



## **International Network for School Social Work**

**<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>**

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Editor: Marion Huxtable

#### **School social work makes progress in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China Leung Tong Lit Charles**

In 2006 the Central Government of PRC announced the policy of social work development, leading to several pilot social work projects starting around the country. The Government was responding to the entire social situation in PRC nowadays that constructing a harmonious society should be done. The Chairman of PRC, Wu Jin Tao (胡锦涛), even expressed that social work did contribute to this construction.

One of the projects is being steered by my colleagues and I in the Haizhu District (海珠区), Guangzhou City (广州市). Starting in June 2008, our service target has been teenagers and young adults, so that we have been providing school social work service (学校社会工作) to 5 secondary schools (ages 12-16, equivalent to grades 7 through 9 in the US education system.) The service providers are youth workers functioning as school social workers.

Provision of service includes: a) individual and family counseling, self-growth groups, and other developmental activities for students; b) parenting programs for students' parents; c) collaborating with teachers to implement programs for students such as sex education, anti-bullying education, and stress management; d) networking with other resources in the community so as to enrich learning opportunities for students through extracurricular activities.

Various projects with different themes (e.g. drug prevention & anti-smoking, peer relationship, career planning, etc.) are now being planned in response to requests from the education officers, principals, and school personnel who are familiar with the contribution of this emerging profession. However, so far few people understand what (school) social work is. We are keen on providing professional service so as to generate more recognition based on our performance!

#### **About Leung Tong Lit Charles (梁镗烈)**

Teaching Fellow & Fieldwork Coordinator (Acting), Department of Sociology & Social Work, Sun Yat-sen (Zhong Shan) University (中山大学)

Steering Committee, Qi Chuang (启创) Social Work Development Association, Guangzhou City, PRC.

I have been working at the Department of Sociology & Social Work, Sun Yat-sen (Zhong Shan) University since 2006. My main duties include teaching social work theories and methods

courses in undergraduate level, as well as coordinating the social work practicum for both bachelor and master program students.

We now have more than 10 students a year doing a concurrent field placement in the school system within an academic semester (about 18 weeks). Both primary and secondary schools are served, and the age group is 6-12 (equivalent to grades 1 through 6 in the US system) & 12-16 (equivalent to grades 7 through 9 in the US system).

My seniors and I also established one of the pioneering professional social work bodies, called Qi Chuang Social Work Development Association, in February 2008. Apart from developing appropriate services for the needy, Qi Chuang also aims at providing opportunities for researchers to engage in evidence-based research and evaluation for the advancement of welfare studies and social service quality.

**We have links to the following national associations. If your country has a school social work web site that is not listed here, contact [mhuxtable@olympus.net](mailto:mhuxtable@olympus.net)**

**[The Swedish School Social Workers Association](#) can be read in English or Swedish**

**[School Social Work Association of Finland](#) has information in Finnish and Swedish**

**<http://www.naswe.org.uk/> The National Association of Social Workers in Education in the UK**

**<http://www.schulsozialarbeit.ch> provides information about school social work in Switzerland**

**<http://www.ssav.ch/> a professional association for school social workers in Switzerland**

**<http://members.aon.at/schulsozialarbeit> The European Union Project for School Social Work**

**<http://www.schulsozialarbeit.net> for information about school social work in Germany**

**<http://sswaj.org/> for information about the School Social Work Association of Japan**

**[www.serve.lk](http://www.serve.lk/) shows the pioneering work of SERVE, an organization that provides school social work service in Sri Lanka**

**[www.cvf.govt.nz](http://www.cvf.govt.nz) provides information about social workers in schools in New Zealand**

**[www.casswac.ca](http://www.casswac.ca) The Canadian Association of School Social Workers and Attendance Counsellors**

**[www.sswaa.org](http://www.sswaa.org) The School Social Work Association of America**