



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

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

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#### **Training for school social work in Vietnam**

In the last few years Vietnam has been moving towards placing social workers in schools. A 2010 Government report established social work as a profession and provided for training and placing social workers in various agencies including schools. This year a contingent from the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina in the US participated at a conference on school social work in Hanoi hosted by the Hanoi National University of Education. The two universities will collaborate in developing a BSW curriculum in school social work to provide the basis for training and field work in the schools.

<http://cosw.sc.edu/about-the-college/news/442-cosw-supporting-social-work-education-in-vietnam>

#### **A course in *skolski socijalni radnik* at the University of Zagreb**

School social work is a small specialty in Croatia with just 6 practitioners so far. Faculty member Gordana Berc is introducing a course in school social work in the Department of Social Work at the University of Zagreb. While literacy in Croatia is at a high level, the focus will be on inclusion of disadvantaged groups and removing obstacles to successful learning at all levels.

#### **Establishing school social work in South Africa**

Goodness Zulu, a social work researcher at the University of South Africa, reports that on 12 June 2015 the National Committee for School Social Work Education and Practice (NACOSSWEP) was established under the auspices of the National Association of Social Workers South Africa (NASW SA). Members of the NASW SA have been communicating since 2013 about the need to formalize school social work in South Africa starting with studies of practice models, training, standards and supervision. A meeting last year at the University of South Africa, Pretoria brought together representatives of NASW SA, school based social workers and other consultants. A national task team was set up leading to formation of the sub-committee of NASW SA that will pursue specific tasks needed to establish school social work in South Africa.

## **School social work in needed in Barbados**

A school principal in Barbados is calling for social workers to be attached to secondary schools to help deal with the issues that youth bring to school including emotional trauma, poor living conditions and learning problems. Erwin Leacock, principal of the Government Industrial School, says, “We need to appreciate the differences which children face in their quest to learn, and establish early assessments and diagnosis”. He encourages schools to be more supportive of children with behavioral problems and to provide help through the services of social workers and registered nurses in addition to guidance counselors. He describes the school as a community where children should be given the social support they need from ancillary staff they can trust. Read more of this interview at <http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/66402/social-workers-school>

## **The 6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Work Conference Frederick Streeck**

The international conference was held at the Children’s Palace in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from June 10-12, 2015. The conference theme was “**Child Friendly Schools**” and 350 school social workers attended including about 60 participants from 14 countries outside of the host country. The Mongolian Association of School Social Workers (<http://www.massw.org/?lang=en>) organized and hosted the conference.

There were four sub themes in the conference: Creating Positive Relationships, Child Protection, Child Participation and Cooperation.

Mongolian government officials who addressed the conference included the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and other ministry officials, along with the Director of the Peace Corps Mongolia, Youth Development Project, Darlene Grant, Ph.D.

Keynote and workshop presentations were made by participants from Australia, Canada, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Nigeria, Singapore, Sweden, Tajikistan, Taiwan and the United States. The International School Work Conference was an exciting and eclectic gathering of school social workers who have different practice methods, working conditions and roles. The common bond which was expressed very clearly once again at this 6<sup>th</sup> International School Social Work Conference is that helping students to be successful in school by working with and removing barriers to education remains a constant. In addition to the conversations during tea breaks, there were visits to schools in the city including one to a school located in a Gyr (Yurt) neighborhood on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar.

During a business meeting at the conference chaired by Frederick Streeck, the international representatives listened to a presentation from the Chinese delegation (Jing-Houng Kuo, LiYa Xu, Yunjuan Yang and Kennedy Ng Kwok-hung) and following an extensive discussion, Beijing, China was selected for the next International School Social Work Conference. It will take place either in 2017 or 2018. Please keep checking back with the International Network for School Social Work for details.