

Bridging the gaps

30th ICSW
International Conference
on Social Welfare

Bridging the gaps:

**economic, social and cultural
opportunities at global and
local levels**

Conference report



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This report expresses the impressions and views of the conference organizers, and does not necessarily represent the official position of the International Council on Social Welfare.

The full texts of the presentations – as far as available to the conference organizers – can be accessed through the conference website www.nizw.nl/icsw2002, until 30 June 2003. After this date, requests for copies of specific presentations can be directed to the secretariat of NIZW International Centre, PO Box 19152, NL-3501 DD Utrecht, the Netherlands, fax number +31 30 2306540, or by email to intcentre@nizw.nl.

Before the conference, NIZW published *Bridging the gaps: Essays on economic, social and cultural opportunities at global and local levels*. This publication contains six essays on issues related to the central themes of the conference (ISBN 90-5050-986-X).

Conference website: www.nizw.nl/icsw2002

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Foreword

This report of the 30th International Conference on Social Welfare gives an insight into the variety and depth of discussions that have taken place in Rotterdam in the year 2002. Thirty years ago a similar ICSW conference took place in The Hague, also in the Netherlands. It is interesting to notice that social justice and social development remain important issues for discussion, even when the world itself seems to have changed so much in 30 years.

The world has become smaller and much more connected, but the number of actors at the global level is increasing and the governance of the global village turns out to be a much more complicated matter than anticipated. Gaps and inequalities are growing instead of diminishing, and large groups of people are not able to play on the global playing field. The 30th ICSW conference addressed these issues and many more. It is to be hoped that in another 30 years we will witness advances made towards a more equal division of resources and opportunities, and the social justice and welfare for all that ICSW stands for.

This conference would not have been possible without the support and active participation of many different groups and individuals. I would like to thank the members of the International Programme Committee, the National Programme Committee, and the sponsors of the ICSW conference for their support to make this conference a success.

Before the conference, participants were presented with a publication containing essays on economic, social and cultural opportunities at global and local levels. I hope that this report, together with the essays, will offer the readers inspiration and motivation to continue the fight for quality of life, equal opportunities and social justice for everyone.

Ronald Bandell

President of the Dutch National ICSW Committee

Acknowledgements

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They contributed both to the conference itself and to the bursary fund, which allowed for the allocation of approximately 70 bursaries. We wish to acknowledge their support and thank them for their contributions.

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Introduction

More than 650 people from 80 different countries all over the world came together in Rotterdam to talk about the ways to build bridges across the gaps that divide the world in so many ways. In the economic field, separating the rich and the poor both within communities, within countries and between countries and regions across the world. In the social field, where those without access to social services, health services or education sense an ever-widening distance from those who are able to make use of the newly coined global public goods. And finally in the cultural field, where so many different views and opinions with respect to faith or belief, gender, sexuality, age, family values, and ethnic standards create tensions and oppositions that prevent people from communication and collaboration for a common purpose. The 30th ICSW International Conference on Social Welfare offered inputs for the debate and provided ample opportunity for discussion on these issues, in 4 plenary sessions, 9 symposium sessions, more than 60 workshop sessions, and 14 field visits, all within a period of 5 days.

This report gives a brief and concise overview of the central themes of the conference. It cannot do justice to the wealth and variety of the opinions, views and ideas that were exchanged between the conference participants, but it attempts to outline the major discussions and to highlight the central ideas that were put forward in plenary sessions, symposiums, and workshops.

Globalization and empowerment

The conference focused on two trends that at first sight may seem to be opposites: globalization and global governance on the one hand, and empowerment of individuals and local communities on the other hand. These two opposite ends of the continuum embrace a wide variety of scales and impacts on social development and social justice. In reality there is a tremendous amount of interaction between the two.

Plenary session

Globalization and Governance

Speakers:

Dr Khaled Menapal, formerly a surgeon in Kabul, Afghanistan, now building a new life in the Netherlands

Drs Koos Richelle, Director-General of DG Development at the European Commission

Julian Disney, Immediate Past President of ICSW

Chairperson:

Nareewan Chintakanond

Globalization is a relatively new phenomenon. Koos Richelle described it as the new context in which we all live and work. It creates new opportunities, but also presents new challenges. Things that happen in one corner of the world can have a direct effect on other regions, from financial crises to climate change to terrorist attacks. It forces a new kind of solidarity between the developing and the developed world, because no person or nation is immune anymore to the impact of global events. The developed countries need to realize that poverty and exclusion, even in another region of the world, affect the whole world, not just the developing regions. The events of 11 September 2001 and their aftermath again demonstrated this causality. As Khaled Menapal stated, people can be well only in a safe world. And this world is safe only when your neighbour feels safe too. Menapal made a strong plea for humanitarian help, as it demonstrates certain universal values: a fundamental respect for human life and compassion with people who suffer. The support from humanitarian organizations is a form of

globalization that he considers real progress for mankind: the promotion of globally recognized values. The humanitarian message is a valuable contribution to bridging the gaps.

The need to manage globalization calls for new forms of governance, and not just at global level. Koos Richelle emphasized that good governance begins at home. An effective global governance system needs effective structures at the local, national, regional, and international levels. The absence of global structures may not be used as an excuse not to improve the functioning of structures that are available. There is a need, however, for coherent plans of action, integrated long-term sustainable development goals, and policy coherence and regional integration. Julian Disney joined Richelle in emphasizing that there is no obvious need to create new structures, but that we should focus on how to make existing structures work better, and work together better. Disney described how ICSW strongly supports international cooperation and action to solve and – if possible – prevent social problems, by means of behind-the-scenes advocacy. ICSW actively supports regional reinforcement, especially in developing regions, by strengthening regional groupings and encouraging civil society engagement and interaction. The United Nations have a clear mandate and responsibility, and should be encouraged to play a major role in promoting constructive regionalism. In addition, ICSW favours the strengthening of UN's Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, to allow it to play a role in global governance of social development and social justice. It is a unique body in that it combines economic and social development issues and therefore could be an important player in ensuring equity and balance between economical and social priorities.

Plenary session *Finance for development*

Speakers:

Alexandre Trepelkov, Deputy to the Executive Coordinator, Financing for Development Coordinating Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations, New York

Ruth Jacoby, Director-General for International Development Cooperation Sweden, and Chairperson of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey

Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Global President of ICSW

Chairperson:

Julian Disney

Although the importance of the parallel development of economic and social goals needs to be underlined continuously, there is also a separate trajectory for poverty eradication that is called Financing for Development. One of the most important events in the Financing for Development process has been the four-year process culminating in the Monterrey summit, an International Conference on Financing for Development sponsored by the United Nations, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. The main purpose of the Conference was to address national, international, and systemic issues relating to Financing for Development in a holistic manner, in the context of globalization and interdependence. Its other aim was to identify means for mobilizing sufficient financial resources for the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, in particular with regard to poverty eradication. The Millennium Development Goals, adopted in September 2000 by world leaders, provide a framework for a collaborative international Financing for Development agenda, encompassing domestic financial resources for development, international resources in the form of foreign direct investments and other private flows, international trade, international financial and technical cooperation through official development assistance, external debt, and the coherence and consistency of international monetary, financial, and trading systems in support of development.

The Monterrey Consensus established a platform for building a new alliance with all relevant actors at the global, regional, and national levels.

It marked the first exchange of views between four important partners: governments, institutional stakeholders (among which the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization), civil society, and the business community. It proceeds from the premise of full ownership by developing countries of their development policies and a renewed commitment on the part of the international community to support the cause and efforts of development. And it envisages a stronger role for the Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, along with the other stakeholders, for the purposes of follow-up and coordination.

This can be considered a promising development for more than one reason. The Monterrey Summit has managed to engage multiple stakeholders in a united and long-term process, reaching consensus even before the summit took place. It has succeeded in mobilising substantial financial resources and financial commitments that are needed to reach the Millennium Goals in 2015. And it has secured recognition for the necessity of a sustainable effort and for the interdependence of economic processes, government and governance structures and social development. The focus may have been on financing, but it will have a huge impact on human and social development, health, and education.

But is it really as promising as it seems? Although the Monterrey Consensus is far better than anything of this kind, it is not equipped to mobilize resources to achieve the Millennium Goals. Although the Consensus urges all donor countries to contribute 0.7% of their Gross National Product in foreign aid (Overseas Development Aid, ODA), it proposes no sanctions in case of non-compliance of donor countries. In reality, at this moment only five countries – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands – observe the 0.7% ODA agreement, and there are no instruments to enforce other countries to comply.

Perhaps ECOSOC could be equipped to play a role in monitoring ODA and holding countries accountable to honouring their commitments.

The criteria for application of ODA have been untied from donor country goods and services, but make no mention of untying it from geopolitical consideration, allowing donor countries to choose which developing countries they will favour. These are not necessarily the countries that need support most. The ODA criteria ought to state that ODA has to be applied to direct poverty reduction programmes and not to large-scale infrastructure projects that have a questionable effect on poverty reduction outcomes. The eligibility criteria for debt relief through the

Highly Indebted Poor Countries programme of the World Bank should be reconsidered since they exclude some of the poorest countries.

ICSW is in favour of a tax on international currency transactions, which would create a fund for support of poor countries that suffer most from global financial and economic developments. It seems, however, that the time has not yet come for that to happen. The fight against poverty and exclusion has received a boost, but could still do with more allies at global, regional, national, and local levels. What is needed is the political will to remove poverty in the same way that slavery and apartheid were removed. During the 20th century ICSW and other organizations have battled to extinguish colonialism, slavery, and apartheid. The 21st century should see as its ultimate goal to make poverty a thing of the past.

Steering and rowing

Plenary session

Role of NGOs in social development

Speakers:

Siti Zahara Sulaiman, Minister of National Unity and Social Development
of Malaysia

Michael Raper, President of the Australian Council of Social Services,
ACOSS, Australia

Dr Els Borst-Eilers, Minister of Health, Welfare, and Sport,
and Vice Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Chairperson:

Christine Fang

In the changing structures of governance, NGOs have become an important stakeholder in social development issues. Her Excellency Mrs Siti Zaharah made a strong plea for the role of NGOs, which are increasingly being recognized by governments as potent forces for social and economic development, and as important partners in nation building and national development. NGOs play a special and unique role in a democracy that contributes to the building of a just, sustainable and inclusive society. They can act as catalyst for change, and also serve as check and balance mechanism to ensure government policies are carried out in the manner intended.

However, this role may become a source of controversy. Various discussions and debates focused on the vulnerable position of NGOs, when receiving government funding and at the same time fulfilling an advocacy role for groups not catered for sufficiently by that same government. Michael Raper outlined how NGOs – or Community Welfare Organizations (CWOs), as he preferred to call them – are increasingly pushed towards applying market alternatives to traditional public intervention and administration, as a result of global trends and of the desire of governments to refashion CWOs into major governmental service delivery departments. Basic values of caring and commitment are abandoned in this search for cost effectiveness. This marketization is counterproductive to the essential objective to develop and implement

local solutions for local needs, for in a free market CWOs do not necessarily have to be based in the communities that they serve.

This trend also interferes and seriously endangers the advocacy role of the community welfare sector. Activities that contribute to community development, advocacy for individual and group interests, and processes that support public participation in direction setting and decision making are no longer part of the work that is financially supported by governments. Advantages of open and competitive bidding offer new opportunities to some groups, for example on the labour market.

Governments attempt to consign NGOs to 'rowing' - harder and faster for less money - while they attempt to steer. Michael Raper, however, insisted that the unique voice and perspective of community-based, independent welfare service organizations must be heard in the 'wheel house.'

Instead of being downgraded, NGOs should play an important role in developing criteria for social development programmes, both governmental and non-governmental. They should have a say in formulating accreditation, quality assurance and evaluation criteria. To make the ship of social development sail in the right direction, NGOs should have an input in the steering, while governments lend assistance in rowing, paying special attention to funding and supporting the rowing of disadvantaged groups in society.

In today's reality, however, NGOs are walking through a mine field, trying to achieve a delicate balance between advocacy and political roles, and sustaining a relative autonomy while depending on resources from public and private sources.

There are no global solutions, only local ones. Opportunities can be created at global level, to be adapted to local circumstances and realities - a bridge has a maximum span and cannot reach over the globe. Many bridges together though will be able to create safe crossings worldwide.

The gulf between rich and poor

The Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare, and Sport emphasized the important role of health care in social development. Health, eradication of poverty, and economic development go hand in hand. Good health care is a precondition for economic growth in developing countries and a necessary investment, also for the world's wealthier countries. Boundaries are no longer clear-cut and the eradication of poverty and the closing of the gulf between rich and poor is not an act of charity, but an essential condition for achieving a safe, healthy and sustainable world. Global inequalities lead to increasing migration, to the spread of diseases, increasing political instability and a lack of security. It is therefore in everyone's interest to ensure that the gap between north and south is bridged.

Symposium

Poverty, Wealth and Exclusion: how to turn the curve?

Speakers:

Prof Dr Mr Arnold Schilder, Executive Director of De Nederlandsche Bank N.V. (Dutch National Bank), the Netherlands

Major Mercy Mahlangu, Education Secretary and Training Officer, Salvation Army, South Africa

Commissioner Paul du Plessis, International Secretary for South Asia, Salvation Army International Headquarters London, United Kingdom

Chairperson:

Major Jeanne van Hal

A financially stable economy and a solid banking system are key factors to allow better chances for social inclusion of the poor. That was one of the statements made in the symposium *Poverty, Wealth and Exclusion: how to turn the curve?* Speakers reflected on global financial and economic measures and consequences, but also focused on the impact of poverty on communities and on individuals, and on the solutions that could be found there. National banks for example not only play a role in the global financial system, but can also contribute to solving national problems. In the Netherlands the national bank encouraged measures to ensure that

every individual has access to a private bank account, needed to acquire social security support, but not easily obtained by a homeless or deprived person.

Poverty and social exclusion can have a devastating effect on people: emotionally, socially and constitutionally. Many poor people feel that they are driven away from society, and as a consequence they turn their back on it themselves. Despite that, many people have resources in the sense of social resilience – the ability of the human spirit to respond positively to the experience of exclusion - in the definition of one of the speakers. This resilience should be addressed in individual people.

The interventions that were suggested included:

- Providing training opportunities and facilities.
- Collectively addressing basic needs and preventing exclusion as a shared responsibility of government, civil society and faith-based organizations.
- Promoting solidarity between the rich and the poor.
- Developing strategies that move beyond short-term crisis facilities.
- Providing a listening ear and trying to bridge a gap yourself.
- Cultivating awareness of the problems, their effects on people and communities.
- Acknowledging problems and strengths.

A parallel can be drawn between excluded individuals and excluded countries. The developing countries also need to stand up for themselves in the international community, and demand their rights to participate in global society.

Migration is a global issue with positive and negative impacts both in the countries of origin and in the receiving countries. The symposium *Migration and diversity* explored these impacts on the basis of experiences in Thailand and in Germany.

Although Thailand has been the centre of attention in the last ten years due to its camps for Birmese refugees, it also knows a considerable number of people who emigrated to other parts of the world. Highly educated Thai migrate to the United States, whereas farmers mainly migrate to Taiwan and China. In the 1970s, Thai migrated to the Middle

Symposium
Migration and diversity

Speakers:

Nareewan Chintakanond, Associate Professor at the School of Applied Statistics, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), and member of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand

Barbara John, Commissioner of Migration and Integration of the city of Berlin, Germany

Chairperson:
Prof Ruben Gowricharn

East, but there they ran into social problems because of their drinking and gambling habits. Nowadays 60% of the migrants go to India and Taiwan; emigration to the Middle East is virtually over.

The impact of the refugee camps was immense. The camps pushed back the original poor population into even more dismal circumstances. While the camps received a lot of media attention and humanitarian aid, the original population was neglected. An additional problem was that the less educated people were left behind in the camps, while the others were able to provide for their own future. Nowadays, many illegal migrants from Burma have been legalized and work as factory workers, housekeepers, and prostitutes.

The Thai migrants who make a lot of money abroad send home large amounts, equalling the income Thailand receives from the rice exports. When these people – mainly men in their early thirties – return home after 2.5 years of working abroad, they encounter family problems and arguments about the way the money they sent has been invested.

The women who migrate do so to become prostitutes, or sometimes are forced into prostitution. Nowadays, boys are tempted to do so too.

Government policy is focused on local self-sufficiency, awarding funds for small community projects from a Social Investment Fund and providing free secondary schools to offer education to the migrating workers who often only have primary education. Despite this policy there is no fully developed social safety net. It was felt there is no perfect solution, because each solution in turn creates its own problems. However, that is no reason to refrain from developing a local policy.

Germany is both an immigration and emigration country. For the Land Berlin in Germany, the fact that it has become an immigration country is a sign of a positive development. It has taken Germany 50 years to become attractive for foreigners to live and work in again. The city of Berlin especially has a strong attraction for migrants. It has the largest Turkish population outside Turkey, and is the largest Palestinian settlement outside Palestine. These large concentrations of migrants make integration a difficult process and create a risk of ghettoism in the inner city. In Berlin, success indicators for integration are:

- Children having equal opportunities and equal success in school. This may take three or four generations but is a very important factor.
- Participation in the labour market. One of the prerequisites is learning the language.
- Equal representation in boards and committees. This is realized by positive action and considered one of the best ways to change institutions.

Integration is a two-edged sword, that has an impact on both migrant and autochthonous populations. It requires the conviction on both sides that there is something to be won by integration, and a realistic insight in the push and pull factors, the network factors and the political factors. Integration asks for change from both the newcomers and the resident groups. It is no use to deny that there are going to be changes, but government needs to acknowledge that and support the process.

Empowerment of individuals

The symposium *Children, young people, and families at risk* opposed two approaches towards helping children and young people at risk: the treatment paradigm and the social support paradigm. The problem treatment focus has long been the accepted way to respond to signs of developmental and behavioural problems. It is argued that this typical western approach is often part of the problem and not of the solution. Increasingly, treatments focus on strengthening existing strategies and solutions that children, families, and social systems already have. Examples from the United States, South Africa, and the Netherlands illustrate a new approach, based on involving the community and empowering people to change themselves. Interventions should not aim at the problem, but instead focus on the strengths to change from within. Offering social support from person to person is an effective and professional way of helping people.

Symposium

Children, young people, and families at risk

Speakers:

Jo Hermanns is an independent consultant in CO ACT Consult and part-time Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

David Berns is the Director of the El Paso County Department of Human Services in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

Gerrie Smit is Professor at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Chairperson:

Joyce Cordus

The US model decreased its reliance on therapy and increased the use of economic support such as employment, training, housing, transportation, childcare, mentoring, and education for both children and adults, to prevent out-of-home placements of children. It was felt that failure to meet basic economic needs of families often results in minor success for the therapeutic interventions. The most important desired outcomes formulated for the initiatives were the elimination of poverty and family

violence in the community. This was the common vision shared by customers, staff, policy-makers, and the community, including employers, consumers, childcare providers, faith-based organizations, private agencies, child welfare professionals, schools, and other community members.

The South African model *New Ways* puts emphasis on empowering the communities to become the 'therapeutic agent.' In offering home-based community support to children who have dropped out of school, live on the streets, or survive on begging, it allows children to start building stable relationships. Precious funds and available resources are utilized to their maximum efficiency in supporting children, who receive individualized and focused attention, next to basic needs like food, water, and shelter. In this process, communities regain a sense of control and pride in their ability to achieve goals with their own, existing infrastructure.

The Dutch model offers social support to families, which consists of three major components: emotional support, informational support, and instrumental support. Emotional support is giving warmth and acceptance. Informational support is helping to bring order in the chaos, helping to get insight and giving relevant information. Instrumental support is offering services and goods. It is essential that what is offered is matched to what is needed. Social support was felt to be of particular benefit to parents who lived in poverty.

Symposium

Empowerment of communities to live with social and cultural differences

Speakers:

Dr Meindert Fennema, Professor of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam, and Programme Leader of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies/IMES

Ely Lumdang, Project Officer National Council of Social Development in the Philippines

Chairperson:

Drs Jan de Wild

The symposium *Empowerment of communities to live with social and cultural differences* made an interesting distinction between two contrasting approaches towards multicultural communities. The

population of the Philippines is composed of a large number of different tribes and communities. Emphasis is put on the fact that all Philipinos are inhabitants of the same country and that this is their common ground. The point of departure is their equality, not their diversity. According to ms Ely Lumdang, diversity is no problem in the Philippines, since everyone speaks English and the native language is Filipino. Meindert Fennema explained that policies in the Netherlands take diversity as point of departure and focus on the differences in participation of different groups with varied cultural backgrounds. Some migrant communities participate more actively than others. According to research presented, the level of participation is related to the level of self-organization and strength of a minority group. The better organized a specific group is, the more it will participate in local communities and politics. It was argued that a strong group identity is a positive force towards participation.

The experience in the Philippines is different. The shared identity of the inhabitants of the Philippines has distinct advantages. In the Philippines people project one identity, regardless of the indigenous background of the different groups in that country. Participation of local communities starts from the identification of problems of the different groups within that community, not from their identity.

This raised a debate about what identity exactly is. The person who spoke at the start of the symposium by describing his mixed roots, illustrated the fact that identity can no longer be directly related to national or cultural backgrounds. The increased level of interrelationships leads to a new generation of people who can only be defined by the term 'citizen of the world.' Ely Lumdang, on the other hand, saw reason for worry about the European Union's attempt to homogenize cultures in the same way it recently unified its currency.

The motives of the wealthy people, the developed countries, for equitable social development are enhanced by globalization - isolation no longer offers any security or safety from changes or effects of events happening at the other side of the globe.

Inclusive societies

This supposed European homogeneity was hardly noticeable in the presentations during the symposium on *The sustainability of inclusive societies*, where attention was focused on the different ways countries involve vulnerable groups in society and care for their well-being.

Symposium

The sustainability of inclusive societies: community care for specific target groups (people with disabilities, elderly, migrants, families at risk)

Speakers:

Prof Tim Blackman, Director of the School of Social Sciences and Law, University of Teesside, UK

Xiaokang Chen, Division Director of Personnel and Science Research in the Suzhou Health Bureau, China

Alex Ndeezi, Chairman of Udipu, an organization for the chronically ill and disabled in Uganda. In this function he is a Member of Parliament in Uganda

Chairperson:

Piet Driest

Tim Blackman presented the results of research conducted in six European countries on elderly care within three different systems: the social democratic system (Denmark and the Netherlands), the liberal welfare regime (United Kingdom and Ireland), and what he labelled the 'familism system' in Italy and Greece. Another distinction made is whether countries know a legal obligation of families to provide for the elderly, as is the case in Ireland, Italy, and Greece, or a legal obligation of the state to provide, such as Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom have. The state systems are more sustainable due to their high level of financial solidarity. Working women in the northern countries do not have time for care duties, but pay taxes, which allows payment for care workers. The care for elderly and disabled people in the southern countries, however, is putting a high claim especially on women who do not have paid employment.

Alex Ndeezi illustrated the way in which Uganda guarantees the position of people with disabilities by means of affirmative action. Five seats in parliament have been reserved for representatives of the disability movement who also take part in strategic parliamentary committees on social and public services and finances. These members of parliament can claim support by interpreters, guides, and assistants. An additional 50,000 people with disabilities hold positions in local councils. This strong position enhances their opportunity to influence donors to favour vulnerable groups in society. Donors on which they are especially dependent since the Ugandese government has no resources to fund care services.

Chen Xiaokang discussed ageing in the context of the Chinese policy on elderly care, which is shifting from the family obligation to the state obligation that Blackman mentioned in his presentation. The well-known 'one-child policy,' which aimed at getting to grips with family planning in the immense country of China, affects the care for older persons. It is easy to calculate that a 4 : 2 : 1 (four grandparents, two parents, one child) model poses a large care burden on the one child. The tradition that children take care of their parents is therefore under pressure. However, there is limited awareness of this downside of family planning, both at governmental level and in society. An increasing demand for care and support for elderly persons is expected. But available elderly care is outdated and staff – often migrant workers from lesser developed regions of China – are not adequately trained.

Responsibility for the care for elderly and for people with disabilities may lie with government or be the exclusive prerogative of the family. In both cases support is needed to uphold the system. The system of family responsibility is less sustainable in the long run, despite strong traditions and stigmatization when families refrain from their care duties, because economic developments may force them to put paid employment first. The new trend to involve immigrants in care services can be seen as both negative – low-paid jobs with little status – and positive, because it allows newcomers to contribute to society and to the economy.

Symposium

The role of corporate social responsibility in building strong communities

Speakers:

Peter Brew, Associate Director International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and co-author of the study *The Business of Enterprise*

David Halley is Coordinator of the Cecile Network, a global network for the development of employee community involvement / corporate community investment

Bart-Jan Krouwel, Managing Director Sustainability and Social Innovation of Rabobank the Netherlands

Chairperson:

Henk Kinds

A different kind of community empowerment can take place through partnership with businesses. The role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in building strong communities is a subject that is relatively new to many NGOs, especially at the local level, while at the same time the impact of corporate social initiative is most obvious in a local setting. The support of corporate businesses is often treated as suspect, but can contribute tremendously to social development. Peter Brew emphasized the important role that corporate social responsibility can play in developing and transitional economies, in fields of governance and standards, human rights and labour standards, enterprise development, health, environment, and transfer of education and skills. Businesses can be a key social partner in developing stable and thriving communities. These in turn provide market opportunities and provide an effective local workforce, creating security and stability. CSR should be seen as a win-win proposition for all actors involved, including governments and NGOs. David Halley focused on the importance of employee engagement. Employees can contribute to improving the educational standards, the quality of life in the local community, and they can provide tools and management skills necessary to create successful partnerships. He outlined a number of case studies with demonstrable successes in the field of education, environment, cause-related marketing, diversity, community investment, homelessness, and regeneration. Employee engagement is a major issue that is of growing importance for corporate social responsibility. Local employees understand the needs of the local community and are able

to link existing opportunities with expertise available in their companies. Bart-Jan Krouwel focused on how financial institutions, and clients and consumers can appeal to banks to become more involved in local communities. He emphasized the importance of the small-scale perspective to make 'unbankable things bankable.' Local initiators should rally support for their plans from individuals and organizations and ask them to pledge funds from their own savings on a yearly basis, using these promissory notes to ask a bank to finance a project. In the Netherlands, local (Rabo) banks will often make a donation too. Return in kind will increase the involvement: fresh eggs from the neighbourhood farmer who receives support, free clean/green energy for financing the windmill in one's own community.

The three key issues in corporate social responsibility are commitment, planning, and deliverance. Failures are often due to lack of proper mutual understanding of goals and objectives, a lack of adequate planning, and unclear role divisions. It should be commonly understood that the ability to work in the community is the expertise of NGOs and not of businesses. The partnership between all actors involved should be based on equality, but should also recognize individual responsibilities and knowledge.

Symposium

The role of ICT and modern media in promoting social development – bridging the digital divide

Speakers:

Pierre Dandjinou, Regional Policy Adviser ICTD, SURF/UNDP Dakar and contributor to the Digital Opportunity Initiative

Kanti Kumar is the editor of Digital Opportunity Channel, the latest thematic portal of OneWorld focusing on ICT for Development

Johan Wets, Hoger Instituut voor de Arbeid (Higher Institute for Labour Issues), Leuven, Belgium, investigates international migration and is organizer of an international expert meeting (April 2002) on brain drain

Chairperson:

Jos van Beurden

Information is an important factor in social development at all levels, but especially at the local community level. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and modern media can play an important role in

promoting social development. The digital divide runs not only through regions, but can also divide communities when only a small group of people has access to ICT. The symposium *The Role of ICT and modern media in promoting social development – bridging the digital divide* focused on these issues among others.

The starting point for building information and communication technology should be the needs of countries and communities. Language for example is a prohibitive factor in the use of ICT. Only 5 to 10% of the people in some developing countries speak English or French, while most software is in these languages. In order to become accessible, ICT should be looking more towards local communities, and target local languages. Examples were given of ICT put to use in local projects:

- In Uganda, midwives used a radio system to get in touch so that information can be passed on quickly. They have moved to using mobile phones now.
- Hong Kong has experience in using ICT in disability projects, for example for visually disabled children.
- In a street drop-in centre in Glasgow run by the Salvation Army, old computers are used by homeless people for making their CV, etc.
- In Thailand, a cooperative uses internet to order new products.
- In Malaysia a website for deaf people and for disabled people has been developed.

The problems of access to ICT and modern media are threefold: the availability of technical hardware and software, access to the digital infrastructure, and the skills needed to work with these media. The technical machinery and the necessary software are expensive and therefore hard to obtain, but cheaply developed technology is becoming available through pilots in developing countries. India for example is developing cheap technology that is available and easily accessible. Access to the digital infrastructure, the hardware needed for internet and mobile telephone systems, depends to a large extent on the importance that national governments attach to the availability of these systems for all their residents. At the moment internet provider addresses for African users can only be obtained from Europe or the United States. London has more internet domains than the whole of Africa.

With the need for skilled professionals, not just in languages but also in computer technology, a new problem is addressed. Especially in the ICT

sector, brain drain – the international migration of skilled professionals from less developed to more developed countries, matching supply and demand – is a well-known issue. Silicon Valley has attracted professionals from all over the world. The symposium discussed the possibilities to turn brain drain into ‘brain gain’, when professionals go to work in a developed country for a limited period and take the experiences gained back for use in their own countries.

The symposium ended with two warnings: ICT is not the be-all and end-all of social exclusion. Human contact is more important in the end. The other warning was against the start of a new divide: information on the internet increasingly needs to be paid for, which can create a new divide: between good but expensive information, and free but less reliable information.

Local social support and assistance programmes rely more and more on the community for helping to define the needs and the strengths of the clients and of the community that they form a part of. People are helped to help themselves, instead of becoming dependent on professional care workers. This empowerment calls for a change in systems, in concepts, and in professional behaviour.

Civil society

An NGO is defined as any organization that is not part of government, and operates in civil society. The term civil society is more comprehensive. It contains all activities of citizens to take responsibility for their communities and for individual people. Civil society is not just about NGOs. In particular participation by marginalized groups must be promoted. But overall, there is a need for more reflection on how non-state actors should relate to inter-governmental processes. Several speakers emphasized the need for NGOs to strike strategic alliances and smart partnerships with other key players in social services programmes, among which the community, the private sector and government institutions and agencies. It was claimed that civil society organizations in developing countries should have an important role in the development of national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and the subsequent monitoring of the implementation of the strategies. At the moment these Poverty Reduction Strategies are not necessarily home grown or owned by countries, while it is common knowledge that no externally developed strategy is going to work as effectively as a strategy that is owned by a country and its various stakeholders.

Symposium

Challenges to civil society

Speakers:

Olga Sozanská, Director of HESTIA, the National Volunteer Centre
in the Czech Republic

Prof Dr Helmut Anheier, Director of the Centre for Civil Society,
London School of Economics

Chairperson:

Prof Dr Jan Willem Duyvendak

In the symposium *Challenges to civil society* attention was paid to the role of civil society organizations in 'old' and 'new' democracies. The debate focused on the extent to which civil society development depends on government policies. Olga Sozanská related to the challenges of building a civil society in a country in transition: in the Czech Republic the concept

of civil society developed slowly after the disappointing corruption of politicians in the 1990s. The newly aroused interest of Czech citizens in public affairs, when before their interest was mainly in consumer needs, meant a change in the understanding of civic commitment. From 2000 onwards the number of NGOs grew rapidly, mainly thanks to financial and technical support from foreign programmes. The drawback of this increase is that the foreign programmes mainly supported the import of Western European civil society organizations to the Czech Republic, without taking cultural or social differences into account. There is no univocal civil society concept that can be copied everywhere; ideally the Czech Republic itself should build its own ideal model. In addition, the foreign support does not provide a long-term financial solution and the civic sector will have to build new resources for sustainability. Government support favours large and conservative NGOs that are in line with government policies, and refuses others. Whether a new social-democrat government will support civil society more actively remains to be seen. Helmut Anheier described some major differences between civil societies in regions of the world, the variation in 'thickness' depending on how much space civil society can occupy and is allowed to occupy. In various parts of the world there is a renegotiation of responsibilities between government, society, and economy, disowning sole responsibility of governments. In addition, Western civil society has become instrumentalized and exploited by giving it additional tasks in public management and social services provision to repair the welfare state after the withdrawal of government. This makes it even more dangerous to export Western civil society models to other regions. Helmut Anheier continued this line of thought with reflections on the relation between government and civil society. Civil society has conflicting roles. On the one hand it owes its existence at least partly to government, which supports it. This government support is selective and based on the preferences of the political majority. On the other hand civil society is expected to be the watchdog of government policy, criticizing and commenting its functioning, in a way biting the hand that feeds it. In the debate that followed, various models of government and civil society relationships were discussed. Governments can make use of civil society, but they can also worry about the strength of the civil society organizations in their country. Ideally both government and civil society roles develop in a free market process, with civil society developing

strongly where government is lean. At the global level this will operate differently, since there is no global government. Global civil society will therefore have to play an important role and take its responsibility in global issues and crises.

Symposium

Good governance at local, national, and international levels – including new stakeholders as partners for social development

Speakers:

Bob Deacon, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and Director of the Anglo-Finnish Globalism and Social Policy Programme GASPP

Dr Sonia Maria da Silva, Secretary of Planning and Evaluation of the State Secretariat for Social Assistance, Brazil

Dr Vappu Taipale, Director-General of STAKES, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland

Chairperson:

Dr Hans van Ewijk

The relationship between civil society and government also leads to the question of governance. The symposium *Good governance at local, national and international levels – including new stakeholders as partners for social development* presented insights from different levels of governance, focusing alternately on the global level, the national level, and on the responsibilities of stakeholders within these global and local processes. Bob Deacon presented four global issues, or in his words, inadequacies of the existing global social governance structures that need increased attention:

- Institutional fragmentation and competition between bodies – a cacophony of conflicting voices from global institutions and regional groupings, combined with a large number of forums where agenda setting and policy debate take place
- An inadequate international finance basis for global public goods, such as water, health and education – the main approach to social problems is still basically a philanthropic approach that shapes the policy instead of the other way around.

- The lack of a level playing field for global social regulation – attention is needed for global labour standards, a global set of social policy principles, regulations for emerging international markets in private health, education, and social protection
- The collision of global social rights with cultural and regional diversity, labour migration, national claims to social citizenship versus international citizenship, and ethnic-religious claims.

Bob Deacon stated that the democratic global process continues to be used to enhance policies for self-interest and national protectionism instead of global issues. Changes will therefore not be revolutionary but only gradual shifts. But even this degree of reform will rely heavily on a louder voice for international civil society.

Sonja Maria da Silva demonstrated by means of a concrete project in Brazil how much the fight against poverty is part of a multidimensional approach, for which the framework is formed by human rights, economic rights, and social rights. It is presumed that poverty in a sense reproduces itself and often is a situation handed over from generation to generation. The multidimensional approach takes decentralization as its point of departure. It focuses on specific target groups, takes the family and its immediate surroundings as its focal point, aims at consultation between different government levels, and cooperation between the target group, volunteers, professionals and policy-makers. In essence it aims at the improvement of access to services and agencies and increased participation of the target groups. Governance and ownership take the form of a joint venture between all levels.

Vappu Taipale broke a lance for continued attention for childhood, because it will become increasingly important in the future. International cooperation, both by governments and by civil society organizations, has led to considerable improvement in social quality, for example through education, health improvement and lower mortality rates, and the support for nuclear families. Areas to which not enough attention has been paid are mental health, the improvement of child participation, and the prevention of divorce. The interest in child mental health and mental illness is steadily deteriorating all over the world. There are new problems to be faced, not only in the discussion about global regulations and structures. According to Vappu Taipale the real capital is in human skills and competences. Learning is necessary in the future, especially in the

emerging information society. Social values and moral concepts can be learned from a very early age, if learning takes place in an affectionate environment. She is optimistic about the future because she is convinced that global civil society will find a way to adhere to the three principles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child: Protection, Provision, and Participation.

Corporate social responsibility is a relatively underdeveloped field for most NGOs, especially at local level where impact on local communities could be greatest. This kind of public-private partnership could be promoted by dissemination of information and best practices.

Fair play and a level playing field

Final plenary session

Participants:

Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Bangladesh

Florence David, India

Diego Castaño, Argentina

Diallo Soumaré, Mali

Hans van Ewijk, the Netherlands

Moderator:

Jos van Beurden

In the final session, participants from Bangladesh, India, Argentina, Mali, and the Netherlands were questioned by moderator Jos van Beurden on their views and ideas with respect to the relation between poverty and power, and the role of civil society in social development in their respective countries. Attention was focused on divides by means of a game. Participants were asked to choose their position within the playing field that consisted of two squares. In the first instance, the squares represented poverty and wealth, with a clear dividing line between them and lots of space for nuance within the squares. The representative of the Netherlands occupied an isolated outpost in the 'wealth' square, whereas the other participants chose position within the 'poverty' square. When the participants were then asked to choose position again, but now with a view to the level of power they felt they had to influence policies, the two squares were occupied on a much more balanced basis. This led to the conclusion that empowerment is not just about money, the same way development is not just about economics. Especially women from developing countries felt strongly that they do have a position in which they can influence decisions and policies, even if they do not always have the resources to change their situation at once. They maintain their physical and mental strength, even though they lack political and economical power.

Overview of the workshops

The following overview of workshops held during the ICSW conference *Bridging the gaps* is arranged thematically. The titles of the individual presentations are followed by the names of the presenters. The texts of the presentations – if available – can be found on the conference website www.nizw.nl/icsw2002.

Empowerment of communities

Social development and the local community

Between the Foxhole and the Office Suite: Sustaining grassroots democracy

Dr Robert D. Leighninger Jr - Faculty Associate, Arizona State University - USA

The social network in Oradea, Romania, and possibilities of partnership for social development

Luminita-Carmen Burtic - Teaching Assistant, Oradea University – Romania

Community development: its basic philosophy and results in practice

Civic participation: does it make better communities?

Sladjana Srbinovska - Assistant Project Manager Community Self-Help Initiative - Macedonia

Community learning to promote local governance in Wensan district of Taipei

Rosa Shioh-hwa Luo – Lecturer Department of Social Work of the Soochow University - Taiwan

Building a strong community - A third world prospective

Sabita Swain – Secretary Organization Social Education for Environment and Development SEED - India

What is the consciousness we need to empower local communities to live with social and cultural differences?

Petra van Beek and Roos Nabben, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University - the Netherlands

Community mobilization workshop

The art of community mobilization from the perspective of rural Botswana

Samson Bula Setumo – Director Millennium Production House - Botswana

Bridging the Gaps – looking for one’s identity (45 minutes)

Gé Verwaayen – Social Worker International Social Service (ISS)/Stichting Ambulante

Fiom - the Netherlands

Community Management Intervention Process

Ely Lumdang - Project Officer, President National Council of Social Development,

Community Management Institute – the Philippines

Rebuild the community by community-oriented economic development initiatives

Empower your community with the bartering concept. A Viable self-help option for

low- income communities

Dr Rodney S. Wead - President Grace Hill Settlement House - USA

Community-oriented mutual economy. A project to rebuild the community in Wan Chai,

Hong Kong

Michael Lai - Chief Executive Officer St James’ Settlement - Hong Kong

Empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized communities

Governance and excluded communities/groups

Julie Smyth – Projects Manager Combat Poverty Agency – Ireland

Intégration des Pymees dans la vie sociale

Donat Impulu Mboyo – President ASBL (ONG) – Congo

Poverty, wealth, and exclusion

Combat long-term unemployment and social exclusion

Globalization and the reform of unemployment policies in Taiwan

Dr Fen-ling Chen - Assistant Professor Yuan-ze University - Taiwan

Development of empowering client work practices in the municipality social welfare services in Finland

Matti Tuusa - Project Manager Research and Development Unit of the Rehabilitation Foundation - Finland

Social protection for the unemployed

Social protection policy options for the unemployed and China entering WTO

Mr Yuanzhu Ding – Director and Senior Research Fellow Research Centre for Social Development - China

Comparative policies of legal provisions for plant closure: strike a balance?

Dr Yu-Jen Wu – Associate Professor National Chung Cheng University, Institute for Labour Studies – Taiwan

Impact of divergent social constructs of poverty on policy preferences of university students in Israel

Prof B. Cohen - Head of the School of Social Work, University of Haifa - Israel

Local economic initiatives to combat social exclusion

Mobilizing local communities to combat social exclusion. Poland's experience with the community funds

Prof Jerzy Szmagałski – Head Department of Social Work Theory and Methods of the Warsaw University – Poland

Improving the welfare of brown sugar makers: Experience of assistance in Banyumas Regency – Central Java

Arif Wahidin – Director LPPSL (Institute for Environmental Research and Resources Development) - Indonesia

Alcohol, drugs, and rehabilitation programmes

Implementation of Community-based National Monitoring Evaluation Scheme for Socially Marginalised Populations

Dr Adrian Bonner - Coordinator addiction services, Director Addictive Behaviour Group University of Kent – United Kingdom

Lt. Col. Alan Hart, The Salvation Army - United Kingdom

Government and civil society questions concerning the protection and support of low-income households

The challenge of income maintenance policy under economic globalization: a case study of Taiwan

Chin-Fen Chang – Assistant Professor Providence University, Department of Youth and Child Welfare – Taiwan

The national minimum-income programmes in Brazil: strategies against poverty and in favour of child education

Prof Dr Maria Ozanira da Silva e Silva – Professor Universidade Federal do Maranhão – Brazil

Integrated national strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion

The European Union's social inclusion process. The Open Method of Coordination on poverty and social exclusion

Hugh Frazer - National expert on social protection and social inclusion policies, Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs in the European Commission - Belgium

Enhancing and adapting the social safety net

Marco de Nicolini - Director Ministry of Employment of Québec - Department for economic analysis and governmental projects - Canada

Poverty reduction and social work

The relation between social work and poverty reduction in Vietnam

Hoa Nguyen - Oversea volunteer Centre for Community Transformation – the Philippines

Some solutions of long-term unemployment connected problems

Valter Parve - Head of the chair of Social Welfare Management, Tartu University Pärnu College - Estonia

Productive potentials of the poor: poverty eradication in Sudan

Mahgoub Osman - Executive secretary Child and Women's Rights Initiative for Peace and Development - Sudan

Health and health care

Multicultural societies and access to health and health care

The health mediator for Roma in Romania: experiences, concept, and implementation

Dr Hanna Dobronauteanu – Adviser Ministry of Health - Romania

The health mediator for Roma in Bulgaria: experiences and concept

Dr Ivailo Tournev - Health mediator for Roma in Bulgaria, EMHP Foundation - Bulgaria

Experiences in the Netherlands with the development of access to health for new ethnic groups

Paulien van Haastrecht – Senior Consultant health promotion and ethnic minority groups, Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention – the Netherlands

Who prevents HIV/Aids?

HIV/Aids, social development in Subsaharan Africa

Christophe Denadi - Groupe de recherche et d'Action pour le Bien-être Social – Benin

Prevention of HIV/Aids in South Africa and the role of an international NGO

Nico Keijzer - Cordaid - the Netherlands

Health prevention and community mobilization

A case study in Argentine with homeless people in squats

M.D. de la Fuente - University of Buenos Aires - Argentine

Bridging the gaps: Advocacy and empowerment initiatives for sustainability of a community programme on sexual and reproductive health; a case study in Malaysia

Dr Eng-suan Ang - Executive Director Federation of Family Planning Associations - Malaysia

Civil society

For a better global governance and social development – the scope of global networking by civil society organizations (NGOs) in the field of social welfare and health

Prospects for the governance of global social policy

Bob Deacon – Professor, University of Sheffield – United Kingdom

A better European and global governance by mutual national and multinational social policy

Reijo Väärälä – Director Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health – Finland

Regional social policy and welfare support networks as an important part of a better global governance

Riitta Särkelä – Executive Director and Ms Elina Pajula – Chief of Development Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health

The role of the state and civil society in developing a social policy

Neither welfare state nor welfare society: The case of Hong Kong

Chack-kie Wong – Professor, Chinese University, Social Work Department - China
State, social policy and social provision

Nidhirat Srisirirojanakorn – Executive Assistant Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – Thailand

The challenges of good governance and sustainability to Philippine NGOs

Angela Maria Pangan – President (CEO) Norfil Foundation – the Philippines

NGOs and their role in social development

The role of NGOs in rural development in Ghana: the major problem and the attempted solution

Mohammed Sulemana - Project Coordinator People Nnoboia & Rural Development Association - Ghana

NGOs as an essential partner in social and economic development: how can government and NGOs better cooperate for the welfare of citizens

Nevine Bishai – Master’s Degree Student American University – Egypt

Violence, corruption, and human rights

Dr Suely Souza de Almeida – Director, Associate Professor School of Social Work, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

The International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) – contributions from the Philippines and Brazil

Understanding ICSW in the GO-NGO collaboration

Ely Lumdang, National Council of Social Development (NCSO) – the Philippines

Results of the preparatory seminar in Rio de Janeiro for the 30th ICSW conference

Maria da Penha Silva Franco, CBCISS – Brazil

Migration and diversity

Immigration, migration, and reintegration questions

Ethnic community-based social work practice in Japan

Joe Takeda – Assistant Professor Kwansai Gakuin University - Japan

Migration and social development: challenges to return migration and reintegration in the Philippines

Jeremiah Opiniano – Project Officer Migrants Desk Institute on Church and Social Issues – the Philippines

Migration and diversity

Martin Hofstede MBA RM – General Director (CEO) Rabobank Heerhugowaard – the Netherlands

Non-violent conflict models trying to overcome civil war

People's Assembly of Sri Lanka - a step in the right direction

Chandrarathne Bandara - Field Director Samadeepa Community Development Research and Training Institute - Sri Lanka

Revitalizing 'Pela-Gandong', a traditional institution in the Moluccas, to resolve the social conflict between Christians and Moslems in the Moluccas

Dr Marthinus Norimarna – Rector Moluccan Christian University - Indonesia

Children, young people, and families

Bridging the gap between municipal policies and the worlds of children and youth

Newly emerging needs of children

Nico van den Oudenhoven and Yvet Pieper, International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) – the Netherlands

The role of young people in social development

Alexander Afenyo-Markin - President Youth Advancement Foundation - Ghana

Young people gaining work experience

International Volunteer work by young people (European Voluntary Service)

Peter Barendse – Project Officer Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW) – the Netherlands

Challenges of youth self-employment creation in Kenya

Lydia Muchira – Executive Director Canopen Education Services Foundation - Kenya

Support Family - makes a difference – video workshop

This film illustrates how the Swedish Support Family works in reality. It describes three support families and the single mothers they are supporting. It is an informative film about this popular programme and it is often used in recruitment situations.

Pia Hallin - Social Service Officer City district administration Stockholm - Sweden

The empowerment of children and families at risk

Les enfants, les jeunes et les familles en danger

Protais Bidzogo Onguene – Director Adjoint de la Jeunesse, Croix Rouge Camerounaise – Cameroun

Family Training Programme in Tumaco

Rosario del Rio – Programme Support Manager Plan International – Colombia

The social welfare of a child

The socio-economic life of the African child

Kwabena Otoo Siaw - Executive Director Centre for Human Health Care – Ghana

Support systems for children and families at risk

Models of success in aiding children at risk: examples from Latvia and America

Dr Nora Smith – Assistant Professor and Dr Mark Rodgers – Associate Professor,
Monmouth University, Department of Social Work – USA

*Arrangements on support of the children and youth from families at risk – aiming at their
social integration into society*

Nadezda Malysheva – Chairperson NGO Help to youth cooperation – Russian
Federation

What can be done to allow children to have a normal life?

Female infanticide in India

Florence Jasmine David – Programme Director Administration, International Services
Association – India

‘What works’ to reduce future criminal behaviour - video workshop

Kenneth Carpenter – Correctional Programme Specialist, National Institute of
Corrections, Bureau of prisons, US Department of Justice – USA

Youth participation

*Proposals to increase Youth Social Security as a step towards social welfare with a focus on
Iran in the 21st century – a sociological study*

Dr Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi – Associate Professor Sociology Al-Zahra University – Iran
Bridging gaps through sports

Heino van Groeningen and Mr Ger Kroes, NISB – the Netherlands

Youth participation in a European context

Peter Barendse – Project Officer Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW) –
the Netherlands

Family support. Policy and practice examples from China and Jordan

Integrated Family Services Centre – a consolidated approach to strengthening families

Lam Li Shuet – District Social Welfare Officer Social Welfare Department Sha Tin district
– China

Towards effective and quality care service for children

A South African experience towards centralization in child welfare policy

André Kalis - National Director South African National Council for Child Welfare –
South Africa

Child care upgrading programme

Grace Muzyamba – Director Social Welfare, Ministry of Community Development and
Social Services - Zambia

Research on death attitude, death anxiety, depression condition and coping behaviours – using single parents who lost their spouses in 921 earthquakes as example

Betty Weng – Chairperson Providence University, Youth and Child Welfare Department –
Taiwan

Social and professional integration of young people

*Les conditions de l'insertion socio-professionnelle des jeunes dans une perspective de
développement local partenarial*

Jean Panet-Raymond – Professor École de service social at the Université de Montréal,
Québec - Canada

Young people and the work for the dole program: a case study in personal empowerment

Dr Gary Lewis – Trainer and Ms Cherie Radovanovic – Programme Manager,
Southside Community Services Inc. – Australia

Key of dreams

Marina Meeuwisse – Creator and Daniele Terranova – Artistic Director, Key of dreams –
the Netherlands

Youth representation:

Jenny Godschalk (18), Samuel Gatimu (15), Achmed Mohamed (14), Richendley
Felies (13), Christina Karaat (15), Mando Denkoor (14), reserve: Nadia Roos (12).

Project representation:

Gijs Verhoeff, Aart-Jan Moerkerke, John Lucieer, Floor Kaspers, Yvonne van Westering,
VNG – the Netherlands

Inclusive societies

Physically handicapped: a voice from Lebanon and practice from Burkina Faso

Disabilities and challenges in the third millennium

K. El Mohtar - Director General National Rehabilitation and Development Centre - Lebanon

Experiences avec des activités productives

A. Kola – Coordonnateur l' Association pour la Formation, l'Intégration et la Réinsertion Sociale - Burkina Faso

Increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities

The sustainability of inclusive societies: community care for people with disabilities

Khatijah Sulaiman - Honorary Treasurer General, National Council of Welfare and Social Development - Malaysia

The role of voluntary organizations in disability welfare: a case study of an NGO in Bangladesh

Mohammad Azizur Rahman - SPRING participant in development planning and management, SPRING Centre, Faculty of Spatial Planning University of Dortmund - Germany

Academic and vocational training of people with disabilities - towards sustainable development; the Danhiko project

Netsai Mushonga - Social Worker Danhiko Project - Zimbabwe

Self-determination in persons with intellectual disabilities; a resource for their social inclusion

La autodeterminación de las personas con discapacidad mental como una herramienta de inclusión social

Andrea Aznar – Psychologist and Dr Diego Gonzalez Castanon – Psychiatrist, ITINERIS - Argentina

Community-based services for the elderly

The start of regional coordination activities for establishing the elderly community-based services model in the Caucasian Republics

Armine Mkhitarian - Head Development and Evaluation Department of the Mission Armenia - Armenia

Community care for the elderly in Ghana

Stephen Effah - Worker Association of Students of Social Work - Ghana

Problems faced by older persons at grassroots level in Cameroon

Francis Njuakom Nchii - Community Development Volunteers for Technical Assistance - Cameroon

Out of school education (non-formal education)

Primary education for all – issues in India

Dr Neela Dabir – Associate Professor in family and child welfare, Tata Institution of Social Sciences – India

When the education of young people and adults extends the classroom in both time and space – new places to learn for young people and adults

Ada Lobato – Professor Sesc Serviço Social do Comercio – Brazil

Integration of children with a background of migration – report about a European workshop

Vanessa Schlevogt – Scientific Researcher ISS, Department International Monitoring – Germany

Building an inclusive society in Croatia – video workshop

Cvjetana Plavša -Matić - Government Office for Cooperation with NGO's – Croatia

Nives Ivelja - Association 'MI' – Croatia

Milan Ožegović - Association of Persons with Paraplegia and Amputation – Croatia

Igor Dordević, Centre for Peace, Non-Violence, and Human Rights – Croatia

Gordana Obradović-Dragišić, Center for Education and Counselling of Women – Croatia

The role of women

Empowerment of women

Maternity care/Midwifery care and the empowerment of women

Therese Wiegers – Researcher Nivel – the Netherlands

Mary Zwart – Midwife, Chairman European Perinatal School – The Netherlands

Empowerment of tribal women; community development in India

Sarangadhar Samal - Director National Youth Service Action and Social Development Research Institute – India

Building strong communities

Ester Ritonga – Executive Director Woman Cooperation of Dairi - Indonesia

The role of women in society

Violence against women in India – suffering continues despite progress all over

Keshwa Nand Tiwari – Director Disha Social Organization – India

L'expérience du Comité d'Action pour les droits de la Femme et de l'Enfant du Mali: CADEF

Assa Diallo Soumaré – Présidente CADEF – Mali

Enhancing the gender role in governance

Gender disparities and social development in Pakistan

Mustafa Talpur – Graduate Student Brandies University – USA

Engendering governance: learning from civil society initiatives in South Asia and Southern Africa

Sofia Karnehed – The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) – the Netherlands

ICT and modern media

Can ICT improve Society?

X-S2, the ICT information network on social policy

Thijs Torreman - Director X-S2 - the Netherlands

Digital divide in an economically advanced city: The Hong Kong situation

Kay Ku - Business Director The Hong Kong Council of Social Service - Hong Kong

ICT and the internet: Instruments for democracy and social development

The internet as an instrument for democracy

Internet Livre: a programme to democratize access to the internet and to the digital inclusion of socially disfavoured workers and people

Dr Danilo Santos de Miranda – Director SESC São Paulo - Brazil

The role of ICT and modern media in promoting social development –

Bridging the digital divide

Yassin Noor – Secretary General Ex Services Association Malaysia (ESAM) – Malaysia

ICT for the community

Telecottages - network for community building

Tõnu Otsason – Chairman Estonian Association of Rural Telecottages – Estonia

Social interventions and ICT: The neighbourhood-ICT-project as a strategy to stimulate social cohesion by supporting neighbourhood activities

Else Rose Kuiper – Director Stichting Brekend Vaatwerk - the Netherlands

Bert Mulder – Staff Member InformatieWerkPlaats Den Haag - the Netherlands

Tea Snippe, De Naoberschapsbank – The Netherlands

ICT information networks for the social sector

The challenges in coordinating structured and unstructured public sector information in the area of social welfare: Intelogue as a case in point. The Intelogue Multilingual Child Care/Family Thesaurus

Vanessa Proudman - ICT Project Manager, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research – Austria

Maria van der Sommen and Joke Hoogenboom – Thesaurus Experts,
Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW) – the Netherlands

Sesi's use of information technology for the promotion of social development

Elizeu F. Calsing, Industries Social Services, SESI National Department – Brazil

Corporate social responsibility

1001 Possibilities for a better cooperation. Ethic questions for enterprises

Carrying smiles throughout Brazil

Dr Dionino Colaneri – Development and Operations Supervisor Social Service of
Commerce Rio de Janeiro State (SESC) - Brazil

Cooperation between corporate and civil society

Claske Dijkema and Robin Good – the Netherlands

Emerging new partnerships

How can we build new social partnerships in the civil society?

Michael Stadler-Vida – Researcher European Centre for Social Work Policy and Research
– Austria

Angelika Münz – Researcher Community Partnership Consultants – the Netherlands

Towards a sustainable society

André Smit – Manager Public Affairs, Social Investment, Shell Nederland –
the Netherlands

Social welfare policies and social services

Social assistance programmes in China, Taiwan, and Japan

A last-resort safety net for urban residents? The developing social assistance in urban China

Chenxi Huang – PhD Student University of Hong Kong, Department of Social Work and
Social Administration – China

Active social relief policy in Taiwan

Shou-Yuny Yang PhD – Professor Soochow University, Department of Sociology – Taiwan

The current situation of social welfare system in Japan

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Coordination en travail social

Comblant les fossés: des opportunités économiques, sociales et culturelles au niveau local et global

M. Morel - Conseiller en développement, Institut de santé public du Québec - Canada

Le Comité de Liaison et de Coordination des Services Sociaux de l'Hérault, un exemple de coordination en travail social appliqué aux territoires

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Change from welfare state to market-driven social policies

Global and local in social policy development; the post-communist experience

Dr S. Zrinscak - Assistant Professor Department of Social Work at the Faculty of Law University of Zagreb - Croatia

'Filling the empty raincoat': the New Zealand case

J. Blackaby - Board Member New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organizations - New Zealand

Developing an information and innovation structure for the social sector in CEE countries

Building support and innovation platforms for the social sector in the CEE countries: experiences of a multi-country project (SWING)

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The ESWIN social work information network

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Cooperating for democracy. Dutch-Polish efforts to modernize social work

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Evaluation systems concerning the social welfare work

Programme evaluation: a Singaporean approach

Tina Hung – Director Service Development National Council of Social Service – Singapore

Benchmarking: new method to improve policy development and provision of social protection and social welfare benefits by local authorities in the Netherlands

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A common language and no borders: Social services in international context

Challenges and options of the cross-country provision of social services

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Classification can offer a common language – the social work classification project at STAKES in Finland

Salme Kallinen-Kräkin – Development Manager STAKES National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health - Finland

The role of human rights in global social justice: policy and practice

Dr Linda Burkle – Director of Divisional Social, The Salvation Army Central Territory USA – USA

Sustainable development

Development programmes and environment conservation programmes. How do they fit together?

Poverty, paths out and the life support system

George Ahadzie – Executive Director Green Earth Organization – Ghana

Conservation-based rural development: a global issue

Bijaya K. Pokharel – Member-Secretary Centre for Conservation of Environment and Wildlife - Nepal

Globalization and its impact on India

Globalization and its impact on Indian Economy

Dr B.V. Muralidhar - Associate Professor Political Science and Public Administration SV University - India

The process of globalization as a 'notion' and Dalit people - a people in cultural difference

D.S. Jesupatham - Assistant Librarian Indian Social Institute - India

Cooperation between NGOs and local/regional governments in water supply programmes

Organization of tripartite partnership for the solution of social and economic problems of territory development in the sphere of water supply and sanitation in Kyrgyzstan

Ahmat Madeuyev – Director Centre for Public Policy - Kyrgyzstan

Micro-credits and the promotion of self-reliance

Financial sustainability from enterprises linked to the NGO's mission: The Bina Swadaya experience in Indonesia

Emmanuel Haryadi - Vice-President Bina Swadaya Foundation – Indonesia

Enhancing the effectiveness of microfinance operations in Ghana

John R. Opare-Djan - Executive Director Kraban Support Foundation – Ghana

The International Council on Social Welfare – ICSW – was founded in 1928. ICSW is an international non-governmental organization operating throughout the world for the cause of social welfare, social justice and social development. ICSW has a diverse membership, collectively representing tens of thousands of organizations worldwide, of which nearly two-thirds are in developing countries. The daily work of its members covers a wide range of activities: establishing social structures, delivering social programmes, developing community organizations, advocacy, and information dissemination.

ICSW has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as well as the following UN agencies: FAO, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO.

ICSW website: www.icsw.org

Interesting websites

www.cecile.net

Cecile – international network for employee community involvement

www.csreurope.org

Corporate Social Responsibility Europe

www.dfid.gov.uk

Department for International Development UK

www.focusweb.org

Focus on the Global South

www.stakes.fi/gaspp

Globalism and Social Policy Programme

www.global-south.net

Global South independent monthly e-Journal for global interdependence

www.iblf.org

Prince of Wales' International Business Leaders' Forum

www.undp.org

United Nations Development Programme

The Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW)

The Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW) is an independent organization that targets innovation and improvement in the care and welfare sector. It provides information and support to more than 400,000 professionals and many volunteers working in fields as varied as child care, social services, community work, services for the elderly, youth care, shelter, nursing homes, home care and services for disabled people. Organizations from outside the sector but also providing care and welfare services, such as schools, provincial and municipal authorities and housing associations, regularly make use of NIZW's services. The activities of the institute have been divided into centres focusing on a specific theme: *child and youth care, care, social policy, professionalization, international affairs, and information for the public*. Within these frameworks the NIZW is committed to developing and implementing new methods and information materials, matching supply and demand of service delivery, and expertise building. Concrete products include advice, transformation processes, conferences, training programmes, books, brochures, almanacs, databases, websites, CD-ROMs, videos and an information telephone / help line.