



CHECK IT OUT! APASWE

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Dear Colleagues:

Good news! Asia Pacific Association of social Work education (APASWE) issues a be-monthly newsletter in "Check it Out". We hope through this newsletter, all members of APASWE can share their programs and activities, and therefore, it can also be a media for us to know and learn each other. In turn, it will indeed strengthen social work education in the Asia Pacific region. The activities can consist of the programs and activities initiated by school members as well as those held by the social work education association of each country.

This is reborn like a phoenix. Nearly forty years ago, just after ARASWE (Asian Region Association for Social Work Education; predecessor of APASWE) was established, we had ARASWE POST.

Warmest Regards,

*Tatsuru Akimoto
President*

*Fentiny Nugroho
Newsletter Coordinator, Board Member*

From Malaysia

New wind of Social Work in Malaysia

2012 promises to bring much hope in the arena of social work to Malaysia. Even though Malaysia does not have a social work education association, most of the academicians are members of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW). This has been the practice in the country for decades. A good link and cooperation exists between the practitioners and those in the academics for the benefit of the target population and the profession

In 2002/2003, the collaboration between those in the academic and the practice settings accelerated due to several common



concerns – the effort in establishing social work competency standards, curriculum standards and a social workers act. A committee called Malaysian Council of Social Work Education was formed comprising mainly of representatives from the seven universities that offer Social Work program, MASW, and the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). The effort is almost reaching the goal - the Malaysian government has endorsed these initiatives. An ongoing concerted effort is being made to fine tune these initiatives in order for them to be fully implemented. The hope is for the all of these initiatives to be fully rectified and

implemented in 2012.

Activities in MASW

Although 2012 has yet to enter its third month, the profession is already bustling with activities gearing towards helping those in need and capacity building activities for the profession. MASW as an example has already conducted several activities as listed below:

- Review of and translation into the Malay language the Social Work Competency Standards Document with DSW.
- Hosting of Practice Lab for trainers in Foundational Child Protection Practice and review of teaching materials.
- Attendance at the Competency Project Technical Committee Meeting and review of the Social Workers Bill.
- Review of Foundational Child Protection Practice teaching materials by selected trainers from MASW and DSW.
- Social Work Competency Framework Training of Trainers Workshop conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma, Project Consultant, UNICEF Malaysia.
- Review of Social Workers Draft Bill by members of the Technical Committee with the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.

New Movement and APASWE

With regards to activities within the academic sphere, 2012 anticipates the arrival of several major events. Universiti Sains Malaysia's (USM) Social Work Program will become a semi-autonomous entity, slowly separating itself from the university's School of Social Sciences. The ultimate objective is to form its own school of social work. Since the beginning of its establishment, the social work program has parked itself under the School of Social Sciences. However, due to the popularity of the program over the years, the need to form a separate school becomes more urgent. Hence, the first step is to become semi-autonomous to show sustainability to the governing body.

Another major initiative in social work education is the proposed establishment of a master program at the Universiti Utara

Malaysia (UUM). This program will be the second in the country following the path taken by USM several years ago. With the upcoming program, Malaysia will be having more social workers with a master degree; this will only enhance the image of the profession. Both USM and UUM will also change the duration of their respective programs to four years, replacing the three years that is being currently practiced.

UUM is also having its program evaluated by an external assessor. The exercise is conducted every five years. Presently, the external assessor happens to be one APASWE's board member. This is an indication of the growing recognition of APASWE in Malaysia. Another good news coming out from UUM, which is situated in the north of Malaysia, is that it is the latest

member to join APASWE. To UUM we say this to you, "Welcome!"

Finally, news coming from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), situated in the island of Borneo, it has appointed, yet

another one of APASWE's board member to be in its advisory board of the School of Psychology and Social Work. Another indication of the recognition of APASWE!

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If you have comments, please contact us.

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