

International Association of Schools of Social Work
Asia Pacific Regional Report to IASSW Board and IASSW General Assembly
April 2024

1. Regional APASWE Board

The last elections were completed in in November 2023 and the APASWE Board currently includes the following members:

A/Prof David Rose- President (Australia)

A/Prof Masaki Soeta- Treasurer (Japan)

A/Prof Jowima Reyes- Secretary (Philippines)

A/Prof Kana Matsuo (Japan)

Dr Mohd Haizzan Yahaya (Malaysia)

Prof Adi Fahrudin (Indonesia)

Dr Zarina Mat Saad (Malaysia)

Prof Zulkarnain Hatta – Immediate Past President (Malaysia)

A special thank you to all Board members for the significant contribution they make to APASWE and social work education in our Asia Pacific region. A particular thank you to Prof Takashi Fujioka- Treasurer (Japan) and Prof Tulshi Kumar Das (Bangladesh) whose terms as board members finished in November 2023.

2. 2023 Asia Pacific Social Work Conference- Cebu Philippines

The 27th Asia Pacific Regional Social Work Conference was to take place in Iran in 2023 as was selected by the joint IFSW-AP and APASWE conference selection committee in Bengarulu, India in 2019. However, unfortunately it was decided by the Iran local hosts and regional partners that it would not be viable to continue with the conference in Iran due to a range of issues. This was very disappointing for the Iranian local hosts, and I am sure all social work colleagues

across the region. We are grateful though that at short notice the Philippine Association of Social Workers Inc. (PASWI) along with academic partner University of Cebu agreed to be the local organizer for the conference which took place from 5th to 7th November, 2023 in Cebu City, Philippines. The conference theme was: "The Sustainable Development Goals Halfway Point: Social Work's Contributions to Social Development". The AP regional conference is a joint conference of IFSW Asia Pacific and APASWE and targets both social work educators and practitioners across the region. We thank IFSW-AP for the continued collaborations on the conference and other regional events.

3. Bidding for 2025 AP Regional Conference

David Rose and Jowima Reyes have represented APASWE on a joint committee with IFSW-AP to select a country to host the 28th Asia Pacific Regional Social Work Conference in 2025. Sri Lanka was the successful bidder so the next regional conference will be held in Sri Lanka in 2025.

4. Membership

Institutional membership of APASWE continues to be steady with key issues being getting existing members to renew membership and keeping membership lists updated. Similarly, a core group of institutional members continue to maintain IAASW membership although like APASWE membership this tends to be concentrated in particular countries with some countries in the region having very low membership levels. As always, the key challenge continues to be growing membership numbers and articulating benefits of membership, particularly in countries with very low membership rates for APASWE & IAASW. We thank our regional members of both APASWE and IAASW for the contribution they make to strengthening both organizations.

5. Representation at Events

Over the last 2 years the President or other Board members represented APASWE/IAASW with presentations/representation at several regional events with some highlights being:

- Presentation on the “Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training” at the Association of Indonesian Social Welfare and Social Work Education (ASPEKSI) workshop on Reviewing the Core Curriculum for Professional Social Work Education in Indonesia 28th to 29th June, 2022.
- Presentation on “Social Work Education: New Frontiers in Asia Pacific” at the Thailand Association of Social Work Education (TASWE) workshop New Directions of Social Work Education in Asia and the Pacific, 9th June, 2022.
- Online Roundtable: Asian Perspectives for Social Work Education- 9th September 2022 organized by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University- respondent to presentations.
- 9th International Conference on Community Development (ICCD-9)- Bangkok 28th October 2022 Association of Muslim Community in ASEAN- keynote presentation on social work and community development in the AP region.
- Thailand Ministry of Social Development and Human Security World Social Work Day 2023 Event for Asia Pacific Region- presentation on “Roles of Social Work Education Institutions in Promoting Coexistence in Diverse Communities”.
- ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW) World Social Work Day International Symposium (Thailand) 2023- two presentations on social work education role in sustainable development and social work role in income security for people experiencing disabilities.
- China Association for Social Work Education Symposium on Social Work Education Standards (8th May, 2023)- video presentation on development of social work education across Asia Pacific and opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Presentation for the 69th Anniversary Seminar of the Faculty of Social Administration Thammasat University Thailand, January 2023.
- APASWE also co-sponsored several other World Social Work Day and other events in the region.

6. ASEAN Social Work Education and Social Development 2023 Conference- Hanoi Vietnam

This conference with the theme of “Make a Difference- Social Work Without Barriers: In response to Sustainable Development and Public Emergency” took place in Hanoi from 1st to 2nd August, 2023. Organized by Vietnam National University and The Hong Kong Polytechnic, APASWE and IASSW are among several co-organisers/sponsors of this key regional event.

7. Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Theme One

IASSW/APASWE and IFSW-AP jointly worked on gathering feedback from the region on progress towards the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Theme One for the Global Taskforce. Written submissions were invited from social work practitioner and educator peak organisations and individual universities. A regional webinar was also held on 10th August 2022 with 8 presentations from across the region on the Ubuntu theme with 65 attendees.

8. Key Focus Areas Going Forward

Key focus areas for the coming year continue to be further development of strategies to engage student social workers, development of strategies to increase and maintain membership particularly in countries with low membership and further activities and research generation around indigenizing social work practice in the Asia Pacific Region.

A/Prof David Rose

President- APASWE & Vice President IASSW

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