

Representation of IASSW and collaboration with international agencies at UN Bangkok.

For UN Bangkok the IASSW representation consists of a team with Prof TAN, Ngho Tiong as Lead Rep, David Rose, President APASWE, and current Dean of Thammasat University, Prof Auschala and others.

World Social Work Day 2025 at UN Bangkok

We celebrated the WSWD25 at United Nations Bangkok with IASSW President addressing the assembly on 24 April, 2025.



IASSW President Professor Antoinette Lombard addressing the WSWD2025 at UN Bangkok

Professor Antoinette Lombard, President IASSW, Prof TAN Ngho Tiong IASSW UN Bangkok Team and Chair, Global Institute of Social Work and Prof Alex Altshuler, Board Member IASSW, as well as Dean Auschale of Thammasat Universities, who is also IASSW Board member, were the key speakers at UN Social Work Day in Bangkok. Thereafter, delegates joined the Sub Conference organized by IASSW UN Bangkok Team at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Relief.



Tentative programme

**The 16th National Conference and the 8th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference
on Social Welfare and Social Work in Celebration of World Social Work Day 2025
“Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing”
Monday 24 March 2025
(Hybrid Meeting)**

Time (GMT +7)	Duration	Activity	Res
08.30 – 09.00	30 mins	Online registration	
09.00 – 09.05	5 mins	Welcome remarks by Dr Sergei Zelenev, President of International Council on Social Welfare	
09.05 – 09.10	5 mins	Welcome remarks by Prof Antoinette Lombard, President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work	
09.10 – 09.15	5 mins	Welcome remarks by Prof Machiko OHARA, President of the International Federation of Social Workers – Asia-Pacific Region - IFSW Asia-Pacific	
09.15 – 09.20	5 mins	Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa, Minister of Social Development and Human Security	
09.20 – 09.40	20 mins	Keynote Speech “Advancements in Social Development and Current and Future Social Challenges: Driving Action for Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda” by Ms Michaela Friberg-Storey, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand - UNRC	
09.40 – 12.40	3 hrs	Panel Discussion “Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing: The Roles of the Profession, Educational Sector, and Civil Society in Social Work” Panelists: 1. Dr Sebastian Cordoba, Regional Representative of the United Nations Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers, Asia-Pacific Region (IFSW-AP UN Commissioner) 2. Prof Dr Tan Ngoh Tiong, Lead Representative of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) United Nations team in Bangkok 3. Dr Teoh Ai Hua, Regional President of the South East Asia and Pacific region of the International Council of Social Welfare - ICSW-SEAP)	

The programme at WSWD2025 was very well planned curated by the Department of Social Security and Human Development Thailand with IASSW representation.



IASSW in representing global social work interests co-organized the World Social Work Day 2025, as well as a Pre Conference Field Visit from 21-23 March in collaboration with Social Work Across Borders and Global Institute of Social Work, Thammasat University and Ministry of Social Security and Human Development, Thailand.

At the subconference there was a welcome and call to action by Professor Ngho Tiong Tan, from IASSW also representing Joy Foundation, as well as Professor Johnston Huang the founder and advisor of Social Work Across Border. A Video on UNDRR - UNDRR work and presentation by Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and presentations by the Ministry of Interior. This was followed by discussions with the officers and sharing disaster risk reduction strategies in the Asian region. Delegates mapped disaster relief and risk reduction strategies especially for floods in Thailand so as to harness international collaboration and strategic planning for effective disaster management

The Keynote Address by Dr Alex Altshuler, member IASSW Board, expert in Disaster Management, Israel was warmly received and a Roundtable Presentation, co-chaired Ms Candy Zhou, of SWAB and Professor Ngho Tiong Tan, IASSW UN Bangkok Team had presentations that were informative and thought provoking leading to possible collaborations in the years ahead. The speakers were:

- 1 . Social Workers Across Borders: Sharing experience on responding North China flood (targeting climate mitigation and community action - by Candy Zhou
 - 2 . Peaceland Foundation: Rescue Team Capacity Building Experience and Case Studies on Flood Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - Director Tina Liu presenter
 3. Haihui Poverty Alleviation Center: topic on post-disaster community livelihood resilience building: Experience in Thailand and mainland China
 4. Climate resilience sustainable livelihood development strategy for vulnerable groups in Yunan and Guangxi province: LOHAS Social Enterprise (Guangzhou City)
- Discussion Highlights



The WSWD2025 subconference at the Department of Interior and international delegates and social workers presenting social work actions in disaster prevention and mitigation.

Pre- conference Field Visit March 21-23, 2025 @ Chiangrai (Joy Foundation base)

Overview of Field Visit: to visit and survey flood-affected areas in North Thailand was coordinated by Ms Faith Wong, of Joy Foundation and GISW and Candy Zhou of SWAB. The purpose is to engage communities and local authorities in sustainable and resilient flood management through applied discussion and planning for disaster risk reduction.

The team met with disaster prevention experts and officials in the Chiangrai area including the Governor, mayor and disaster relief chief. Again, the possibilities of follow up actions and international collaboration has been discussed and follow up will take us into advocacy and support in international social work



**STRENGTHENING
INTERGENERATIONAL
SOLIDARITY FOR
ENDURING
WELLBEING**

**W5WO 2025
Conference**

**2025
THAILAND.**

**International and Intergenerational Partnership
for Disasters Risk Reduction:
Towards Social Work and Community Development**

Pre-Conference Trip

March. 21-22
Place: Joy Foundation, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Conference Programme

March. 24
Venue: UN Office, Bangkok, Thailand

Conference Topic:
**The importance of disaster risk reduction applied to
flood management and community resilience**

Partners and active collaborators
International Association of Schools of Social Work
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand
Global Institute of Social Work
Social Workers Across Borders
Peaceland Foundation (HK & Thailand Office)
Thammasat University



**Program Detail &
Registration**

Enquiry: CANDYZHOU@SWAB.ORG.HK

Outcome:

Stakeholders will continue to apply the principles and strategies put forth by discussants for problem solving and towards practical resolutions with partners: IASSW, Thammasat University, Social Work Across Borders, Peace Land Foundation, Joy Foundation, Global Institute of Social Work and others will develop appropriate projects in Thailand, especially in the Chiang Rai area and engage UNDRR and other UN organizations in disaster preparedness and risk reduction and social recovery.

Reported by:

Professor Ngho Tiong TAN, on behalf of IASSW UN Team Bangkok

20 April 2025

Appendix 1: Book Launch



It was a pleasure that IASSW Commissioned book by Springerbriefs on Advancing Social Work Practice was launched on WSWD2025, Bangkok.

Appendix 2: Programme for Pre Conference Field Visits

Date: 21-23 March, 2025

Visit to Chiangrai Governor's office and Regional Office of Ministry of Social Security and Human development, and the government disaster relief and rescue centre. Presentations and discussion on strategic alliance in disaster relief and risk reduction.



Meeting with the Governor, Mayor and Disaster Preparedness and Relief department and Social Work officials in Chiangrai.



Briefing by Thoeng district and village officials and sharing by villagers on coordinated disaster management and relief practices: Sharing by officials and monk from Don Yien temple, invited Village chiefs of Ban Suan and Noan Somboon.

Looking forward we are having meetings and seminars at the UN Bangkok as well as with other international stakeholders such as UNICEF and ILO. The UN organizations that our team will focus on are these as well as ESCAP. There are many issues raised in UN Bangkok and the other UN bodies including migration, wellbeing of transient workers, trafficking of women, girls and children, ethnic-minority and human rights issues especially in Indo-China, regional cooperation. We have also supported the ASEAN Social work training centre based in Bangkok.

We will continue this year is to have a social work intern at UN Bodies and research assistant to focus on advocacy for social work at the UN Bangkok.