



## International Update

As we continue to work on further building the international identity of AASWG, I want to share news about a few current activities and invite you into the conversation. First, as approved by the AASWG Board, we are proceeding with our application for affiliation with the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations. Non-governmental organizations (NGO's) have been partners of the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the UN since its establishment in 1947. The application process is somewhat lengthy, but affiliation will be mutually beneficial. We will gain access to information and UN activities, including the opportunity to provide input to the UN and engage with other civil society networks and NGO's on a wide range of global and regional issues of concern to our members. Our responsibility will be to share information about UN Programs and issues. Information on DPI and affiliation is at: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp>

This July, we met with Rosa Perla Resnick, one of the UN Representatives of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), and Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration at the UN. Over a delicious lunch cooked by Dominique Steinberg, and enjoyed by Steve Kraft, Greg Tully, and me, we listened and learned as Rosa shared her long and illustrious history in international social work and affiliation with the UN. Rosa graciously offered to assist any AASWG members who would like to join either the Committee on Migration or the Committee on Aging even before we gain formal affiliation as well as to help facilitate our application. I have additional information about Committee membership and other UN activities and will be happy to assist members to make these connections. In addition, I welcome hearing your about your experiences with the UN now -- many AASWG members may belong to NGO's that are currently affiliated with DPI (such as the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)). My email is: [cohen5@adelphi.edu](mailto:cohen5@adelphi.edu)

Some members may be interested in the 17th International Symposium of the International Consortium for Social Development, in Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 3-7, 2011. This conference is cosponsored by IASSW, IFSW and ICSW. I will be there and presenting work on the evolving thinking about self help groups and social work, with Geeta Balakrishnan from Mumbai and Jacqueline Mondros from New York, as well as participating in a panel on empowerment and sustainable development in the aftermath of disaster. It would be wonderful to hear from anyone planning to attend, and very helpful to hear from members with ideas and interests in these topic areas. The ICSD Conference website is: <http://www.monmouth.edu/ICSD2011/default.asp>

Lastly, I hope to have whetted your appetite for news of internationally focused AASWG activities, and invite you to let us know what you are doing and what interests you. There is much going on and we will be updating our website page at [www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org) soon. We see this as an excellent place for community discussion, sharing resources, and networking. In the interim, please email --Your input is very welcome!

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