

## International Association of Schools of Social Work

### President Report (January - June 2018)

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings!!

I would like to present a global update for the period of January-June 2018. Some important information on “hot issues” has been spread with e mails to all the Board members during these months, but many other initiatives have been realized in this period.

Brief of some of the meetings:

#### **A. January Meetings/visits**

##### **Zagreb Board Meeting & Capacity Building Conference**

The New Year started with the Zagreb Board meeting. It was hosted by IASSW Vice President and EASSW President Nino Zganec on 26/28 January, 2018. The meeting was very intense and participated as the Board took some important decisions in relation to the problems occurred with IFSW as well as to enhance the activities and the development of IASSW. Minute of the meeting with action points was circulated.



On January 29 a Symposium on *“Social Work Education and Practice – Dance on Wire”* was organized by Department of social work –Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb and Croatian Chamber of social workers in cooperation with IASSW, with the patronage of City of Zagreb & Milan Bandić, City Mayor and Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy.

IASSW Board is very thankful to Nino Zganec and the University of Zagreb for hosting us.

Pictures were posted on IASSW website, Facebook and Twitter and I hope that you have seen those.



### **International Conference on Social Work and Sustainable Social Development Shahjalal University of Science & Technology 4/6 January 2018**

I was invited to give a key note speech on “Social work and sustainable social development. Tension and challenges for Social in a Globalized World”. Mark Henrickson also participated presenting a very interesting paper.

We decided to use this opportunity to have a meeting with the heads of social work schools in Bangladesh, to present the IASSW activities and to invite them to become members of the Association. Thanks to the contribution of Prof. Golam Matbor that for the first year offered to pay in bulk the fees, all the schools are now members and can plan to organize next year payments by themselves.

It was also an important occasion to visit other two schools: Dacca University where I met colleagues and gave a speech and the State Women College.

### **b) Visit in Japan- 14<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>**

The visit in Japan included different initiatives:

In **Kyoto**: Prof. Yasu Kuroki of Doshisha University organized some meetings with different colleagues and a lecture with graduate students and staff members the 16<sup>th</sup> of January on the trends of social work education in the world. This has been an interesting opportunity both under professional and cultural side. A big thank to Prof. Kuroki for arranging a wonderful hospitality.

In **Tokyo**: Prof. Tatsuru Akimoto of Shukutoku University planned a meeting with Japanese Association of Schools of Social Work the 19<sup>th</sup> of January . It was an important occasion to present our activities and to discuss possible synergies for supporting internationalization process of social work education in Japan. We are really grateful to Japanese schools that are all members of IASSW and are giving an important contribution to our association.



The 20<sup>th</sup> January, the 3rd Shukutoku University International Forum, was focused on “What Should Curriculums for International Social Work Education Be?” with the aim to deepening the understanding of the concept of International Social Work, to discuss how to create appropriate curricula and to contribute to the promotion of the interest in “International (affairs, issues and problems, perspectives, etc.)” in the social work community in Japan. Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW) together with Japanese Association for Social Work Education, Japanese Academic Association for Social Work Studies, APASWE (Asian Pacific Association for Social Work Education) and IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social work) sponsored this event and facilitate the discussions between the participants.

Prof. Zulkarnain Hatta (President of APASWE) and Lynn Healey, together with other local speakers, gave an interesting contribution to the conference.





## B. February Meetings/visits

### February London meetings

#### *a) Meeting with ICSW and IFSW 8<sup>th</sup> of February*

It has been an important meeting to clarify our position in relation to a trustful future cooperation between the three organizations, starting from the problems aroused with IFSW in the definition of the 2020 conference bid.

Different topics were discussed:

**Global Agenda-** David Jones was invited to inform on Global Agenda 2018 report, themes and future process. Special issue of the International Social Work Journal, will focus on the Global Agenda and will be ready for the Dublin Conference. Discussion followed reflecting on how to further develop the Global Agenda and how to get the broadest set of input possible. Additional questions were raised on: Do we involve other organizations and groups? What is the role of international organizations, local organizations? Who will, can and should be our partners? Who should be added to the tripartite organizing group?

Should we have a service-users representative?

Despite all the problems, there was a commitment by all three organizations to continue the collaboration.

**Dublin Conference 2018.** Update of different matters were given by the Irish colleagues about the development of the conference organization

**Tripartite cooperation.** This has been a very sensitive part of the discussion. As for the mandate of the Board we raise, together with the ICSW President, the question of “trust” and equal partnership. All the problems were very clearly put on the table and we had an open confrontation. We acknowledge that we need to review the tripartite agreement, that was due in the Vancouver meeting in January 2015, but not reached, and move forwards on international cooperation.

We also discussed whether we want to have a tripartite conference in 2022 and if the actual way of doing is still affordable, or if we have to find a different model.

#### *b) Meeting with IFSW 9<sup>th</sup> of February*

This was also the occasion to meet with IFSW President and Secretary to discuss the relationship between IASSW and IFSW, inform them about the decision taken by the board not to proceed with a merging process between the IASSW and IFSW. Ruth and Rory

expressed disappointment for our decision, but we stressed the importance to maintain our autonomy and find positive ways to continue our mutual cooperation in the future. Ethics guidelines process, global standard task force and education committee were also discussed.

### ***c) Owners meeting with Sage 9th of February***

International Social Work journal is doing very well. There was a discussion related to the call of the new editor for the Journal, because Vassilios Iokaimidis doesn't want to continue with this task for a second term.

The decision about the new editorial board members will be taken with the new editor/co-editor that will be selected very soon. The process now is terminated and Gurid Askeland accepted to make interviews to candidate in name of IASSW. The Griffith University team was selected, composed by Patrick O'Leary and Ming-sum Tsui (Griffith University and Hong-Kong Polytechnic/Caritas Institute)

## **C. March Meetings/visits**

### ***a) Visit in Beijing 15<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup>***

The visit in Beijing was very fruitful. The 15<sup>th</sup> I participated to a meeting with the Chinese Association of Social Workers to discuss possible cooperation with IASSW in terms of capacity building initiatives, using the Resource Center led by Peking and PoliYu Universities. Past President Angie Yuen was also present.

In the afternoon there was a meeting with ACASWE. Prof Xu and Prof. Ma presented some concerns related to the extension and the differences in the APASWE Region and also some problems raised by schools that don't find enough interest in IASSW association for the lack of more research oriented initiatives.

We discussed with Prof. Zulkarnain Hatta the possibilities to give more voice to the Chinese group inside the APASWE.

In 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> I was invited to participate to the VI Lam Woo event, giving opening remarks and to present a key note speech in "Conference on the Gerontological Social Work Theory and Practice in the New Era" on Aging, ethics and social justice: a global overview

and a contribution on Social work practice with Elderly people in Italy, in a panel together with Zulkarnain Hatta and In Young Han.



The 19<sup>th</sup> I was invited by ACASW (Association of Chinese Social Workers) to visit some social services in Beijing and to have a dinner with the President and the staff.

### **b) World Social Work Day**

The World Social Work Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March has been celebrated all over the world. I prepared a message in *English, French, Italian and Spanish* – The video links were shared with all IASSW members through Google groups. They were posted on IASSW website, Facebook and Twitter.

At UN level three were the event held in Geneva, New York and Bangkok Headquarters. This year I didn't participated in the *Geneva WSWD*, organized by Annette Lavanchy and Nicoline IASSW representatives, together with the IFSW representatives.

Nino Zganec was delegated as IASSW Vice President to represent also our association.

The meeting held the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March was focused on the role of social work education and practice in harnessing the potential of youth for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Social Work Day at the UN in New York has been celebrated the 26<sup>th</sup> of March and I was invited to open the meeting. The program, focused on Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change and Social Work, was rich and the panelists discussed from various perspectives the impacts of climate change and its importance to the social work profession. Shirley Gatenio Gabel, IASSW representative, did a wonderful job together with the colleagues of IFSW, to prepare this day.

A side event, The Student Forum, who took place the 25<sup>th</sup> of March on Fordham University, in conjunction with the Social Work Day at UN, was planned and organized by four social work interns from the University of Connecticut, Fordham University and Monmouth University.

This year also *Bangkok* has invited IASSW to celebrate the SWD at UN, sponsored by the Minister of Social Development and Civil Affairs. Three panels, each focused on different aspects of promoting Community and environmental sustainability, were organized with contribution of speakers from Thailand and overseas.

At the end of the day it was presented a statement signed by professional, academic, welfare associations and representative of the Ministry of Social Development and Civil Affairs with the aim to use the WSWD as an occasion to push forward a collaboration and development in social work arena as well as in welfare deliberation.



The meeting organized the previous evening to prepare the statement, has also been an important occasion to meet colleagues from different universities and representatives of the profession.

I was invited to the Thammasat University to meet the staff and I discussed with the Dean possibility to find some colleagues that can represent IASSW in the different UN commission. Prof. Putchong who is working with a University in Vietnam was also interested in creating a network with our capacity building initiative in this country.



### c) Faculty Roundtable at Fordham University

Another very interesting initiative, led by Lynn Healey and sponsored by the Katherine A. Kendall Institute of the Council on Social Work Education and the International Association of Schools of Social Work, engaged faculty members from across the United States and several other countries, who were in New York to accompany student groups to the annual Social Work Day at the United Nations.



“Ensuring international content and learning for all students” was the topic for a faculty roundtable discussion held simultaneously with the Student Forum on March 25th. Participants shared good practices in a lively discussion and posed additional questions for future examination “What do we mean by international content and why are we adding it?” but also “Do we need to add specific courses on international topics or we have to infuse international contents into existing courses?”.

Participants recommended another faculty group session as part of the 2019 Social Work Day at the UN events, but also ideas for extending the conversation through international dialogue were launched, included convening an informal interest group discussion at the Dublin world conference in July 2018 and planning for a session as part of the formal program at the IASSW/ICSW Conference in Rimini in 2020.



## **D. April Meetings/Visits**

### **a) Lisbon ISCTE 8<sup>th</sup> April**

I was invited to give a Doctoral lecture with students and professionals on Desafios Colocados ao Serviço Social: Presente e futuro. It was also an occasion to discuss about the development of the IASSW/IFSW relationship with some teachers of the ISCTE University

### **b) Pisa 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> April**

I was invited to give a key lecture to a conference “Mutamenti sociali e social work: ricadute formative per orientare il cambiamento” (Social changes and social work: implication for the education to orient the change) and to draw the conclusions for the second day focused on the political action of social workers. Ana Lima President of IFSW Europe and Gay Shannon president of BASW were also presenter in each of the two days.

### **c) Edinburgh 18<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> April**

European Association of Social Work Research, invited me as IASSW President to welcome the participants of the conference and I kept this occasion to inform them about the revision of the ethical guideline and global standards, but also connecting with the title of the conference “ Social work in transition: challenges for social work research in a changing local and global world” to reflect about the processes of internationalization and indigenization in social work education and invite them to become members of IASSW.

### **d) Azerbaijan initiative 22<sup>nd</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> April**

Since the Seoul Board meeting there was a request from Azerbaijan that IASSW will visit Baku to support the development of social work education in this country. It was decided that a Board meeting should have been too difficult and expensive, but that we could support a capacity building initiative. So Darla Coffey, chair of the committee, was in contact with the Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union to define the program of a conference to be financed by IASSW.

The Fourth Conference on Advancement of Social Work in Post-Soviet Countries: Achievements and Challenges of Social Work Education was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April at the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts with the participation of speakers from different countries (Moldova, Turkey, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Moldova, Vilnius, Russia and USA). I presented a speech on International social work.



This was also the occasion to meet representatives of the Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union, Lamiya Razayeva and Khan Khanbala, to visit the Baku State University and give a lecture to the students, the Azerbaijan University and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population .

### **E. June meetings/visits**

**a)** During my stay in Goteborg, I met both the new responsible of International affairs and the Vice Dean of the Social Work department. We discussed the possibility of the newly created Swedish Association of Schools of Social Work to collect the fees from all the schools and participate more at the IASSW life.

**b)** 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> Participation to a conference in Salerno University on “Sociological imagination and social promotion: the category of “agapic action” to interpret the changes and to imagine new futures” presenting a key note speech on Social promotion in action: social policies and social work. It has been an interesting context where I met representatives of many South American and East European Universities.

### **Video messages**

I’ve prepared video messages for

- The launch of the international master of social work in Shanghai in March 2018.
- The launch of the Social Dialogue in Spanish

### **Interview**

I’ve participated to an interview on Skype in the context of the conference on ÉTICA, IDEOLOGIA E MÍDIA NO SERVIÇO SOCIAL E NA SOCIEDADE a la Universidade Federal de

Pernambuco (UFPE). I'm trying to cultivate relationships with the Brazilian schools to solicit their participation to IASSW

### Skype Meetings

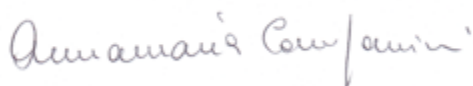
- We had regular alternate month Skype meetings with office bearers in February, April and June to discuss about activities, progress and difficulties.
- Frequent Skype meetings were organized with ICSW President to monitor the process of the Rimini 2020 contract, with Vishanthie Sewpaul for the Ethical guidelines development and with Antoinette Lombard for the education committee and with many other past officers for the questions aroused with IFSW and relationship with IASSW.
- We had telephonic conference call with IA, IC, IF and LOC of Dublin conference on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- I also used many whatsapp calls to connect with colleagues and Rashmi in relation with the activities of IASSW.

### Updates from IASSW Committees

I am not including report from each committee in my report as they will be sending their reports for Dublin board meeting.

I hope you find this update helpful and we will continue to provide you all the updates in future too. I'm warmly inviting you to provide information that can be published in our website !

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read 'Annamaria Campanini'.

Prof. Annamaria Campanini

President, International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)