BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently one of the fastest developing countries, Vietnam is an exciting society where social problems and developments are equally abundant. With nearly 20% of Vietnam’s 86 million people considered poor, 5.4 million people having disabilities, 7.5 million elderly people, and one in three Vietnamese women experiencing violence in their lives, the Vietnam Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs estimates that about 40% of the population needs some form of social service. However, currently only 1.3 million people have regular support from the government. The country has only 500 social service agencies with 35,000 staff, of which 90% have little or no training in social work or related areas.

As a profession, social work only started developing more systematically in Vietnam in the early 1990s, although charity activities have been active in the country for centuries. Facing great demand for social workers, in 2010, the Vietnam government approved a national program that focuses on training 65,000 social workers and developing a network of social work centers for the country by 2020. Currently, the country has about 40 BSW programs. In 2011, the first MSW program was established at the Vietnam National University. At present, the entire country has a few thousand people with BSW degrees, more than 40 people with MSW degrees and only a few with a PhD. In 2011, the Vietnamese Association of Social Workers was also established. These developments provide exciting opportunities for social work scholars and practitioners to have significant and lasting impact.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

1. **Co-organizers:**
   - Asian & Pacific Islander Social Work Educators Association (APISWEA) of the American Council on Social Work Education:
   - San Jose State University (San Jose, California, USA)
   - Vietnam National University in Hanoi (Hanoi, Vietnam)

2. **Goals and specific aims:**

This conference aims to create a rigorous, practical, and meaningful discussion on contemporary ideas, knowledge, skills and values of social work education, practice, research and policy, with implications for Vietnam. Through such discussion, conference organizers hope to broaden international applications of social work and enhance mutual sharing of social work scholarship between the international community and Vietnam, where social work is still in its infancy.

The conference topics include but are not limited to:

- Children, youth, and family welfare
- Mental health
- Urbanization and its issues: drugs, HIV/AIDS, sex industry, migrant labor issues, etc.
- Rural social work
- Social service delivery
3. **Conference venue:**
The conference will be held at the campus of the Vietnam National University, Hanoi.

Address: 336 Nguyen Trai Street, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Note: The conference is NOT organized at a hotel and we do NOT designate any hotel as the conference hotel. If you need recommendations about hotel, please email the conference co-chairs (see below)

4. **Registration and registration fees:**
Registration fees for participants from developed countries: US$100
Registration fees for participants from developing countries: US$15.

Participants will pay the registration fees when they register on the first morning of the conference. However, they should email their registration form to apiswea@gmail.com.

5. **Volunteering lecture opportunities**
Participants who wish to volunteer their time to lecture for 1-2 hours to social work faculty and students at different social work programs in Vietnam can notify the co-chairs by sending an email to Dr. Huong Nguyen at huong.nguyen@sjsu.edu. Participants can choose a topic of their interest and expertise. The lecture can be at undergrad or graduate level and needs not to be too formal. Participants can also suggest locations that they want to volunteer their lectures (e.g., Hanoi, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City, etc…) and we will do our best to connect the lecturers with social work programs in Vietnam. Please note that this activity is not part of the conference program. We offer it as a way to enhance the relationship and experience of international and Vietnamese conference participants.

Participants can send a simple email to Dr. Huong Nguyen with the following information:

- Name, title, affiliation, contact information.
- Topics they are interested in lecturing (they can list a number of topics and indicate the order of priority)
- Locations and/or institutions they would like to visit to lecture.

6. **Contact information:**
For questions and information, please contact conference co-chairs:

Dr. Huong Nguyen, San Jose State University: huong.nguyen@sjsu.edu

Dr. Qingwen Xu, Tulane University: qxu2@tulane.edu