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VIETNAM
Association of Social Workers
Viet Nam

SECRETARIAT:
P. O. Box 713, CH-4002
Basle, Switzerland
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSISTANTS SOCIAUX

History
For many years social workers in different countries of the world have been interested in creating an international organization of professional social workers.

The Federation is a successor to the International Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers, which was founded in Paris in 1928 and was active until the outbreak of World War II. It was not, however, until 1930 at the time of the International Conference of Social Work in Paris, that definite action was taken and the decision was made to create the International Federation of Social Workers.

The original agreement was that the IFSW would come into being when seven national organizations from as many countries agreed to become members. After much preliminary work, the Federation was finally founded in 1936 at the time of the meeting of the International Conference of Social Work in Munich, Germany.

At present, there are 43 national associations or organizations belonging to the Federation.

Aims
The Constitution of the IFSW provides that the aims shall be:

To promote social work as a profession through cooperation and action on an international basis, especially as regards professional standards, training, ethics and working conditions, and to promote the establishment of national associations of social workers where they do not yet exist.

To encourage and facilitate contacts between social workers of all countries and to provide media for discussion and the exchange of ideas, through meetings, study visits, research projects, exchange of publications and other means of communication.

To present the point of view of the profession on an international level by establishing relations with international organizations operating in, or interested in, the social welfare field, and to assist in the carrying out of welfare programs sponsored by such international organizations.

Governing Body
The governing body of the Federation is the General Meeting, which consists of representatives of the member associations on the basis of three from each country. It determines the general and financial policies of the Federation, elects the Executive Committee and reviews its activities and accounts.

The Executive Committee conducts the affairs of the Federation. It determines the program and activities in accordance with the general policies adopted by the General Meeting. The Executive Committee adopts the annual budget.

Membership
One professional national organization of social workers in each country may become a member of the Federation. Such an organization may be a national association or a coordinating agency representing two or more national associations; it should require from its members regular professional training compatible with standards recognized in that country.

Applications for membership should be sent to the Vice-President for the region, in which the country is. After the necessary information is secured, the decision concerning the granting of membership is made by the Executive Committee of the IFSW.

The General Meeting shall set a fee per individual in the Association joining IFSW, payable at the time of acceptance to membership.

Activities
The IFSW publishes a Newsletter—The Social Worker—which is sent to all member organizations and furnishes a means for exchanging information concerning the work of the member groups. The Federation also is one of the three organizations sponsoring the quarterly journal—The International Social Work.

Seminars and symposiums sponsored and held by the IFSW were the following: 1st Asian Regional Seminar, Bangkok 1967; 1st International Symposium in Helsinki, 1968; 2nd International Symposium in Manilla, 1970; 2nd European Regional Symposium in Edinburgh, 1971; and 2nd Asian Regional Seminar in Hong Kong, 1972.

Consultative status has been granted to the Federation by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). As a result of the official recognition given the IFSW by these bodies, a channel has been provided for expressing the viewpoint of professional social workers on matters being considered by them.

Secretariat
The Permanent Secretariat for the Federation is located at P. O. Box 713, CH-4002, Basle, Switzerland.

Finances
Each member organization is required to pay an annual subscription determined by the General Meeting.

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