



E-NEWSLETTER

ASIAN & PACIFIC ASSOCIATION for SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

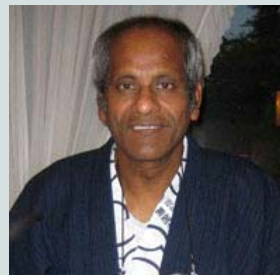
Letter from the President	1
Asian-Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE) Report for IASSW (July 2006)	1
Global Social Work 2004: Promoting International Exchange In Social Work Conferences: Education, Practice And Research	2
Social Work Education Development in Malaysia	3
A Brief Introduction to JASSW and Related Associations in Japan	5
Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Educators Report for 2006	6
About APASWE	6
APASWE Journal	7

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to pen a few lines for our E-Newsletter.

After restructuring and reorganizing which started in October 2005, the present board took office on 20 March 2006. Within a span of five months APASWE is well on the road to recovery. We have met some of the targets e.g. Homepage, membership up-date, transfer of funds from Singapore to NZ, 2007 Conference etc. One of our targets was the publication of an E-Newsletter. It is there-



Professor Rajendran Muthu

fore my pleasure to see the fruition of this E-Newsletter.

I am convinced that our regular/ individual members need information about the various activities, programs and social work education happenings within

the Asia-Pacific region. APASWE Board also needs input from contributors, members and friends to promote social work education as well as practice in the region. Hence this newsletter is timely.

I would also like to express my thanks to Carolyn Noble (our Vice President) who is responsible for this E-Newsletter. My thanks also to the contributors and readers.

Rajendran Muthu
President, APASWE

Asian-Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE) Report for IASSW, July 2006

APASWE was reorganized and revamped following the board and general meeting in Seoul, Korea on 22 September 2005.

The meeting also decided to postpone the election of office bearers. The new office bearers subsequently took up office on March 20th 2006.

Targets and priorities were established by the incoming board and these included:

1. Homepage
2. 2007 Regional Conference
3. Transfer of APASWE Accounts

from Singapore to New Zealand

4. APASWE's e-bulletin

5. APASWE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Social Work

6. Expansion of membership

As of July 2006 some of the goals have been met.

(i) Currently we have 156 regular and individual members.

We have also expanded our membership to China and we are in the process of appointing a board member from that nation. Some of the universities in

the Indian sub-continent have also indicated their interest in joining APASWE.

A board member will also be appointed from India in the near future.

(ii) The homepage has been completed.

<http://ssteach1.cityu.edu.hk/~apaswe/>

(iii) A new account for APASWE has been created in New Zealand. The transfer of accounts is being effected.

The current balance is

Conferences:

Advance Notice

19th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference from 25th–27th September, 2007 in Panang, Malaysia

“United We Stand”

AASW-AIWCW-AASWWE National Conference

Perth, Western Australia
November 2006

More info on page 6

Asian-Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE) Report for IASSW

S\$53,071.45 (equivalent to about US\$33,000).

(iv) Arrangements are being made for the next regional conference to be held in Malaysia in November/December 2007. APASWE is also actively seeking a host for the 2009 regional conference.

In this regards APASWE will solicit the cooperation of IFSW Asia-Pacific in jointly organizing

the regional conference in conjunction with local organizers.

(v) APASWE is also cooperating with the National University of Singapore in the publication of Asia-Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development.

(vi) APASWE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Social Work has been established.

(vii) We are now working on the e-bulletin which would be on-

line by the end of August.

We believe that we still have a long way to re-establish APASWE as a vigorous and dynamic organization to fulfill its goals. But with the support of our members and a strong team

we are convinced that APASWE will emerge as a creditable regional association.

Submitted by APASWE on 4 July 2006. ■

Global Social Work 2004: Promoting International Exchange in Social Work Conferences: Education, Practice & Research

Elizabeth Moore & Manohar Pawar, Charles Sturt University, Australia July 2006

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) aims to:

- Encourage participation between social workers of all countries, and
- Provide means for discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences...

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) aims to:

- Support and facilitate participation in mutual exchanges of information and expertise globally.

The research summarised below suggests that it is timely for both bodies to support resolutions to the effect of:

The IFSW and IASSW each:

1. Establish a permanent budgeted Solidarity Fund as a mechanism to facilitate the participation of students, practitioners, researchers and educa-

tors from low income countries to contribute to their international conferences.

2. That these Solidarity Funds be supported by a publicly accessible policy framework, fund raising strategy and extended application process.

3. That fund raising strategies include a levy to be struck on membership and conference registration fees.

4. That they actively encourage their regional and national affiliated bodies to operate similar Funds to address social justice issues in their areas of administration.

This evaluative research into the Solidarity Fund of the 31st International Congress of Social Work, *Global Social Work 2004* held in Australia found that the IFSW and the IASSW could more effectively use this Fund to promote professional exchange between high and low income

countries. The 2004 Solidarity Fund was open to delegates from low income countries to apply for financial subsidy toward costs connected with attending the Congress. It constituted an important mechanism to enable access by social work educators, researchers and practitioners from low income countries to an important and infrequently occurring forum of international professional discourse.

The research revealed the operational complexities that arose for the host organising body, the Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Education (AASWWE) in administering the Fund within the international environment. Issues of access to communications technology, language differences, total costs and levels of funding, collegiate and social support, as well as national visa requirements and approvals

“A total of 1,118 delegates representing 64 countries registered for the Congress”

Promoting International Exchange in Social Work Conferences

affected both the application process and eventual uptake of grants. Survey and focus group research conducted at the Congress obtained the views of Solidarity Fund Fellows and other Congress delegates about the potential to further develop the Solidarity Fund and maximize its role in enabling social workers from low income countries to participate in international exchange about practice, research and education.

A total of 1,118 delegates representing 64 countries registered for the Congress, 79% of whom accounted for 7% of countries from high income countries and 1% of whom represented 25% of countries, the vast majority of which were low income countries.

Of the 93 Solidarity Fund applications, 45 were granted partial funding, 40 accepted and 30 attended. For the eight coun-

tries of Bolivia, Botswana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, the Solidarity Fund Fellow was the sole delegate. The profile of Fellows was close to 60% female, 78% postgraduate attainment, 78% in senior leadership positions and just over half having 10 or more years practice and/or teaching experience.

The analysis also shows research participants' experience of attending the conference, experience of seeking financial subsidy, views about the Solidarity Fund and suggestions to improve the administration of both the fund and international professional exchanges.

Solidarity Fund suggestions

Participants made suggestions about the establishment of a permanent Solidarity Fund and administrative processes that aim to increase participation in international conferences by

social work educators, researchers, practitioners and students from low income countries. The covered three areas:

Supporting social work education and practice in developing countries

- A permanent fund
- Support to students and practitioners
- Support to professional organisations

Initiating research and action research projects

- Joint sponsorship
- Translation of break out sessions of practitioners in a similar field

Developing networks and exchanges

- Purposive networks

Full text visit:

www.aaswwe.asn.au

“For the eight countries ... the Solidarity Fund Fellow was the sole delegate”

Social Work Education Development in Malaysia

Dr. Zulkarnain Hatta, Penang July 2007

There are interesting developments in social work education in Malaysia since the beginning of 2006. Of particular interest are three major issues:

The mixed-mode MSW program

The establishment of the Consultative Committee for Social Work Education (CCSWE)

The 2007 Conference

1. MSW program – Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) officially launched the program for the 2006/2007 new academic year. It is the 1st university in

Malaysia to offer a MSW degree. Even though the program did not have the luxury of extensive advertisement and promotion due to some administrative procedures, its maiden enrollment is very satisfactory. The program hopes to attract more students by next year, especially from the Department of Social Welfare, Malaysia and other local universities. Presently, these institutions are sending most of their officers to United Kingdom for their MSW. With the program now being offered locally, they now have an option,

while at the same time cut cost. The program also hopes to attract candidates from Indonesia because of the common usage of the local language, even though English will be used if deemed necessary.

The program combines classroom experience and practical training. It is designed to train practitioners that are both in the non-governmental and governmental bodies. The program also prepares candidates to be able to function in the field of social work at the micro and macro level. Being a mixed-

“The program hopes to attract more students by next year, especially from the Department of Social Welfare, Malaysia and other local universities”

Social Work Education Development in Malaysia

mode program, it integrates course work, fieldwork and research. Candidates are required to accumulate forty-four (44) credits with the following breakdown: core theoretical courses (12 credits), area of specialization (9 credits), methods course (3 credits) and dissertation (20 credits). The program is being offered for both full-time and part-time candidates. For the full-time option, the minimum duration is for three semesters (18 months) and a maximum of six semesters (36 months). For the part-time option, the minimum duration is six semesters (36 months) and a maximum of eight semesters (48 months).

2. The CCSWE – it was established in 2000. The purpose is to set minimum standards for social work education and training in order to prepare students for professionally competent practice. Finally, in June of this year, the final draft to be submitted to the relevant authorities was completed. In it are detailed standards for social work programs in higher learning institutions in Malaysia in respect of:

- i) objectives and outcomes
- ii) curriculum content
- iii) program governance, structure and resources
- iv) professional development of students.

The articulation of a set of minimum standards of education implies the need to demarcate university social work studies as a professional degree which, in turn, will qualify graduate stu-

dents to seek registration and licensing to practice. The CCSWE therefore has proposed the setting up of a regulatory body with the primary responsibility of specifying educational policies and setting accreditation standards for professional social work courses. The report is presently being forwarded to the Ministry of Higher Education for vetting and subsequent approval.

The recommendations of this report compliment the initiative of establishing National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice and Education, a move taken by the Malaysian Association of Social Workers and the Department of Social Welfare, Malaysia. Their standards were officially endorsed by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development at a Stakeholders' Meeting on 26 May 2005 and were included in the Ninth Malaysia Plan. Currently a memorandum, discussing how to formulize these standards, is being prepared for presentation to the Cabinet.

In specifying a set of minimum standards for social work education in higher learning institutions in Malaysia, the CSWE apart from being guided by the National Competency Standards as a benchmark, it also followed the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training (2004) set by the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. In addition, the articulation of these standards seeks to ensure that programs offered are responsive to the local multicul-

**“2007 APASWE
Conference – USM
has agreed to be the
main local organizer
for the conference.
It will be held in
Penang in
September”**

tural societies and socio-economic parameters of Malaysia.

3. 2007 APASWE Conference – USM has agreed to be the main local organizer for the conference. It will be held in Penang in September, 2007. Presently, efforts are being undertaken to make all the ground preparations such as sponsors, brochures, website, selecting venue, etc. The theme of the conference is “Social Work: A Catalyst for Development.” The sub-themes are:

- Developmental Welfare – Issues for Social Workers
- Social Policy and Advocacy
- Traditional Social Work Practices – Coping with Social Changes
- Social Work Competency – Improving Professionalism
- Educational Challenges and Response

We anticipate that the conference will be a success with good presenters and subsequent plan of actions benefiting those that are in need.

**“The theme of the
conference is
‘Social Work: A
Catalyst for
Development’ ”**

A Brief Introduction to JASSW and Related Associations in Japan

Hiroshi Harashima, Department of Social Work, Japan Lutheran College, July 2006

This brief is mainly aimed at providing information for our readers on the activities of Japan Association of Schools of Social Work (JASSW) and related organizations in Japan.

Social Work Education in Japan developed rapidly after 1952, thanks to General Headquarters/Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers which transformed Japan as a welfare state. Since then social work education and practice has achieved much progress. This is evident by the fact that as of May, 2006, the number of registered social workers in Japan reached 82,170. As for social work education, there are 143 universities offering undergraduate programs while 81 institutions of higher learning are offering graduate programs. Social work education is also taught at junior colleges and vocational schools.

The focal point of social work education in Japan is Japan Association of Schools of Social Work (JASSW). JASSW represents 120 universities, 23 junior colleges and 26 supporting schools as of July 2006. It promotes social work education; publishes materials related to social work education; conducts surveys; organizes conferences and academic meetings and facilitates the exchange of information for the development of social work education. JASSW also collaborates with a number of other associations (listed below) to promote and develop social work education and practice in Japan. These include:

1. JACSW (Japanese Association

of Certified Social Workers.

JACSW is a professional organization for certified social workers. Most of the members are serving officers with Government agencies like welfare offices, child guidance center, health centers and other related-government institutions as well as hospitals, non-profit institutions including group homes for children and youth, the elderly, person with disability as well as women. It was established in 1993 as a voluntary organization and registered as a corporation in 1996. Currently JACSW has a membership of 23,224 as of July 2006.

2.JAPSW (Japanese Association of Psychiatric Social Workers)

JAPSW caters for registered psychiatric social workers as well as academics in the field. It was established in 1964, and it currently has a membership of about 2800. The organization promotes the well being and social rehabilitation of patients with psychiatric disorder. JAPSW publishes a bulletin 'Welfare of Mental Health' and periodic newsletters.

3.JASW (Japanese Association of Social Workers)

JASW was registered in 1960 as a professional association to promote the quality and skills of professional social workers. It also promotes the welfare of its members; supports social work as a profession; participates in activities related to social welfare and cooperates and collaborates with other professional organizations. Its mem-

bership strength is 1,100 as of April, 2006. The association itself is currently very much concerned about their future direction considering external environment changes.

4. JASWHS (Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services)

JASWHS was established in 1953 and is the oldest professional association of social workers in Japan. The association aims to promote the well-being of people and make an effort to coordinate medical, health and welfare sectors through practice and research of medical social work so that medical social workers can play a more vital role in the country. It has a membership of 3,200 of which about 70 percent are from hospitals and clinics as of May 2006. However, its members are now increasingly working with home-based elderly care centers as well as health and rehabilitation institutions for the elderly.

5.JASCSW (Japanese Association of Schools of Certified Social Worker)

253 schools of social work are registered as member schools as of May 11, 2006. It conducts examination for certified social workers.

JASSW is an active supporter of IASSW and lately it has re-established contacts with APASWE to promote international social work education especially in Japan and in the region.

JASSW and its sister organiza-

“...as of May, 2006, the number of registered social workers in Japan reached 82,170”

“JASSW represents 120 universities, 23 junior colleges and 26 supporting schools”

A Brief Introduction to JASSW and Related Associations in Japan

tions are currently working very hard to implement global standards of social work education as well as social work practice

in the country. Moreover I am happy to note that Japan has taken an active interest in working with regional and interna-

tional associations for social work education to promote social work in the region.

Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Educators Report for 2006

Karen Healy, President

The Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Educators (AASWWE) is committed to promoting quality education in the social work and human services field within a social justice framework. In 2005 and 2006, the organisation has continued to support educational scholarship in social work and welfare fields through many forums. A national educators' conference was held at Beechworth in November 2005. AASWWE is actively involved in organising the "United We Stand Conference", which is being held in Perth, in November, collaboration with the Australian Association of Social Workers, The Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers, and the Society for Professional Social Workers. AASWWE is pleased to support

this collaboration in scholarship across many sectors of the human service delivery in Australia.

AASWWE has a strong commitment to promoting social justice for, and with, Indigenous social workers. To this end, this year, AASWWE provided financial support for Indigenous students to attend the first national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Work conference held in Canberra in June 2006. Karen Heycox, a member of the AASWWE executive, spoke at the conference regarding AASWWE's commitment to raising the profile of Indigenous matters in Australian social work and welfare educational practice and research.

AASWWE also supports scholarship in education through the Wendy Weeks Research grants. These small grants enable us to seed initiatives in educational research. The organisation is currently reviewing applications for research support in 2006-2007.

AASWWE is looking to publish its journal, *Advances in Social Work and Welfare Education* online. It is hoped that the next edition, due out in November, will be available electronically.

If you would like to know more about AASWWE, or, if you would like to join our organisation, please go to our website: www.aaswwe.asn.au

"AASWWE has a strong commitment to promoting social justice for, and with, Indigenous social workers"

About APASWE

APASWE is affiliated to the International Schools of Social Work. It was founded in 1972 to represent schools of social work in Asia and in 1981 was expanded to incorporate the Pacific region.

Its purpose is to

1. to promote the exchange of ideas, educational resources, faculty and students between

social work training institutions to further social work education in the region

2. to serve as a clearinghouse for communication, plan and implement projects, arrange consultations and engage in such activities which further the field of social work and social work education

3. to function as a body through which resources channelled to schools and projects within the Asia and Pacific region

4. to promote interregional and intra regional cooperation in social work practice and education



APASWE Journal

The goal of the Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work is to promote awareness of social work practice and issues for the Asia Pacific region. It is an international refereed journal that serves as a forum for exchanging ideas and knowledge. Through the voice of the journal development and dis-

semination of social research findings, cutting edge work in social work education, as well as emphasis on culturally relevant professional models of practice has evolved over its 11 year life-span. The publication invites submission of articles related to social work and social

policies, education and research. Instructions for authors are available.

Subscriptions available from www.marshallcavendish.com/academic or email:

mca@sg.marshallcavendish.com

APASWE Office Bearers

President

Professor Rajendran Muthu (Japan)

Vice-President

Professor Carolyn Noble (Australia)

Secretary

Professor Joseph Kwok Kin Fun (Hong Kong, China)

Treasurer

Dr. Mark Henrickson (New Zealand)

Board Members

Professor Angelina Tsang Yuen Woon-ki (Hong Kong, China)

Professor Hiroshi Harashima (Japan)

Assoc. Prof. Jude Irwin (Australia)

Assoc. Prof. Ngiam Tee Liang (Singapore)

Co-opted Board Member

Dr. Zulkanian Ahmad Hatta (Malaysia)

Ex-Officio

Immediate Past President

Professor Romeo Quieta (Philippines)

National Associations:

Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan,

Korea, Philippines

International Organizations

International Association of Schools of Social Work

International Council on Social Welfare (Asian Region)

International Federation of Social Workers (Asia & Pacific)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

UN (Bangkok)

Editor:

Professor Carolyn Noble, PhD
Head, Social Work Unit
School of Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts, Victoria University
PO Box 14428
Melbourne, VIC 8001
p: +61 3 99192917
f: +61 3 99192966
e: carolyn.noble@vu.edu.au

“United We Stand”



United We Stand is the inaugural collaboration of four national and State peak organisations, the *Australian Association of Social Workers*, the *Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers*, the *Australian Association of Social Work and Welfare Educators* and the *Western Australian Society of Professional Social Workers*.

The program for the Conference, Sunday 19 - Tuesday 21 November 2006, is an exciting mix that reflects the conference themes of partnerships, working together, common values, learning from each other and the voice of consumers.

The Keynote Speakers are internationally renowned experts in their field: Dr Alean Al-Krenawi and Dr Catherine McDonald.

“We look forward to meeting you and sharing knowledge and skills at the “United We Stand” Conference”



E-NEWSLETTER
**ASIAN & PACIFIC ASSOCIATION for
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

Volume 1, Issue 1
September 2006