

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

## Status of Applications for Visiting Researchers in FY2023

A total of 10 applicants from 9 countries!

ARIISW opened the application period for the 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> Visiting Researcher (VR) leading to a PhD on 1 April and closed it on 10 May. Applicants' dissertation topics were required in the field of international social work and/or Buddhist social work. We have received significant interest worldwide and ten applicants from nine other Asian countries.

This program aims to meet the training needs of scholars in social work universities and related institutions in Asia and other regions. We welcome university scholars to ARIISW as VRs who will be expected to stay in Japan for up to two years. A successful VR is awarded a PhD degree in social welfare. Three researchers have already received their PhD degrees through this program.

### A Brief Report on ARIISW's Activities

This issue also introduces a research activity on international social work. On 24 January 2023, a kick-off round-table meeting on the reciprocal exchange of social work knowledge was co-organised with the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers (SLAPSW) and Dr Masateru Higashida of ARIISW <sup>1</sup>. The purpose was to share the experiences of social work-related practitioners and explore practice knowledge and perspectives together. A total of 18 people attended, of whom seven were practitioners.

Following the meeting, the ARIISW organised a session on perspectives and skills for social work on 12 May 2023 (Chair: Ms Kana Matsuo) during the WSWD2023 <sup>2</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> international conference organised by the CSWPD Foundation in Bangladesh (headed by Assoc. Prof Habibur Rahman). Many participants from Bangladesh and India who attended the session commented that they felt the significance of sharing practice experiences across borders. Furthermore, although research exchange had been mainly conducted online during COVID-19, face-to-face exchanges would bring real-feeling-based dialogues.

The dialogues, however, have only just begun, and we look forward to the possibilities for further development. The NISD, SLAPSW and ARIISW are planning a follow-up conference with related themes in Sri Lanka in 2023.



Kick-off meeting (24 Jan, Sri Lanka)



Group photo (11 May, Bangladesh)

◆News from the ARIISW can be found on the following website.  
<https://www.shukutoku.ac.jp/en/about/facilities/asiancenter.html>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://conference.cswpd.com/>