



Message from IFAP Regional President

Mariko Kimura, IFAP Regional President, IFSW 1st Vice President

I would like to express my appreciation to all the member associations of the AP region for supporting me to work as the new regional president. At the global level, I have been elected as the 1st Vice President of IFSW at the Melbourne Executive Committee Meeting. At the global level, I work with Ruth Stark, IFSW President, Rory Truell, Secretary-General of IFSW, four regional presidents, and Rose Henderson, Member-at-Large of AP Region. Eva Ponce-de-Leon, President of the Philippine Association of Social Workers (PASWI) has been elected as the global Treasurer. We now have a larger representation at the global level. Through our (industrious and innovative) work in the AP Region, we hope to send a unique message from the Asia Pacific to the rest of the world.

The Asia and Pacific Region being so vast and diverse, I realise how challenging it is for us to work as a single region (under IFAP). However, if we truly recognise and appreciate the history and diversity of so many cultures and peoples in the region, we should be able to see how gifted we are with tremendous resources and possibilities.

For the next four years, I would like to work on the following matters:

1. Strengthening of the organisational bases of the region -

- Networking among existing member countries (there are 22 member countries as of November 2014)
- Increasing new member countries.

2. Activities as IFSW Asia Pacific Region

- Promoting further advances of disaster project -

Asia-Pacific is (one of) the most frequently disaster-stricken region. Based on the experiences of our member countries that have responded to disasters, we need to increase the resilience of the region by forming a strong organisational basis that can function in case of disasters, working on economic and financial issues, providing training for social work intervention, and building the collaborative system (networks) with governmental and / or non-governmental organisations.

- Linking with Global Agenda

Under IFSW Global Agenda, we gather and share information of the activities of each country and mutually support the development of tools (what kind of tools?) in the region. Specifically, I would like to take opportunities such as regional conferences and other gatherings to hold 'regional forums' to come up with various ideas to work on the Global Agendas in our region.

- Collecting and disseminating regional information

To promote the recognition and significance of the Asia-Pacific region worldwide, we need to effectively collect information in our region and actively disseminate it globally.

3. Resources acquisition for the activities

In addition to working on social work tasks in our region, we need to work collaboratively to seek funds to encourage and support our activities. In order to strengthen the workability function of the region, setting up a regional secretariat office is essential.

Finally, on the global level, the IFSW Policy and Constitution are under review by the newly elected Steering Committee and Executive Committee members. We are also seeking more strongly how to generate financial resources for IFSW-Global.

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