

NEWSLETTER

ASIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK



Exploring the Buddhist Social Work

Report on the 2nd International Forum

Asian Research Institute for International Social Work at Shukutoku University, Japan hosted the 2nd International Academic Forum on Buddhist Social Work. Researchers, scholars, and practitioners from 9 Asian countries and Japan attended in the forum. The title was “How is Asian Buddhism involved in people’s life?” and participants deepened the discussion concerning the framework of Buddhist social work.



Forum starts. Chiba, Japan March 22, 2017

The forum was held at Mitsui Garden Hotel Chiba in Japan from March 22 to March 23. During the first day of the forum the “Where are we now?” session brought reports on research results and present state of Buddhist social work activities in Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal, Laos, and Vietnam. Presenters focused on questions such as “What is the difference between Buddhist social work (BSW) and Western-rooted Professional Social Work?”, “What is the relationship between the government provided SW and BSW?”, or “Why is the BSW necessary?”

providing very solid basement for further discussions.

At the end of the first day press conference was held to present the establishment of the **Asian Buddhist Social Work Research Network**. Co-researchers, counterparts, and others involved in this unique research project joined this network. We hope the network will expand in the future bringing together scholars and practitioners from both field, Buddhism and social work.



Press conference on establishing the Asian Buddhist Social Work Research Network

The second day of the forum started with presentation of Dr. Tatsuru Akimoto, director of ARIISW, providing the proposal of framework and working-definition of Buddhist social work. This idea was deepened by Prof. Herath from Sri Lanka in his keynote speech. Moreover, Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Hoi Loan from Vietnam and Mr. Anuradha Wickramasinghe from Sri Lanka provided new indications and stimulations during their keynote addresses.

After keynote speech and keynote addresses, both, Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Hoi Loan and Mr. Anuradha Wickramasinghe were awarded by the Certificate of Appreciation for triggering the research endeavor of Buddhist social work in Asia and making a great contribution to its development over the years.



Prof. Herath (in the front), Assoc. Prof. Loan and other participants during discussion

All participants and all the audience of the forum were divided in two groups to discuss the working framework and the working definition of the Buddhist social work and to share their opinions, intentions, and thoughts on Buddhist social work during group discussions.

Finally, during the sharing session and closing ceremony the content of two-day forum was summarized and the way, heading to the working definition, framework, and other issues concerning the Buddhist social work in Asia, became clearly visible.

As already mentioned 19 researchers and practitioners from 9 Asian countries took part in this forum. Not only ARIISW staff, but also project coordinators from Shukutoku university faculty staff, scholars from Japan College of Social Work, Chiba University, Tohoku Fukushi University, and other institutions in Japan attended in the forum.

Find more pictures on ARIISW Facebook page at fb.me/ariisw.shukutoku

Brief news

- April 1, 2017 New academic year has started in Japan. ARIISW became 1 year old!
- April 1, 2017 ARIISW has launched new website on www.ariisw.com Visit our website for more information.
- April 1, 2017 Junko Miyagawa, office staff of ARIISW, was transferred to the Shukutoku University Foreign Exchange Office. At her new post, she will continuously help with international academical exchange.
- April 1, 2017 First manuscripts submitted. The joint research project on Present state of Buddhist social work activities in Asia entered its 3rd year. Books and research reports expect to be published during this year.
- April 1, 2017 Buddhist platform website launched. At <https://bukkyoplatform.com/> (available only in Japanese) information on Buddhist social activities in Japan will be shared.
- April 15, 2017 Call for Application announced. The Visiting researcher program leading to Ph.D. entered its 2nd year. We look forward to welcome new visiting researcher in October 2017.

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