

## Report from the Capacity Building Committee

June 2020

Chair: Darla Spence Coffey; Co-chair: Vimla Nadkarni  
Members: Angelina Yuen, In Young Han, Karene-Anne Nathaniel-DeCaires, Janestic Mwende Twikirize, Kathy Hogarth, Raymond Kloppenburg, Ute Straub, Zulkarnain A. Hatta, Wassie Kebede

### Updates and Initiatives of the Capacity Building Committee since January 2020 (last report):

- I. Regional Resource Centres (RRC) support the development and strengthening of social work education across the Globe. Below is a brief description and high-level overview of activities of the three IASSW RRCs: The China Social Work Research Centre; the Social Work Regional Resource Centre of Oceania; and the Virtual Centre in the Baltic and Nordic regions.
  - A. The China Social Work Research Centre, a collaboration between Peking and Hong Kong Polytechnic Universities, was established in 2012. The Centre has been very active, providing important capacity training programmes for social work educators in mainland China and Vietnam. It has also initiated connections with social work educators from South East Asia and Kazakhstan to attend some of its conferences and activities.



LEFT: Prof Campanini, President of IASSW, Prof Wang and Prof Yuen of PKU-HKPolyU China Social Work Research Centre, Prof Wang Ying of CWU with Prof Dominelli and Prof Tan, 10 Nov 2019; RIGHT: capacity building on 12 Nov 2019

- B. The Regional Resource Centre of Oceania, a collaboration between Massey University, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, The University of Wollongong, The University of the South Pacific, and Whitireia New Zealand, was established in 2017.



The Centre is structured as a collaboration of several schools of social work across the Pacific:

- Massey University
  - Te Wānanga o Aotearoa
  - The University of Wollongong
  - The University of the South Pacific
  - Whitireia New Zealand.
- C. The third and newest RRC (and the only one of the three that is still receiving the initial IASSW seed money), was established in the fall 2019 in the Baltic and Nordic regions. The RRC includes the countries of northwestern Europe (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, German, and Russia) and aims to create a collaboration of universities and practitioners from the Baltic and Nordic regions, including Kauno Technologijos Universitetas (Lithuania), Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway), Jagiellonian University (Poland), Malmö University (Sweden). UEF (Sosnet) have well established Russian, Nordic and Baltic networks in social work education including the State University St Petersburg (Russia), Trondheim University (Norway), University of Iceland (Iceland), Vilnius University (Latvia), University of Latvia (Latvia), Vytautas Magnus University, (Lithuania), Gothenburg University (Sweden), Tallinn University (Estonia), University of Tartu (Estonia), Nordic Association of Social Workers, Talenta (Finland), FORSA, and the DGSA (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziale Arbeit: German Association of Social Work).



The RRC was launched in February; please check out their website: <https://www.nbrsocialwork.com/>. Unfortunately, they were not able to publicise the RRC through the regional social work conference, as planned, because of COVID19.

- II. Zul Hatta and In Young Han delivered a very strong mini workshop adjacent to the January 2020 IASSW Board meeting in Malaysia. The process affirmed the value of the process of the lead board members engaging local educators to develop a useful and relevant theme and program.
- III. We have not received any further inquiries for consultation since the last Capacity Building Report.
- IV. In light of the global pandemic, I agreed to help facilitate additional educational offerings that may be helpful to social work educators across the globe. Thanks to P.K. Shajahan and Annaline Keet for agreeing to develop webinars on online teaching/learning and working with older adults, respectively.