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**International Council on Social Welfare**

November 2022

## **Working Together for a Better ICSW**



***Professor Antonio López Peláez,  
Executive Director of ICSW and Professor of Social  
Work and Social Services at the National Distance  
Education University (UNED) (Spain)***

Dear ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,  
Welcome to the November 2022 issue of our newsletter

After the covid-19 pandemic, international organizations have had to reinvent themselves, using new technologies to develop projects, such as online congresses, and to keep the relationship between their members alive.

Last October, after organizing several online seminars in the last two years, we were able to meet again, online and face to face, at the Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development organized in Seoul by ICSW and IASSW. We dedicate this newsletter to disseminate some of the results of this congress.

The most important one is precisely that ICSW,

and our sister organization IASSW, have been able to organize again face-to-face events with a very high level of rigor and academic excellence. This Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development would not have been possible without the support of the KNCSW, and I would like to publicly thank them for their hard work and for the wonderful welcome they have given to all the registrants who came to Seoul, and also to all the online attendees.

Continuing with this rebirth of our organization, ICSW Europe organized an international seminar in Malaga: International Congress on Social Policies 2022: The Challenge of Social Inclusion in Future Europe. Hosted by University of Malaga and organized jointly with ICSW and UNED (November 30th, December 1st and 2nd). Following the International Congress, the General Assembly of ICSW Europe was held on the December 2nd and Max Rubisch began his term of office as the new president of ICSW Europea.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ronald Wiman, former President of ICSW Europe and current Vice President of ICSW, for the great work he has done over the years. And I also want to wish Max Rubisch, the new president of ICSW Europe, all the best for the future. I would also like to thank all his team, and extend my thanks to all the ICSW regional presidents and their teams too. All of you are the key to the success of our organization.

A success that consists of bringing to the table the challenges facing social welfare in a time of

uncertainty. As we approach the end of the year 2022, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you on the New Year, and to thank all ICSW members and interested readers for their commitment to social welfare. Starting the year 2023 working for social welfare is the best way to make the New Year worthwhile.

**Take care and stay healthy!**

**2022 Joint World Conference on  
Social Work Education and Social  
Development in Seoul**



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has faced various social demands due to various social problems emerged in the pandemic society. Poverty, polarization, unemployment, and discrimination have intensified, and the importance of social welfare is drawing attention more than ever as a means of solving serious social problems related to the social protection as well as quarantine. Meanwhile, 2022 Joint World Conference On Social Work Education and Social Development (SWESD 2022) held in Seoul for three days from October 26 to 28 ended with the enthusiastic participation of social welfare scholars and field experts around the world.

2022 Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development was co-hosted by International Council on Social Welfare

and International Association of Schools of Social Work, and jointly organized by the Korea National Council on Social Welfare, Seoul Welfare Foundation, Korea Council on Social Welfare Education and Korea Association of Social Workers. And the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Korea Social Welfare Credit Union, the Hyundai Motors Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, the Community Chest of Korea, and the JoongAng Ilbo participated in the sponsorship this year.

While complying with the Korean government's quarantine guidelines, ICSW and IASSW held offline events as well as online events using the Korea National Council on Social Welfare's official YouTube "Sharing Channel Empathy" and the conference's official website [www.swesd2022.com](http://www.swesd2022.com). With this structure, various speakers and participants of the social development field, including policy officials, academics, and social workers gathered in one place regardless of physical space and time to put their heads together on international social welfare issues.



The first day of the conference started with welcome remarks from ICSW President Suh Sang-Mok and IASSW president Annamaria Campanini, as well as the congratulatory words from Korean President, read by the Senior Secretary to Civil and Social Agenda, Kang Seung Kyoo. Then, the

conference was followed by four keynote lectures and two special lectures at the Seoul Garden Hotel located in Mapo-gu, Seoul.

First, Gloria Kirwan, a senior lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, gave her first keynote speech under the theme of 'Rhyming Hope with History: Leveraging the History of Social Welfare to Rally Hope in Difficult Times.' Julia Watkins of the United States, who won the Katherine A. Kendall Memorial Award as thesecond presenter, gave a lecture on the theme of "Remembering Katherine A. Kendall" through the video.



Then, it was followed by special lectures. ICSW President Suh Sang-Mok, the first special speaker, delivered a lecture about a sustainable welfare state with a virtuous cycle of economy and welfare under the theme of 'How to Achieve Growth with Equity: Lessons from Korean Experience.' The second special speaker was Neil Gilbert, a world-renowned social worker at the University of California at Berkeley, California, on the theme of 'Challenges to the Scientific Practice of Social Work: Historical Tensions Between Cause and Function in the United States.'

The third keynote speaker was Chaime Marcuello-Servós, a professor at the University of Zaragoza in Spain, presented on the theme of "Digital Human Rights, Metaverse and Spaceship

Earth: Rethinking Social Policies and Social Work Practice after COVID19.' As the last keynote speaker, Darja Zaviršek, a professor at the University of Slovenia's Ljubljana, presented the theme of 'Social work's work for a future: Imagining life beyond patches of war and peace.'



After the keynote and special lectures, a special session of sponsors was prepared, with major officials from Korea Social Welfare Credit Union, the Hyundai Motors Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, the Community Chest of Korea giving lectures about their organizations' work, roles and best practices in the CSR activities and in the field of social services as well as contributions to the social development, and the first day of the event ended with an official banquet.



On the second and last days of the conference, symposiums, workshops and oral presentations were held on the headquarters of the Korea National Council on Social Welfare and the official website of the conference to deal with 6 sub-themes of the conference, 'Groups in vulnerable situations: the quest for social protection,' 'Social Work Education and Empowerment,' 'Social Work Practice in times of crisis,' 'Social Transformation Community Engagement and SDGs,' 'Digitalization and ICTs in Social Development and social work education,' 'New Opportunities and Challenges in

Post-COVID Period." Many social welfare experts from all around the world participated online and offline to gather wisdom to discuss social policies, social welfare education, and social welfare practice strategies to solve various social problems caused by COVID-19.



Meanwhile, on the 3rd day, the last day of the conference, on-site participants visited Angels' Haven, a social welfare corporation located in

Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul, where they help the socially disadvantaged, such as children and the disabled, to live independently in society by protecting and nurturing them within the facility. There are various facilities including facilities for children and adolescents, for people with disabilities, for elderly as well as single-mother and child family shelter and a shelter for people released from prison. Participants had time to feel the level of social welfare in Korea while looking around the actual social welfare sites in Korea.

The closing ceremony was then held at 5 p.m. at the headquarters of Korea National Council on Social Welfare chaired by Antonio López Peláez, the Executive Director of ICSW. Starting with the sketch video of the first and second day of the conference, President Suh and President Annamaria delivered short closing words, and video of the 2024 Panama Joint World Conference on Social Welfare was aired.



As the first hybrid conference held by ICSW, Seoul Joint World Conference was successfully conducted both online and offline. And not it seems that this conference will set a new-normal and work as a new reference for future conferences and events of ICSW.

All presentation sessions and ceremonies are available on the official website [www.swesd2022.com](http://www.swesd2022.com) until the end of this year, and everyone who registered for the conference can watch all the sessions.

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News Editor: **Antonio López Peláez,**  
**Executive Director, ICSW**  
**[alopez@icsw.org](mailto:alopez@icsw.org)**

ICSW - International Council on Social Welfare. Office number 34. Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law, National Distance Education University (UNED).  
C/ Obispo Trejo 2, 28040 Madrid (Spain).

**Contributions to the newsletter are welcome!**