



# MASW NEWSLETTER

**WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2014 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**

## ***Celebrating World Social Work Day 2014!***

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### ***President's Message...***

Greetings, fellow members and colleagues,

### **Happy World Social Work Day 2014!**

Each year social workers across the globe celebrate World Social Work Day on the third Tuesday of March. This year's worldwide celebration is on the 18th but MASW has decided to take the lead and kick off the celebration on the 15th, three days earlier! We hope by doing so we can encourage other social workers and their institutions to organise their own celebration of WSWD 2014 during the remaining days of the month.

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) has chosen 'Social and Economic Crises – Social Work Solutions' for this year's theme. This is the continuation from its Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Commitment to Action 2012-2016 focusing on (1) Promoting social and economic equalities, (2) Promoting the dignity and worth of peoples, (3) Working towards environmental sustainability, and (4) Strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships.

Correspondingly, we organised today's Public Forum addressing social equalities and inclusion issues in different practice settings. See programme in the next page.

We are also hosting and supporting a book launch after the Forum to honour the work of our member, Associate Professor Dr. Ling How Kee from the Social Work Programme, UNIMAS, Sarawak. The title of the book is 'Cross-Cultural Social Work – Local and Global' which she co-edited with her colleagues at RMIT University, Australia and the National University of Singapore.

We also applaud and congratulate another member, Ms Barbara Yen Yok Wah who successfully launched her book 'Moment2Moment: Breathless in Kuala Lumpur' on 29 September 2013. Barbara's book documented her experiences as a medical social worker for 25 years at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). Copies of the books and a few others will be on sale outside the function room.

We hope that more social workers will follow suit and pen their thoughts and practice wisdom in publications as we are still very short of local reading references on social work practice.

### **EDITORIAL**

ELSIE LEE

TEOH AI HUA

*Continuation of President's message...*

MASW has started to organise public talks to raise the profile of social work and MASW, and to provide a platform for social workers to share their insights into issues and their practices. The first public talk on 'The Adultification of Children' by our Ex-Co member, Raymund Jagan on 6 July 2013 was well received and led to Raymund being invited to deliver the same topic to other groups. The second public talk on 'Homelessness and Human Security' by Miss Rayna Rusenko, social organiser with Food Not Bombs Kuala Lumpur on 22 February 2014 attracted more than 40 people. Members and colleagues who are interested to

deliver public talks are welcomed to contact us. We also encourage social work members in other states and towns to organise such public talks to reach out to the community.

We also welcome any articles that you have written on social work related issues to be shared with all members through our Newsletter. The next Newsletter will be issued in conjunction with our 41st Annual General Meeting in May 2014, the date will be announced soon.

Through your active participation only can we improve on the content and the quality of our

Newsletter.

Last but not least, we are happy to inform that the Social Work Program at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and the Medical Social Work Department of the Sarawak General Hospital (HUS) will organise their WSWD 2014 celebration on 18th March and 10th April respectively. Please check out the details in the following pages.

**TEOH AI HUA**

***WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2014 - Activities at UUM, Sintok, Kedah***

**1) Mobility Program with UUM-UKM-MASW: World Social Work Day Celebration (13th to 15th March 2014)**

***Day 1 in UKM:***

- UUM-UKM Mapping Community Asset Workshop by Dr. Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad, Ph.D (UKM)
- Using Art as Therapeutic Tool for Working with Survivors in Community by Sharima Ruwaida Abbas, MSW (UUM)

***Day 2 in Petaling Jaya:***

- Attending World Social Work Day events organised by MASW on 15th March 2014

**2) World Social Work Week in UUM (18th to 20th March 2014)**

Activity 1: Social Work Charity Run

Activity 2: 'International Social Work Groupwork Discussion' between social work students of UUM and Prince of Songhla University (PSU), Pattani, Thailand

Activity 3: Talk on 'Social Work Community Organising' by Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba (UUM)

Activity 4: UUM-PSU Community Tour to Rumah Sri Kenangan, JKM, Perlis

Activity 5: International Social Work Cultural Dinner

Activity 6: Social Work Mental Health Talk by Prof. Jonathan Parker and Dr. Sara Aschencaen Crabtree

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## **MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2014 CELEBRATION**

***Public Forum & Book Launch  
Saturday 15th March 2014  
Armada Hotel, Petaling Jaya***

### **PROGRAMME**

#### ***Public Forum***

- 08.30am Registration, Breakfast and Book Sales*
- 09.30am Welcome Address by the President, Mr. Teoh Ai Hua*
- 09.40am Introduction of Public Forum Speakers by the Moderator,  
Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow,  
KITA, UKM*
- 09.50am*
- 1. "Social Work Solutions for Protecting Children"  
Dr. Victor Karunan, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Malaysia*
  - 2. "Social Work Solutions for Managing Disability"  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ling How Kee, Director, Centre for  
Disability Studies, UNIMAS*
  - 3. "Social Work Solutions in Clinical Practice"  
Ms Mitze Lau, Mental Health Social Worker, Australia*
  - 4. "Social Work Solutions for Managing HIV/AIDS"  
Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba, Social Work Programme, UUM*
- 11.10am Q & A*
- 11.30am Closing of Public Forum*

#### ***Book Launch:***

- 11.40am Introduction of Associate Professor Dr. Ling How Kee, Co-Editor of Book*
- 11.50am Book Review by Dr. Bala Raju Nikku, Visiting Lecturer, Social  
Work Programme, USM*
- Book Title: 'Cross-Cultural Social Work – Local and Global'*
- 12.00pm Speech by Dr. Ling How Kee, Social Work Programme, UNIMAS*
- 12.10pm Official Launch by the President, Mr. Teoh Ai Hua*
- 12.20pm Book Signing and Sale of Book*
- 1.00pm Closing of Book Launch*
- Buffet Lunch*

## *WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2014 ~ Activities at Hospital Umum, Sarawak*

We will be having a one day event at Auditorium Pusat Jantung Hospital Umum Sarawak in Samarahan. The event will focus on 3 of the social work solutions : -

- a) Building Participation
- b) Facilitating Caring Communities
- d) Respecting Diversity - Connecting People.

We will be focusing on how an illness impacts an individual and their families economically and socially and how the input of various medical personal can assist in providing "solutions" to address their altered social functioning and roles.

The one day event will consist of talks from Pysiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Audiologist, Rehabilitation Physician, Psychiatirst (should be Psychologist but we don't have one) and Social Workers. It will highlight the importance of the multidisplinary team approach in health care thereby building participation. In providing services to the various individuals we will be highlighting the importance of respecting diversity and connecting people to like support groups and between our professions. Ultimately we will be facilitating the creation of caring communities.

The speakers will be from Hospital Umum Sarawak.

The participants will consist of MSW's, Nurses, Allied Health Personnel and UNIMAS Social Work Students. We are looking to have around 80 participants to attend the event.

We will be inviting our Director of Health Sarawak State to officiate the event.

The objectives in Malay :

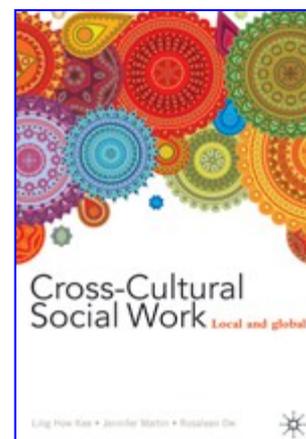
- a) Mendedahkan peserta kepada kepentingan perkhidmatan ahli kesihatan bersekutu dalam mebantu pesakit manangani kriis yang dihadapi akibat kehilangan kefungsiian.
- b) Mengutarakan kepentingan kewujudan pasukan multidisplin dalam melengkapkan perkhidmatan kepada pesakit di Hospital
- c) Mendedahkan peserta kepada masalah ekonomi dan sosial yang dihadapi oleh pesakit akibat penyakit yang dialami.
- d) Mewujudkan kerjasama kearah membina masyarakat yang penyayang.

Naomi Masilamany  
Senior Medical Social Worker  
Hospital Umum, Sarawak



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***Cross-Cultural Social Work: Local and Global***  
***Edited by Ling How Kee, Jennifer Martin and Rosaleen O'Connell***  
***Palgrave Macmillan 2014, ISBN 9781420256802***  
***Review by: Bala Raju Nikku, Universiti Sains Malaysia***



The book *Cross-Cultural Social Work* edited by three prominent social work educators from Malaysia, Australia and Singapore is timely and contributes to our understanding of cross cultural social work practice. As it claims it engages readers to critically reflect on dominant social work theories and methods and challenge the way we think about culture.

I ask why another book on Cross-Cultural Social Work? We know developing cross-cultural competencies to prepare social work students for work in the profession is an important prerequisite for social work licensure and practice in many countries. However scholars like Sussan Melcek (2013) have raised questions like 'Are we doing enough to develop cross-cultural competencies for social work?' She further asked how can we devise a relevant curriculum in the delivery of social work education that addresses the development of cross-cultural competencies. The various chapters in this book collectively provide a hopeful answer to these questions.

The book is divided in to two parts. After a good introductory chapter Part 1 of the book presents (chapters 2-7) theories and perspectives for culturally appropriate practice, education and research. The part 2 of the book contains six chapters (chapters 8-13) presenting in-depth analysis and approaches to working with cultural diverse groups and practice areas. As social workers we try to understand our diverse clients and their different worlds by moving us in different layers of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender and class. In addition, many worldviews impact the cross-cultural practice. This book dwells with these insights eloquently and hence helps the reader to enlarge his or her own stand points and understand obvious and not-so-obvious dilemmas of one's own behavior.

After a through reading of the full book, I say confidently that that the book adds value to the existing literature. However, in Part 2, I expected a clear link between the cross-cultural social work practices or approaches used by the authors themselves or other practitioners in the selected areas of Marginalised Indigenous Communities (Chapter 8), Social Entrepreneurship (Chapter 9), Old Refugees (Chapter 10), End of life issues (Chapter 11) and International Adoption (Chapter 12). I see that the authors have tried their best to provide the readers the evidence on how cross-cultural social work practices have been used or needed while working with different populations or in a particular sector, there still lacks the coherence and evidence. This is I am sure one of the limitations of an edited book with diverse authors.

Part 1 of this book presents theories and perspectives for culturally appropriate social work practice which adds to the richness of the book. Chapter 3 particularly dwells on cultural competence - a critical analysis and reminds the reader that 'it would be easy to dismiss cultural competence out of hand as policy rhetoric, especially given the gulf between the rhetoric and reality on the ground' ( P.45). To conclude the sections on reflective questions and further reading in addition to References are a real addition to each chapter and book as a whole. I strongly recommend this book for social work educators, practitioners, researchers and students from and beyond the Asia and the Pacific.