

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY

HANOI, VIETNAM: JUNE 11-13, 2012

Asian & Pacific Islands Social Work Educators Association (APISWEA) in the United States, in collaboration with San Jose State University, the Vietnam Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and Vietnam National University announces the call for abstracts for the “International Conference on Social Work and Social Policy,” which will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on **June 11-13, 2012**.

This conference aims to create a rigorous, practical, and meaningful discussion on contemporary ideas, knowledge, skills and values of social work education, practice, research and policy, with implications for Vietnam. While presentations do not need to focus on Vietnam, the organizers expect that presenters will think critically about practical implications that their work might have for Vietnam and explicitly present these ideas. The topics of presentation include but are not limited to:

- Children, youth, and family welfare
- Mental health
- Aging
- Urbanization and its issues: drugs, HIV/AIDS, sex industry, migrant labor issues, etc.
- Rural social work
- Social service delivery
- Community development
- School social work
- Social work education
- Social work research

We will conduct a blind review. Please submit your abstract of no more than 300 words in English (font size 12) by **March 1, 2012**. Multiple abstracts are acceptable. We welcome submissions of paper presentations (20 minutes, including Q&A), panel presentations (1 hr, including Q&A), and workshops (1 hr). Please submit a cover sheet and a separate abstract. In your cover sheet, please include the title of the presentation and presenter/panel member name(s) with their titles, affiliations, email addresses, and contact phone numbers. In the abstract, please provide the title, type of presentation, and the content only. Acceptance notices will be sent to email addresses by **March 31, 2012**. Send your abstract to: apiswea@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please email APISWEA conference co-chairs:
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About Vietnam and social work in Vietnam

Currently one of the fastest developing countries, Vietnam is an exciting society where social problems and developments are equally abundant. With nearly 20% of Vietnam's 86 million people considered poor, 5.4 million people having disabilities, 7.5 million elderly people, and one in three Vietnamese women experiencing violence in their lives, the Vietnam Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs estimates that about 40% of the population needs some form of social service. However, currently only 1.3 million people have regular support from the government. The country has only 500 social service agencies with 35,000 staff, of which 90% have little or no training in social work or related areas.

As a profession, social work only started developing more systematically in Vietnam in the early **1990s**, although charity activities have been active in the country for centuries. Facing great demand for social workers, in 2010, the Vietnam government approved a national program that focuses on training 65,000 social workers and developing a network of social work centers for the country by 2020. Currently, the country has about 40 BSW programs. In 2011, the first MSW program was established at the Vietnam National University. At present, the entire country has a few thousand people with BSW degrees, more than 40 people with MSW degrees and only a few with a PhD. In 2011, the Vietnamese Association of Social Workers was also established. These developments provide exciting opportunities for social work scholars and practitioners to have significant and lasting impact.