MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

PROFILE

Our History

The Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW) was formed on the 3rd of March 1973, and registered with the Registrar of Societies on the 28th of March 1974 (ROS 1387 Selangor). Its formation was the result of a general agreement among social workers in the welfare services and in hospitals, that there should be one umbrella body to meet their professional needs. Before that, the medical social workers had already established a Malayan Association of Almoners in 1954, which was later re-named the Malaysian Association of Medical Social Workers (MAMSW) in 1965. Their members had been successful in obtaining professional recognition from the Public Services Department (Pekeliling Perkhidmatan Bil. 9/1977), were active in promoting social work related activities on a regular basis, and were instrumental in lobbying for improved salaries and a scheme of service for hospital social workers. It was proposed that the MAMSW be dissolved and its members absorbed into the Malaysian Association of Professional Social Workers (MAPSW). The dissolution became effective on the 16th of May 1975. In 1989, MAPSW members thought it was redundant to have the qualifying description Professional in its name and it sought, and was allowed, by the Registrar of Societies to drop the term from its name. It has since been known as the Malaysian Association of Social Workers.

The logo of the Association was adopted in April 1984.

Founding Members of Protem Committee

President: Abdullah Malim Baginda
Vice-President: Muhammad Mohd Nor
Hon. Secretary: P.C. Sushama
Asst. Secretary: Norshidah Amin
Hon. Treasurer: Leslie Lee Chin Seng
Committee Members: E.J. Ross
Ong Thean Lye
Lim Meng Ah
Mohamed Shukor Ali

Current Executive Committee Members (2017-2019)

President: Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba
Vice-President: Amy Bala
Hon. Secretary: Mohd Iqbal Haqim Mohd Nor
Hon. Asst. Secretary: Datin Rodhiah Zakaria
Hon. Treasurer: Lim Yeong Yeong
Committee Members:
Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman
Raymund N.C. Jagan
Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria
Elsie Lee

Internal Auditors:
Sharima Ruwaida Abbas
Norbayah Ariffin

Past Presidents

Datuk Abdullah Malim Baginda

Muhammad Mohd Nor
(1974-1975)

Puan Sri Chong Eu Ngoh
(1975-1978)

Dato’ Adnan Hj Abdullah
(1978-1981)

Mohd Hassan Hj Ngah Mahmud
(1981-1982)

Dato’Mohamad Hussain
(1985-1987)

Anthony Tan

Tuan Hj Hitam Chik
(1991-1993)

Puan Hjh Umi Kalthum Abdul Karim
(1993-1995)

Associate Professor Siti Hawa Ali
(1995-1997)

K.N. Singham
(1999-2001)

Elsie Lee

Amy T.K. Jones
(2005-2007)
Purpose of Social Work

The profession of social work is committed to enhancing and restoring psychosocial functioning in people for their eventual well-being; it also seeks to develop and improve social policies, regulations, systems and services, and enhance the capacity of social work practitioners, educators, supervisors and trainers, to provide professionally competent social work services and social justice to society at large.

Definition of Social Work

Social work is a profession guided by a body of knowledge, values and skills, utilising a bio-psycho-social approach, to facilitate optimal social functioning of individuals, families, groups and communities. Social workers uphold a code of ethics and conduct based on the values of human rights and social justice. The profession also contributes towards social development and social change through the enhancement of social policies, legislation, programmes and services, appropriate to the needs of Malaysia’s diverse socio-cultural population for a better quality of life.

Local, Regional & International Affiliation/Membership/Representation

National Council of Welfare and Social Development Malaysia
http://www.ncwsdm.org.my/

Malaysian Professional Centre (Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia [BIM])
http://www.bim.org.my

International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
http://www.ifsw.org

Commonwealth Association for Social Work (COSW)
http://www.thecommonwealth.org

Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE)
http://www.apaswe.org

International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)
http://www.iassw.org
International Federation of Social Workers – Asia Pacific Executive Committee

International Federation of Social Workers – Ethics Committee

**MILESTONES FOR MASW**

1974:  
Consultations with the then Ministry of Social Welfare, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (UNECAFE) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to develop a four-year social work education programme for a Bachelor in Social Sciences degree in Social Development and Administration, initially to provide special intake for social welfare officers, launched in 1975.

1975: first social work school.

1985:  
Organised the 8th Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on ‘Social Work’ with USM, Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Educators (APASWE) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

1993:  
Founding of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) by then President, Anthony Tan and British Association of Social Workers member, David Jones.

1994:  

2000:  

2001:  

2003:  
Organised National Symposium on ‘socialwork.com - relevance and continuity’ and Dinner Tribute to Pioneers of Social Work in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of MASW with a publication of booklet on ‘Tribute to Pioneers of Social Work’.
2004: # Organised workshops to develop the National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice facilitated by Australian Social Work Consultant, Dr Pauline Meemeduma in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare (JKM).

2005: # Presentation of the Draft National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice to Dato’ Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) and the Secretary-General, Tan Sri Faizah Mohd Tahir in April.

# Organised Workshop on ‘Application of the Competency Standards for Social Work Practice’ conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma on 18 & 19 June at Quality Hotel, Kuala Lumpur;

# Conducted Workshop on ‘Application of the Competency Standards for Social Work Practice’ for medical social workers on 28 November in Port Dickson;

# Organised Workshop on ‘Street Smart Social Work’ conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma for social workers.

2006: # Collaborated with JKM on drafting of the Memorandum to establish competency standards for submission to the MWFCD;

# Organised Training of Trainers Workshop on the Professionally Accountable Practice (PAP) Framework conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma from 16 – 21 January;
Trainees in action (PAP Framework)

# Participated in NJCCSWE Workshop on National Policy and Standards for Social Work Education in Institutions of Higher Learning, at UNIMAS on 22 & 23 May;

UNIMAS Lecturers and MASW members in discussion

# Organised Workshop on ‘Social Theories’ for Social Welfare and MASW Trainers conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma at Institut Sosial Malaysia on 1st June;

# Conducted Workshop on Professionally Accountable Practice (PAP) Model for social welfare officers from Selangor and Kuala Lumpur;

Facilitating discussions during workshop

# Organised Forum on ‘Building Professional Partnerships between Social Workers and Counsellors’ on 24th June at Midah Hotel, Kuala Lumpur;
2007: # Conducted workshop on the PAP Model for social welfare officers;

# Organised Regional Symposium on ‘Disaster Management and the Social Work Response’ with IFSW in Kuala Lumpur and hosted the IFSW Regional Committee Meeting and COSW Committee Meeting from 27 -29 August;

The Minister and the Vice-President of IFSW, Charles Mbugua, signing in at the Disaster Management Symposium.

# Organised Karaoke Dinner in conjunction with MASW’s 33rd Anniversary.
President, Amy Bala, cutting the cake with senior social workers and VIP guest

**2008:** # Organised National Seminar on ‘Global Trends in Social Work’ with David Jones, President of IFSW, as main speaker;

David Jones and MASW Members

# Conducted three workshops on the PAP Framework for JKM and NGO participants;

Social Welfare and NGO participants in Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Sarawak
# Organised Exposition with NGOs on ‘Social Work - Making A World Of Difference’ in conjunction with World Social Work Day @ Sunway Pyramid, Petaling Jaya.

Dato’ Shamsiah Abdul Rahman delivering the opening address
2009:

- Co-organised National Symposium on ‘Social Work Competency Standards – Towards A Competency Benchmark’ with the National Welfare Foundation (YKN);

- At the launching of the Symposium in Genting Highlands, Assoc. Prof. Siti Hawa (left) and Assoc. Prof. Dr Angeline Cheah (right), facilitating discussions.

- Conducted 3 Training of Trainers Workshops on the PAP Framework for social welfare officers at the Social Institute of Malaysia (ISM);

- Celebrated World Social Work Day with social workers appearing on television talk shows and being interviewed by press media.

2010:

- Endorsement of the Ministerial Memorandum by the Cabinet on 23rd April:
  1. Establish National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice
  2. Enact a Social Workers Bill
  3. Establish a Regulatory Social Work Council
  4. Standardise Social Work Education Programmes in Institutions of Higher Learning
  5. Recruit Qualified Social Workers into Civil Service
  6. Develop Certificate and Diploma Courses in Social Work
News clips following announcement on 4th May by Dato’ Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil

# Collaboration with MWFCD, JKM and UNICEF to establish a Task Force to implement the Competency Standards and to draft the Social Workers Bill, in April;

# Representation on the Technical Committee for the Competency Project;

Members of the Competency Project Technical Committee (2010-2012)

# Participated in Ministerial Stakeholders Consultations on the Framework of the Social Workers Draft Bill in April;

# Submission of the Social Workers Draft Bill to the Legal Advisor of MWFCD in December;

# Conducted briefings on the Social Workers Draft Bill for NGO workers in 13 states.

**2011:**  # Review and re-drafting of MASW’s Code of Ethics;

# Review and re-drafting of a new Definition of Social Work for Malaysia;

# Facilitated TOT Workshop on Foundational Child Protection Practice conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma and funded by UNICEF for JKM officers and MASW trainers;
# Facilitated Teaching Lab for Trainers of Foundational Child Protection Practice conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma and funded by UNICEF;

# Facilitated 1\textsuperscript{st} Practice Lab for Trainers of ‘Foundational Child Protection Practice’;

# Participated in UNICEF Workshop on ‘Social Work Education Framework for Competent Practice’ conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma on 21 & 22 July;

# Conducted three briefings on the Social Workers Draft Bill for NGO workers in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur;

# Participated in 1\textsuperscript{st} Workshop to ‘Review the Social Workers Draft Bill’ organised by JKM and the Legal Advisor’s Office of MWFCD;

\textbf{2012}: # Participated in the Briefing of the Social Workers Draft Bill for NGOs with the Minister, Dato’ Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and staff of MWFCD on 28 March;

After the Press Conference

# Participated in 2\textsuperscript{nd} Workshop to ‘Review the Social Workers Draft Bill’ organised by JKM and the Legal Advisor’s Office of MWFCD on 29 February;

Our Legal Advisors
# Participated in Roadshow Briefings in April for government and non-government stakeholders on the Social Workers Draft Bill in Ipoh, Johor Bahru and Kuala Terengganu;

# Participated in Training of Trainers Workshop on the Social Work Competency Framework conducted by Dr Pauline Meemeduma from 22 – 25 February, and funded by UNICEF.

![Phenny Kakama and Pauline Meemeduma of UNICEF with the group](image)

# Conducted training for staff of Kompleks Penyayang from 30 March – 5 April;

# Conducted training for NGO staff and volunteers organised by MCRI from 16 -20 April;

# Facilitated ISM Workshop on Developing Modules and Lesson Plans of the Competency Framework in Bahasa Malaysia for Training of JKM Officers from 23 – 24 April;

# Conducted training for AADK Officers from 7 – 11 May;

# Conducted PAP training for social welfare officers and assistants in Tawau, Sabah from 7 – 8 May;

# Conducted 2 briefings on the Social Workers Draft Bill for NGO workers in Ipoh on 11 and 12 May;

# Participated in UNICEF’s TOT on Tertiary Child Protection Services for GO and NGO staff, social work educators and MASW trainers from 4 – 8 June;

# Participated in the 1st Legal Workshop to draft Regulations to the Bill at Port Dickson from 6-9 December.

**2013:** # Co-organised “NGO’s Community Charity Carnival.

**2015:** # Organised “Introduction to Competency Based Child Protection Practice” Workshop.

# Co-organised 1st UNICEF-MASW “Introduction to Social Work Supervision” in Malaysia.
2016: #Diploma in Social Work in Methodist College Kuala Lumpur was approved.

# Co-organised 2nd UNICEF-MASW “Introduction to Social Work Supervision” in Malaysia.

2017: #Organised “Capacity Building Social Workers for Disaster Response” workshop 6th to 7th March 2017


#Co-organised UNICEF-MASW “Introduction to Social Work Supervision” in Malaysia.

#Co-organised International Social Work Conference 2017 (PESAN)

#Co-organised UNHCR- MASW “Seminar on Social Work with Refugees” on 13th November 2017

- The seminar was held on 13th November 2017 at the Malaysian Bar Council. 49 participants consisting of government and non-governmental representatives attended the 1 day seminar. It was organised to illustrate and foster opportunities of engagement in a motivating and informative manner, while underlining the crucial role and services that social workers may provide within the Malaysian refugee context.

The seminar content consists of:

1. Introductory Remarks (Richard Towle, UNHCR Malaysia Representative)
2. The Refugee Context (Caroline Samuel, UNHCR)
3. Why Refugees and Asylum Seekers are a Social Work Issue (Mike Wells, UNHCR)
4. Social Workers without Borders (Manchester, United Kingdom)
5. Refugee Context in Malaysia (Chris Murphy, UNHCR)
7. Refugees, Mental Health and Social Work (Cheng Kah Hoe, Health Equity Initiatives)
8. Refugees and Child Protection (Temme Lee Wei Wei, UNHCR)
9. Refugees and Healthcare (Susheela Balasundaram, UNHCR)
10. Refugees and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Charlene Murray, Women’s Aid Organisation)
11. Closing Remarks (Prof Dr. Ismail, MASW)

# Organised a public forums “Social Work & Sustainable Development Goals” 25th March 2017

# Co-organised 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th UNICEF-MASW “Introduction to Social Work Supervision” in Malaysia

Conducted 4 batches of training in 2017 and details are as below:

An additional 4 workshops on “Introduction to Social Work Supervision” was held in the following states:

i. In The Palace Hotel Sabah, 26th to 28th July 2017
ii. In Impiana Hotel, Perak, 26th to 28th September 2017
iii. In Neo Hotel, Penang 26th-28th October 2017
iv. In KSL Resort Hotel, Johor 6th- 8th November 2017

In February 2018, MASW submitted another training proposal to UNICEF to conduct introductory courses in Kelantan, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur during the period of June to August 2018 and coming up with a module on advanced courses on social work supervision. UNICEF is also planning to conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) for social work members of MASW and other relevant agencies on issues related to children affected by migration.

2018: # Drafting Social Work Profession Bill

The Bill has not been tabled yet. A workshop-meeting was held on 9th February 2018 at JKM, Putrajaya to review and update the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) about the Social Work Profession.

During the Grand Launch Of Kembara Kebajikan 1Malaysia (KK1M), MASW managed to engage YB Dato' Sri Rohani bt Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development and expressed MASW’s concerns regarding the social work profession bill. The minister is in complete support of the bill but due to unavoidable factors the bill would not be tabled in this upcoming parliament session.

# Diploma in Social Work Programme

The first cohort of Diploma in Social Work at MCKL students have completed first year of study has entered the second year with 12 students. The second intake is expected
start on August. Ms Elsie Lee is the head of Programs and a new full-time Lecturer cum Programme Assistant was appointed on 2nd April 2018.

Methodist Pilley Institute is interested in running the DSW programme in Sibu, Sarawak. A MOA is being drawn between MPI and the JWCDSW over protection of copyright of the curriculum. Their Board members were also advised to ensure that appointed head and lecturers hold relevant professional qualifications. The proposed head for the programme had applied to be a full member of MASW but Ex-Co decided to approve associate membership based on lack of social work qualification and practice

YKPM and MASW have agreed to advice Methodist Pilley Institute in Sibu to launch the Diploma in Social Work program for Sarawak in 2019. On event took place on April 18, 2018 at Kuching Board members of the Sibu Methodist Institute together with Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (YKPM) & Dr Ling How Kee (MASW).

# GSK Horlicks School Journey Initiative Project in Kampung Chuweh

The project is still on-going. Upon request, a house was built near the school for Mr Mazlan and his wife to care for the children. The project coordinator, Mr Muniandy had to opt out due to health reasons. Now a regular visitor to the island, En ismail provides updates.

# World Social Work Day (WSWD)

Three main events were co-organised by our association in the month of March 2017 to celebrate WSWD:

- The association celebrated the World Social Work Day 2018 by participating in Kembara Kebajikan 1 Malaysia (KK1M) 2018 in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of Malaysia (JKMM). We express our gratitude to Social Welfare Department of Malaysia (JKMM), on their invitation to participate in the roadshow and also for providing the platform for the association to promote social work profession to the public.

We were able to commit to these respective states:

i. 2 March, 8.00 am – 2.00 pm (Grand Launch)
   Venue: Ministry of Women, Families and Community Development, KPWKM Building, Putrajaya

ii. 7 March, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
   Venue: Rumah Anak Yatim Che Bema, Kuala Muda, Sungai Petani, Kedah

iii. 8 March, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm
    Venue: Wisma LKIM Puchong, Selangor

iv. 10 March, 9.00 am - 2.00 pm
   Venue : SK Paya Keladi, Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang

v. 25 March, 8.00 am – 5.00 pm
   Venue: Padang Blok B, Pangsapuri Anggerik Desa Pandan and Sekolah Tunas Bakti, Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur
vi. 25 March, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm  
Venue: Dewan Orang Ramai Batu 8, Kampung Labu, Negeri Sembilan

vii. 31 March, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm  
Venue: Dataran 350, Jalan Home Guard, Kangar, Perlis

viii. 31 March, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm (Closing Ceremony)  
Venue: Kampung Dewan Dato Godam Pusa, Betong, Sarawak

- The Diploma in Social Work program at MCKL celebrated World Social Work Day (WSWD2018) on 20th March 2018 with members of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW), social work students, and representatives from NGOs in Kuala Lumpur. Three of the Diploma students shared their thoughts after completing a year of study and practicum. It’s rewarding to hear how the 9 courses and practicum have enriched their understanding of professional social work and to see their enthusiastic attempts in trying to improve their skills by applying knowledge to practice.

- A forum entitled 'Social Work Practice with Refugees' was held in conjunction with the World Social Work Day 2018 celebration at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang on 20 March 2018. The forum was co-organized by the Social Work Program of USM, MASW and UNHCR. Prof Dr Ismail Baba, President of MASW, moderated the forum which featured three panelists: Miss Michelle Fong Jia-Eyun & Miss Winsome Yusuf (both from UNHCR) and Miss Melani Yeoh from the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

# Sushama Memorial Fund (SMF)

The Executive Committee had appointed Ms Elsie Lee to chair the SMF committee. The SMF Committee had given a UNIMAS postgraduate student who is also MASW student member, a grant of RM5,000, RM2,500 as scholarship and RM2,500 as study loan. The student is to start repaying RM100 per month once she is employed.

# Pusat Aktiviti Kanak-Kanak Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK) Supervision Project

MASW provides consultancy services to YCK – enhance services by working with their social workers and child minders. Prof Ismail and Mrs Amy are in charge of this project.

# Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Iran Association of Social Workers

MASW signed a memorandum of cooperation with Iran Association of Social Workers on 19th December 2017. The memorandum will lasts for 2 years from the signing date and can be extended on mutual agreement. The objectives of the memorandum are to:

- Hold joint educational workshops and professional meetings.
- Exchange social work related documents and regulations of the two countries.
- Co-organised social work related activities.
- Hold joint conferences and seminars.
- Support social workers exchange in the two countries.
- Perform joint social work research.
# MASW Housing Internships for Universities Student

There are currently 4 interns from local universities at MASW office. Two of the interns are final year bachelor of social work from the Northern University of Malaysia (UUM) and the other two are third year bachelor of social administration and justice from University of Malaya (UM). They are involved in social work events with individual, community and policy alongside learning administrative work in an office.

Furthermore, our association has collaborated with the Spastic Children’s Association of Selangor & Federal Territory (SCAS& FT) in providing practical placement for the interns. They are required to carry out social work cases, working with individuals and community with spastic cerebral palsy.

# MASW Fund-raising Sub Committee

A sub-committee consists of members from the association has been formed, led by our President, Prof Dr Ismail to raise fund for the association. Fund-raising events has been scheduled but due to the poor response of the first fund raising event, a workshop title “Buli”, all of events are being reconsidered and restructured.

# MASW Policy Discussion Workshop on the Social Progress Assessment (SPA)

Consultation Paper

Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM) has requested MASW to consult on their report of Social Progress Assessment. MASW has engage practitioners and educators according to their specialties to write report on social issues identified from the SPA. The consultation report in response to the SPA has been sent on the 6th November 2017.