

# Message from Machiko Ohara

December 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



As we approach the end of another year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the challenges we have faced and the resilience demonstrated by our profession. The world continues to experience moments of hardship and uncertainty, yet it is within these times that the essential work of social workers shines the brightest.

In the Asia-Pacific Region, where natural disasters frequently test our collective strength, we are reminded of the importance of unity and collaboration. This year, I had the privilege of witnessing the incredible dedication of social workers responding to the Türkiye-Syria earthquake. Their compassion, courage, and commitment are a true reflection of our shared values and inspire us all to continue with our efforts to support communities in need.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to announce that our regional family will gather in Sri Lanka next year for the Joint Asia-Pacific Social Work Regional Conference. This event will provide us with an invaluable opportunity to learn from one another, deepen our connections, and further our mission of delivering ethical and compassionate social work across borders.

I hope that the new year brings renewed hope, strength, and opportunities for collaboration. Let us continue to stand together, united in our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Warm regards,

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Machiko Ohara, Ph.D.  
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