

Editorial

Social Work in ASEAN: Collaborations and Challenges

I welcome you to ASEAN Social Work Journal Volume 12, No. 1, June 2024. I would like to express my gratitude to contributors, reviewers and the Indonesian Social Work Consortium as the publisher (ISWC). To strengthen the journal and to cover wider readers, ISWC has developed a collaboration with UNICEF and Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Republic of Indonesia. On this occasion, I would like to thank UNICEF and the Ministry. This journal has a specialty; it is a significant part of the dynamic movement among ASEAN country members. This journal is an academic exchange platform for educators, practitioners, researchers, students and policy makers in social work and social welfare, especially related to ASEAN. The publication of this journal is conducted by ISWC based on the mission of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, reflecting the spirit of collaboration among ASEAN countries.

Nowadays ASEAN country members still encounter many challenges and social problems, such as, climate change, disasters, child protection, poverty, mental illness, war and conflict, ecological damage, gender-based inequality, disability, and global movements of people. Most of these are represented in the articles of this edition.

Meneses describes a case to revisit the practice of psychiatric social work in the Philippines setting. In discussing the personal experience, the author reflects on themes and assert that psychiatric social work remains to have a continuing significance in today's mental health landscape, offering innovative practices in response to newer challenges of helping patients with mental health conditions. **Muller and colleagues** explore that digital technology has influenced children's lives, shaping their norms, attitudes, and behaviours in Indonesia. Children consider the internet an important part of their lives, although they often lack awareness of online dangers and what constitutes risky behaviours, such as adding unknown contacts and sharing personal information, especially in online gaming contexts. The study emphasizes the importance of discussing online risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and cyberbullying as they frequently encounter such experiences but hesitate to report them.

Dominelli argues that today's young people will be on the frontline of experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis as they age in a world in which climate-induced disasters will be increasing in intensity and frequency unless 'net zero' is reached before the current deadline of 2050. Young people have limited engagement in formal policy-making locally, nationally, and globally, so their voices remain largely ignored. Practitioners seldom engage young people in climate action. This article focuses on young people's voices, research and action, including their involvement in COP26 activities in Glasgow. ASEAN Social workers can support and mobilise young people in climate action and demand that climate change be included in the social work curriculum. **Lu and colleagues** from the Philippines focus on Bangsamoro social workers' journey to achieve inner peace and well-being in conflict-stricken and violent communities. The study's key findings are threats and aggressive complaints, delayed salaries, insufficiency of allowances, and non-performance of family roles. They are still capable of achieving their inner peace and well-being through self-initiated and peers, family, and faith-motivated self-care initiatives, which allow them to pause from their heavy workloads, manage their stressors into manageable parts, find better solutions to their problems, and regain their motivation to continue their work. **Nguyen** describes that over the years, the deaf community in Vinh Long province has had to confront issues of harassment and sexual abuse due to their disabilities. Unfortunately, the majority of the deaf population lacks full awareness of harassment and sexual abuse, often misunderstanding behaviors such as teasing and unwanted touching as not constituting to sexual harassment. The article focuses on analyzing some key results from the research, especially the awareness of the

deaf community in Vinh Long province on sexual harassment. Many victims know that sexual harassment is illegal, but they accept this behavior without reacting to it. **Rose** discusses that the Asia Pacific Region incorporates a vast geographic area of the world with a diverse range of countries at various stages of social and economic development, but all of which share the impacts of many global challenges. Social workers are a key workforce that can contribute to social development and work at the interface of the local with the global across the region. Drawing on literature, policy documents and observations some of the current challenges facing the development of the social work workforce in the region, including ASEAN, as well as the opportunities for social work to contribute to social development and to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. **Raharjo and colleagues** notify that besides making profits, companies have an important duty toward society and the environment. This obligation is manifested in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, governed in Indonesia by Law Number 40/2007 on limited liability companies and Law Number 25/2007 on capital investment. By investing in the programs, companies can demonstrate their commitment to social responsibility, improve their reputation, and ultimately contribute to a better world. The study finds that CSR services for people with disabilities in Indonesia positively impact socioeconomic conditions and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable development.

We hope that this edition proves beneficial to our readers.

Best wishes,

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Editor-in-Chief