



ICSW SEAP DELEGATES TO THE SWSD WORLD CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE, JULY 2014

Regional Cooperation Newsletter

South East Asia & the Pacific Region



BULLETIN JULY 2014 - JULY 2015

Message from the Regional President

The year 2014 beckons a fresh set of officers for our South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) Region.

During the Joint World Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development in Melbourne, Australia last 9 – 12 July 2014, we took the opportunity to convene the participating delegates from SEAP Region for a meeting where a new set of officers were formally endorsed.

Likewise, SEAP assisted in manning the booth of ICSW shared with other organizers and several of our members were able to present papers during the concurrent workshop and that enabled our SEAP region to be well represented. We thank those who were able to come to the event.

We encouraged our members to participate actively again in the forthcoming world conference that will be held in Seoul, Korea in June 2016. We look forward seeing you all there.

Again we had another opportunity to meet last 20 November 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR where we discussed policies and strategies employed to promote social welfare protection in our respective countries in the

region which came part of our report during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare Development.

On the other hand, we are looking at improving the number of members who are renewing their membership with ICSW. We saw a decrease in the number of members and we would like to hear comments from members on how best we can serve you better.

We wish to communicate to all of you and we invite you to kindly send to us your association's activities to be featured in this newsletter. We will endeavor to accommodate your achievements and advocacies on social welfare and social development.

We look forward to hearing from you.

DATIN PADUKA KHATIJAH SULAIMAN
Regional President (SEAP)



*Datin Paduka Khatijah Sulaiman,
Regional President of ICSW South
East Asia and the Pacific Region
(SEAP)*

SEAP Region elects new officers for 2014 - 2016



Members from the South East Asia and the Pacific Region elected its new set of officers for 2014 to 2016.

The meeting was held at the conference room of the Melbourne International Convention, Melbourne, Australia last 11 July 2014.

Those present were Datin Paduka Khatijah bte Sulaiman (Malaysia), Ms. Noor Yasmin bte Abdul Karim (Malaysia), Ms. Nur Judy Abdullah (Brunei Darussalam), Dr. Laila Refiana Said (Indonesia), Dr. Virajada Buasri (Thailand) and Ms. Suchada Krispetchara (Thailand).

Since there was only one nomination from Malaysia to the position of President, the group accepted the nomination of Datin Paduka Khatijah to be the President. The group agreed to elect a secretary and treasurer which was filled-up by Nur Judy of Brunei and Noor Yasmin of Malaysia.

The Vice President position is still open for nomination. Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia will nominate a candidate each for election among SEAP members in the next meeting which will be held during the 9th GO NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2014.

In the meeting, Datin Paduka Khatijah stressed that the current financial state of SEAP Region is a major concern and that a

strategy has to be done to encourage members to pay their dues and also recruit more members to sustain the SEAP Region organization. The past years saw a decline of paying members and that grossly affected the financial budget for the region's planned activities.



Datin Paduka Khatijah expressed her desire to approach the other countries in South East Asia and the Pacific to renew or pay their membership dues and be active once again in ICSW activities such as Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. Countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR , Myanmar and Timor Leste will also be contacted to become members of SEAP Region.

At the moment there are only six (6) active members namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Singapore has requested their membership to be temporarily suspended.

Members of the SEAP Region during a meeting in Melbourne. ICSW Executive Director Mr Sergie Zelenev joined the group for a photo opportunity.

(Seated from L to R: Dr. Virajada Buasri, Datin Paduka Khatijah Sulaiman, Dr Laila Refiana Said, Sergie Zelenev. Standing from L to R: Noor Yasmin Abdul Karim, Suchada Krispetchara, Nur Judy Abdullah)

SEAP REGION OFFICERS 2014 - 2016

President : DATIN PADUKA KHATIJAH SULAIMAN
(Deputy President of National Council of Welfare and Social Services Malaysia)

Vice President: to be confirmed

Secretary: NUR JUDY BINTI ABDULLAH
(Vice President 1, Brunei Council on Social Welfare)

Treasurer: NOOR YASMIN BINTI ABDUL KARIM
(Board Member of Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation)



UPDATES IN AND AROUND THE SEAP REGION

NOSSA launching

The Network of Social Service Agencies (NOSSA) is targeted to be launched in 2015 in Singapore in an effort to realize the ASEAN Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children that was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2013.



Source: www.aseann.org

The NOSSA is envisioned to be a regional network of social service agencies involved in preventing, protecting and helping victims of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Violence Against Children (VAC) in ASEAN through capacity building, knowledge sharing among others.

For more details please visit [here](#).

ASEAN Encourages Social Entrepreneurship in the Region

Singapore hosted an ASEAN Forum on Social Entrepreneurship last 30 October 2014 where over 80 policy makers and representatives of non-profit organisations from ASEAN Member States discussed the role of social entrepreneurship and shared good practices and views on developing social enterprises.

There is increasing recognition that social entrepreneurship can be a potential source of solutions to address societal needs, alongside efforts by the government, private and charity sectors.

Addressing delegates at the Forum, Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development, Chan Chun Sing said, "there are

many ideas among ASEAN countries on how we can better encourage and support the growth of social enterprises to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged. We should share our knowledge and good practices so as to achieve greater social impact in each of our countries. In doing so, we also help build a caring and sharing ASEAN community."

The Forum featured panel sessions led by experts, researchers, practitioners and stakeholders who discussed the importance of private-public-people partnerships and necessary support for the growth of social entrepreneurship.

Delegates of the forum will also attend the Social Collab on 31 October 2015. The Social Collab is an annual flagship conference organised by the Social Enterprise Association of Singapore. This year, the theme of the event is "Leveraging on Corporate and Venture Philanthropy." It examined how resources, expertise and experience can level up the capacity of social enterprises.

For more details please visit [here](#).

PHILIPPINES: ASSESSMENT BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION, EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND DISASTER

Philippines aims to empower and protect its poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged people, within the inclusive development goals and poverty reduction strategy of the country. The government, particularly the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has requested for technical assistance to conduct an assessment based national dialogue (ABND) exercise. The ABND is expected to provide inputs to the implementation of the [Social Protection Operational Framework and Strategy](#) (SPOFS) and the design of a 5-

year National Social Protection Plan in the Philippines.

The ABND exercise will assess the social protection system in the country, identify gaps in design and coverage according to the vulnerabilities of the people, explore policy options to establish a [social protection floor](#) (SPF) in the Philippines, and estimate the cost of these options. The ABND will also ensure endorsement of the SPF by policy makers.

ABND consists of three steps:

STEP I – Defining the national SPF through the assessment matrix (Jun 2014 - July 2015)

The matrix lists the existing social protection, poverty alleviation, employment promotion and disaster management programmes in the country. It also identifies policy gaps and implementation issues, and recommendations for establishing an SPF for all people. The matrix is developed in joint consultation with the national and local governments, employers and workers, civil society and development partners, and endorsed at the cabinet level.

STEP II – Estimating the cost of the SPF (Oct 2014 - July 2015)

The cost of implementing the SPF recommendations is estimated until 2020. The ILO's Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP) is a cost-estimation tool used for this step. The results of the RAP are used as a basis for discussions on prioritizing different recommendations and available fiscal space in the country.

STEP III – Finalizing the ABND report and national launch (Aug - Dec 2015)

The ABND report, including the recommendations for a nationally-defined 'SPF for all', is finalized, endorsed and launched by the government and other relevant stakeholders. Further, future steps of action are prepared, such as providing inputs to the SPOFS Action Plan and Philippines' first 5-year National Social Protection Plan.

For more details please visit [here](#)



Source: www.social-protection.org

The social protection floor (SPF) is a basic set of social security guarantees that should be guaranteed to all the population. In line with the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), which was adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its 101st session in June 2012, Indonesia strives towards the extension of social security coverage and the establishment of at least a social protection floor for all.

The right to social security for all is reflected in the Indonesian Constitution, in the National Social Security Law (Law No. 40/2004) and the recent Law on Social Security Providers (Law No. 24/2011). Indonesia's commitment to social protection is also reflected in the tripartite Indonesian Jobs Pact 2011-2014, which was signed on 13 April 2011.

From April 2011 to November 2012, the ILO, in close collaboration with Bappenas (Ministry of National Development Planning) conducted an assessment of the social protection situation in Indonesia with an aim to know whether the social protection floor is a reality for the whole population. The assessment exercise was based on a number of consultations with all relevant ministries, institutions, workers' and employers' representatives at both the provincial and

national levels, and United Nations agencies participating in [Indonesia's UN sub-working group on the SPF](#). Despite the already advanced development of social protection in Indonesia, which includes both contributory and non-contributory schemes for workers and their families in the formal and informal sectors, a number of policy gaps and implementation issues were identified and some specific policy recommendations were formulated for the achievement of a comprehensive social protection floor in Indonesia.

For more details please visit [here](#).

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SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR ASSESSMENT IN INDONESIA



Social Security in the Asia and Pacific Region - An Overview

The region of Asia and the Pacific is the most ethnically, culturally, religiously and economically diverse region in the world. Its population

The region of Asia and the Pacific is the most ethnically, culturally, religiously and economically diverse region in the world. Its population amounts to about 3.7 billion people, or more than half the world population. The region includes some of the wealthiest countries on earth as well as two-thirds of the world's poor and more than 30 of its countries are members of the ILO. The real GDP growth forecasted by the World Bank for 2010 for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia is of 8.7 percent and 6.2 percent respectively, vs. the 3.3 percent predicted globally and the 2.3 percent forecast for high income countries.

The diversity of countries in the Asia-Pacific region has also led to various levels of social protection across the region. For instance, the proportion of old-age pensioners in the elderly population ranges from 0.3 percent and 3 percent in Bhutan and Cambodia respectively to 100 percent in New Zealand .

As a whole, three countries in the region (*Australia, Japan, New Zealand*) have fully developed systems of social security. The scope of coverage, either in terms of population coverage, range of insured contingencies or level of benefits, is variably limited across the rest of the region. However, most countries provide some social security benefits, either in cash and/or in kind, for civil servants and other government employees, including the security forces and in many cases workers in the "social" sectors of education and health. In addition, many states mandate some provision, through schemes administered either by government or by private sector organizations (under the

government's authority), for specified, employed (sometimes including self-employed) workers in the formal economy.

Challenges in extending coverage

The reasons for low coverage of social security are many and varied and they include: financial constraints; limited statutory mandates; institutional inertia; limited management or administrative capacities; demographic structure and aging of the population; and the massive size of the informal economy, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the total employment in developing Asia.

The challenges facing each national system of social security are diverse, and, where they figure among the priorities of the political agendas, they also differ from country to country. However, there is an increasing trend of recognizing the indispensability of social security for the long-term prosperity of people, society and the economy. Consequently, more and more countries are actively addressing the deficits of social security coverage through numerous innovative policy measures based on wide national consensus and political willingness

It is interesting to note that many of these policy measures are actually of the same type as or very similar to the [UN Social Protection Floor initiative](#), the concept of which is now being supported by more and more countries in the region.

For more details please visit [here](#).

Consequently, more and more countries are actively addressing the deficits of social security coverage through numerous innovative policy measures based on wide national consensus and political willingness.

SOURCE

Check the www.socia-protection.org for more in depth review of the social security and protection for various countries in the Asia Pacific region.

THEMATIC PAPERS

Social protection for migrant workers: ILO's approach and ASEAN perspective

Ms. Loveleen De of ILO presented the paper on "Social Protection for Migrant Workers: ILO's Approach and ASEAN Perspective at the Asian Conference on Globalization and Labor Administration: Cross-Border Labor Mobility, Social Security and Regional Integration last November 19-21, 2014, Manila, Philippines.

The paper covers topics on the following:

- Social protection and its extension
- ILO's standards and the protection of migrant workers' social security rights
- Social protection floors
- Situation and challenges for migrant workers
- Way forward in ASEAN

For more details about the paper, please refer to this [link](#).

Social Protection in ASEAN: Challenges and Initiatives for Post 2015 Vision

In one of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Discussion Paper Series, Mukul G. Asher Professorial Fellow from National University of Singapore and Councillor of Takshashila Institution together with Fauziah Zen, Economist at ERIA prepared a paper, dated February 2015, on the "Social Protection in ASEAN: Challenges and Initiatives for Post 2015 Vision". The paper's content includes ASEAN Vision on Social Protection and suggested initiatives for the ASEAN Social Protection.

For more details about the paper, please refer to this [link](#).

Likewise, they also made a powerpoint presentation related to their paper entitled 'Social Insurance and Social Protection in ASEAN: Status, Challenges and Ways Forward'. This can be viewed in this [link](#).

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ACCESS TO DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

This thematic paper reviews a range of issues and trends as regards indigenous peoples' access to decent work, including employment and social protection. It argues that indigenous peoples' economic empowerment through access to decent work and social protection is a key strategy for inclusive and rights-based development. Existing policies in the field of education, training and employment often fail to reach out effectively to indigenous peoples.

The paper calls for an increased focus on the elimination of discrimination against indigenous women and men in employment and occupation, in both rural and urban settings. It offers orientations for concrete action to tackle unacceptable forms of work and the creation of social protection floors designed to reach indigenous communities. Overcoming exclusion of indigenous peoples from decent work and social protection is a key challenge for inclusive development as envisaged for the post-2015 development agenda.

For more details about the paper, please refer to this [link](#).

Measuring Social Protection Expenditures in Southeast Asia: Estimates Using the Social Protection Index

This paper presents cross-country data on social protection programs in eight countries in Southeast Asia. It uses the Social Protection Index (SPI) developed by the Asian Development Bank to help assess the nature and effectiveness of social protection programs and to facilitate cross-country comparisons. While Southeast Asia has a high per capita gross domestic product (GDP) compared to other regions in Asia and the Pacific, the estimates reveal that the countries are spending only 2.6% of GDP on average for social protection programs. Social insurance, which benefits salaried employees in public and well-established private firms, is the dominant form of social protection. Social assistance systems are underdeveloped and are usually dwarfed by social insurance on spending. Moderately poor people—and people living just above the poverty line—do not benefit from existing social protection schemes. Active labor market programs receive little attention as a form of social protection. Women, who tend to work in the informal labor market, enjoy less access to social insurance, social assistance, and labor market programs. Evidence suggests that there is ample room to scale up social protection expenditures in Southeast Asia.

AUTHOR

Sri Wening Handayani No. 32 / July 2014
Sri Wening Handayani is a principal social development specialist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is the focal point for social analysis for ADB's projects and social protection and labor issues. She has been instrumental in the preparation of numerous publications on social protection, including *The Social Protection Index: Assessing Results for Asia and the Pacific (2013)*. She has a PhD in sociology from the University of Missouri. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ADB

For more details about the paper, please refer to this [link](#).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Joint Regional Conference APASWE & IFSW - Asia Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

Theme: Asia-Pacific Growth and Crisis: Social Work and Policy Discourses

Date: 20 – 24 October 2015

Organizers: The Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE), Thailand Association of Social Workers and Thai Association of Social Work and Social Welfare Education (TASWE)

Conference Sub-Themes:

- Social and economic liberalization
- Urbanism and transition social disparities and inequalities
- Poverty and Vulnerability
- Environmental Security
- At-risk groups and social work responses
- Human security discourses

Conference Secretariat: Thai Association of Social Work and Social Welfare Education (TASWE), Room 301 Social Administration Building, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 10200 Thailand

Telephone: (66-2) 613-2501

Fax: (66-2)224-1365

Email: apaswe_ifswap2015@yahoo.com

Check the event [website](#) for more details.

National Symposium 2015 Sydney, Australia

Theme: Social Workers as LEADERS & CHANGE AGENTS

Date: 27 – 28 November 2015

Organizers: Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)

Conference Sub-Themes:

- **Organisational Leadership** (leadership, systems change, change management)
- **Leadership in Social Justice and Reconciliation** (social policy, activism, advocacy, achieving justice with First Nations people)
- **Education and Research Leadership** (professional development, education delivery approaches, research to improve practice, policy and education)
- **Practice and Policy Leadership** (clinical practice, community development, service delivery, social policy method)

The 2015 National Symposium will be held over two days in Sydney and will provide a mix of formal and informal opportunities to engage with others across the full career spectrum to profile social work practice excellence within a changing landscape.

Check the event [website](#) for more details.

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Please distribute this newsletter as widely as possible.

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