

GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
June 2010

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2010 Joint World Conference – Stunning Success

Opening Session of the 2010 Joint World Conference



For the first time this century the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) combined their conferences. The success we achieved was not just the numbers - more than 2,500 conference participants from 113 countries. June 2010 marked the first time in living memory that the three organisations representing social work and social development worked together to develop a shared global agenda and action programme to promote social development and social justice.



Top Left: Christine Fang Chair Conference Organising Committee

Top Right: Mr Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations

Bottom: Cecilia Lai-wan Chan Chair Programme Committee

In the grand opening ceremony Mr Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations warmly endorsed the combined commitment by IASSW, ICSW and IFSW to a common agenda. Mr. Sha emphasised the global significance of the conference for the UN and the world.

He issued a call to action to those working in social development to foster partnership between IFSW, IASSW and ICSW and United Nations. Mr. Sha noted that “This is the first civil society gathering abroad that I have attended in my capacity as Under-Secretary-General... You, however, as a group of social workers and social development experts are truly a special audience. You work with the poor, the voiceless, the disenfranchised. Too often, you are not properly acknowledged. I wish to state, here and now, that the United Nations recognizes your contributions, day by day and village by village, to achieving the lofty development goals established in UN conference rooms in New York. Thank you.”

Mr. Sha said that the three organisations “were among the first non-governmental organizations to acquire consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. For more than half a century, they have made strong contributions to UN achievements in social progress.”

He went on to say, “You represent an astounding range of expertise in the field of social work and development.... This breadth and depth of expertise motivates me in my own role as a senior UN official in charge of economic and social affairs. It gives me hope that through our collective efforts we can reduce the staggering levels of poverty, social injustice and exclusion that exist today.” Mr. Sha issued many challenges to the conference and to IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. He sought our support for the achievement of the MDGs; he invited the three organisations to contribute to the success of the Rio+20 Summit; he asked us to assist the UN in communications and promotions; he asked for our assistance in reaching out to NGOs in Southern countries. Mr. Sha said “I therefore applaud the message of this Conference: Together we build the agenda; Together we face the challenges: Together we thrive.”

Building the Agenda



David Jones President IFSW, Christian Rollet President ICSW, Angie Yuen-Tsang Woon Ki President IASSW (left) led the process of setting “The Agenda”. In planning the conference we saw it as both an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and to start building a social policy agenda. Before the conference policy papers were prepared and distributed through the organisations’ websites. ICSW prepared papers on social protection, the global financial crisis and human trafficking.

Throughout the conference a team of rapporteurs worked to gather responses on the key themes.



Mabulara T'suene Tlali ICSW Rapporteur Social Protection



Terry Hokenstad ICSW Rapporteur Human Trafficking



Left: Emmanuel Ted Nandolo ICSW Rapporteur Global Financial Crisis



Right: Chief Rapporteurs IASSW - Lena Dominelli, ICSW - Charles Abbey, IFSW - Garry Bailey. Seated, David Jones, President IFSW.

There will be more on the full agenda in later newsletters. ICSW promoted the Social Protection Floor Initiative as its key Agenda.

Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI)



The preconference workshop on the SPFI was very successful. Key policy makers were introduced to the concepts and practices of social protection. It was followed later in the conference by a plenary on social protection led by speakers from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNICEF and OECD POVNET

From Left, Hoi Wai Chua, Hong Kong Council of Social Service; Denys Correll, ICSW; Prof. Huck-ju Kwon, Republic of Korea; Timo Voipio, OECD POVNET and Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; Prof. Vivienne Taylor, South Africa; Isabel Ortiz, UNICEF, Christian Jacquier, ILO; Bob Huber, UN DESA; Valérie Schmitt-Diabete, ILO; Dr. Worawan Chandoevmit, Thailand; Eduardo Klien, HelpAge International. (Thanks to Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Social Welfare Department Hong Kong SAR and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs for sponsoring the workshop with ICSW)

In April 2009, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) launched a social protection floor as one of its 9 initiatives to cope with the global crisis. ICSW adopted the SPFI as its major policy initiative in 2010 and 2011 and added it to its Global Programme. In adopting the SPFI the General Assembly of ICSW members resolved to ask each the nine ICSW regions to make the SPFI a key part of their social policy agenda and engage national and regional governments in issues surrounding the model, adoption, implementation and sustaining of the SPFI. ICSW will work to have civil society become members of joint SPFI taskforces. The General Assembly asked that ICSW participates in global discussions on the SPFI and channel knowledge and opportunities to IASSW and IFSW. ICSW offered to act as a clearing house for knowledge and resources for IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. Soon the home page of the ICSW website will feature a special link to the SPFI.

What are the concepts underlying the SPFI?

The Social Protection Floor corresponds to a set of basic social rights, services and facilities that a citizen should enjoy. It can be seen as a core obligation to ensure the realisation of minimum essential levels of rights embodied in human right treaties. The Social Protection Floor could consist of 2 main elements that help to realise these human rights:

1. **Ensuring the availability, continuity, and geographical and financial access to essential services**, such as water and sanitation, food and adequate nutrition, health, education, housing and other social services such as life and asset saving information.
2. **Realising access by ensuring a basic set of essential social transfers**, in cash and in kind, to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and to facilitate access to essential services. It includes social transfers (but also information, entitlements and policies) to children, people in active age groups with insufficient income and older persons

The SPFI promotes a holistic and coherent vision of national social protection systems as a key component of national development strategies. It seeks to support countries in identifying and closing crucial protection gaps through coherent and efficient measures that maximise the effects of scarce resources on the reduction of poverty and insecurity, to ensure “guaranteed access” to essential services and social transfers.



ICSW General Assembly and the Board - Following the Conference the General Assembly of members met.

At front from left: Roselyn Nakiryra, Programme Coordinator; Christian Rollet, Global President; Denys Correll, Executive Director; Charles Abbey, Global Vice President; Marijke Steenbergen, Global Treasurer.

The newly elected Board had its initial meeting after the conference



From left: Roselyn Nakiryra, Programme Coordinator; Eva Holmberg Herrström, Regional President Europe; Braema Mathiapparanam, Regional President South East Asia and the Pacific; Hsiu-Hsiung Bai, Regional President, North East Asia; Driss Guerraoui, Regional President, Middle East and North Africa; Christian Rollet, Global President; Amacodou Diouf, Regional President, Central and West Africa; Taylor Nyanhete, Regional President East and Southern Africa; A. S. Shenoy, Regional President, South Asia; Mirtha Crevoisier, Regional President Latin America; Paschaline Tar, Vice Regional President, Central and West Africa, Charles Abbey, Global Vice President; Denys Correll, Executive Director.



From left: Judith Kaulem, Regional President East and Southern Africa, 2006 to 2010; Taylor Nyanhete, Regional President East and Southern Africa; Christian Rollet, Global President; Lola Casal-Sanchez, Volunteer Latin America, ICSW; Emmanuel Ndlangamandla, Executive Director, Coordinating Assembly of NGOs Swaziland.

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