

Dear Colleagues,

As this is the last Board Meeting of my term of office, I would like to provide some insights of our achievements and challenges. During these past 4 years, I've experienced two very difficult situations. The first one was the conflict between IASSW and IFSW and the second has been the COVID pandemic.

Tripartite Cooperation

Concerning our relationship with IFSW, I was able to maintain a clear independent position for IASSW, reaffirming our specific mission and importance for global social work education. Our relationship has become easier with increased cooperation with a new IFSW President, Silvana Martinez. The fact that I can speak Spanish has been an asset and facilitated our communication.

Our partnership with ICSW has always been very strong and clear. In the next meeting of the Tripartite group, I believe it will be possible to sign a MOU of cooperation that clarifies our roles in our joint initiatives and specifies autonomy in our different fields of activity.

Our collaboration on the Global Agenda (GA) has progressed with finalizing the third and fourth reports for the 2010-2020 GA and launching the 2020-2030 consultation process. The process is led by Abye Tasse, IASSW past president with assistance from Angie Yuen (IASSW past president) and Antoinette Lombard, serving as our representatives on the GA Task Force.

Publication of the *International Social Work Journal* is also going very well and we have been able to increase our percentage of the income.

COVID-19

As you are all aware, COVID-19 has had an impact on all aspects of our personal and professional lives. Without going into detail, the virus dealt a fatal blow to our 2020 World Conference in Rimini. With all the required health protections, it is not possible to proceed with an international conference of the size and scope we had planned. This has been a major challenge for our association. We are anticipating that we will be able to organize a 2024 World Conference in collaboration with ICSW and IFSW.

IASSW-IFSW Documents

Thanks to the IASSW Ethics Task Force led by Vishanthie Sewpaul and the Global Standards Task Force led by Dixon Sookray, we managed to finalize the Ethics In Social Work, Statement of Principles and the Global Standard for Social Work Education and Training.

Outreach

As President, I have worked very hard to make our association truly international, approaching French and Spanish speaking schools and associations and trying to involve them as members. For these reasons, the messages for the World Social Work days have been prepared in English, Spanish and French in addition, of course, to Italian. I have participated in many different initiatives and conferences, representing IASSW.

Reaching out to our Spanish and French speaking colleagues is critical as these colleagues feel excluded by the fact that the more common language is English. I believe that the process of involving them will begin to give some positive results.

Website

We have developed a more attractive and interactive website. With support from Rashmi Pandey, Executive Officer, the website is being updated regularly. We have also provided automatic translation, to make an easier approach to the non-English speaking members. A lot of work has been done to provide more resources for our members. I think the initiatives undertaken in relation to COVID-19 are an example of what we would like to increase. Special thanks Lena Dominelli, IASSW past President, for her work.

Financial Transition

During my Presidency, under the leadership of John Rautenbach and Tan Ngho Tiong, Treasurer, we have transitioned our accounting services to Chapel and York International Management Services. This move has had positive results in terms of economic savings for IASSW.

In February 2020, we added a new staff member, Agnes Yeung as Communications Manager. To date, Agnes has focused her work on increasing visibility of IASSW and grant writing.

Still on the table is the issue of the relationship between the Regional Associations and IA in terms of membership. We continue to work on developing a win-win strategy in terms of joint fee payments of membership as our goal is to support membership of schools and individuals in both their regional and the international association.

We have continued many initiative undertaken during the prior presidencies such as Capacity Building, International Projects, Language, Social Dialogue, etc.). As President, I have maintained a close relationship with the officers, the board and the chairs of the committees. Thank you to all as through your hard work, we have realized many activities.

During my Presidency, I have participated in many conferences in many countries, increasing the visibility of the association, especially in areas where the presence of the association wasn't yet known. When it has not been possible to be physically present, I have prepared videos. It is continually a challenge to distinguish our association from IFSW, who seems to have a larger presence in some parts of the world.

As I was able to take a sabbatical period from my full-time teaching position, I have been able to devote all my energies to fulfill the aims of our association. I recognize that the challenge for our Board members that their contributions to our association are in addition to their full-time university tasks, which can slow down the realization of some activities.

I'm grateful to Barbara Shank, Secretary, for her writing assistance; Mark Henrikson and Tan Ngho Tiong for their carefully work as Treasurers; Rashmi Pandey, our precious Executive Officer for her devotion to IASSW; our Past Presidents Lena Dominelli, Abye Tasse, Angie Yuen, and Vimla Nadkarni for their sound advise and solidarity in the most difficult periods and of course all the Executive and Board Members for their support.

I hope I have been able to meet the expectations of Julia Watkins, Nominator and Prof. Xu, Secunder and of course to all our members. It is unfortunate that Prof. Xu left us so early. We miss this wonderful colleague.

Respectfully,

Annamaria Campanini, PhD, President
International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)