



# IFSW Newsletter

ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

Issue 2, December 2012

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## *Editorial*

The ending of a year never fails to make one reflect, and 2012 has given us much to reflect on. There were unfortunately too many natural disasters from tornadoes and cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes, earthquakes and avalanches, floods and droughts, blizzards and wildfires, and too many lives lost or traumatised. Social workers were challenged in areas of political, economic and social upheavals, and towards December people had to deal with all the hype about the world ending! The thought must have occurred in some social workers' minds that the end of the world would probably be the only answer to Earth's problems, and social workers would be jobless but at peace in heaven!

To go on a more positive note, we have had some professionally gratifying events and activities and achievements in 2012. IFSW, IASSW, ICSW, APASWE and the many national associations have been busy and working hard towards meeting their respective goals and objectives. There was the Joint World Conference in Stockholm, the UNIMAS Conference in Sarawak, the ASSWA Conference in South Africa, the

Strengths-Based Conference in Nepal, the Child Protection Conference in Kuala Lumpur, the NASW Conference in Washington, the OASW Conference in Toronto, and the USM-ISM Conference in Penang, to name a few. Out of these professional gatherings, we have attracted more members into our international and national organisations.

IFSW-AP welcomes the inclusion of social work associations from Indonesia, Iran, Macau and Yemen, and hopes to have their active participation in future activities. Their membership will strengthen the professional learning, exchanges, partnerships and collaboration in social work issues within the Asia Pacific and East Asia region.

In this issue, the Yemeni Association has contributed some news of their activities. So has the social work educators from the Philippines and Bangladesh, and an Australian social worker posted to work in Vietnam who shares her perspectives on working in a foreign country. Social workers may be interested to respond to Suzanne's proposal to develop a new group she calls '*Social Workers Sans Frontieres*' and also to Naomi's call to apply for Commonwealth Grants. Read all about these in the following pages.

We are certainly looking forward to the 22nd Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference on "Social Work in Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response: Building Capacity and Global Partnership" to be hosted by the Philippines Association of Social Workers in Manila from 4-6 June 2013. This is part of the IFSW-Asia Pacific Regional Development Project on Disaster Management which was launched in Japan in 2009 following a regional symposium on disaster management in Malaysia in 2007. It is tentatively planned to hold the next regional conference on disaster management in Indonesia in 2014.

So, let's see the old year out with gratitude and relief and bring in 2013 with hope and enthusiasm!

**Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and New Year, and Happy Holidays!**



## *Filipino Social Work Educators Unite to Advance a More Responsive Social Work Education*

Social work educators and schools of social work in the Philippines once again gathered for the 44<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Convention of the National Association for Social Work Education, Inc. (NASWEI), the national umbrella organization of social work schools and educators in the Philippines, on November 16-19, 2012 in Subic, Olongapo, Zambales, Philippines. This year's theme is Social Work Protection Amidst Climate Change and Disasters: Challenges to Social Work Education. Central to the Convention is a discussion of social protection and social justice as frameworks to disaster risk management (DRM) made by Prof. Rosalinda Ofreneo and Prof. Emmanuel Luna from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Presentations on subtopics on DRM were made specifically on Creating Child Friendly Spaces for Children During Disasters by a UNICEF representative, Making DRM Gender Responsive by a representative from OXFAM-UK, and A Good Community-based Practice in DRM by a local government unit in Olongapo, Zambales. These discussions intensified interests of the participants in DRM in relation to social work education. The Convention facilitated identification of social work subjects which discuss DRM while also trying to develop ways to mainstream DRM and social protection and social justice in DRM in Philippine social work education.



The Convention also became a venue to increase the competencies of social work educators in teaching Social Welfare Project/Program Development and Management as Prof. Rainier V. Almazan, a social work professor from the University of the Philippines Diliman facilitated discussion of the said topic. After which, the social work educators held a business meeting to assess the organization's accomplishments and plan for its succeeding directions and activities. Newly elected officers of the NASWEI are as follows:



**Top, from left to right:** *Grace Castigon*, Mindanao cluster President; *Karen Jay D. Lozada*, Western Visayas cluster President; *Lolita Pablo*, Auditor; *Nathalie C. Ranin*, Secretary; *Anita Leyson*, President; *Finaflor F. Taylan*, South Luzon cluster President; *Mary Lou Alcid*, Immediate Past President/Ex Officio.  
**Bottom, from left to right:** *Justin Nicolas*, National Capital Region/ Central Luzon cluster President; *Agustin Guinid*, Northern Luzon cluster President; *Joel Cam*, Treasurer; *Rainier V. Almazan*, Vice President; *Hubert Zanoria*, Eastern/Central Visayas cluster President.

Prior to this Convention, the Technical Committee on Social Work of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the national government's arm for policy formulation and regulation of higher education in the Philippines, called for a consultation among social work practitioners and schools offering graduate programs in social work in the Philippines. The said consultation, held last October 1-2, 2012, opened venues for social work practitioners to discuss several topics such as the challenges in developing and supervising social workers, the needed competencies of social workers, and gaps between the current realities and existing Master of Social Work education in the Philippines. Inclusion of local governance and social protection in the Philippines in the social work curriculum, developing unified curriculum and with specialization on different settings, enhancing social work administration course/subject, and enhancing competency from model building to practice were among the recommendations from the social work practitioners in order for Social work education in the graduate level to meet the need of the practice realities. The educators on the other hand looked into the similarities and differences of their current Master of Social Work programs in terms of the program objectives, competencies being developed, curricular content, and concerns in the program implementation. These results of the consultation will be considered in the development of the draft guidelines for Master of Social Work program and will be out in the early part of 2013. The guidelines will hopefully facilitate

standardization of the minimum requirements for the Master of Social Work education in the Philippines and respond to the needs of the social work practitioners and the clientele individuals, groups and communities in the long run.

Social work education has become borderless through online distance e-learning (ODEL) education provided by the University of the Philippines-Open University (UPOU). The Diploma and Master of Social Work programs are designed for professionals engaged in social welfare and social development work who wish to pursue a graduate degree that would equip them with a higher level of competence for direct practice and leadership in their field of practice. These programs have facilitated access to graduate level education to countless social workers and development workers in almost all corners of the Philippines and even across the globe to become more competent in serving individuals, groups, and communities towards human rights and social justice.

*Finafloor F. Taylan*  
*National Board Member, National Association for Social Work Education, Inc. (Philippines),*  
*Program Chair, Diploma in/Master of Social Work,*  
*University of the Philippines-Open University.*

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## *Social Work Education in Bangladesh*

### **The Birth of Social Work Education in Bangladesh**

Social work education in Bangladesh originated in the Pakistan regime having two key objectives: a) to build professional leadership in solution of acute and large-scale social problems and b) to criticize the operation of existing social welfare structure in response to various human needs and guide future development programs (Moore, 1958). An introductory course in social work of three months' duration was first started in Bangladesh (then known as East Pakistan) in 1953. Following that, in 1955-56 professional education in social work was introduced with a nine-month training course on Community Development and Medical Social Work at Dhaka University. With the completion of the nine-month on-the-job training course under the country's first Urban Community Development Project, the establishment of a School of Social Work under Dhaka University was proposed. All the above initiatives were undertaken under the auspices of UN Technical Assistance Program in social service sector and guided by the UN experts namely Dr. J. J. D Moore, Mr. Shawty, Ms. Anana Tooll, Ms. Lucky and Mr. Dumpson (Ahmed, n. d.).

### **Schools and Levels of Social Work Education**

In response to the proposal for establishment of a school of social work, the Government established the College of Social Welfare and Research Center in 1958,

and it commenced its educational program in the academic year 1958-59 with 15 students registered for an MA degree in social welfare at the University of Dhaka (Ahmadullah, 1986). The College of Social Welfare and Research Center, the first social work school of Bangladesh, was merged with Dhaka University (DU) as the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) in 1973.

Currently the four social work schools namely ISWR of Dhaka University, and departments of social work in Rajshahi University (RU), Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Jagannath University (JU) and National University have been offering courses at four levels such as i) four year graduation with honors, ii) one year master's, iii) Master of Philosophy, and iv) Ph.D. It should be mentioned that out of 1415, 194 and 91 colleges under the National University (NU) have been offering bachelor and masters level courses. It is important to note that thousands of students who are enrolled for a three year graduation program (BA Pass course) in more than one hundred colleges under National University of Bangladesh also take-up social work as one of the social science optional subjects having 300 marks. Besides that, a 200 marks optional course of social work is also offered at Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) level, i. e. junior college level in Bangladesh.

Four levels of degrees such as Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) Honors, Master of Social Sciences (MSS), Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) and doctorate (PhD) degrees are currently offered by the social work schools of five public universities in Bangladesh. A two-year evening master's program (EMP) in Social Work has been introduced at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research since 2004.

After completing 12 grades from junior colleges, the students are eligible for admission at BSS level and it is a four year bachelor degree course with honors. MSS is one year degree course after successful completion of BSS level. On the other hand, two year MPhil and three year PhD degrees are offered by the universities of Bangladesh. The scholars can enroll in MPhil program after completion of four year bachelor degree with honors under the supervision of a faculty. On the other hand, requirements for PhD enrolment include completion of MSS with a four year graduation and two years' research or teaching experience in any of the social work schools in Bangladesh.

### **Course Structure of Social Work Education**

Of note in the development of social work education in Bangladesh is that courses were originally prepared by the UN experts whose experiences were overwhelmingly western in approach and content. Besides, the National Conference of Social Education in 1964 was a landmark in the history of development of social work education in Bangladesh with regard to

development of courses based on local needs, study materials and indigenous literature; selection, admission and evaluation of students, and staff development. However, over time all the social work schools of Bangladesh have been trying to incorporate indigenous content as well as approaches appropriate for developing countries like Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, social work education broadly covers the study of social administration and policy, social work methods, social research, social development and service disciplines, including family-child-youth and women welfare, labor welfare, corrections and correctional services and field practice at master's level. On the other hand, about 40 courses having 120 credits are being offered at bachelor level including field practice.

***Dr. Muhammad Samad is Professor at the Institute of Social Work & Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently Dr. Muhammad Samad is serving the Vice Chancellor of the University of Information Technology & Sciences (UITS) Dhaka. He is also the President of Bangladesh Council for Social Work Education (BCSWE).  
e-mail: samadswidu@yahoo.com***

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### ***Note from Phnom Penh***

I moved to Phnom Penh, Cambodia from Canberra, Australia 5 months ago with the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) Program, an Australian government, AusAID initiative. I'm volunteering at the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia, working with staff to evaluate programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, support and treatment; and building good health governance in rural Cambodia.

My introduction to working across cultures was brief – a two week unit (elected, not compulsory) at university, and some hands-on experience, mainly in the areas of child protection and hospital social work. But I was in the dominant culture helping others to understand the 'Australian way', and bending or navigating Australian systems and customs to better support others.

Since coming to Cambodia I have been the 'fish out of water'. And just how much Cambodian history and culture impacts on the workings of NGOs, communication styles of people, and the way social and health programs are delivered, has meant that I have been on a constant and steep learning curve.

My social justice and feminist sensibilities have been challenged every step of the way, particularly when faced with the deeply engrained culture of sex work and gender inequality more broadly.

Like many social workers, I feel I have seen and heard many surprising, fascinating and sometimes very sad things, and I feel privileged to be a part of these experiences with people. To help cope with this, I have had many discussions about ethics, values, the social work role, and personal reflections with supervisors, colleagues and friends.

Here in Phnom Penh, it is hard to explain to friends and family at home exactly how different working in the Cambodian context is, and how confronting some of the issues are.

Of great help has been a network of my fellow Australian volunteers who are posted in a variety of Cambodian organisations – a debrief at the end of the day with someone who truly understands is invaluable. I have also tapped into monthly gatherings of social workers in Phnom Penh – mostly expatriates, as the first graduating class of Social Work in Cambodia was in June of this year. Recently attending the International Social Work Conference in Penang also helped to provide me with further context and inspiration for my time here.

I have always been interested in International Social Work, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region which is so close and important to Australia. I hope that more universities, students and social workers can continue to take and build opportunities to develop it into the future. I know that my work here will benefit me and my social work practice equally, if not much more, than the contribution I am able to make while in Phnom Penh. This two-way exchange is why the experience of being an Australian 'fish out of water' social worker in Cambodia is shaping up to be an invaluable one.

Laura Pound is a 26 year old Social Worker and Sociologist who graduated from the ACU and ANU in Canberra in 2009. She has worked across clinical, community development and social research and policy areas, and hopes to continue experiencing the variety that social work has to offer!

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The AYAD Program is the youth stream of Australian Volunteers for International Development, an Australian Government, AusAID initiative which deploys skilled Australians to live and work in developing countries.

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### ***Yemeni General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists!***

The General Union for Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists was established in 2011 according to a ministerial decree No. 223 issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the Republic of Yemen. The idea of forming this syndicate was initiated by a distinguished

group of Yemeni sociologists, social workers and psychologists. The Union is an independent NGO and considered as the professional cadre. It stands for defending and protecting professional rights and achievements of its members; finding ways towards improving members' skills and experiences related to their career; helping its members with job opportunities fitting their qualifications and expertise, and working towards serving local community. The membership approval in the Union is subject to fulfilling required conditions in accordance with the Union's charter that was approved by the Union's founders. The applicant should have a university degree in the following fields: sociology, social work and psychology. There are more than 1500 members in the Union. The YGUSSWP joined the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) on 11th April 2012, and became an official member in the General Meeting of IFSW members in Stockholm from 7-8 July, 2012.

### **YGUSSWP Activities**

1. YGUSSWP organized a workshop titled 'The Clinical Interview in the Psychological Guidance Offices'. It was held on 20 November 2011 at the Department of Social Work, Sana'a University. More than 50 students from the psychological department were trained in this workshop.
2. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the YGUSSWP paid an official visit to the Orphan's House in Sana'a to investigate the humanitarian conditions of the orphans. Afterward, the Union issued a general report based on this visit unfolding the humanitarian conditions of the orphans; some Yemeni weekly newspaper published the report.
3. On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 the Union celebrated the World Social Work Day for the first time in Yemen. The aim of the ceremony was to emphasize the importance of social work in the country.



The Union also held a meeting with some educators and university professors from the Social Work Department at Sana'a University to discuss the role of social workers in social development and their role in promoting better live for Yemeni citizens. They agreed that the Union should be the development tool for the society through applying the methods and goals of Social Work.

4. On Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the YGUSSWP organized a General Introductory Program to introduce the YGUSSWP to society. The program went through the following topics related to YGUSSWP establishment, Constitution, objectives, values, principles, membership, activities and the importance of creating a Union for social workers in Yemen. The program was designed for the Department of Social Work students, Sana'a University.



5. YGUSSWP in coordination with the Department of Social Work-Sana'a University organized a Training Workshop for social workers in public schools from 7-8 May 2012 titled (Individual Service and the Social Worker's Study of Individual Cases). There were more than 40 social workers from public schools representing the Educational District of Alsafih, Sana'a. The objectives of the workshop were: to activate the role of social work in schools; to train the participants on how to study individual cases and how they could deal with difficulties they will face during their work with school students.
6. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, the YGUSSWP, in coordination with the Yemeni Association for Thallium Patients and the Department of Social Work, organized a campaign to raise society's awareness of the dangers of this illness. The campaign was aimed at the students of the Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University. Another event coinciding with the mentioned campaign took place and its objective was raising supportive campaign calling for the issuing of a law emphasizing the importance of medical examinations before marriage. More than 500 students participated in all the activities of the Campaign.



### **YGUSSWP Information and Public Relations Office**

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## *Forwarded from Naomi Spencer...*

The International Social Work Committee's purpose is to be a link for Australian Association Social Work (AASW) members to international social work. There is so much we can achieve when we collaborate. I invite you to read Suzanne's proposal. I hope that you are as excited as I am when you enter in to her dreams for international social work. Please be in contact with us if you have ideas to offer.

## *Proposal for Development of 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres'*

I am envisioning the establishment of 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres'. The idea or concept for this proposal is to set up the Social Workers Sans Frontieres (SWSF), to spread and promote the idea, to gauge the need for SWSF and the level of support available. Basically to help the idea 'grow legs' and gain some momentum while enlisting the support of the 'experts' and professional bodies to become involved in its formulation. I have had this idea for some time and have wondered at how to proceed. I have mentioned it at numerous venues, and have received positive feedback and encouragement to progress with this idea.

I am now in the process of completing the initial steps in progressing 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres' (Australian Branch) from a conceptual idea into a 'real' tangible entity. The next steps will be to design the web page and contact the various Schools of Social Work and Aid Organisations around Australia, to invite their contributions. I am envisioning that the web page 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres' will contain stories and photos of social workers working in the field, and links to universities and organisations which are running such international programs. The idea of the web page is to illustrate and document the extensive breadth of work social workers are currently involved in with their work in developing countries and disaster zones; to inspire other social workers who may also be interested in working in developing countries; to operate as a focal point and nexus site, providing links to other sites that social workers can identify with; and to promote social work as an active and vibrant profession.

The overall aim in producing the web site is so that when people google 'Social Work Sans Frontieres', a whole range of interesting, exciting, inspiring information, stories, photos and international issues are readily available all on the one site. It is a way of documenting and recognising social workers' roles and the great work they are already doing in developing countries and disaster zones, and how other social workers can get involved.

It would be great to see the web site up and running within the next 6-12 months. This would require volunteer help from those with IT and graphic design skills, who could form a working party to work collaboratively on this project. A second working group could be tasked to come up with appropriate wording for the goals/aims/purpose/value statements and possibly a 'logo'. Other tasks would be to write to the numerous Schools of Social Work to promote the web site and ask for their input.

The reality is that the web site will be initially a 'work in progress', However, the dream is that it will be fluid enough to grow from a fledgling 'grass roots' beginning into an ongoing concern that involves at the core an active and committed affiliation, to take it to the next level, which may include forming an 'organisation'. This would involve: researching Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and what is required to set up an Australian NGO; surveying which agencies/associations would be interested in having representatives on a Board of Directors; surveying university social work schools within Australia, for interest and support; and finally surveying for possible sources of funding which could be used to sponsor some projects. It would be necessary to send emails and questionnaires to aid organisations, asking if they would be interested to avail themselves of the services of SWSF - if one was available. A questionnaire could ask what projects they would like assistance with and provide a list of possible projects. It would also be useful to research other aid organisations as well as AUSAID and *Medecins Sans Frontieres*, and look at the role social workers currently play and look at what projects social workers have been involved in. It may be possible for SWSF to work collaboratively with such organisations on some projects.

I would also like to canvas for support from my fellow social workers, and ask them to contact me or AASW with their expressions of interest and support for the establishment of 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres' (Australian Branch).

I would also be especially interested to hear from social work associations in other countries who may also be interested in formulating 'Social Workers Sans Frontieres' branches in their own countries who could be affiliated as 'sister' SWSF bodies. Links and collaboration would be supported and would give SWSF a truly international focus. Please contact me: [suzanne@SWSF.com.au](mailto:suzanne@SWSF.com.au) or Naomi Spencer: [Naomi.Spencer@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Naomi.Spencer@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au).

***Suzanne Jackson***  
***Project Manager***  
***Social Workers Sans Frontieres***  
***Start-up Committee***  
***[suzanne@SWSF.com.au](mailto:suzanne@SWSF.com.au)***

## *Commonwealth Grants Programme – is this something you and/or your organisation could apply for?*

The Commonwealth Grants Programme disperses a million pounds in grant funding each year. This grants programme contributes to sustainable development in the context of effective, responsive and accountable governance with civil society (CSOs) participation. The programme brokers knowledge and ideas. It supports innovation, sharing of replicable and sustainable models and promotes good practice across the participatory governance sector.

We award two types of grants, Participatory Governance Grants and Commonwealth Theme Grants. The Commonwealth Organisation of Social Workers (COSW) plans to apply for a grant which includes carers across many countries of the Commonwealth. If you are interested in joining this initiative, please let the author know.

### **Participatory Governance Grants**

Call for applications now open: deadline 31 January 2013 (5pm GMT)

At a glance:

- The Foundation will give grants to fund activities or projects of registered CSOs;
- Beneficiaries will be from a Commonwealth Foundation member country;
- Grants will be up to £30,000 per year;
- Grants are available for multi-year funding (up to three years);
- Grant applicants are encouraged to show clear evidence of counterpart resourcing;
- Up to 10% of the total grant will fund a monitoring, evaluation and learning element;
- Up to 15% of the total grant will fund indirect and overhead costs.

Participatory governance is about how the state, the market and civil society interact to effect change. These interactions involve the inclusion of civil society in decision-making processes, enabling citizens to exercise voice and vote and engaging in policy formation among others. "Citizens are engaged in public venues at a variety of times...thus allowing them to be involved in policy formation, selection and oversight".

For the announcement of our new grants programme, we are inviting CSOs to submit an application addressing either Dialogue or Collaboration within the broader theme of Participatory Governance or a combination of the two areas.

**1. Dialogue:** One of the cornerstones of participatory governance is dialogue. Dialogue requires facilitation so that people listen, learn and discuss to foster an environment of active, inclusive participation. It enables community members to constructively

address issues that affect them in their daily lives. At the same time, public dialogue offers an effective means for policy makers to be informed about community concerns, needs and priorities. It also serves to find ways in which community demands can be addressed meaningfully. Subsumed in participatory governance is participatory communication which promotes a bottom up approach and includes communication for social change and development strategies. It gives importance to "resurrecting" voices, particularly of those who are marginalised, and facilitates processes that are inclusive, build consensus and promote social cohesion.

**2. Collaboration:** The participation of CSOs in governance processes such as in enhancing service delivery, participatory budgeting, performance management systems of government and peace building/reconciliation processes among others contribute to more effective, responsive and accountable governance. CSOs bring innovative ideas and solutions as well as participatory approaches, to solving local problems. Inclusion of citizens in governance forums and consultations bring about new forms of interaction between citizens and government, including other stakeholders in governance.

The grants programme will be particularly supportive of proposals that mainstream the Foundation's cross-cutting outcome areas in their project design:

- Gender equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Cultural respect and understanding.

### **Commonwealth Theme Grants**

The Commonwealth Theme unifies celebrations taking place on Commonwealth Day (Monday 11 March 2013), and provides a focus for further Commonwealth activities during Commonwealth Week and the coming year. The Commonwealth Theme for 2013 is "Opportunity through Enterprise". As we emerge from the Global Financial Crisis, it is timely to examine how initiatives such as social entrepreneurship, sustainable enterprise and innovation can have a positive impact on economic development in the Commonwealth.

The Theme will explore specific methods and practices in the context of opportunities available to key groups including women, young people and people with disabilities.

We will announce details of a call for grant applications in support of the 2013 Commonwealth Theme in early 2013.

*For further information, please see the Commonwealth Foundation website: [www.commonwealthfoundation.com](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com) or contact Naomi Spencer at [nspencer@csu.edu.au](mailto:nspencer@csu.edu.au).*

## Book Note – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is out...

### **International Social Work: Issues, Strategies, and Programs, Second Edition**

International Social Work: Issues, Strategies, and Programs, Second Edition, draws together the practice wisdom emerging within the broad scope of international social work practice and its role in contributing to the international community's efforts in combating the major global social problems of poverty, conflict and post conflict reconstruction, the development of countries and disadvantaged populations, migration and displacement, and the needs of specific populations such as child soldiers and AIDS orphans. Utilizing an integrated perspectives approach incorporating global, human rights, ecological and social development perspectives, the International Social Work, 2e is designed to prepare social workers, human services professionals, development practitioners who desire to play significant roles in responding to modern global challenges that are critical to the well-being of people, communities, nations and ultimately of us all.

David Cox

<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/authorDetails.nav?contribId=531945> La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia  
Manohar Pawar

<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/authorDetails.nav?contribId=531946> Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia

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## Upcoming Events...

### *Regional Conferences*

#### **IFSW-APASWE 22nd Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference, 2013 Manila, Philippines 4-6 June 2013**

Theme: "Social Work in Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response: Building Capacity and Global Partnership"

Organising Host: Philippines Association of Social Workers, Inc.

Tel/Fax: (63-2) 453-8250

Website: <http://www.paswi-national.org>

#### **XXXI Annual National Conference of Indian Society of Professional Social Work Conference**

3-5 January 2013 Manipal, Karnataka, India

The Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW), oldest Association of Professional Social Workers in India, has been geared towards meeting the challenges of present day social work practice and to create a platform for information exchange.

Organized by: Indian Society of Professional Social Work

Website: <http://conference.manipal.edu/ispsw2013>

Contact person: Dr. E. Aravind Raj, Joint Organizing Secretary.

#### **First Indian Social Work Congress**

23-25 February 2013 Delhi, India

Theme: "Social Work Profession in India: Bridging Gaps and Building Bridges"

Organized by: NAPSWI and Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, India

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 10th January 2013

Website: <http://www.napswionline.org>

Contact person: Prof Sanjai Bhatt

### *International Conferences*



#### **International Conference on Social Work and Spirituality: Enhancing Commitment for Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Societies**

3-5 January 2013 Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India

This Conference will be a platform for academicians and research scholars from various disciplines to exchange views and ideas.

Organized by: BPHE Society's Centre for Studies in Rural Development

Website: <http://spiritualitysocialworkconference.org>

Contact person: Prof. Suresh Pathare.



#### **International Conference on Social Work Education in the Contemporary World: Issues and Challenges**

14-16 January 2013 Pune, Maharashtra State, India

In conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Year of the Karve Institute of Social Service

Organized by: Karve Institute of Social Service

Website: <http://www.karve-institute.org>

Contact person: Anjali Maydeo.



### 7th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, Los Angeles, California 23rd – 27th June 2013

Theme: 'Research to Practice: Completing the Circle'  
Hosted by the USC School of Social Work and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Southern California, USA.  
Website: <http://pathways2013.com>



### Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2014

9-12 July 2014 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.

This Conference will bring together practitioners, researchers and educators from around the world who are engaged in Social Work and Social Development. The Conference will continue the work of the Global Agenda, first set in Hong Kong in 2010 and then continued in Stockholm in 2012. Together with the Australian Association of Social Work, the Australian Council of Heads of Schools of Social Work, and the Australian Council of Social Service, we are planning an inspirational program in true Australian tradition.

Conference Organisers:  
Waldron Smith Management  
119 Buckhurst Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205 Australia  
T: +61 3 9645 6311  
F: +61 3 9645 6322  
E: [swsd2014@wsm.com.au](mailto:swsd2014@wsm.com.au)  
W: [www.waldronsmith.com.au](http://www.waldronsmith.com.au)

### 'The Voices for Development' Conference 25-27 September 2013

The National Association of Social Workers South Africa, in association with the International Federation for Social Workers will be hosting The Voices for Development Conference. This conference will enable countries targeted by development policy, their communities and on-the-ground social workers

to voice their practical experiences and make recommendations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when they expire in 2015. For more information, contact the conference secretariat on at [info@naswsa.co.za](mailto:info@naswsa.co.za).



## IFSW Asia Pacific Regional Working Group

- President:** John Ang (Singapore)
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