



## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER** **July 2008**

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### **New President of ICSW – Christian Rollet**

Christian Rollet of France is now the President of ICSW. In accepting the position Christian said that ICSW has a very rich 80 year history of which he is proud.

Christian comes to the position with an extensive experience in the field of social policy. He has been the Director of the National School of Public Health for seven years and has been appointed as the Head of the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs for another seven years. In Europe he has been the Regional President of the Association of Schools of Public Health. Christian has undertaken many missions related to social protection in developing countries including Brazil, Indonesia, or Morocco.

In accepting the position of President Christian paid tribute to Solveig Askjem. "She has been a marvellous President who took over at a hard time. With her Nordic coolness and real efficiency she helped restore the organisation."

"ICSW was created in 1928 as a global forum on social issues. ICSW has become much more than a simple forum. At a global level we have the mission to promote social justice, social welfare and social development. Today we face an unbalanced situation where economic issues have become the dominant global issue. Only a few global organisations are strongly committed to linking economic and social development. The ILO and ICSW are among the few."

"ICSW must strengthen its leadership in promoting social development and fighting poverty. We must continue to advocate for the principles set by the Copenhagen Declaration and which received the commitment of 117 heads of government. Our mission gives us the responsibility to strengthen NGOs that are active in the field of social welfare. We have to set up strong connections between these organisations. We have to develop networking inside civil society both at the national level and with intergovernmental institutions. We have already experienced the success of such lobbying in various regions of the world and we must go forward with this endeavour."

### **New Vice President - Charles Abbey**

Charles Abbey was elected Vice President by the Tours General Assembly of members. Charles is Ghanaian. He has served since 2004 as the Regional President for Central and West Africa. Charles has represented ICSW at meetings of the UN, African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Charles in assuming the Vice Presidency said "The voice and action of civil society is very crucial at this point in time of history. ICSW must be seen to provide critical global leadership through its three-tier structure. ICSW will continue to let the world know that economic policies must move in tandem with social policies."

"ICSW must champion the harmonious blending of social welfare, social justice, social protection and social development (which has a component of social accountability) whilst recognising the specific contextual needs of all parts of the world."

### **Management Committee**

Christian Rollet (France) President.

Marijke J Steenbergen (The Netherlands) Treasurer.

Charles Abbey (Ghana) Vice President

Jong-Sam Park (South Korea) Member

### **Supervisory and Advisory Board**

President Christian Rollet

Treasurer Marijke J Steenbergen

Regional Presidents Emmanuel Komlan Dzifanu Agbemavi - Central and West Africa  
Judith Kaulem - East and Southern Africa  
Charles Jayasinghe - South Asia  
Michael Raper - South East Asia and the Pacific  
Hsiu-Hsiung Bai – North East Asia  
Eva Holmberg-Herrström - Europe  
Danilo Santos de Miranda - Latin America and the Caribbean

Under the new constitution the first Management Committee and Supervisory and Advisory Board took office at the end of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference. Regional appointments will be announced in regional newsletters.

### **Closing Ceremony 33<sup>rd</sup> ICSW Global Conference**

#### **Directions for ICSW Denys Correll Executive Director ICSW**

This conference while looking forward has recognised our achievements in social welfare and social development. We have looked forward in the areas of social work, social protection and social development.

ICSW is a key custodian of the principles and commitments of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development. In 1994, a year before the Copenhagen Summit, ICSW adopted the Tampere Declaration. Many of the Tampere Declaration principles are reflected in the Copenhagen Commitments. The Tampere principles include productive employment, social integration, universal access to primary health care, equality of rights and opportunity for women and the rights of children and people with disabilities.

ICSW operates at three levels – global, regional and national.

The ICSW logo represents the spheres and levels in which we work.



The horizontal lines represent our work with kindred international organisations including the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers. The combined conference in 2010 in Hong Kong demonstrates our work together.

The vertical lines represent our work through the levels of government – global including the UN; regional including our work with the regional groupings of government and national.

At the centre we have a circle representing our focus on people or social development.

The format of ICSW global conferences has evolved. The plenaries are intended to bring you new knowledge from world class speakers. The symposiums are the opportunity bring together new ideas or explore theories and practice at both global and regional level. The workshops are the opportunity for interaction with the speakers and other participants on issues that are more likely to be national or local.

We aim to have a theme for each day. This is to give a feeling of coherence and make it easier for participants to follow an idea through plenaries, symposiums and workshops. Conference participants range from global to local actors. We cater for all levels of activity. No one level is more important than another. The local level is fundamental. People who work at this level are confronted daily with the consequences of global, regional and national policies. For example The Salvation Army (which is a staunch supporter of our conferences) conducted a workshop on trafficking. The Army workers have seen the misery at the street level and as a result have developed training packages on countering trafficking.

I turn now to the work of ICSW between conferences.

At national level we focus our energy on building strong national umbrella organisations which form the base of our membership – our national member organisations (NMO). ICSW does not seek a large mass membership. We carefully examine the credentials of organisations that apply for NMO status. We only accept one NMO per country.

ICSW has a programme of training for NMOs. We have conducted training for executive directors from 17 Southern and Eastern African countries and soon will be conducting another course in South East Asia. Training includes: The role of NMOs; membership of national councils; roles of boards and staff; from values to policy – determining organisational values and formulating policies on key issues; influencing national and regional policy agendas.

At regional level we recognise that social and economic policies cross national boundaries. We work with regional groupings of governments. We are achieving success. In South East Asia we have produced a country by country analysis of trafficking. We have released a paper on social protection in the South East Asia. ICSW sponsors the work of the Black Sea NGO Network which is now engaged with the governments of the Black Sea region in the area of good governance. In the European region we are a key member of the Social Platform. And in Southern Africa we work closely with the Southern African Development Community Council of Non Government Organisations. This last example and that of the Black Sea represents the policy of ICSW to assist existing organisations of NGOs and not competing. Competition is a waste of energy and resources.

At global level we have many new and old partnerships. We work closely with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. We advocate for policies which we want to see adopted at the global level. We form coalitions to achieve this. An example is the ILO campaign for full employment and decent work which was part of the Copenhagen Commitments but was dropped when the MDGs were created. We assist the journal *Global Social Policy* and contribute the section *Southern Voices*. We are co-owners of the journal *International Social Work* with the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers. My reference to the two journals reflects ICSW's commitment to the dissemination of knowledge. This we do through our own monthly newsletter and an extensive website.

Policy development is a major goal of ICSW. Economics and social are the two sides of the same coin. Economics is a tool not an end.

This conference has looked both forward and back. Looking back was assisted enormously by the publication of our 80 year history - *International Council on Social Welfare 80 Years of History (1928 – 2008)* published by the French Committee on Social Welfare. ICSW owes much to the French Committee and the main authors, Professor Catherine Rollet, Christiane Nantois-Pigeon and Christian Rollet. They have done a magnificent job in preparing this history.

This has been an exciting conference. The plenaries, symposiums were of a very high standard and the workshops that I attended were notable for the enthusiasm and involvement of the participants.

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Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll – Executive Director. ICSW C/- MOVISIE

Netherlands Centre for Social Development

PO Box 19129

3501 DC Utrecht

Netherlands

Website [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)