



REGIONAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
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Letter from the Regional President

Dear members and partners,

I hope you are well and that your work is well on the road as we reach the mid-year mark of 2012. I also hope to see many of you at our Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Sweden.

In this issue we introduce the work of our member in Vietnam – Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR). We also share with you information on the crucial G-20 meeting that will take place in June. As we grapple with insecurity, limited access to employment in some countries and high mobility of labour and jobs, it becomes more important for those in this sector to share knowledge and information.

Opportunities for knowledge sharing took place recently in Vietnam and Malaysia where the government, academia and civil society representatives held discussions on the Social Protection Floor. In Vietnam the discussion centred on ASEAN and Unemployment Insurance, Income Security Measures and Active Labour Market Policies. In Malaysia it was a full-day workshop on the Social Protection Floor.

Once again thank you for the support, for staying with ICSW and most importantly for the work you keep doing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Braema Mathiapparanam
Regional President (SEAP)*

Opening remarks on the occasion of World Social Work Day

Representing the United Nations (UN), on UN Social Work Day in New York, Helen Clark Administrator of the UNDP received the Global Agenda for social work and social development. ICSW was represented by the President, Christian Rollet and ICSW UN Special Representative Sergei Zelenev. For Ms Clark's detailed statement and the Agenda, please click [here](#).

The G-20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico

This year's G20 Summit is taking place in Los Cabos, Mexico. Read more about what States need to prioritise for the global agenda:

- (1) Stabilise and reform the global economic and financial system
- (2) Promote "Green Growth" and food security
- (3) Improve the G20's performance

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Support the Social Protection Floor Initiative Petition

This signature campaign is being used as a tool for lobbying at national and global levels. The most important purpose of the campaign is to convince national government that the Social Protection Floor is needed and wanted by its citizens and must be included in national development policies.

This initiative is a wonderful opportunity to work together to roll back poverty, to put social protection at the heart of the international development agenda and to strengthen the chance for every person to live with dignity.

For further information see <http://www.socialfloor.org> and www.ngosocdev.net. To sign the petition, please click [here](#).

Launch of "Empowering women for stronger political parties: A good practices guidebook to promote women's political participation"

UN Administrator Helen Clark: "The value of this guidebook lies in sharing experiences of what a range of political parties have done and are doing to boost female participation. It looks at what motivated these steps, and describes the political benefits the parties may also gain from taking them. It underscores how gender equality and women's empowerment are being recognized by political parties as not only the right thing to support, but also as having benefits for the parties too.

This good practices guide is both an important advocacy tool, and a capacity building tool. UNDP's hope is that it will stimulate discussion within political parties on how to improve their recruitment, promotion, and support of women's political participation...

When women have a significant voice in all governance institutions at all levels, they will be able to participate equally with men in public dialogue, and better influence the decisions which impact on their future and that of their families, communities, and nations."

To view the guidebook, please click [here](#).

Additionally, Center for International Private Enterprises (CIPE) published the latest Economic Reform Feature Service article, "What is next for women in the world?" by Lauren Citrome. In the article, Citrome discusses the importance of institutional reform in women's empowerment; highlighting approaches that help women build the capacity they need to shape their own futures.

Read the full article online [here](#).

Lack of public health program for older people

HelpAge International received the prestigious 2012 Hilton Humanitarian Prize. This is the world's largest humanitarian prize and is presented to an organisation that has delivered extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering.

"There is no UN agency dedicated to older people. How is it that we have a serious, planned and effective immunization program for children - a wonderful achievement of public health in many countries globally, but nothing of the sort for ageing adults?

There are only very few NGOs helping older people in poor countries. In contrast, there are hundreds of organisations doing great work with children. We must all move to a life course perspective in all our work."

Read more of Richard Blewitt's acceptance speech [here](#).

ASEAN Seminar on unemployment insurance, income security measures and active labour market policies

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, organised a tripartite ASEAN Seminar on Unemployment Insurance, Income Security Measures and Active Labour Market Policies which took place during 20-22 March 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The Seminar shared experiences and knowledge, raised awareness, and built synergies among initiatives to promote unemployment insurance (UI), as well as other income security measures and active labour market policies to support the unemployed and vulnerable workers in the ASEAN.

Sixty representatives of Ministries of Labour, Social Security Offices, Workers' and Employers' organizations, civil society organizations of the ASEAN member States, as well as experts, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and ILO Specialists participated in this Seminar. The Seminar adopted thirteen recommendations to improve income security and guarantee for decent employment to all formal and informal economy workers in the region. To read more, click [here](#).

Ms Braema Mathiaparanam, represented ICSW SEAP and presented on “Challenges for the promotion of income security for the informal economy workers”, where she emphasised on the need to adopt the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI) and how states can go about adopting it. Presentations, related information and some photos are now available on the Global Extension of Social Security (GESS) website. Please click [here](#).

AFPPD at High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV/AIDS

Thailand – Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS was organized by ESCAP in cooperation with UNAIDS, UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO on February 6-8, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was the first time that a meeting of this nature invited participation from civil society organisations. The meeting called on delegations from 34 member states to review regional implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals and efforts to ensure universal access, including regional follow-up to the outcome of the 2011 General Assembly High-level Meeting on AIDS, which was held in New York. Mr. Epeli Nailatikau, President of Fiji, who was former Vice-Chair of AFPPD, was the chair of this High-Level Meeting.

A call to release ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD)

Civil society organisations and networks from Southeast Asia are calling for more transparency in the drafting process of the AHRD. According to a joint statement, the draft AHRD remains confidential and the public has been excluded from participating in the drafting process. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) is urged to publicise the draft AHRD, to open dialogue with CSOs and conduct regional consultations on the AHRD. The submission of a final draft of the AHRD to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting is scheduled to take place in July 2012.

To read more of the joint statement, please click [here](#).

Publications on the region

[The Case for an Integrated Model of Growth, Employment and Social Protection](#) is a paper published by the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Employment and Social Protection.

This paper is a call to action from the Global Agenda Council on Employment and Social Protection. Central to the argument presented here is the imperative to tackle the global jobs crisis. This must be a top priority for policy-makers despite the current focus on sovereign debt. While the problems in the Eurozone are consuming policy attention today, growth and employment creation, in both the short and long term, are essential if the global economy is to exit from the predicament perplexing policy-makers. This demands a new social contract based on a new economic model, which places equal emphasis on growth, employment and social protection.

Useful readings on ageing

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Survey on Ageing 2011: Australia

The Australian Government's response to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Survey on Ageing 2011 is part of the 10 year review of United Nation's Member States progress on the Madrid Implementation Plan of Action on Ageing.

The response provides comprehensive information on the Australian Government's whole-of-government approach to ageing which is framed in terms of the relationship between population, participation and productivity. It demonstrates the depth and breadth of the Australian Government's focus on population ageing and senior Australians.

This response will feed into the Inter-Governmental Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA which will be conducted in early 2013, leading to a report by the UN Secretary General to UN member states at the 51st session of the UN Commission for Social Development in New York.

You may download this document in [PDF](#) or [HTML](#) format.

About 350 million people are affected by humanitarian crises every year, a significant proportion of whom are older people and people with disabilities, who have specific needs related to their age and disability. HelpAge International, London and Handicap International, Lyon have published [A study of Humanitarian financing for older persons and people with disabilities, 2010-2011](#) to emphasise on the need to address these issues. It is a short and concise report with statistics.

[Ageing and Development 31](#), the last printed issue of A&D, reports on how little humanitarian aid is going to older people and discusses what the right to health means for older people.

[Dementia: a public health priority](#). This report by Alzheimer's Disease International and the World Health Organization calls on governments to address the increasing challenges that dementia poses on a global, national, regional and local level.

[Right to life without violence in old age](#). This newsletter highlights problems and practical information on domestic violence against older people.

Elimination of Violence against Women legislations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are now on AFPPD* policy tracking website along with population, reproductive health, and family planning related legislations and policies. They can be viewed at this [link](#).

*Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Population Policy Tracking and Monitoring (AFPPD) is a coordinating body of National Committees of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and Parliamentary Committees

dealing with population and development issues working to generate support and perpetuate cooperation among Asian parliamentarians in the area of population and development, and related fields.

The Policy Tracking and Monitoring Unit of AFPPD maintains a database of population, and sexual and reproductive health policies in cooperation with UNFPA. It offers bi-monthly updates on the latest developments in this area within the Asia-Pacific region. For the latest update, click [here](#). To subscribe to their mailing list, please refer to the top right hand corner of the webpage, where your email address input will be required.

Initiatives by Members

This segment covers brief highlights from our member organisations around the region. In this edition, we have features from the Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR).

VAPCR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2012



Following are some main activities in VAPCR's 2012 Plan of Action, adopted at the National 5th VAPCR Executive members Meeting:

Policy advocacy

- Consultations involving non-governmental organisations (NGOs), CRnet and children have been held to promote policy advocacy by recommending amendments to legislations on protection, care and education for children as well as child protection.
- Research studies and data collection is also underway to assess the situation of child rights implementation in remote provinces. Child rights with regards to respect and protection of lives, dignity, corporality in community and immigrant children.

Raising social awareness and communication

- The VAPCR's website has been improved to include three languages Vietnamese, English and French.
- It also publishes quarterly magazines and newsletters.
- Capacity of advocacy by children in terms of communicating within communities has also been strengthened.

Direct services offered by VAPCR

- VAPCR has established the Center for legal consultation for protection of children.
- It also continues to provide community-based services such as supporting re-schooling of children who dropped out of school. VAPCR has developed the volunteer network for protecting children in 10 communes.
- VAPCR also offers education for parents with adolescents in provinces of Quang Tri and Ha Tinh as well as education on nutrition for children in Bac Giang Province.

Capacity building

- VAPCR has and will organise training courses for VAPCR system and Crnet on child rights implementation, performance and other matters related.
- Other training courses on skills available include: writing policy proposals, project planning, oversight & evaluation, strategy and fundraising.

Network development

- VAPCR will further develop Crnet and its regular operation for cooperation in policy advocacy and activities.
- VAPCR has established cells in 30 out of 63 provinces, increasing its members by 2,000 persons.

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Upcoming conferences

(1) 4th International Consortium for Social Development-Asia Pacific (ICSD-AP), June 27-30 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

These meetings aim to discuss "Social Development Strategies beyond the MDGs 2015." Information about the conference can be found in this [link](#). This meeting is co-organised by the Indonesian Council for Social Welfare.

Interested SEAP members, please send an email to dkaur@icsw.org with name, designation and organisation. Your registration will be forwarded to the organisers.

(2) 2013 Rotary Peace Fellowship accepting applications

The Rotary Foundation is now accepting applications for the world-competitive Rotary Peace Fellowship for 2013. Up to 110 fellows are selected every year in a globally competitive process based on personal, academic, and professional achievements. Fellows will participate in a Master's-level degree or a professional development certificate program in peace and conflict studies at one of six Rotary Peace Centers at universities in Australia, England, Japan, the United States, Sweden and Thailand. Applications are due by 1 July 2012.

Read more at [here](#).

(3) Social Work Social Development 2012: Action and Impact, 8-12 July 2012, Stockholm Sweden

Please visit the conference [website](#) for more details.

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As always, we are keen to hear from our readers and welcome contributions. Best wishes, Braema Mathiapparanam, President, South East Asia & Pacific Region and Dilpreet Kaur, [dkaur@icsw.org](mailto:dkaur@icsw.org), Programme Officer, South East Asia & Pacific.  
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Please distribute this newsletter as widely as possible.

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