

The Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW),
Shukutoku University

ARIISW holds the 7th International Social Work Academic Forum

The ARIISW held the 7th International Academic Forum online on 9 February 2023. The theme was ‘What does International Social Work comprise and how should this be presented in the Social Work curricula?’ More than 180 people from 24 countries/regions pre-registered for the forum, and approximately 60 people attended at any one time.

Ven. Dr. Masatoshi Hasegawa, the Head Advisor, and Prof. Noriko Totsuka, Director delivered the opening remarks followed by Ms. Kana Matsuo, Senior Researcher, who explained the results of an online survey on international social work curricula and the framework of this forum. This was followed by presentations from Thailand (Dr. W. Poonpaksin, Thammasat University), Bangladesh (Asst. Prof. K. Paul et al, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology), Sri Lanka (Mrs. V. Vasudevan, National Institute of Social Development), Malaysia (Dr. M.I. Ali, Universiti Sains Malaysia) and Pakistan (Dr M. Jafar et al., The Islamia University of Bahawalpur). Following discussions with the participants, Dr. T. Akimoto, Honorary Director, commented from the perspective of a conceptualization of international social work.

The significance of this forum was, firstly, the sharing of actual conditions and examples of international social work curricula in several Asian countries. Secondly, beyond that, it is significant that now we have started serious discussions on what content and perspectives are required. For example, while there is a historical background of the introduction of Western-rooted social work in most countries, it was discussed as to whether international social work education should just rely on this, or whether a new international social work education should be explored. The forum proceedings will be published this year.

The ARIISW hopes to promote research on new theories of international social work and its education and engage in dialogue with people around the world. Finally, we would like to thank all those involved for their cooperation in organizing the forum.



◆News from the ARIISW can be found on the following website.

<https://www.shukutoku.ac.jp/en/about/facilities/asiancenter.html>