

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

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

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### **Electronic Newsletter June 2014**

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### **School Social Work in Asia**

Sixty percent of the world's population lives in Asia and its school-aged population is expected to grow for decades to come. In spite of strong performance in educational attainment in many Asian countries, the schools need support from various disciplines including social work to maintain their success, provide a child friendly environment for every child including those with disabilities, and help children overcome obstacles so they can reach their potential.

Some Asian countries started to provide school social work services decades ago. Singapore has had social workers in schools since 1965, employed both by schools and Voluntary Welfare Organizations. Hong Kong started a school social work program in the 1970's in collaboration between government and private agencies. The program has continued since Hong Kong was restored to the People's Republic of China and made a Special Administrative Region. The United Arab Emirates have implemented school social work *تصاوي اجتماعي* since 1972, providing a comprehensive range of programs. In India large numbers of social workers are employed in schools for physically challenged people. The school system in Saudi Arabia has placed social workers in schools since 1980.

Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia and Sri Lanka initiated school social work in the 1990's. Korea and Mongolia have specialty associations to provide advocacy and support for school social workers.

Most recently there has been a rapid introduction of school social work in Japan, Vietnam and China. The July newsletter article will report on the introduction of school social work into Japan and some of the issues involved in starting such a program with little preparation. In Vietnam social work and school social work are both being developed, and universities are training social workers. The growth of school social work in China is proceeding rapidly in a few regions and data is being gathered about the service and how it is implemented. In Central Asian (and some Southeast Asian) countries there is little data available about services for school children who face obstacles in their education. Social work is a fairly new profession in many Central Asian countries and initially is serving some outstanding special needs outside of the school system.

The 6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Work Conference to be held in June 2015 in Mongolia provides an opportunity for all school social workers to explore how to contribute to child friendly schools while helping to maintain high standards of attainment. The Call for Speakers is at <http://isswc.massw.org/program-2/call-for-speakers/>

# Join us at the 6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Workers Conference!

10-12 June 2015 in Mongolia, a once in a lifetime adventure!



## Mongolia

Situated between Russia and China, Mongolia has a cultural combination of Russian communism and Buddhist beliefs, with lots of unique customs mixed in.

Mongolia is one of the last places on the planet where nomadic life is still a tradition. Gers, the traditional portable felt tent can be seen not only in the vast countryside but also on the outskirts of cosmopolitan Ulaanbaatar.

There are many differing landscapes to see from the sprawling dunes of the Gobi desert, to the pristine water of Lake Khovsgol, all the way to the snow-capped mountains of Bayan-Olgi in the West.

**Experience this unique destination in June 2015!**



## Conference

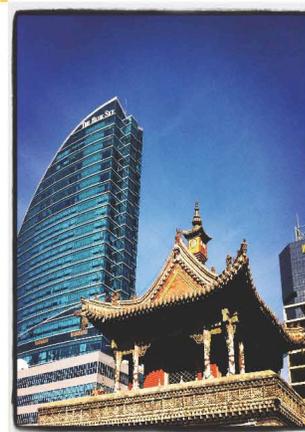
The focus of the 6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Workers Conference will be promoting child friendly schools.

Check out our website for more details on applying to speak at the conference and sharing your experiences.

Register for the conference on our website and have a once in a lifetime adventure in Mongolia!

[www.isswc.massw.org](http://www.isswc.massw.org)

If you have any questions please contact us at [info@massw.org](mailto:info@massw.org)



## Association

The Mongolian Association of School Social Workers (MASSW) launched in Mongolia in 2001 and currently has over 600 members. The mission of MASSW is to develop the profession of school social work in Mongolia.

MASSW provides a range of services for school social workers in Mongolia including training, advocacy, research and international collaboration.

Check out our website for more details:

[www.massw.org](http://www.massw.org)

This conference is proudly sponsored by MASSW.

