**ASSWA REPORT FOR THE IASSW JUNE 2016 BOARD MEETING – SEOUL, KOREA**

**Introduction**

The report from the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA) covers the period January 2016 to June 2016. Several engagements have taken place during the said period as specified here below.

**World Social Work day**

ASSWA members celebrated the World Social Work day in different ways from their respective institutions. Most institutions partnered with their national associations of social workers to make this event successful. Amongst the nations where ASSWA was actively involved in marking this event was Tanzania where we partnered with the Tanzania Association of Social Workers (TASWO) and participated in a street march to raise awareness about social work and its role in national development amongst other areas. The ASSWA message for the world social work day was officially shared with the fraternity of social workers and other government officials from the republic of Tanzania who had been invited for the world social work day festivities on 15th March 2016.

**Regional Networking and partnerships**

Developing and promoting links and partnerships with regional bodies for social work in Africa was a major activity carried out by ASSWA in different ways. These include partnership with the Tanzania Association of Social Workers and active involvement in their Social Work Conference held from the 16th to 18th March 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania. The ASSWA president, vice president and East African representative in ASSWA attended the conference. Other networks and partnerships were held with:

1. **The National Association of Social Workers - Zimbabwe**

ASSWA established close working partnership with the National Association of Social Workers - Zimbabwe (NASWZ) where the ASSWA president was the key note speaker during the World social work day commemorationsheld on 15th April 2016 at the School of Social Work in Harare, Zimbabwe. Due to some domestic logistics, Zimbabwe had opted to mark the world social work day a month after the official date (15th March) when the day is celebrated globally. The ASSWA president’s key note address retained the WSD theme – ‘Promoting the worth and dignity of people: refugees and displaced persons’.

1. **School of Social Work - Zimbabwe**

Prior to this, ASSWA, through the president had an opportunity to share her vision to the fraternity of social workers in Zimbabwe on 14th April 2016 where the president presented the paper ‘*Repositioning Professional Social Work Practice for Sustainable Impact’* during the NASWZ’s annual dinner to commemorate social work in Zimbabwe.

In addition, ASSWA was able to have some links with the school of social work Zimbabwe when the ASSWA president had an official session with the social work academic staff in the school together with staff from other two universities in Zimbabwe.

1. [**Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU)**](http://hkmu.ac.tz/)**Tanzania**

ASSWA has given some monetary and technical assistance to HKMU to support the 2016 Social work conference on Ethical research, Policy and Practice in Africa scheduled for October 17 to October 19, 2016. The conference is organized by the Social Work Department, [Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU)](http://hkmu.ac.tz/), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and is coordinated by Dr. Teresa Kaijage. ASSWA members will also be participating in other different ways in this conference.

**Membership Drive**

ASSWA president had a visit to the School of Social Work - Zimbabwe where he had a session with the social work academic staff from the said school and two other universities. Many social work academics promised to enroll as ASSWA members. Contacts have also been established with social work trainers in Zanzibar and in different universities in Kenya who have also promised to enroll as members with ASSWA. The ASSWA list serve has been updated to facilitate the membership drive at both individual and institutional levels.

**Ethics project**

ASSWA is now in the process of formulating an Ethics Working group with a view to produce an ethical guide for social work educators and other stakeholders in the African region. In this regard, ASSWA will actively network with social work stakeholders with a passion for ethical frameworks for social work practice and research through social work conferences and other forums that promote social work ethics.

**ASSWA website**

In order to be more visible and accessible by members and others interested in social work education and practice in Africa, ASSWA is considering having a website through which her vision, mission and corresponding activities will be regularly shared out.

**Conclusion**

On behalf of ASSWA membership, we appreciate the collegial relationship existing between ASSWA and the different regional associations and institutions without whom it would be difficult to fulfill the vision and objectives of ASSWA.

Respectfully submitted by Gidraph G. Wairire, President, ASSWA, June 2016