

## **International Network for School Social Work**

**<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>**

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### **The 2012 International Survey of School Social Work**

The International Network for School Social Work was founded in 1990 with outreach to social work associations around the world inquiring about the existence and status of social work services in schools. Anecdotal information and later periodic surveys provided a picture of how school social work was developing and growing. The International Network now has contacts in 80 countries. About 50 of these countries have some social workers working at or with schools. However, in many of these countries school social work professionals express the need to have improved service so that all school children can have readily available access to help. In several countries, school social work is just beginning and there are other countries where there are no services and social workers are eager to introduce services into the school system.

The results of the questionnaire sent to 51 countries in 2011 and 2012 are sent with this newsletter. The questionnaire has remained basically unchanged since it was first sent out in the 1990's. The goal is to obtain contact information, names of professional school social work associations, and basic information about the school social work role, qualifications, job titles, how the service is provided, numbers of school social workers and when the program was initiated.

School social work continues to grow around the world. Contacts between school social workers in different countries are expanding, aided by the International Network for School Social Work (<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>) and the five international conferences that have taken place so far, the first in Chicago, USA in 1999, the second in Stockholm, Sweden in 2003, the third in September 2006 in Pusan, Korea, the fourth in April 2009 Auckland, New Zealand and the fifth in April 2012 in Accra, Ghana. International contact has provided many benefits to school social workers. Students have located information about school social work to help in their studies. Social workers trying to start school social work services have received valuable assistance. Recently social work professors have formed an alliance to look into providing international standards for school social work and how they could offer international training programs. This newsletter provides information from other countries that stimulates school social workers' thinking about new ways of solving problems in schools.




This document, the 2012 International Survey of School Social Work contains contact information for national school social work associations and data about the status of school social work. I am sending it to you so that you can make this information available to school social workers in your country.

Responses were received from 31 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Curacao, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Macedonia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Vietnam.

Information from earlier surveys is added in a Supplement for countries for which no current data are available, Estonia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. If you can provide updated information about school social work in any of these countries or any other countries, please send it to me and I can then issue an amended version of the report.

I hope you will distribute this document to your professional associations and their members and encourage them to use it. The data it contains can be useful in social work education, to encourage increased international contacts and for promoting school social work in your own country.

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-  *Attribute the document and its contents to the International Network for School Social Work, Coordinator Marion Huxtable*
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### **The Goals of the International Network are to provide:**

-  **Information about school social work around the world**
-  **Links between school social work associations**

**The School Social Work Association of America would like to invite all international school social work colleagues to be a part of the 2013 National School Social Work Conference, to be held in sunny San Diego on Wednesday, March 20 to Saturday March 23, 2013. For information about the conference go to <https://m360.sswaa.org/event.aspx?eventID=50714&instance=0> or contact [sswaaconference@gmail.com](mailto:sswaaconference@gmail.com) if you have questions.**