assistance, and prevention of crimes. By 2015 and 2020, the number of Chinese social specialists is projected to top 500,000 and 1.45 million respectively, according to a government plan which calls for greater efforts to train more social work specialists (citation from the IFSW News website).



Shenzhen: Visit to the Social Service Bureau

Parallel to recent rapid social and economic development, social problems have been increasingly manifesting themselves. To decrease state intervention and to promote the activation of private forces as a government plan, a general action plan regarding personnel training, education, and qualifying examination is being carried out on a national level for the establishment of a system of coordination between activities by local volunteers utilizing local organizations and by professional social work specialists.



Shenzhen: 100 social work supervisors @ the lecture

With regard to this China visit of mine, I would like to express my special thanks for the invaluable support from my kind friends, Justina (former IFAP President), Shui Lai (former IFAP President), and Irene (IFAP Honorary Secretary),

who are not only familiar with Chinese social conditions, culture and language, but also have a long history of involvement in IFSW activities.

*Written by Mariko Kimura
[English translation by Viktor Virag]
mkimura1951@gmail.com*

Macau Association of Social Workers

Eventon World Social Work Day 2015

In celebration of World Social Work Day 2015, the third Tuesday in March every year designated by The United Nations, a brainstorming meeting on the theme 'Dignity and Values', was held by Macau Social Workers Association (MSWA), Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) Macau Social Service Coordination Office and Local Social Work Professional Development. Professional social workers from Japan, Hong Kong and Macau came together to share and discuss their ideas on the importance of development of professionalisation in local social work. Also, in response to Macau's social developing situation, they discussed how to use the ideas from the global network to benefit the social development of Macau.



The event was held at Macau Tower. Valued guests were invited to attend the event including Ms. Vong Yim Mui, the Vice President of Social Welfare Bureau of MSAR Government, Mr. Wu Feng, the Assistant Director-General of Social Work Department, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR, and others from the supporting organizations. Guest speakers included Dr. Mariko Kimura, IFSW 1st Vice President and Regional President Asia-Pacific, Dr. Alice Yuk Tak-fun, the President of Hong Kong Social Workers Association (HKSWA), Dr. Kam Ping-kwong, Associate Professor from the Department of Applied Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, Mr. Lee Kwok Hoo, the Service Coordinator of SKH Macau Social Service Coordination Office, and Ms. Lee Kuai Heng, the Chairman of MSWA.



Participants at Macau WSWD 2015 event

the course, the certified supervisors would be able to understand the importance of supervision process, identify the multiple roles and tasks of supervisors, enhance the theoretical framework and models of supervision, acquire necessary supervisory skills without disregard the ethical and legal considerations of supervision.

More than 80 people attended including students and social workers when Dr. Mariko Kimura, Dr. Kam Ping-kwong, and Mr. Lee Kwok Hoo presented to the meeting. In analysis of defects and the ways we met the challenges of professional development of social workers, they shared their different opinions on the new definition of Global Social Work and the professionalisation of local social work. During lively and animated discussion on how to face the challenges in the future, and what the characteristics of Macao social work should be, the students and the social workers benefited a great deal. Meanwhile, through performances, such as role playing by young social workers, and showing a short film consisting of several stories starred and produced by social workers, the audience now knows more about social work which is one of the expectations of holding the event. In addition, the event is expected to encourage social workers to continue hand in hand to improve the professional development of social workers in Macao.

Reported by: Andrew Ng
Macau Association of Social Workers
andrew121@gmail.com

Report from Hong Kong Social Workers Association

Supportive Supervision Scheme

Supportive Supervision Scheme (SSS) has been a long pursuing initiative of Hong Kong Social Workers Association for benchmarking the standard and accreditation of social work supervision. We finally gained an approval of funds from Social Welfare Department in launching a 3-year pilot project with the aims of helping social work practitioners become competent and effective supervisors. We set up a Steering Committee comprising lecturers from academia, senior social welfare management personnel and experienced social work supervisors for the course development. Besides that, we solicited support and advice from overseas academics for a certified curriculum. We aimed at after completion of



Supervision class in session

Tremendous work of preparation started last year when HKSWA secured the funding. After an official launching ceremony in June 2014, we started the publicity and recruitment. We received very positive and encouraging response from NGOs in nominating their current practicing supervisors to join the first batch of SSS. Finally, 34 candidates were selected out of 53 applications. The supervisor-trainees were required to undertake 20-hour 6 core modules for supervision curriculum; 20-hour supervised supervisory practice with their respective supervisees at work. The supervised supervisory practice was highly backed up by a group of 20 very experienced supervisors, who were recognized by the Scheme as Consultant Supervisors. They provide coaching, advice and assessment to the supervisor-trainees throughout the course.



Consultant Supervisor Team – Alignment Day

After 7-month pathway, the first batch of supervisor trainees completed the course requirement with satisfactory results. Exit interviews were conducted with each supervisee trainee by our Steering Group members. Positive feedback from both the trainees and Consultant Supervisors were received. A research conducted by academia was incorporated in the process so as to assess the effectiveness of the Scheme. 34 supervisor trainees, our first batch of certified social work supervisors in HK, would graduate on 26 June 2015. We are expecting a second intake of 34 supervisor-trainees in October this year.

Total number of certified social work supervisors targeted is 100 in three years.

We are pleased to share more with fellow social workers and friends at our website:

<http://www.hkswa.org.hk/en>.

World Social Work Day (HK) 2015

It was the 8th year for the Hong Kong social welfare sector to organize a series of activities to celebrate World Social Work Day 2015. Social Work Day was highly recognized and supported by 15 social work organizations, including social work professional related bodies, training institutes, government, by forming Social Work Day (HK) 2015 Organizing Committee. Hong Kong Social Workers Association took the chair for the Organization Committee. This was a genuine joint partnership with all concerned collaborators in achieving a common goal of excelling the social work profession and its contribution in community.



Hong Kong was hardly beaten by the political polarization and civil movements in community over past year. Social workers were clogged in the midst of value and ethical dilemma when facing the tremendous political and social changes. While every sector in society was under pressure, the objectives of the Social Work Day 2015 were set at reaffirming and restoring the social work values and mission amongst our fellow social workers on one hand; and striving for the continued commitment towards serving/empowering the needy as well as pursuing social justice.

Three major events were launched:

i) The Annual Marathon on 4th January 2015 kicked off the commencement of the Social Work Day (HK) 2015. We broke the record with over 800 participants joining the event this year. Apart from social workers and social services employees, there were over a hundred users and their family members took part in the “1 KM event – walk with you”. The Annual Marathon signified the solidarity

of social workers and the partnership with the service users in pursuit of common goal.



ii) In order to engage more stakeholders, particularly the service users, and get them aware of the work and contribution of social workers in the community, we launched a special activity, called “Together we celebrate the Social Work Day”. We distributed 300 birthday cakes to social workers, social work teachers & students. Each would group at least 8 users, volunteers, colleagues or students for sharing the cake while sharing a message or stories on our Social Work Day website as well. Through such, the message of Social Work Day reached over 2400 people and was widely publicized in the community.



iii) The Social Work Day (HK) 2015 event fell on 17 March 2015. In response to the current HK situation and challenge faced by social work professionals, we set the theme as “Social Work Dream – recovered and regenerated”. The aim was to revitalize the social work value and mission among our fellow social workers through a reflective process. We adopted “playback” techniques by engaging the participants in sharing their personal experience and stories in their social work pursuit. Over 200 social workers and social work students joined the event. The interactive play and discussion during the event effectively put the participants to experience and reflect the values and commitment of our profession.

We continued to ride on the Social Work Day (HK) website as a platform for our fellow social workers and public in assessing the information of the events, the profession and social welfare sector. It was beyond information that the website served as a

platform for expressing the appreciation and compliments in recognition of social work contribution in society. We also received feedback and comments from our social workers and public regarding the current social issues.

More information about the Social Work Day (HK) 2015 can be found on the website: <http://www.ctgoodjobs.hk/events/socialworkday2015/event.asp>

Indonesian Association of Social Workers

Seminar & Workshop: Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Indonesia 8 – 9 November 2014

The Indonesian Association of Social Workers, jointly with The Indonesian Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation (a member of the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation), organized a full-day national seminar and a full-day national workshop on Psychosocial Rehabilitation.

The seminar was held at Duren Sawit Psychiatric Hospital, Jakarta on November 8, 2014. The workshop was held at Santika Hotel, Depok, West Java, on November 9, 2014. The event aimed to identify the lessons from the progress of psychosocial rehabilitation in Indonesia under the broad theme of 'Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Indonesia, Multidisciplinary and Cross-Sectoral Integration: Implementation to Policy, Education and Practice'.



Rose Henderson with members of IASW & IAPR

The seminar welcomed over 150 participants from all over Indonesia, as well as representatives of mental health professionals, government institutions, hospitals, students and caregivers in Indonesia.

The workshop invited 60 professional participants (psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists and social workers), academics, policy makers, caregivers as well as

representatives of various professional associations to work on these key issues.

Rose Henderson, IFSWAP Member-at-Large was the keynote speaker at the seminar, and she spoke on New Zealand's Perspectives of Multidisciplinary and Integrated Models of Psychosocial Rehabilitation across a Mental Health System.



The workshop discussed the following sub-themes:

- 1 Aligning understanding of psychosocial rehabilitation among the professionals to reach a consensus, increasing the understanding of the duties and functions of each profession, and also identifying psychosocial rehabilitation models that have been implemented in the field;
- 2 Identifying policies that can support the implementation of psychosocial rehabilitation and identifying policies that are considered necessary to be developed as well as setting the pace of the strategy;
- 3 Formulating academic strategies that can be implemented through the curriculum of each university and discipline, to be incorporated and taught to students.



Reported by:
Nurul Eka Hidayati & Erna Dinata
nurul_en@yahoo.com

News on the Nepal Earthquake

Disaster Social Work: Experiences of Nepal School of Social Work

Republic of Nepal struggling to write its own new constitution has been hit by two devastating earthquakes

in less than three weeks, killing thousands, injuring tens of thousands, and leaving millions more with the burden of rebuilding their lives. The Government of Nepal has adopted the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009 based on Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). In addition the Local Self Governance Act 1999 gives local bodies the authority and responsibility to design and implement disaster responses, but ironically no budget is allocated to them. As a result the disaster prevention and awareness work largely carried by the non state actors in collaboration with the government agencies.

April 25 and May 12, 2015 Earthquake Disasters in Nepal

Right in the first week after the disaster struck on 25th April 2015 (with Gorkha district as epicentre), NSSW students and faculty came together and with self-care responded with relief materials bought on loan and reached Sipapokhari VDC (9 wards and about 1000 families in each of the wards) which is outside of the Kathmandu Valley. On the basis of experience and insights acquired and also the request for support received, NSSW decided to expand its work in other districts also. A virtual helpline for self-care of students and faculty has been set up by Prof. Lena Dominelli and her colleagues. NSSW faculty members also got in touch with IASSW, APASWE and IFSW to share and also seek their support to continue their work in disaster affected areas. In the first week itself, NSSW students and faculty have established links with local key informants, district development and VDC level officers and most importantly with the police who are involved in the relief and monitoring activities. Fortunately, many individuals and agencies came in contact with NSSW, visited the campus and held discussion with faculty and students available. In the next few weeks, a lot of development took place.

To share a few examples : NSSW graduates are hired by Karina Slovackova, Emergency Field Project Coordinator of the **Magna Children at Risk**, Nepal after many discussions with Pradipta Kadambari, CEO of NSSW. NSSW will be happy to work with Magna further. Similarly, **Mercy Malaysia** also came in contact with NSSW and discussions are going on to work together. Students of NSSW are now assisting Mercy Malaysia in translation during their psychosocial support program in SANKHU (Kathmandu District).

Prof. Jacquleen Joseph of TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) and her colleagues visited NSSW and held discussions with NSSW on areas of collaboration. These discussions have led to further expansion of NSSW work to other places. As of now (it is going to be one month on May 25th of the mega disaster of Nepal), NSSW students and faculty together with TISS (India) students and faculty have been involved in psychosocial support work and data collection in 6

VDCs (Village Development Committees) in 3 districts namely: Sindhupakchowk, Kathmandu and Dhadhing.

Brief Needs Assessment and Psychosocial Support

'Do no harm' is the principle that guided NSSW work in its response to disasters. In Sindhupakchow district (consisting 68 VDCs and we are working in 3 of them) alone, more than 3057 people have died and 860 were injured and about 3000 people remain unaccounted for. According to district authorities and other reports more than 63,885 houses are severely damaged and 2,751 houses are moderately damaged. Hospitals and health centres have been flattened, and those still standing have numerous cracks making them susceptible to collapse. Air remains the only means of transport to reach mountainous areas where roads have been damaged or blocked. We can imagine the scale of devastation. We will come to know exactly the number of deaths and damage to shelters in the 3 wards where we are working soon.



By the middle of June all the 6 teams (each team about 8 = 6 students and 2 faculty) will be back to Kathmandu. By then we shall have the data for about 60,000 families from 6 sites. On this basis we will make evidence based policy recommendations to the Government of Nepal and also come up with possible social work interventions to be implemented.

From the direct observations and field visits of the team members, we already knew that shelter is a big issue as many families have lost their homes or



partially damaged. Schools, temple and community halls are also damaged. Sanitation and hygiene may become a bigger issue once the monsoon sets in early June. Once the monsoon season starts, people can no longer live outside in tents and make-shift arrangements. We need to find quick and appropriate means and ways to help families to live together.

NSSW extends sincere thanks and gratefulness to all social work colleagues all over the globe for their time, counsel, funds mobilisation, and kind support to our efforts on the ground. Ms. Pradipta Kadambari, the CEO of NSSW stated: "We are committed to extend further resources of NSSW to work with these communities for the next few months and perhaps years. We do hope that you all continue to be with us and together we shall make a difference to lives of people of Nepal. We are making every effort to increase access to basic needs like shelter and primary care to these families to stand up and regain their strengths".

The insights of NSSW and its disaster social work shows that schools of social work despite limited



resources can make a difference to the lives of disaster survivors and communities. NSSW appeals to the international community of social work to extend further support to continue its long term recovery work in the selected 6 VDCs in Nepal. It believes that this disaster also gave them an opportunity to learn from the communities and work towards integrating disaster social work component in the social work curriculum, teaching and training at NSSW. The fact is Nepal lies in the seismically active zone and another disaster soon is not a thing of past. As a school of social work, NSSW believes that it is its responsibility to nurture communities to be resilient to disaster and that can happen when the social work students are trained and prepared to work with communities.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.nepalschoolsocialwork.org or

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.nepalschoolsocialwork.org>

Please support our colleagues fundraising efforts for NSSW: <http://www.gofundme.com/nepalsocialwork>.

Upcoming Events in 2015...



International Consortium
for Social Development



19th International Symposium of the
International Consortium for Social Development

Transforming Society:

Trends and Models in Community Leadership and Social Development

7 – 10 July 2015

SIM University, Singapore

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.

APASWE-IFSWAP Joint Regional Social Work Conference 2015 – Thailand



Dates: October 21- 24, 2015

(with Pre/Post Conference Workshops)

Venue: Dusit Thani, Bangkok, Thailand

Conference Secretariat: Thai Association of Social Work and Social Welfare Education (TASWE), Room 301 Social Administration Building, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 10200 Thailand
Telephone: (66-2) 613-2501
Fax: (66-2)224-1365
e-mail: apaswe_ifswap2015@yahoo.com



Upcoming Social Work Conference in 2016



Call for Abstracts:
Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016 (SWSD2016)

IFSW Asia Pacific Regional Committee

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

Editor: Elsie Lee (Malaysia)
Layout: Jodi Johnstone (Australia)
Publisher: Griffith University for IFSW Asia Pacific Region (Australia)

Note to Contributors:

Please send items, stories and articles preferably in MS word format as well as photos to the Editor, Elsie Lee at elsilee@gmail.com.