

## Welfare and professionalism in Turbulent Times

**Where are we now and where are we heading?**

We welcome you to the first joint **Nordic Conference in Reykjavík August 11th – 13th 2011**

The Association of Icelandic Social Workers, The Association of Icelandic Social Pedagogues, ÍS-Forsa (The Icelandic Association of Social Work Research), The Division of Social Pedagogy at The University of Iceland and The Faculty of Social Work at The University of Iceland will jointly organize the conference in co-operation with The Nordic Forum for Social Pedagogues, The Nordic Association of Social Workers, Forsa in the Nordic Countries and and The Nordic Association of Schools of Social Work.

This first consortium offers an excellent opportunity to discuss ideas, policy, working methods and research findings in a Nordic light.

We welcome a wide range of contributions from researchers, policy makers and professionals interested in the welfare state, the economic crisis and professionalism.

### Keynote speakers will include:

**Björn Hvinden**, Professor, Head of Research & Deputy Director Norwegian Social Research (NOVA),

**Jan Tjørsebro**, Professor. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

**Jorma Sipilä**, Professor (emeritus). University of Tampere.

**Rannveig Traustadóttir**, Professor. University of Iceland.

**Sigrún Júlíusdóttir**, Professor. University of Iceland.

### Important dates

February 1st 2011

Abstract submission deadline

April 1st 2011

Abstract acceptance information

June 15st 2011

Early registration deadline

## CHILEAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK HOLD THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DISASTER CONFERENCE



Between July 16th and 17th a conference on Disasters was developed in Chile, in the epicenter of the earthquake our country suffered last February 27, city of Concepción. It was the first conference in its type organized by social workers in Chile.

This earthquake was 8.8 degrees Richter scale, and was one of the largest natural disasters in our history; the second in intensity, after the earthquake experienced in 1969 in the city of Valdivia in Chile, and the seventh strongest quake in the modern history of the planet.

The most affected areas were Valparaiso, Santiago, O'Higgins, Maule and Concepción, areas that concentrate more than 13 million people, about 80% of the population. As if this were not sufficient to devastate these regions; those communities living along the coast were affected by a strong tsunami that destroyed entire towns. Areas surrounding Concepcion were especially affected by the tsunami, and social workers from those areas also participated in the Conference.

The Conference was organized by the Council of Social Work with the support of IASSW, in collaboration with different social work organizations around the world, including many Chilean Schools of Social Work. The audience was composed mainly by

professionals from social work.

Considering the centralization that characterizes Chile, this event marked a difference with the common idea that important things only happen in Santiago, the country's capital. The Council of Social Work decided to offer the Conference in Concepción mainly because this was the most damaged area, and the professionals needed urgently to learn from other experiences how to solve post-earthquake problems, to manage risk, and prevent future disasters.

Main speakers were Lena Dominelli, President Emergency and Disaster Committee from IASSW

Laura Cerdas, Chair of Community Work at School of Social Work Universidad de Costa Rica. Timothy Sim Boon Wee, Assistant Professor, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, María Lorena Molina, President of Latino American Association Schools of Social Work, ALAEITS and Fernando Crespo Romero, Professor from Universidad de Valparaíso.

### Main topics discussed were :

- Natural disasters as historical phenomenon;
- Natural disasters: Implications and complexities
- Natural disasters and emergency: Intervention Models

# NEWS FROM ASIA PACIFIC

## International Definition of Social Work Regional Workshop

The workshop will be held on **4th November** in **Tokyo, Japan**. In this workshop, participants will review and



photo courtesy of cepolina.com

discuss on the International Definition of Social Work. The National Associations of Schools of Social Work/for Social Work Education from Korea, New Zealand, Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, The Philippines, Bangladesh and Nepal have already notified their attendance. National associations of Australia and Malaysia have been expected to join, too.

## APASWE International Definition Review Project Launched

IASSW=IFSW International Definition of Social Work was adopted by IFSW and IASSW in May 2001, and they "were committed to a 10 year cycle of review for" it. Two thousand ten (2010) is the year for the revision. All national associations which attended the first APASWE National Association Meeting in Hong Kong in June agreed to join the APASWE International Definition of Social Work Review Project. Each national association has already organized or will organize a national workshop using your own mother tongue to discuss if any revision is necessary or not, what part of the definition has not fit your practice in the field, and others. Recognizing the importance of the project, the IASSW offered their cosponsorship of the project, and Japan College of Social Work (JCSW) Asian Center for Welfare in Solidarity and Japanese Association of Schools of Social Work have become cosponsors of the November 4 regional workshop. The JCSW has granted approximately US\$25,000 for the success of the workshop.

APASWE members who do not have a national association in your country/region could send your

comment and idea to the APASWE President office (apaswe@gmail.com) directly. Your active participation would be encouraged and appreciated.

## 2011 APASWE/IFSW (AP) Joint Social Work Conference To Be Held in Tokyo

The next APASWE=IFSW (AP) Joint Social Work Conference will be held at Waseda University in Tokyo on 15-18 July 2011. The main theme is Crossing Borders: Interdependent Living and Solidarity. Closing date for submission of abstracts and proposals is 31 December 2010. Contact e-mail address is office@apswc2011.org. Details will be announced at conference website (<http://www.apswc2011.org>) by the end of September, 2010.

### Other APASWE Co-sponsor Events

**3-4 November 2010**

**Immigrant Children and Women Empowerment Social Work in Diverse Communities in Japan (Round Table Conference), Tokyo, Japan.**

**Participants:** 20 persons from China, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand and Japan. **Sponsor:** Japan College of Social Work [yyamaguchi@jcsw.ac.jp](mailto:yyamaguchi@jcsw.ac.jp)

**5 November 2010**

**Social Work in Disaster Risk Management Theory and Good Practices (Joint International Seminar on Social Welfare in Asia and the Pacific 2010), Tokyo, Japan.**

**Participants:** 30 from China, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Japan. **Sponsor:** Japan College of Social Work [yyamaguchi@jcsw.ac.jp](mailto:yyamaguchi@jcsw.ac.jp)

**8- 9 December 2010**

**Curriculum Building towards Social Work Education in Indonesia and Malaysia (International Seminar on Social Work Education and Practice: Indonesia-Malaysia), Bandung, Indonesia.**

**Participants:** Targeted 200 (Social work educators and practitioners) **Sponsor:** Sekolah Tinggi Kesejahteraan Sosial, Bandung (STKS) and Social Work Programme, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia(USM) [haqqani@usm.my](mailto:haqqani@usm.my)

## Building the Agenda for Social Work



The agenda process was initiated at the global conference in Hong Kong in June 2010. It was growing out of the concern about the voice of social work not being heard enough by international organizations, politicians and decisions makers.

This joint conference was an opportunity for the three organizations: **International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council on Social Welfare** and **International Federation of Social Workers**, to come together as organizations and pull together the knowledge we have about social problems in communities all over the globe.

A group of local and global rapporteurs were during the conference following all the different events and by the closing ceremony the results and future plan for the agenda process was introduced by the presidents and the rapporteurs. By October a draft will be sent out to all the national and regional social work associations with a plan for further action. It is the hope that the agenda will be discussed at the Global Social Work Day in March 2011 in schools, agencies and communities linked to social work.

The responses from there will be worked into a 2nd draft on the Social Work Day in March 2012 the final document will be handed over to the UN Secretary General as well as to regional associations like European Union, Mersocur and African Union as well as national parliaments. By the next global conference in Stockholm 2012 there will be a follow up on the agenda process.

A strong and united voice from social workers can serve individuals in communities over the world and change our societies for the better.

## The Social Work Agenda 2010 Gender

Gender: while gender is a broad and contested term there is some common agreement that the term Gender is most commonly associated with the socially constructed roles, behaviour, activities a particular society considers appropriate for men and women. However for this report the following comments and proposed actions will focus on women: straight women, gay and lesbian women, transgendered women, women of colour, old women, young women, girl children and girl infants...

### Introduction- preamble

It should be of great concern to women at this conference and beyond that the issues identified last century as being important to addressing the named discrimination, oppression, invisibility and trafficking are still the same issues that are currently impacting on this generation of women's lives, on their well being, their mobility, their safety and their health as well as their caring and professional/work roles and opportunities. That is women are still experiencing discrimination and oppression as a result of race and ethnic discrimination, class and social position, health status, ability, age, sexual preferences, poverty and displacement and war, and interpersonal, intergenerational, structural violence and the concept of whiteness and associated social, cultural, political and economic privilege and entitlement attached. Indeed the theatre/arena of where and how women are exploited is growing rather than disappearing...and the issues seem same across cultures

So while it was excellent that the conference scheduled a specific women's stream where many presenters delivered their research findings, specifically of importance to women and children it was equally disturbing as well as distressing to be hearing about the same issues that have concerned women for many decades

Rather than ending the inequality and discrimination against women it seems that the list of abuse, neglect, invisibility and gender violence against women is growing. It is a national shame that women continue to lead

lives characterized by continued inequality, discrimination, exploitation, oppression, trafficking and sexual slavery and personal, intergenerational and structural violence. While other more pressing concerns seem to move the issues of women down the list it is suggested that action strategies to come from this conference and to build upon over the next two years need to address women's inequality first ... that is the ongoing and shameful oppression needs to head this list from this conference.

Therefore as part of the IASSW/IFSW/ICSW agenda setting exercise this conference should start with women's inequality as first action point

### Action points

- Continue to identify the barriers and name the experience in material terms of the lived oppression, discrimination of all women regardless of age, ethnicity, class, caste, social status, sexual choices, ability, and race and ethnic identifications.
- Continue to name and identify the determinants of poverty and its impact on women and children, locally nationally and globally and fight for its alleviation
- Work with civil society, Govts and policy makers regionally and globally to ensure the fair wages for women, and for a dignified life with multi-choices
- For IA, IF, IC to name the gender misogyny and all its advantages for men and for these privileged men to take responsibility in each organisation to address and then eliminate its practice.
- To work towards eliminating violence against women in all its forms.
- To analyse and research on the best practices (policy, advocacy, national laws and programmes) within and across countries and develop curriculum principles and practice skills to be integrated within social work curricula through case studies. etc.
- To work towards mainstreaming gender within the social work curriculum across the globe.

**Carolyn Noble, IASSW**

# The Social Work Agenda 2010

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Lynne M. Healy, IASSW



photo courtesy of Salvatore Vuono

Although the definitions of development are contested, development has been a global goal for the past 50 years. Social work understands development as improved human well-being and views development holistically, appreciating the inter-connectedness of economic, social, and environmental factors at community, national and global levels. Further, social workers promote participatory, people-centered and human rights oriented models of development.

Social work recognizes that improved wellbeing often flows from community based interventions and therefore supports community development initiatives. However, community level interventions must be supported by macro level reforms at the national and global levels to tackle root causes of poverty and inequality and by social development initiatives at regional and national levels.

Progress on improved human well-being has been made over the past few decades, but many are left in extreme poverty and still others are socially excluded. Currently, global intergovernmental bodies are focusing on the 10 year review on progress towards achievement of the MDGs—a set of globally adopted targets for reduction

of poverty and improvements in education, health, women's status, sanitation, and more. At the same time, the 15 year review of the Copenhagen Summit for Social Development reminds us of the 3 pillars of development and 10 Commitments adopted in the Copenhagen Declaration. In addition to the central pillar of poverty eradication, Copenhagen recognized social integration and full employment and decent work as the foundations of development.

Although the trickle down theory of economic development has been discredited, it lives on in current neoliberal attacks on social spending. The global fiscal crisis has intensified calls for cuts in government spending, cuts that would surely worsen human well-being and further reduce development progress. One of the major recommendations in UN DESA's new publication *Rethinking Poverty* is that "public social expenditures should be safeguarded, and even increased, in this current time of crises so as to protect investment in human capital" (2009). A pro-poor approach to national and global policy is more important than ever.

The MDGs were recently labeled by Amnesty International as "half

## Over the next decade, the social work profession will:

- Promote a people-centered approach to development
- Ensure that human rights remains central in development efforts at all levels, beginning with the community
- Collaborate with the United Nations in advocating for the achievement of the MDGs and work at the community and national levels on practical programs to achieve the goals
- Advocate for new global priorities beyond the MDGs for universal poverty reduction, social integration/inclusion, and more comprehensive social development
- Support expanded social work education and training in countries without adequate professional workforce. This capacity building is essential for development progress.
- Reorient social work education towards developmental and human rights approaches
- Ensure that the global financial crisis does not impede development efforts for people living in poverty
- Promote active involvement of NGOs—especially community based NGOs—in partnership with governments and international organizations. Many NGO programs are successful, but small in scale. Collaboration with governments is essential to scale up and increase the impact of NGO programs.
- Promote participatory approaches to development practice and in social work interventions at all levels
- Contribute to efforts to develop new measures of development with a focus on assessing improvements in people's daily lives
- Strengthen social work research and advocacy on critical global issues, such as migration, conflict and peace, climate, and others.

References:  
 Amnesty International (2009). *Half Hearted Half Measures: The Millennium Development Goals*. London: author (May 2009).  
 United Nations (2009) *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010*. New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.  
 United Nations (1995) *Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action*. World Summit for Social Development. New York: author.

hearted half measures (2009).” In many ways, the goals oversimplify poverty and are inadequate, as they aim to reduce extreme poverty by only one half and leave aside other important points raised in the Copenhagen Declaration. Yet, the sobering reality is that many of the MDGs, such as reducing the number of people living in absolute poverty, will not be achieved by 2015, especially in Africa. While there has been progress in some regions, development in many places has stagnated or even been reserved. The cost in human suffering is immense.

These realities suggest two key agenda items for the social work profession. One is to support the United Nations and promote the achievement of the MDGs

through education and social work programs and interventions. Advocacy should include a focus on Goal 8. Goal 8 does not have specific measurable targets, but it is potentially the most important of the MDGs. Goal 8 requires commitment and action by the rich countries to create conditions that facilitate development and poverty eradication through creating systems for fair trade and more equitable global relationships.

Secondly, the profession should look beyond the MDGs and work to develop new frameworks and global development goals to address needs of all those living in poverty and other vulnerable situations, and to encourage building a society for all.

## Progress on the 2010 World Census & Directory: 2500 programs identified



This last decade has seen an exponential growth in social work programs around the globe. Concerted effort is continuing to update the directory which now lists over 500 new programs in all corners of the globe. Several countries, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, Algeria, Reunion, and Cambodia report establishing their first social work program while other report reestablishing programs.

The emergence of new programs has been most

evident in Asia, specifically China, which reports nearly 200 new social work programs.

The survey, sent out by email in January and followed up by post in mid-year seeks to gain an description of the structure, characteristics of the faculty and student body, the extent of the global/regional/local program focus, and an understanding of the curriculum content, theoretical approach, and field practice requirements of social work education.

The success of this project rests on sufficient response rates from each country and region. Make sure your country and region are well represented-complete the survey and urge your colleagues to do respond!

**For more information contact:**

**Angeline Barretta-Herman**, Chair (a9barrettahe@stthomas.edu); **Henry Parada** (hparada@ryerson.ca); **Brian Littlechild** (B.Littlechild@herts.ac.uk) or **Patrick Leung** (PLEung@central.UH.edu)

## From the Treasurer...

Activities for the past two months have focused on completion of the annual IASSW Audit (2009), sending out membership reminders to those invoiced in April who had not responded with membership payment, follow up with payments and reimbursements incurred as a result of the board meeting and Conference in Hong Kong which included first payments to two of the three new international projects that were awarded, and reviewing and affirming our compliance with our own organizational internal policies and procedures relevant to the organization's financial status. In addition, as IASSW treasurer, I concluded the process of due diligence for the establishment of an IASSW foundation and the subsequent publication of the IASSW Magazine and reviewed the proposal for the 2014 Social Work Conference.

Our major concern in terms of finances is our organizational dependence on membership (school and individual) as our primary source of on-going revenue. We encourage you to encourage your colleagues and partner schools to become members of IASSW.”

**Julia M Watkins, PhD**



## Katherine A. Kendall celebrates 100 years!

International social work education icon, Katherine A. Kendall celebrates (or celebrated) her 100 birthday on September 8. Katherine has been an inspiration to all of social work education and continues to honor us with the named Kendall Award given to an outstanding social work educator every two years at the International Social Work Conference. Katherine and her many social work friends gathered (or will gather) at her residence in Maryland, US, on September 25, to pay tribute to her spectacular contributions and life-long commitment to social work and social justice. An autobiography has been published and is available through CSWE at [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org) For those of you who wish to send greetings to Katherine, you may do so by writing to **Andrea Bediako** at [abediako@cswe.org](mailto:abediako@cswe.org) and they will be included in a book of memories that will be presented to Katherine.

**Julia M. Watkins, PhD**

## A Survey to assist with the development of a *Curriculum on Social Work in the Context of Political Conflict*



Courtesy of Vinícius de Carvalho Venâncio

Political conflict, be it between warring factions within national borders or between different countries, can have a devastating impact on the lives of citizens, clients and social workers. Such effects are often in evidence as they struggle to defend themselves on a day-to-day level or to respond to the defensive measures often implemented by governments to regulate and monitor the behaviour of 'undesirable' groups, or to (re) move affected populations from particular geographical territories and to prevent others from entering. Despite the immeasurable impact of such conflicts, this concern has

largely been ignored in social work education and in practice.

Social work educators from six countries (England, Georgia, Israel, Northern Ireland, Palestine and Sri Lanka) some with experience of acute political conflict, while others bring experience

of such impact through working with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant families have composed the dimensions necessary for such a module, and have also designed a questionnaire (see below) aimed to canvass views about the content and format of learning internationally.

While the project is sponsored by the IASSW, we aim to address the educational needs of both social workers and students in social work education. The project is therefore focused on establishing an international curriculum in social work in the context of political conflict that needs to be flexible in

terms of both content and mode of delivery to suit students and practitioners at different levels of their training.

### How will the results be used?

The results will be used to ascertain whether and how the respondents see:

- the need for education and training on social work in the context of political conflict
- the levels at which such training is perceived to be best situated in terms of existing social work programmes and modules
  - the content
  - the format

We have had already some responses to the questionnaire from varied places such as Brazil, England, Georgia, Israel, Northern Ireland, Russia, Sri Lanka, but we would welcome many more to ensure that indeed the module responds to the educational needs identified.

To fill in questionnaire please contact Darja Zavirsek [darja.zavirsek@fsd.uni-lj.si](mailto:darja.zavirsek@fsd.uni-lj.si) or Shula Ramon [shula.ramon@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:shula.ramon@anglia.ac.uk) on behalf of project team

# Stay in Touch with IASSW events and activities Sept 2010 Updates for IASSW Board Members

## CSWE Annual Meeting

The CSWE Annual meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA from 14 to 17 Oct 2010 with the theme Promoting Sustainability in Social Work. CSWE is fulfilling its ethical responsibility to be a "green" organization by selecting the Oregon Convention Centre, where all 2010 APM events will be held, was the first convention centre to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-rated (LEED) sustainable certification. AngieY will join the meeting and deliver a keynote speech at the Asia Pacific Islander summit, one of the pre-conference events of the annual meeting. For more information please go to: <http://www.cswe.org/Meetings/2010APM.aspx>.

## EASSW Conference in April 2011

The European region will organize their biannual conference together with all the members of the European network for Social Action on 10-13 April 2010 at Brussels, Belgium. The main theme for this year is Social Action in Europe: Sustainable Social Development and Economic Challenges. It is believed that Social sustainability introduces a long term perspective for social action and is a fundamental concept for building social policy in Europe today. Financial and economic crises create new challenges and opportunities for our global society. Under the main themes there are 4 sub themes including: social policy and social action; active citizenship and social rights; Professional intuition and innovation. For more information please go to <http://www.ensact.eu>.

## APASWE Conference in July 2010

The Asia Pacific region is going to co-organize their biannual conference with IFSW, Asia Pacific. The conference will be held on 15-18 July 2011 in Tokyo, Japan.

## ASSWA Executive Election Result

ASSWA has had the new executive committee election at the end of August and we are pleased to announce the incoming and outgoing ASSWA Executives as follow:

### President

Outgoing President: Prof LK Mwansa, University of Botswana, Gaborone.

Incoming President: **Prof V Sewpaul**, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

### Vice President:

Remaining: **Dr G Wairire**, University of Nairobi, Kenya

### Secretary

Outgoing Secretary: Ms D Holscher, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Incoming Secretary: **Dr Wassie Kebede**, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia



We would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all the out-going executives for their work and effort in the past few years and to congratulate the new executives and look forward to working closely with them.

## Joint Conference 2014

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW have called for bid to host the joint 2014 conference for social work and social development in 2014. So far we have received only one bid which is from the Australian Association of Social Workers proposing to organize the conference in Melbourne, Australia in 2014. The officers have gone through the bid and generally we think that it seems to be a very sound proposal and has the right amount of support from the other organizations in Australia. Anyway, we have concerns about the registration fee, cost of interpretation, share of profits and cost of venue. The Presidents of the 3 associations will have a tele-conference next week and will discuss all these concerns and see how we should bring them back to the potential organizer. We will keep you updated in the process.

## IASSW - New Editor for Newsletter

Carolyn has taken on the role of editor and we hope that this can improve the communication with our members. If you have any interesting stories, news, announcements, conference and upcoming events, please send them to Carolyn (email: **Carolyn.noble@vu.edu.au**) Special thanks to Carolyn for taking up this meaningful task!

If you have anything that you would like us to include in the coming updates, please email them to Shirley [ssifsher@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:ssifsher@polyu.edu.hk).

**Angie Yuen, President**  
**Helle Strauss, Secretary**  
**Julia Watkins, Treasurer**

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 2010

## The IFSW/IASSW Human Rights Manual

The main activity of the Human Rights Committee has been work on the new Human Rights Manual, co-sponsored by IFSW and IASSW. As noted in the December report, this will be a web-based manual and work has been proceeding on line. The Manual will be launched at the Joint World Conference in June. The version launched will not be a finished product, and the work on the Manual will continue.

The Manual is slowly taking shape. It consists of brief topical entries, with links to more in-depth material. Case examples are being included and should be particularly useful for educators.

Engaging members of the Committee has been difficult. Most of the input has come from Brian Littlechild and me. Gunn Strand Hutchinson will be writing a brief entry on human rights of persons with disabilities. The on-line system is cumbersome and often the passwords provided do not work. Therefore, I think well-intentioned members may have become discouraged. Lorena Molina has distributed the call for case material widely in Latin America. Within the past month, I have received numerous submissions from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and other Latin American countries. I have secured some verbal translations and will be forwarding some of the materials on to the IFSW web-

master for consideration. Professor Molina's efforts have been the most successful in engaging IASSW member participation. Unfortunately, some of the submissions have been lengthy—even full papers—and are difficult to manage for this particular project.

I expect that the launch of the website will generate helpful critiques and additions from our members.

## Policy Issues

The recent debates and efforts to draft an IASSW statement on the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda paper on the Uganda homosexuality bill have human rights at their core. I did participate with Dorothee and Shimon in working on the statement. Issues raised are important to our future work on human rights. Specifically, on what issues should IASSW speak? How do we decide to issue statements in some situations and not in others? What is our protocol for consulting with national and regional organizations? We do have some existing policies in our Manual of Procedures and can take guidance from the Statement of Ethical Principles and the Global Standards for Social Work Education & Training. However, further discussion and clarity would be useful.

**Lynne Healy**, Chair

## Call for presentations - Applications of Global standards for education developed by IASSW – a ten years perspective

**Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, December 13th – 14th, 2010**

### BACKGROUND:

The International conference with the topic about applications of Global standards for education development by IASSW – ten years perspective will be organized in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, at Department of Social work, Faculty of Political Science, and University Banja Luka. We expect the participants from different countries: Sweden, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This conference is being organized in order to share different experiences and good practice (in a ten years perspective) of Schools of social work education and social work academic community in whole to become more aware and more sensitive towards educational reforms and its influence on social work education and research process to reach the Global standards for education development by IASSW. We are also planning to

use this opportunity to gather the members of our Eastern European Sub-Regional Association of the Schools of Social Work (EEsRASSW) in order to discuss some further steps in future regional collaboration.

### ORGANIZER:

Department of Social Work, Faculty of Political Science, University of Banja Luka

### PARTNERS:

- Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb,
- Department of Social Work, Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo
- Department of Social Work, Stockholm University

**SPONSORS:** IASSW – International Projects Committee

**FOCUS:** Experiences, examples of good practice, challenges and perspectives of University reforms

according the Bologna agreement, their influence on educational process and research according to the Global standards for education development by IASSW. Project partners will be encouraged to analyze the changes they are facing and to discuss further steps in making some strategies in social work education and research.

### OFFICIAL CONFERENCE

**LANGUAGE:** English and Serbian

**PRESENTATION FORMAT:** Oral presentations

**PREFERABLE TIME:** 10 minutes

**Deadlines for registration forms and submitting abstract: 1.11.2010**

For additional information please contact: **oliveragrbc@live.com** and **gorana.panic@gmail.com**

# Levels of Association in International Social Work Education: National, Sub-Regional, Regional and International

## Introduction

For a number of years, issues regarding the organizational structure of IASSW emerged again and again at board meetings, as well as at meetings of regional associations. One of the most pertinent issues was the relationship between different levels of association – national, sub-regional, regional and global. Which of the levels should be dominant? Should the regions be seen as subsidiaries of IASSW, or should IASSW be seen as a federation of regional associations (as proposed in 2003 by the then president of EASSW)? Can schools be expected to pay fees to a number of different levels of association? Is it reasonable for schools to belong directly to different levels, or would it be more reasonable for schools to belong to national associations and through them to regions (or sub-regions) and to IASSW.

At the IASSW board meeting at Parma, January 2009, it was felt that a thorough discussion was hampered by inadequate information about the current membership situation at different levels, and about the activities of the different associations. It was agreed that as a basis for future discussions it may be advisable to collect information about different levels of membership and the overlap (or “nesting”) between them.

## Method

A questionnaire was sent to all presidents and/or secretaries of regions and sub-regions, and to the representatives of national associations on the IASSW board.

From membership lists supplied by IASSW, EASSW, APASWE, and the East European and Scandinavian sub-regions, as well as a number of national associations, an excel file was created, with a list of all schools that appear on one or more of the list, indicating to which levels of association each school belongs. This file now has information about 780 schools

**Shimon Spiro**

## Recommendations presented to January 2010 board meeting

**The group proposed a number of possible directions for action and for further exploration of the issues:**

1. The group felt the IASSW is not ready for decisions about substantial restructuring. This is due to the different levels of development of regional associations, as well as differences in culture and tradition.
2. Although no immediate changes are recommended, alternative structures merit further exploration and discussion. The board of IASSW should keep these issues on the agenda.
3. The group recommended that the IASSW board ask the regional associations to discuss their relationship with IASSW on the one hand, and their relationship with sub-regions and national associations on the other hand. The group suggests that a time frame be established for these discussions, and that their results be presented to the board of IASSW.
4. The group suggested an effort to involve more national associations in the IASSW board, but at the same time apply more strictly the by-laws relating to such representation, i.e. the requirement of at least five member schools as condition for a place on the boards. The issue of countries that have fewer than five schools will need to be discussed. One possibility would be their representation through sub-regional associations, as in the case of the Caribbean schools.
5. The possibility of joint collection of dues for the national, regional and international levels should be explored.
6. Collection of information about the different levels of association of schools should not be a one time effort (as in the case of this report) but should be seen as one of the main functions of IASSW.

# MAJOR CHANGES TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

In July 2010, the English Government's Department of Health announced its intention to abolish the General Social Care Council, which was the first body, in 2005, to register social workers with legal professional status in England.

The Council's functions is to be transferred to the Health Professions Council (whose name will be changed to reflect their new remit), and which already deals with professional registration for psychologists and physiotherapists, for example. After the death of Victoria Climbié, a child known to many social work and health agencies, and the subsequent report on her death which was very critical of the social workers involved and their employing agency, the discourse amongst the media and politicians was of a profession that lacked the competence to protect children. This led to a reform of the child protection system, and also a wider inquiry into social work and social work education, culminating eventually in the (then) Labour Government in 2009 setting up a Social Work Task Force, and subsequently picked on by the coalition government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in 2010, with the intention to reform social work and social work education. Social work is now facing some acute challenges and concerns. The final report of the Social Work Task Force was published in December 2009, making a set of recommendations to the Government for social work and social work education reform, and as a result, the Social Work Reform Board was set up to make recommendations for changes (see the Social Work Reform Board website- <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swrb/>)

## Recommendations of the Task Force included:

- a reformed system of initial training
- greater leadership and a strong national voice for the profession, led by a college of social work
- a single, nationally recognised career structure
- a system for forecasting levels of demand for social workers
- clear and binding standards for employers in how social work should be resourced, managed and supported
- a licence to practise system for social workers to acquire and maintain their professional status
- improved understanding among the general public, service users, other professionals and the media about the role and purpose of good social work and the contribution social workers can make to society.

This Reform Board, which began work in January 2010, has several work streams arising from the above recommendations, and it seems that the new coalition government may be supportive of increasing the status of social workers. The Board comprises representatives from social work education, employers, the profession and Government. The Board will advise Government about the future of social work and social work education reform. Its working groups will provide policy recommendations and advice on specific topics in more detail by the end of 2010.

In relation to social work education, issues of calibre of entrants are being examined in one of the Reform Board's work streams. Improving the calibre of entrants is a key priority for the Reform Board, alongside retention of currently employed staff, with discussion on what level of educational attainment and experiences should be in place for those successfully applying for places taking place. As part of this work stream Service user and Carer involvement is seen as key in the Working Groups, with consultation and input taking place about their views on these areas. Areas of consideration might include:

- How can values be assessed at point of entry; and to what extent can they be learnt/taught?
- Process of selection- may include interviews, both group and individual
- Written tests and tasks, all of which raise issues of what qualities, and evidence of being able to learn about practice in social work, are required, and how can these best be tested- and predicted- at selection stage?



As part of the wider changes, there is also promised to be less bureaucracy in agencies, allowing social workers to spend more time with clients; greater professional status; a revised social work education system with more emphasis on skills and methods training at qualifying level; a new year in employment where assessment is likely to take place at the end of this, and only then will they be allowed to be registered as social workers, and to practice as such.

There is likely to be a new College of Social Work, to promote social work; this may have the role of approving and re-approving social work education programmes, and monitoring them over time, or this function may

possibly go to the Health Professions Council.

Many in the profession and in education welcome these goals in general, if not necessarily some of the strategies to achieve them.

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## ASSWA Members welcome their new Executive

The Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA) was launched in May 2005 during the sixth Pan-African Social Work Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, 2005 – thanks to the considerable support it received from the IASSW. This ended a period of 16 years during which schools of social work in Africa had no regional association or formal leadership. 2010 saw ASSWA's first Executive elections. 26 member schools and 56 individual members were entitled to vote. The elections period, which lasted from 19 April until 27 August, brought the following results:



**Incoming President:**  
Prof V Sewpaul, University of KwaZulu Natal, S. Africa  
**Email:** SEWPAUL@ukzn.ac.za



**Vice President (remaining):** Dr G Wairire, University of Nairobi, Kenya  
**Email:** wairire@uonbi.ac.ke



**Incoming Secretary:**  
Dr Wassie Kebede, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia  
**Email:** bethlehem2001@yahoo.com



**Incoming Treasurer:**  
Dr T Raniga, University of KwaZulu Natal, S. Africa  
**Email:** Ranigat@ukzn.ac.za

We would like to thank the outgoing Executive, specifically ASSWA's first president, Prof LK Mwansa, for their work and commitment to the cause of social work in Africa. We would further like to thank all our members for their enthusiasm, interest, commitment to, and participation in the elections.

Finally, we congratulate our incoming Executive: Thank you for making yourselves available for the onerous responsibilities that come with your positions, and be assured of our continued support. As our new president, Prof Sewpaul, expressed it:

**"I have no illusions about what is going to be a difficult job, but as we all sang for the World Cup Soccer: "It's time for Africa ..." ... I do believe it is time for social work in Africa ... and we are all collectively going to make that happen."**

**Dorothee Hölscher**, University of KwaZulu Natal

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# International Indigenous Social Work Wananga 1-4 February, 2011 Waitangi, New Zealand

## **“Indigenous Voices in Social Work: Mana Motuhake – Unique Identities”**

In June 2007, the inaugural international Indigenous Social Work conference was held in Hawai’i, hosted by the University of Hawai’i, School of Social Work. The theme of the conference was “Indigenous Voices in Social Work: Not Lost in Translation”.

**Your Local Organising Committee is now delighted to announce that in 2011**

**The second International Indigenous Social Work Wananga will be held at the Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Waitangi!**

**Papers and workshops will be presented around the indigenous themes of:**

- **Mana Atua (spirituality)**
- **Mana Tupuna (ancestors)**
- **Mana Whenua (land)**
- **Mana Tangata (people)**

This wananga aims to encourage the importance of best practice for practitioners as well as those involved in policy, research and education. The first conference in Hawaii focussed on practitioners, issues around their practice, and the solutions to these issues through the use of strengths based practice. The wananga at Waitangi will continue with a similar emphasis of ensuring a strong focus on the work of practitioners.

We encourage indigenous practitioners to attend this wananga so that you can be affirmed in your own practice, be exposed to local and international indigenous presentations, and strengthen your work and understandings about indigenous issues and solutions.

**There is Limited Availability so we encourage you to Register Early!**

Early Bird Registration \$600.00 (closing date 30/11/10)

Standard Registration \$675.00

(Registration does not include Accommodation costs, but accommodation options will be posted on the website)

Abstract and General Enquiries plus Registrations can be made at [www.ivsw.co.nz](http://www.ivsw.co.nz)