

Exhibition Concept Note

Understanding Social Development: From Awareness to Action

Background and Rationale

The exhibition aims to deepen awareness and understanding of social development, empowering educators, policymakers, and practitioners to actively engage in addressing poverty alleviation, employment, decent work, and social integration—guided by their expertise, passion, and interests.

Observations indicate that the concept and vision of social development are often poorly understood or misinterpreted, leading to limited engagement with related policies, programs, and implementation efforts. This gap is evident not only in government and non-government organisations, but also across private sector entities and educational institutions.

Through interactive elements, the proposed exhibition plans to address this gap and issue by presenting the conceptualisation of social development that will demonstrate the values and commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and integrated sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The exhibition will illustrate:

1. The significance of adhering social development values and principles, and clearly define what they are.
2. The importance of goal setting and targeting in driving social development outcomes.
3. The need for a balanced, multidimensional approach that integrates social, economic and environmental aspects.
4. The critical role of capacity-building for individuals, institutions and communities.
5. How this comprehensive social development can be applied for community development practice at the grassroots levels
6. Guidance on accessing free social development resources for research, training and practice, influencing policies and programs.
7. Insight into the innovative work of the International Consortium for Social Development and its global impact.

Interactive Elements of the Exhibition

Rather than just viewing, the proposed exhibition will actively engage viewers through the following four interactive activities.

1. Social Development Values Wall

Interested viewers will be asked to place stickers on values they personally connect with ((e.g. equity, inclusion, dignity).

2. 'Map Your Impact' Station

On a large world map, interested visitors will be asked mark where they have worked or seen social development in action.

3. Resources Kiosk

Touchscreen or printed station offering free downloadable materials: toolkits, training guides, policy briefs.

4. Join the Network option

Interested attendees will be asked leave name and contact details to further network with the international consortium for social development.

Outcome

The exhibition is expected to:

1. Foster a deeper understanding of social development and its integrated approach to achieving the SDGs.
2. Provide access to free resources that support continued learning and practical application.
3. Encourage peer learning, collaboration and partnerships that actively contribute to poverty alleviation, employment and social integration.

This exhibition is conceptualised and directed by Professor Manohar Pawar, former President of the ICSD, Professor of social work, Director of Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance, Charles Sturt University Australia. He is also Chief Editor of the *International Journal of Community and Social Development*. He has significantly contributed to the advancement of social development knowledge and advocacy for action. He has published more than 200 articles, including over 20 books, many focus on social development.