

**International Network for School Social Work**

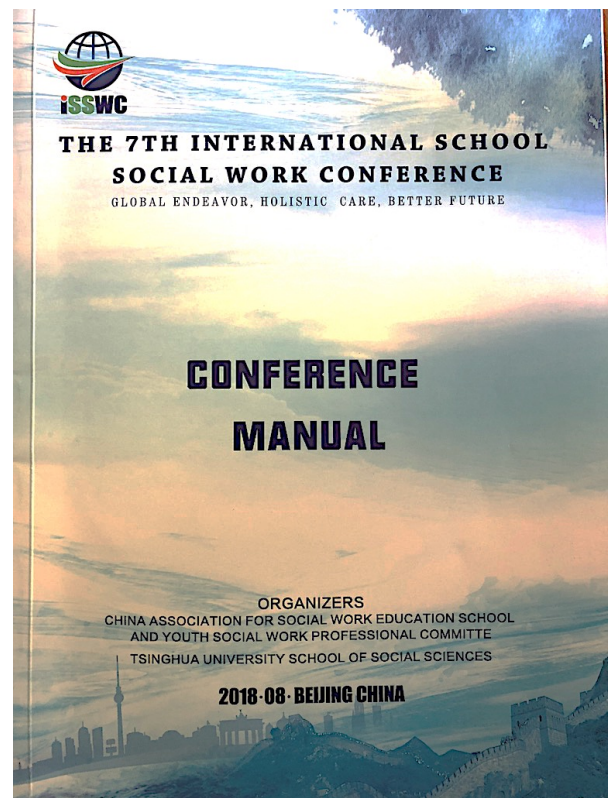
**<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>**

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## **Electronic Newsletter October 2018**

Editor: Marion Huxtable

**Congratulations and thanks to the China Association for Social Work Education, School and Youth Social Work Committee for the successful 7<sup>th</sup> International School Social Work Conference, held in Beijing from August 24 through 27.** In collaboration with universities, government agencies, charities and many individuals, the Association presented a full program focused on “Global Endeavour, Holistic care, Better Future”. Teamwork with partners and many months of organizing resulted in a conference that was rewarding for all participants and promoted the development of school social work in the Republic of China.



Although school social work is relatively new in the Republic of China, it is growing rapidly. The International Conference provided a rich showcase of the many ways that school social workers are helping school children throughout China and the world to achieve success in their education, despite whatever challenges they bring to school. Over 500 participants from several countries, provinces, administrative regions and municipalities, including about 65 social work students, participated, learning together and sharing information, knowledge and skills on a wide-ranging array of topics needed for a career in school social work.

Many topics presented gave practical guidance for direct services to children through counseling, crisis intervention, career planning, prevention of bullying and help for students who are bullied. Other vital topics for the successful development of school social work were offered including teaching and research on school social work, values and ethics, and community-based organization and youth services. Participants learned about school social work services in other countries such as the US where school social work is well established and Vietnam where it is beginning. Experience of school social work in the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong is also helpful as school social workers have been providing services there for many years.



Photo from Daniel McCarthy

As well as a huge array of topics and presentations, conference participants visited schools, social agencies and youth clubs where they learned how social workers support young people. Social events and visits to famous destinations around Beijing made the conference a rich cultural experience for all.

## Topics for Future International Connections

Representatives of school social workers from the countries attending the conference met in Beijing to discuss ideas for the future of the international conferences. The group favored holding the international conference every second year, moving it around the world to cover all areas, and providing for increased continuity and more structure for international connectivity.

Karen McDavitt, Lecturer from Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, sent a PowerPoint presentation proposing Perth, Australia as the location for the 8<sup>th</sup> International School Social Work Conference in 2021. This proposal was accepted, and Karen has been contacted regarding the preference for holding the conference in two years time in 2020. We will let you know when it will be.

