

Preface

Entering the second decade of the new century, different parts of the world face a lot of common social development issues, such as ageing population, enlarging gap between the rich and the poor, mental health, social diversity, social integration and so on. The theme of the forthcoming 2010 Joint World Conference is to discuss and come up with a new agenda to address these trends and challenges in the next decade. It also provides an occasion on which social workers, social development advocates as well as other stakeholders can work together to raise and confirm our vision and lay down our blueprint for social work and social development.

The conference is a joint effort of the social work sector in Hong Kong, including 8 local schools of social work, Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR government, 3 major social work organizations (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Hong Kong Social Workers' Association, and the Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union), and the Organizing Committee formed by colleagues of different agencies. The Organizing Committee would like to leverage this opportunity to start a process of constructing a local agenda and invite all agencies, schools of social work, social work practitioners, service users and users organizations, and other stakeholders in the society to take part in interactive discussion and sharing, hoping that we can jointly deliberate an agenda for the coming decade.

We are grateful for the efforts of 13 Agenda Groups formed by some dozens of colleagues in the field. They have taken the lead to provide their initial analyses and suggestions in the process of drafting this agenda text, which is aimed at sparking off more discussion within and outside of the sector. This document does NOT represent any consensus among all different opinions, but a consolidation of multiple views and participation. We look forward to more interactive discussion on all these social development issues based on this document. We hope that in the coming three months, with the active participation of all agencies, schools of social work, service users and self-help organizations, social work practitioners, and other stakeholders in the society, we will be able to develop a local agenda which is both inclusive and shared by all.

The agenda thus set should not become just another piece of literature shelved in the library but a reference blueprint of many concerns and suggested actions that can be further explored, developed and implemented in and by the sector.

We look forward to your active response!

Christine Fang
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee
2010 Joint World Conference