

“When there is challenge, there is opportunity.”

Angie Yuen was elected President of IASSW at the Durban Conference. She talks to the Newsletter about her goals and ambitions for the organisation.

Congratulations on becoming the IASSW President, what does this mean to you and to your region?

Thank you very much, Ralph. I think it really means a lot to me and the region. To the region, I believe this will encourage cross-regional collaboration and exchanges. I hope that the visibility of Asia-Pacific in the international arena will increase. Also, I hope that the participation and involvement of the Asia-Pacific schools in IASSW will increase as well.

I am very honored to be elected as the President of IASSW. As a social work educator, I trust that social work can make a difference. I believe that our work can create impact on social policies and to advocate for positive social change and social development. Therefore, personally, to be the president, this is an excellent opportunity to further develop and promote social work education to the world.

What do you see as the major challenges and opportunities facing IASSW?

I think one of the challenges of IASSW is to understand and balance the needs of members from different regions. As we are from different parts of the world, we all have our different needs and concerns. IASSW has to provide programmes and projects that will benefit people from all over the world. “When there is challenge, there is opportunity”. Despite the difficulty to negotiate between different needs and concerns, IASSW is a unique international platform for social work educators exchanging and consolidating our very different experiences, skills and knowledge. I believe through this process, a significant impact can be made.

What will be your major goals for the first year?

I have 2 major goals in the first year. First, is to consolidate the structure of IASSW. I will set up a central office and appoint staff who will oversee the daily operation of the office and make sure the plans of the association will be implemented

efficiently. I will review all of the existing committees and create new committees to assure all them are well operated. Secondly, I will try to gain a better understanding of all the regions and sub-regions by visiting them and by other means of communication. Through these communications, I aim to get a clearer picture of the needs and strength of different regions in order to enhance the support network, encourage exchange of ideas and information and facilitate cross-regions collaboration.

How can IASSW members contribute to this?

I think IASSW members can contribute to this by actively participate in their regional events such as conference and meeting for ideas exchange and they can always share views on the newsletter and website of IASSW.

I also hope that members could actively involve in the development of projects and proposals. It would be excellent if members can take initiative to give ideas so that IASSW is not run by board members alone, but should be run by all members. Moreover, members can encourage other schools and individuals to join IASSW as well.

We have just had a very successful conference in Durban, what are your hopes and ambitions for the Hong Kong conference in 2010?

The conference in Durban was wonderful! It was very well organized and I am sure that it was a fruitful journey to all participants. The 2010 conference in Hong Kong is going to be co-host by IASSW together with ICSW and IFSW. We expect that this conference is going to be a platform for social work educators, practitioner, policies makers and social planner to come together, exchange and develop an action agenda for social work and social development for the coming decade. I hope that together with IF and IC, our experience can be



consolidated, knowledge and skills can be shared, action agenda can be developed and values of social work can be affirmed.

On a personal note, how do you cope with the very many demands and pressures on your time, how do you relax outside the job?

I have a busy schedule and I very much cherish my time with my husband and my 3 children. I love travelling to different places and exploring different cultures and meeting people. I enjoy doing exercise especially swimming. It helps me to stay healthy both physically and mentally.

How will you want your period as President to be remembered?

I hope that I can be remembered as a President with vision and leadership. I hope I can lead IASSW to scale new heights and make significant impact on social change and development worldwide through social work education.

Working together to build a strong Global Social Work Profession

David N Jones, President, International Federation of Social Workers

Social work is an international profession working locally to respond to global pressures. This all becomes very evident during the international conference season. This year I attended 3 global conferences on 3 different continents in 7 weeks. These 3 global organisations emerged from the 1928 Paris social work and social policy conference. The International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) is a federation of national voluntary sector co-ordinating bodies. The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) is an organisation for universities and other bodies (and individuals) teaching social work qualifications. They were both founded in 1928 and so are celebrating their 80th anniversary, marked in the next issue of the International Social Work.

The members of the International Federation of Social Workers are national social work organisations. It came from the same origin but reformed in 1956 so has been celebrating its 50th anniversary. Around 90 countries are in membership including almost 800,000 social workers. Where possible, IFSW works jointly with IASSW and ICSW.

2008 global conferences

Our three world conferences took place in July and August, involving nearly 5,000 social workers, educators, administrators and social development workers. We met at a time of growing world social crisis. In my discussions with Ministers and policy makers, I find an increasing recognition of the importance of social work as a mediator between local experience and global forces.

The ICSW conference in Tours, France focused on 'The dynamics of social welfare in globalisation: Lessons from the past, challenges for today and tomorrow'. More than 600 people from 75 countries took part; the daily themes were 'social work', 'social protection' and 'social development'.

The IASSW conference in Durban, South Africa, was entitled 'Transcending global-local divides'. Around 1,500 people participated in the first global conference held in the African continent for a very long time. The discussions were vibrant and the dedication and energy of the South African social work community was a source of inspiration for all participants.

The IFSW conference in Salvador, Brazil had the theme 'The challenge of ensuring rights in a global and unequal society'. It attracted around 2,600 people, well over 2,000 of whom came from Brazil. The need for a more open dialogue between the seemingly different ideological and practical perspectives of those from Latin America and those from the rest of the world perhaps emerged most clearly at the end of the conference.

Local projects link to global trends

One of the privileges of the President is the opportunity to visit local projects and social workers and to see practice at first hand. I have now been able to do this on every continent. I come away with the strong impression that, whilst practice has its own culture and context, the basics of human existence and behaviour are truly consistent. Thus, whilst the elements of practice may vary, the essence of social work is consistent everywhere.

Which is why our three organisations working together can truly make a difference. It is a great pleasure to welcome Angie in her new role as



President of IASSW, for she has had a key role in one of our flagship joint enterprises, the conference in 2010.

Hong Kong 2010

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW decided to work more closely together some years ago. We are now planning our first joint conference in Hong Kong, preceded by a unique global consultation involving UN and other agencies. Social work needs to speak with a clearer and more unified voice if we wish to influence social policy and social development across the globe. We need to build on our existing links with UN agencies and develop stronger links with service user groups and other interested parties to strengthen our message and our campaigning.

The Hong Kong process will be truly global – the first ever for our profession. Every country and region will be actively engaged in shaping priorities. This will come together in the conference and General Meetings in 2010. However it will only work if individuals and local and national organisations seize the opportunity to participate.

I have seen that social work is well placed to play a key role in responding to the individual, community and global social crises facing the world. Ours is a flexible and adaptable profession, accustomed to responding to new situations. We are good at risk assessment and partnership development. Social work practice is never easy but I know the profession has a confident future. The Hong Kong 2010 process will help us to convey that message with confidence in global dialogues. I hope you will get involved and in your way link the local and the international, and I send Angie and IASSW my own and IFSW's best wishes for the future.

David N Jones

Thank you all!

A very great thank you to those stepping down from positions on the board at Durban, Abye Tasse, Lynne Healy, Gurid Askeland, and Malvina (and Peter) Ponce de Leon. Thank you for all you have done for IASSW over many years.



Katherine Kendall Award Recipient in 2008

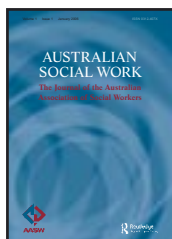
The 2008 award was presented during the 2008 Durban Congress to Prof. Shulamit Ramon, Anglia-Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK.

Shula Ramon is professor of inter-professional health and social studies at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge and a visiting professor at the centre for mental health recovery at Hertfordshire University at Hatfield. Trained as a social worker and a clinical psychologist, Shula has taught a variety of courses on the BA and MA in social work, including on innovation in social work. She is now mainly focusing on Ph.D. supervision, and represents Anglia Ruskin University at the INDOSOW project, the first ever EU sponsored European Ph.D. in Social Work programme. Prof. Ramon has researched and published extensively on community mental health and social work. Her latest edited book on Social Work in the Context of Political Conflict has been published by the IASSW and the BASW, and was launched at the July 2008 conference of IASSW in Durban.

Darja Zavirsek, chair of the Katherine Kendall committee

Social Work Journals from Routledge

Announcing Routledge's expanding list of Social Work journals



Australian Social Work

Published on behalf of the Australian Association of Social Workers

Editor:

Christine Bigby - School of Social Work and Social Policy, La Trobe University, Australia

Australian Social Work is an international peer-reviewed journal reflecting current thinking and trends in Social Work. The journal promotes the development of practice, policy and education, and publishes original research, theoretical papers and critical reviews that build on existing knowledge.



Child Care in Practice

Edited by:

Dorota Iwaniec (Patron) - Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland
Rosemary Kilpatrick (Chair) - Institute of Child Care Research, Northern Ireland

Child Care in Practice is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that provides an international forum for professionals working in all disciplines in the provision of children's services, from social care to health care, medicine to psychology, education, the police and probationary services, to solicitors and barristers.

New for 2008

China Journal of Social Work

Editors in Chief:

Angelina W.K. Yuen-TSANG - Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, HKSAR, PRC

Sibin Wang - Peking University, PRC

China Journal of Social Work is a forum for the publication, distribution and debate of critical ideas and research in Social Work in China. The journal aims to enhance theoretical understanding, to shape social policy and to inform practice in Chinese society. It aspires to develop indigenous theory and practice in a Chinese context, and to play a significant role in disseminating updated policy trends and new discoveries in Social Work and social development in China.



Community, Work & Family

UK Editors:

Suzan Lewis - Middlesex University Business School, UK
Carolyn Kagan - Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Community, work and family are interconnected and central to everybody's life. The links between community, work and family have generated widespread interdisciplinary interest, which this journal draws together with a focus on theory, research, policy and practice.

Ethics & Social Welfare

Founding Consultant Editor:

Jo Campling - *In memoriam*

Editors:

Sarah Banks - Durham University, UK
Derek Clifford - Liverpool John Moores University, UK
Michael Preston-Shoot - University of Bedfordshire, UK

Ethics & Social Welfare publishes articles of a critical and reflective nature concerned with the ethical issues surrounding social welfare practice and policy. It has a particular focus on Social Work (including practice with individuals, families and small groups), social care, youth and community work and related professions.



European Journal of Social Work

Editor:

Suzy Braye - University of Sussex, UK

European Journal of Social Work provides a forum for the social professions in all parts of Europe and beyond. It analyses and promotes European and International developments in Social Work, social policy, social service institutions, and strategies for social change by publishing refereed papers on contemporary key issues.



Journal of Children & Poverty

Published on behalf of the Institute for Children and Poverty and Homes for the Homeless

Editor-in-Chief:

Ralph da Costa Nunez - Institute for Children and Poverty, New York, USA

A forum for the presentation of research and policy initiatives in the areas of education, social services, public policy and welfare reform, the *Journal of Children & Poverty* seeks to promote intellectual debate and new ideas that will impact policy and practice in the field of child and family welfare.



Journal of Comparative Social Welfare

Editor-in-Chief: Brij Mohan - Louisiana State University, USA

Editor (Europe): Mark Drakeford - University of Cardiff, UK

Editor (Asia): Christian Aspalter - The University of Hong Kong, HKSAR

Journal of Comparative Social Welfare is a refereed international forum designed to promote interdisciplinary inquiry and research. It encompasses all scientific-academic fields dealing with social welfare including social work, social policy, social development and planning.



The Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law

Editors:

Jim Goddard - University of Bradford, UK

Helen Stalford - University of Liverpool, UK

The Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law is concerned with social and family law and policy in a UK, European and International context. The policy of the Editors and of the Editorial Board is to provide an interdisciplinary forum to which academics and professionals working in the social welfare and related fields may turn for guidance, comment and informed debate.



Journal of Social Work Practice

Psychotherapeutic Approaches in Health, Welfare and the Community

Published on behalf of the Group for the Advancement of Psychodynamics and Psychotherapy in Social Work (GAPS)

Editors:

Stephen Briggs - Tavistock Clinic, London, UK

Lynn Froggett - University of Central Lancashire, UK

Martin Smith - Bucks SSD, UK

Journal of Social Work Practice publishes high quality refereed articles devoted to the exploration and analysis of practice in social welfare and allied health professions from psychodynamic and systemic perspectives.



Journal of Youth Studies

Editor-in-Chief:

Andy Furlong - University of Glasgow, UK

Journal of Youth Studies is an international scholarly journal devoted to a theoretical and empirical understanding of young people's experiences and life contexts. Over the last decade, changing socio-economic circumstances have had important implications for young people: new opportunities have been created, but the risks of marginalisation and exclusion have also become significant.

Practice: Social Work in Action

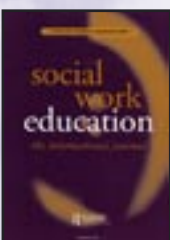
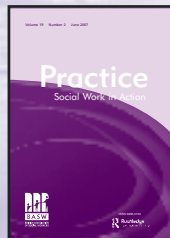
Published on behalf of the British Association of Social Workers

Joint Editors:

Keith Popple - London South Bank University, UK

Anne Quinney - Bournemouth University, UK

Practice provides a forum for the publication of research and knowledge from practice and the experiences of people using services, in a peer reviewed journal. The journal has a strong base in Social Work practice and seeks to promote a proactive, reflective and critical perspective. *Practice* promotes the international dimension of social work and fosters an exchange of learning, knowledge and values.



Social Work Education

The international journal

Joint Editors:

Vivienne Cree - University of Edinburgh, UK

Richard Perry - University of Edinburgh, UK

Social Work Education publishes articles of a critical and reflective nature concerned with the theory and practice of social care and social work education at all levels. It presents a forum for international debate on important issues and provides an opportunity for the expression of new ideas and proposals on the structure and content of social care and social work education, training and development.

eUpdates

Register your email address to receive information on books, journals and other news in the field of Social Work at:
www.informaworld.com/eupdates

For further information, please contact **Andrew Allen** at:
 Routledge Journals, Taylor & Francis Group, 4 Park Square, Milton Park,
 Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN, UK
 email: andrew.allen@tandf.co.uk

Prof. Sun-Wha Choi reflects on the IASSW World Congress 2008 in Durban



As part of the generation that grew up watching a TV program called 'Animal Kingdom', Africa was a world of wonders and a place I dreamt of visiting someday. But it was an unknown world which I was unable to visit due to both its psychological and geographical distance. Then, I heard that the IASSW World Congress will be held in Africa. So I put everything behind me and decided to participate in the event with high expectations and a fluttering heart. Yet, it was difficult for me to shake off the question on why it was held in Durban when there were so many other places in Africa that could catch the attention of people from all over the world. My questions started unraveling as I participated in the opening ceremony which struck me as a most beautifully choreographed event, coordinated by the Chair of the Congress Organising Committee, Professor Vishanthie Sewpaul.

The opening ceremony started off with a dance by African males and Indian-African females, an appropriate combination given that Durban has the highest Indian population outside of India. The beauty and harmony of masculinity and femininity reflected the symbolic meaning of the theme of this wonderful event - that of creating a new order through harmony and unity surpassing differences in nationality, race, culture, age, wealth, and gender. This was naturally conveyed through the beautiful dance. Afterwards, the welcome addresses and ceremonies followed with prominent international and national speakers. Then, all of a sudden, there was a call to sing happy birthday for Nelson Mandela celebrating his

90th birthday – a poignant moment with over 1500 delegates from across the globe paying tribute to a world icon who symbolizes peace, harmony, non-racism, unity and reconciliation. The second African-Indian fusion dance dedicated to Nelson Mandela was also symbolic of striving toward unity and reconciliation - the keywords of putting this event, and the entire Congress together.

I was pleasantly surprised by the keynote speech given by 10 year old, Anfani Okosun. The problems in the world today and the solution to the eyes of a little boy who was studying engineering at Purdue University shone even brighter due to his purity and innocence. It stirred emotion and brought on a big round of applause with a standing ovation. He said the world is divided on account of unequal distribution of resources such as food, power, and water, and as the way to mend divisions he asked people to engage in joint efforts to undo racism, sexism, environmental degradation and economic exclusions and oppressions. He called for social workers to engage in self-reflection and make changes in themselves as well as in the world around them. A child from the streets of Durban was the main respondent to the keynote speaker to remind us about the lived reality of poverty, inequality, suffering and oppression. This boy said they have nothing to do with the place and people gathered there that day and frankly talked about what he felt as he lived on the

streets. He exhorted social work practitioners and educators from around the world to talk to and include the people that they work with in decision making. He requested: 'Do not demand or order us to do things your way,' and his story about a natural solidarity arising among them was very moving and he too got a standing ovation. I thought some "great person" would give a keynote address in the World Congress, as is usually the tradition. But the story of two young boys moved the hearts of everyone more than any words, opinion or theory of anyone, and urged us to reflect on and deeply examine ourselves.

My appreciation goes to Professor Sewpaul who led the Congress with a passion like an active volcano despite her small size. Attending the congress has piqued my interest and I now look forward to events in Hong Kong, Seoul, and New Zealand. I thought the river-like Milky Way I used to see in the night sky while lying down on a wooden bed disappeared for good. But the Milky Way I saw again in the grassland in Africa is still beautifully forming an enormous river in the night sky. It was a trip which rekindled my fire of hope in the universal order and harmony which I had forgotten up until now.

Thank you Durban –It was brilliant!

A special thank you to all those involved in organising the 34th World Conference in Durban. It was truly inspiring. Vishanthie Sewpaul, her team and her family created a wonderful, often original and always generous conference atmosphere.

IASSW Special Interest Group

At the recent Congress in Durban a number of informal discussions took place concerning the subject of social work management. The debates were wide and varied and a number of interesting themes began to emerge.

It is evident that social work management is in some countries influenced by what used to be called new managerialism or in more recent times, managerialism, crudely described as the influence of private sector management approaches to public sector management. This development has in recent years produced some level of debate.

However it is also evident that the teaching and education of social work managers is conducted in a manner which is inconsistent in terms of its curriculum content, erratic in its approach and uneven in its application. In some countries there are established programmes for managers at a variety of levels, while in others there is no provision, or it is included in undergraduate or postgraduate training at a time when students are taking up their first qualified position.

It is clear that educators too are struggling with this topic and a discourse covering a number of key areas would help to illuminate an otherwise dimly lit corner.

Just as there are internationally recognised standards for the teaching of social work it may be worth opening a debate on the content, standards and possibly regulation of the teaching of social work management.

To further this debate a number of people who attended the Congress in Durban have come together to establish a Special Interest Group on Social Work Management.

We would like as wide a representation as possible to reflect the situation in a variety of countries.

If you would like to participate in our as yet informal group contact John Leinster at J.Leinster1@nuigalway.ie

Seeking Help/Interest:

External Examiners: Vishanthie Sewpaul at the University of KwaZulu Natal is looking to create a resource list of Subject expertise to act as Externals for South African Post graduate modules and Dissertations. Contact: sewpaul@ukzn.ac.za

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of The Alice Salomon School OF Social Work

The year 2008 is an important milestone in the history of the European schools of social work, as it is precisely 100 years ago that the Alice Salomon School for Social Work in Europe was established. In 1908 Alice Salomon, a Berlin Jew, a feminist and an academic established the Soziale Frauenschule - a social women school in Berlin Schoeneberg. She was the director of the school until the Nazi regime banned the school being progressive and anti-racist oriented, destroyed her books and forced her into exile in 1937. Only in 1954 the school was re-opened and was operated in the same building which Alice Salomon had used before fleeing to USA. In 1998 the University of Applied Science Alice Salomon moved to another place of the same city Berlin.

Dr. Alice Salomon (1872-1948) is probably one of the most famous pioneers of social work education in Europe and worldwide. Since 1893, when she became one of the key figures in the Girls and Women's Groups for Social Assistance in Berlin, she committed her professional and personal life to the development of social work profession based on the developing social sciences from that period of time. She was one of the first women holding the Ph.D. title and one of the organisers of the international women's congress in Berlin in 1904. In 1917 she established a National Association of Schools of Social Work in Germany and in 1923 was a key speaker at the national congress of social work in Washington. In 1928 she was leading the division on social work education at the first international congress of social work in Paris, where the International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW) was established. She was the first president of the IASSW. Alice Salomon School of Applied Science in Berlin is celebrating this important event in October 2008.

Prof. dr. Darja Zaviršek,

Honorary professor of the Alice Salomon School of Applied Science



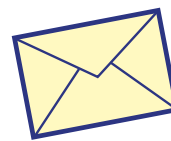
Establishment of Eastern European Sub-Regional Association of Schools of Social Work of the IASSW

Eastern-European schools of social work have for the first time in the history of this region the opportunity to be join together in a regional association. During the Board Meeting of the International Association of the Schools of Social Work at the 34th biennial congress of the IASSW in Durban (2008), the Board of Directors acknowledged the initiative for the establishment of the new Eastern-European Sub-Regional Association of Schools of Social Work as a new sub-region of the IASSW which aims to:

- strengthening the status of schools of social work in Eastern-Europe and beyond while ensuring mutual support among the member schools;
- encouraging the regional networking and exchanges of students, teachers and researchers;
- encouraging the Eastern-European schools of social work to become active members of EASSW and IASSW;
- fostering and promoting social work education, research, and international cooperation;
- strengthening innovations in social work and social policy;
- encouraging schools in the Eastern-European region to become active agents within national and international debates on social development, social work and social policy;
- actively responding to the events and processes which threaten, diminish and ignore the level of people's social rights, economic, social and environmental well-being and the principles of welfare states;
- promoting Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training and Ethics Document of the IASSW.

Schools and individuals are invited to become active members of the Eastern European Sub-Regional Association of the Schools of Social Work. There is no membership fee and the work of the organisation is undertaken by volunteers. Please, read more about the development on the web site of IASSW; fill out the letter of interest or write directly to Darja Zavirsek, president of the sub-regional association. darja.zavirsek@fsd.uni-lj.si

Prof. Darja Zavirsek



The newsletter seeks your input, please contact the editor:

Ralph Firth
ralphfirth@aol.com



visit www.iasstw-aiets.org

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