

## Report on participation in the World Joint Conference (SWSD2024): The Katherine Kendall Award Lecture by Dr Akimoto

The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD2024) was held from the 4th to the 7th of April in Panama. Dr Tatsuru Akimoto (Honorary Director), Ms Kana Matsuo (Senior Researcher) and Dr Masateru Higashida (Head Researcher) from ARIISW participated in the conference.<sup>1</sup> The conference has its roots in the First International Conference on Social Work held in Paris in 1928 and was co-organised by three international organisations—the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)—and hosted by the Association of Social Workers of Panama.

On the 6th of April, Dr Akimoto gave a commemorative lecture on the Katherine Kendall Award (see Kara No. 59). His lecture, entitled ‘International social work beyond its centennial’, explored a new construction of international social work, encompassing discussions on Western-rooted professional social work, Buddhist social work and social work for all people. His presentation received a standing ovation afterwards, clearly showing the audience’s great interest which transcended borders.

In addition, we were involved in various forms of academic international exchange, such as Dr Higashida’s oral presentation entitled ‘Exploring alternative discourses on social work practices from the perspective of social representation theory’ at the concurrent session (Postcolonial / Decolonial / Indigenous / Emancipatory Approaches) on 4th April, and networking with participants facilitated by Ms Matsuo. The SWSD organisers officially announced that the next conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 2026.



Katherine Kendall Award ceremony, 6 Apr  
Centre: Prof A. Campanini, IASSW President; Right: Prof L. Healy



Katherine Kendall Award lecture by T. Akimoto, 6 Apr



Oral presentation by M. Higashida, 4 Apr



At the IASSW booth

◆ News from ARIISW is available on the following website:  
<https://www.shukutoku.ac.jp/en/about/facilities/asiacenter.html>

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