

**International Association of Schools of Social Work
President's Report (January – June 2023)
for Hybrid (Porto , Portugal and on line) Board Meeting**

Dear colleagues,

Many interesting activities have taken place during this semester.

I would like to highlight the most important.

On January 19th and 20th we had Board Meeting at the Department of Social Work, Nelson Mandela University Gqeberha Eastern Cape, South Africa and it was organized by Annaline Keet with the help from ASAWSEI and ASSWA colleagues. It was hybrid board meeting, so colleagues who could not travel joined the meeting online.



Before the board meeting an international seminar on **THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN REALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** was organized by IASSW, ASAWSEI ASSWA and *NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY/JOHANNESBURG UNIVERSITY*. IASSW is thankful to each one who was helpful in making both events successful.

After the Board meeting in Port Elizabeth, Dr. Varoshini Nadesan (University of Johannesburg and former President of ASASWEI) has organised for the IASSW President to visit various social work schools in Gauteng. It was an honour for the heads of the Departments of Social Work and members of staff to meet with Professor Annamarie Campanini during her two day visit to the Gauteng province. During the visits IASSW President, presented the vision and activities of IASSW and inviting all schools to actively participate in the IASSW activities. The visit was extremely well received as it was the first engagement for many South African social work educators with our international president and generated insightful questions about the work of the IASSW. Thank you to Professor Annamaria Campanini for making herself available to share her time in South Africa.

The two day visit consisted of informal information-sharing meetings with schools of social work across Johannesburg and Pretoria. Many thanks to the schools for their warm hospitality.



As we have announced in the past report, IASSW has convened a Task Force of thought leaders to develop ways to support the adoption of the standards as a framework for social work education across the globe.

Finally it has been possible the 3rd of May to sign the agreement with Department of Applied Social Sciences (APSS) represented by prof. Eric Chui for a partnership of three years in supporting IASSW to develop, for free, an online learning platform on the IASSW Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training. Together with Varoshini Nadesan we have visited the technical facilities and discuss with the team how to implement the program. I would like to thank especially our past president Angie Yuen and current IASSW ambassador for Asia Pacific Region for her continuous support that has been really useful to realise this cooperation.



A second important event took place in Nanjing, the 7th of May where I attended the opening ceremony of the “International Perspective & Chinese Practice: International Symposium on MSW Education in the New Era of China & Launching Ceremony of the Three-Year MSW Education Capacity Building Initiative” organized by the China Association of Social Work Education (CASWE) and the National MSW Teaching Advisory Committee in collaboration with IASSW. In the coming three years, IASSW will provide peer review support to CASWE to evaluate the MSW programmes in Mainland China using the “Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training 2020” as a reference, but emphasizing on the importance of contextualization. The conference was attended by more than 150 social work education leaders and directors of MSW programmes in Mainland China, with more than 6,000 views of the conference online.

So now we are starting to plan the activities for realizing this very important and significant initiative.



We received a request from the Inter-University Council for East Africa to support the project of development of Benchmarks and quality Standards in Social Work and Social Administration Education for the Higher Learning Institutions in East Africa. We have had a discussion with prof. Alexis and we have appointed prof. Janestic Twikirize, who was yet identified as an expert to participate in the process by IUCEA, as representative of our Association. I promised to send a video for the next meeting in July to introduce IASSW and the Global Standards. We will receive a proposal of MOU to sign for developing a future cooperation.

We have continued the webinars in conjunction with the different UN world days, but following the Memorandum of Understanding signed in March with the association Power Us, we have also recorded webinars to spread the ideas of the importance of involving and cooperating with representatives of service users in our education and research. All videos are available at [\(1079\) IASSW Communications - YouTube](#). I invite you all to look and use this material in your courses.

Thanks to the input of a Chilean colleague, we have created a task force to discuss and prepare a document on clinical social work. The task force was chaired by Dixon Sookrai (University of British Columbia, Canada) and Paola Grandon (Instituto Chileno de Trabajo Social Clínico, Chile), Mariusz Granosik (University of Lodz, Poland), Chaime Marcuello (University of Zaragoza, Spain), Orit Nuttman-Shwartz (Sapir College, Israel), Christos Panagiotopoulos (University of Nicosia, Greece), David Rose (University of Melbourne, Australia), Adrian van Breda (University of Johannesburg, South Africa). The document is ready and was sent to all the Board members. I hope that we can approve it during the next board meeting in Porto.

Last initiative is the revamping of the website. We have now a new agency Neural who is taking care of the project, together with Jenny. I really hope that this new website will attract more members and will enhance the visibility of our association.

During these months we have had a lot of meetings with Officers, with Rashmi and Jenny, with the website masters and with some members of the Board to discuss different activities and problems connected with our association.

Other activities

I am sharing some highlights of my participation to many different initiatives during the past six months:

January

11/13 Welcome and key note on “Promoting health” at the conference “Social work promoting health” Rajagiri College India

24 Visit different Universities (UJ, Wits, SACAP) in Johannesburg and meeting with deans and colleagues

25 Visit to UNISA and Pretoria University and meeting with deans and colleagues

February

2 meeting with Power Us

6 meeting with Sage

7 and 17 Tripartite meeting

March

7 Speech for celebrating 25 years of Internationalisation at Rajagiri College (on line)

Presentation for WSWD2023 in English, Spanish, French and Italian

9 Speech on “Respecting diversity” for the Iran conference on “Social work and social diversity “ (on line)

15 Welcome on line for the WSWD ONU Ginevra

21 Speech on IASSW at the “Stati generali” - 30 years of the National Council of Social Work in Rome



April

3 Welcome on line for the WSWD ONU New York

10 Opening academic year of master in clinical social work at Valparaíso University (on line)

12 Welcome message at the opening of ESWRA conference in Milano



21 Presentation on “El contexto y el papel profesional del trabajo social internacional. Algunos países en comparación” Universidad de las Islas Baleares



May

3 Presentation of IASSW and Global Standard at the PoliYU in Hong Kong, followed by the signing of the agreement of cooperation.

International Scholar Talk Series on Global Standard of social work education and training

5 I visited the three schools of social work (City University of Macao, University of Saint Joseph, Macao Polytechnic University) in Macao meeting their leaders and academic staff

6 I delivered a lecture on "The role of IASSW in promoting excellence in social work education: Challenges and opportunities in the contemporary global situation" with the participation of members of the Professional Council of Social Workers, and scholars from different Universities

8 Speech at the opening ceremony of the "International Perspective & Chinese Practice: International Symposium on MSW Education in the New Era of China & Launching Ceremony of the Three-Year MSW Education Capacity Building Initiative" at Nanjing University of Science and Technology

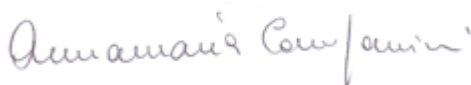
Lecture at the Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications on Global Standards for Social work education and training

9 Presentation at the Nanjing University of Science and Technology on Global Standards for Social work education and training in the context of the conference.

I am not including pictures of each travel/events in the report. All has been posted by Rashmi Pandey on IASSW social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter) Some of them is also available on IASSW website. If you are not yet following IASSW Social Media, please do that. It will be helpful in increasing the visibility of IASSW.

I look forward to your feedback on my report and I hope that in June Board Meeting we will have fruitful discussion while meeting face-to-face with some of you.

Respectfully submitted



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