

ASSWA REPORT TO THE IASSW JANUARY 2016 BOARD MEETING HELD IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

Introduction

The Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa has had several engagements in the last six months since the last report submitted to this board in July 2015 as specified here below.

ASSWA/ASASWEI Conference October 2015

ASSWA in collaboration with the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW - Africa Region) held a very successful conference from 4th to 7th October 2015 in East London, South Africa. The conference, themed 'Social Work and Developmental Social Welfare: Local realities and global transformations' was well attended with majority of delegates from social work schools in Africa and a sizeable number from outside Africa. A major outcome of this conference is The *East London Manifesto* that emerged from a presentation by Prof Lena Dominelli and which is intended to further articulate social work's commitment to social justice and social development in the region.

ASSWA Elections

In line with the ASSWA constitution, elections for the positions of the President and secretary of ASSWA were held in October 2015 following the completion of the five year terms of the office holders. Dr. Gidraph Wairire from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and Ms. Dorothee Holsher from the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa were elected as president and secretary respectively. ASSWA fraternity appreciated with thanks the great efforts put in place by the immediate past president Prof. Vishantie Sewpaul and immediate past secretary Dr. Wassie Kebedi in leading ASSWA to greater heights. Dr. Zena Mnasi from the Institute of Social Work, Tanzania and Dr. Jairos Miti were elected as the Eastern and Southern African regional representatives respectively in the ASSWA executive committee.

ASSWA Strategic Plan

In the efforts to improve service delivery within ASSWA, a strategic plan is currently under preparation through a consultative process amongst the ASSWA membership in order to provide a clear strategic direction of the organization. This is envisaged to be fully complete and operational by mid 2016.

Support for Social Work Schools

ASSWA has continued to support and mentor her members and other stakeholders within the region in different ways. At the moment, ASSWA is supporting the Herbert Kaluki Memorial

University, Tanzania in strengthening the social work department through their proposed social work conference scheduled for next year.

Conclusion

The new ASSWA Exco appreciates the warm welcome and support accorded by the IASSW and looks forward to a strong partnership in the efforts towards quality social work education in the region and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Gidraph G. Wairire, President, ASSWA