Report from the Capacity Building Committee

January 2018

Chair:  Darla Spence Coffey; Co-chair:  Vimla Nadkarni

Members: Wassie Kebede, In Young Han, Linda Kreitzer, Janet Williams, Angelina Yuen, Karene-Anne Nathaniel-DeCaires, Fentiny Nugroho, Janestic Mwende Twikirize

This report highlights activities that have occurred since the last report in July 2017 and/or are planned in each of the key initiative categories.

**Regional Resource Centres**

1. The Regional Resource Centre (RRC) in China received its second and final round of funding. The most significant initiative of the China RRC during this term was its partnership with the Vietnamese Association of Social Work to deliver the final Capacity Building Workshops supported by the United Board (given that the IASSW Foundation has shuttered, United Board provided funds directly to IASSW, who disbursed the funds to support these workshops). See below for more detail.

The China RRC facilitated a joint initiative between Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Peking University on the 26-29 June 2017 in Paris. The focus was on maximizing social work education’s role as a catalyst for social change and social development.

  The China RRC has plans for 2018 that include:

1. Exploring a collaboration with the Central Asia (Kazakhstan or Kyrgyzstan), Middle East (Israel), and/or Europe
2. Exploring funding sources to continue supporting social work education development in Vietnam.
3. The RRC located at Massey University had a very successful launch (*more information will be coming*).
4. The Capacity Building Committee has submitted a budget request for one additional RRC. If approved, the Committee will develop and release another request for applications to support a third Centre in Fiscal Year 2018. The Committee is keen to support capacity building in other parts of the world.

**Program Consultations**

1. There have been no requests for program consultation since our last meeting. We have not heard anything more on the request from the Sharjah Women’s College, University of HCT, United Arab Emirates (the last communication was now a year ago), and we assume that this request has been withdrawn.

**Capacity Building workshops**

1. Vietnam

The third Capacity Building Workshop was held in Vietnam (Hanoi October 18-20; Ho Chi Minh City October 23-25), supported by the United Board, and focused on building capacity for professional leadership in Social Work. The China RRC is one of the organizers; Professor Ma Fengzhi provided the keynote address on the experience of social work development in China and its implications for Vietnam. Janet Williams represented IASSW at these workshops, facilitated in the development of the agenda and presented.

1. The Azerbaijan State Culture and Art University has become a member of IASSW and we have begun to discuss partnering with them on a conference/capacity building event early in 2018. Darla is scheduled to talk to Khanbala Ahmadli in early January 2018.
2. Mini-workshop in Zagreb, Croatia, January 2018.

Vimla Nadkarni and Nino Zganec have worked together to develop the mini-workshop immediately following the IASSW board meeting in Zagreb. The focus, "Social Work Education and Practice - Dance on Wire," is sure to be a thoughtful and helpful program in this time of delivering social work in challenging environments and with competing demands. Thank you for all who have agreed to participate in this program.

**(Potential) Upcoming Business**

It seems to me that now is a good time to ask the question,

“What should the relationship be between the IASSW Education Committee, or the Capacity Building Committee, and the newly created IFSW Education Commission?”

I look forward to the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Spence Coffey, PhD, MSW

Chair, Capacity Building Committee