



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region

Chairperson's Report (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010)

Introduction

The Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA), incorporated in 2008, is an independent non-profit making organization with the aim to serve as the regional hub for networking with similar organizations/interested professionals with the mission of 'Converging Professional Wisdom For Family Well-Being'. Its goal is to strengthen family functioning and promote family health in the region while contributing to the body of knowledge in relationship science in the international arena. In the past 3 years, CIFA has been fulfilling its function to support and enhance mutual interest in research and training initiatives, to share clinical experiences, information and knowledge, as well as contribute to policy formulation on families which are unique to the Asian Region through its various activities.

This annual report is going to highlight the significant progress made by CIFA in "Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being" in the Asian region in the period covered by this report.

Corporate Governance

The CIFA Council, the decision-making body which exercises all the powers conferred by the Memorandum and Articles of Association (MAA), has been busily engaged during the year. I am honored to continue to serve as the Chairperson of the Council, with four Vice Chairpersons to coordinate the work with various sub-regions, in order to strengthen the liaison between Hong Kong and other regions. We have also invited four Council members in Hong Kong to serve as liaison persons to maintain dialogue with the Vice-chairpersons and to facilitate our overseas cooperation.

Ms. Agnes Ng and Mr. Lai Chi Tong have continued to serve as the Hon. Secretary and Hon Treasurer to provide all the necessary support to the Council to ensure that the business of CIFA are conducted smoothly. In addition, we are very grateful to Ms. Elsie Leung who continues to be our Hon. Advisor; Ms. Ivy Tong as our Hon. Legal Advisor, and Mr. Edwin Chiu of T.C. NG & Co CPA Ltd as our Auditor.

During the past year, the Council which was elected in 2009 for a term of 2 years, together with three co-opted members have been meeting regularly to steer and monitor the work of CIFA, underpinned by four committees, Research & Training Committee, Promotion & Fund-raising Committee, Membership Drive Committee and the Web-based Exchange Program (WEP) Development Committee to look after the various areas of work.

The full list of office-bearers and members of the Council has been uploaded onto the CIFA WEP for general information.

Membership

As at 31 December 2010, there were 48 Full Members and 16 Associate Members, coming from 8 sub-regions in Asia. Continuous efforts are being made to recruit more new members.

In response to feedback from members and in order to minimize the administrative work of CIFA, the Council, upon seeking legal advice, has decided that the duration of membership would be 2 years instead of 1 so that renewal of membership would be done on a 2 year basis. The next membership renewal exercise will take place at the end of 2011. The Council has also decided that the membership fee will be HK\$2400/HK\$240 or US\$300/US\$30 for a period of 2 years for full and associate members respectively. Moreover, the Council also endorsed payment of fees on a pro-rata basis for applications received during the 2 year period.

Finance

During the year, CIFA continued to receive funding support from the Hong Kong & China Gas Co. Ltd., which has been a staunch supporter of CIFA since its incorporation. Apart from that, we have also received sponsorships from other supporters, including Wofoo Social Enterprises sponsoring the 2010 Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-being (3A Project), Family Council of HKSAR Government sponsoring the 3A Sharing Session in Hong Kong and .EGL Tour sponsoring the Dinner Reception after the Sharing Session.

With prudent financial management and continued support from the community, as well as efforts to organize fund-raising activities, I am pleased to report that we are in a healthy financial position. The Hon. Treasurer will give you detailed income and expenditure statement for the year 2010, together with the Report prepared by our Hon. Auditor.

Activities Highlights

The following paragraphs will provide an overview of the work of CIFA during the year, witnessing steady growth of CIFA as a regional platform in advancing family well being in Asia.

1. The 2nd CIFA Regional Symposium

The Symposium, co-organised by the Japan Association of Family Therapy (JAFT), Japanese Association of Family Psychology (JAFP) and Korean Association of Family Therapy (KAFT), was successfully held at the beautiful campus of the University of Tokyo from 26th to 28th November, attracting over 300 participants from 8 countries/regions. It was preceded by 5 pre-symposium workshops which were all fully enrolled.



With the hard work and efficiency of the Organizing Committee (chaired by Dr. S. Nakamura), Executive Committee (chaired by Prof. H. Nakagama), Scientific Committee (chaired by Dr. Y. Yasuichirou) and Prof. Y. Okamoto, the Secretary General, and all those working behind the scene, the Symposium was smoothly organized with very positive feedback from participants.

The 3-day Symposium provided an excellent platform for better understanding of the situation in the Asian Region, with over 40 presentations by speakers from various countries sharing their knowledge and experience. On the first day, speakers from 7 countries gave an overview of the social changes and challenges faced by families in their own country/ region, highlighting their similarities and differences, to facilitate further deliberations in the Symposium.



The Final Round of the 2010 Asian Award on Advancing Family Well-being (3A Project) was another highlight of the Symposium when 8 finalist teams presented their projects to compete for the gold, silver and bronze

awards. The projects covered a variety of subjects, including sexual assault, teenage pregnancy, mental health, family micro finance, family mediation, eating movement etc. It provided a golden opportunity for learning through sharing and exchange, and building of network among the presenting teams and participants.

One of the important functions of CIFA is to provide the platform for cross country studies, and on the last day of the Symposium, there was an interesting presenting by 5 regions on the preliminary findings of a Comparative Study on Asian Couples in Conflict: Analysis of the Relationship--Decoding how Contemporary Couple Negotiate Differences'. With video clips of interaction between couples, highlighting similarities and differences among cultures, it stimulated discussion among the participants and all looked forward to the next Symposium when the findings of the study will be fully deliberated.

Following the Inaugural Symposium in HK in 2008 and 2nd Regional Symposium in Japan in 2010, planning for the 3rd Regional Symposium in 2012 was underway during the year. Full members of CIFA were invited to indicate interest if they would like to co-organise the Symposium with CIFA. The matter was discussed thoroughly at the Council and it has now been decided that the next Symposium will be co-organised with Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, Social Work Department of National University of Singapore and Singapore National Council of Social Service in Singapore in December 2012. Detailed preparatory work will take place in 2011 and formal announcement will be issued in due course.

2. 2010 Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-being (3A Project)

This first ever attempt to give recognition to outstanding and innovative projects to advance family well-being in the region was launched in February with the theme of Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation and Applicability (ASIA) attracting a total of 27 entries from 6 countries. We are particularly thankful to the Wofoo Social Enterprises for its generous sponsorship to make the 3A Project a reality, by



providing funding to subsidise the 8 finalist teams and adjudicators to attend the Final Round Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony at the 2nd Regional Symposium in Tokyo. It also offered attractive awards to provide designated fund for teams to further their work to sustain the effect of their projects.

Projects that had gone through 2 rounds of adjudication were shortlisted to enter into the final round adjudication which took place at the 2nd Regional Symposium in Japan on 27th November. CIFA is thankful to a team of dedicated adjudicators from Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, and their valuable input in the adjudication process and advice given to the teams. We were deeply impressed by the enthusiasm and efforts made by the teams as we witnessed continuous improvement as they advanced to the final round.



With the full support of the Family Council of the HKSAR Government, a Sharing Session on 3A Project was held in Hong Kong on 30th November, immediately after the 2nd Regional Symposium. Subsidy was given to all the 5 finalist teams from overseas so that they can join the 3 teams in Hong Kong to share their knowledge, experience and good practice in advancing family well-being, either among special target groups or families in the community.

Apart from the interesting presentations from these teams, the most valuable part was the enthusiastic discussion among the participants during the open forum sessions. The Sharing Session was followed by a Dinner Reception which was made possible with a sponsorship from EGL Tours, providing an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing in a more relaxed atmosphere.



The Working Group started work on producing a DVD on the 3A Project to capture the related information and to document the experience and knowledge of the teams. This will serve as handbook for reference of professionals. It is anticipated that the DVD will be ready for distribution in summer 2011.

3. Cross country study

One of CIFA's functions is to facilitate cross country studies. One of the key studies conducted by CIFA is the "Decoding How Contemporary Couple Negotiate Differences". Throughout the year, the research team headed by Dr. Lee Wai Yung, with representatives from 5 other countries/regions has been working together to collect data on cases involving couples in negotiating their differences. The preliminary findings of this comparative study had been presented at the 2nd Regional Symposium (as reported above). Follow up action is being taken with a view to completing the study in 2011. It is planned that a paper will be published in August 2011 and the findings will be presented in the 3rd Regional Symposium to be held in 2012.

4. Enhancement of the CIFA WEP

The CIFA WEP continued to serve as a platform for information sharing. The e-newsletter which was introduced since November 2008 and published on a bi-weekly basis has been providing update information on activities of CIFA members, regional activities such as 2nd Regional Symposium and 3A Project, and articles on family related issues. The WEP Development Committee has been working closely with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to enhance the CIFA WEP with a view to adding functions and to making it more user-friendly. We hope that upon the revamping work in May 2011, the CIFA WEP would better serve its members and the general public who are interested in promoting family well-being through sharing of information, experience and good practice.

5. Recognition from Family Council, HKSAR Government

CIFA is very pleased to receive recognition from the Family Council, a high level committee appointed by the Chief Executive, and chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to advise government on the policies relating to families and promote the core values of the family. In recognition of the work of CIFA, and in particular the 3A Project, the Family Council not only co-organised the Sharing Session in Hong Kong on 30th November, 2010, but also provided funding support to cover the expenses incurred in organising the Session.

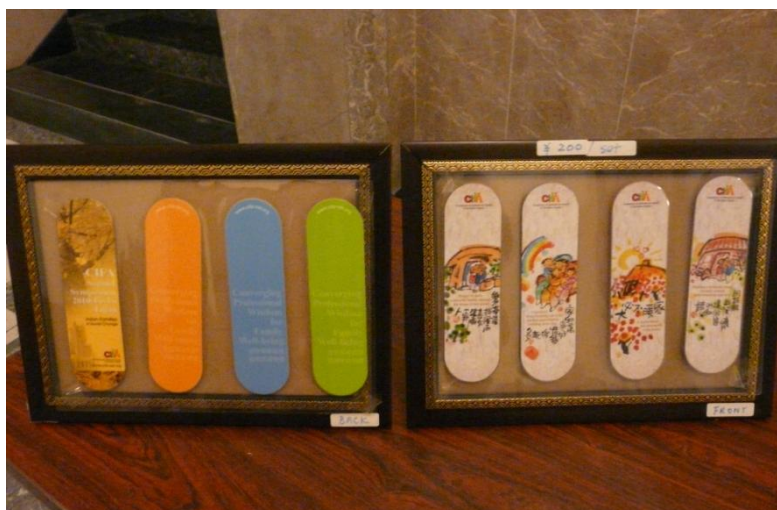


We were much honored to have Ms Florence Hui, the Under Secretary of Home Affairs, to represent the Family Council as the officiating guest at the Opening Ceremony of the Sharing Session, giving very encouraging remarks on the work of CIFA. She had also kindly recorded a video clip to appeal for support to the work of CIFA which has been uploaded onto the CIFA WEP.

It is also through the full support of the Family Council that CIFA was able to get the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) involved in designing the web page on the Sharing Session. With their professional input during the long hours of the day as well as the editing works that followed in producing the contents of the web page, a full coverage of the Sharing Session has been uploaded onto the Family Council website at http://family.etvonline.tv/familyhub2010_3a.html. We are also thankful to the Family Council for lining up the radio interviews to promote the work of CIFA. We look forward to continuous collaboration with the Family Council.

6. Forming of Strategic Partnership

Apart from the growing recognition given by the community as demonstrated by the support given by the HK and China Gas Co. Ltd, Wofoo Social Enterprises and the Family Council, CIFA is pleased to form strategic partnership with other professionals who share the vision and mission of CIFA in 'Converging Professional Wisdom for Advancing Family Well-being'. These include Ah Chung (Yim E-king), a famous cartoonist and artist who shares the view that we can make better use of cartoon/painting to convey messages on the family, and has kindly agreed to serve as our advisor to the Working Group on Cartoon and Painting. With his advice and input, CIFA will explore innovative ways to promote the use of cartoon/painting in promoting family well-being. In fact, Ah Chung had already designed a set of bookmarks with messages on families as a souvenir for the 2nd Regional Symposium.



Another strategic partner is EGL Tours, which supports the work of CIFA, by offering its knowledge and expertise in the travel industry. Apart from making travelling arrangements for participants to attend the



2nd Regional Symposium and sponsoring the Dinner Reception after the Sharing Session on 3A Project in Hong Kong, EGL Tours is in the process of exploring benefits to be offered to CIFA members to promote family relationship through family trips abroad, making travelling arrangements to facilitate future CIFA activities, such as study visits and attendance at symposiums and workshops, etc. Mr. Steve Huen, CEO of EGL Tours has also kindly recorded a video clip to appeal for support to the work of CIFA and has been uploaded onto the CIFA WEP.

Conclusion

This year is a very fruitful and rewarding year with a lot of new development and achievement in the work of CIFA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors, strategic partners and members, especially the Council members, those serving the various committees and working groups, for their full contribution and effort to support the CIFA. Your involvement, energy and time towards CIFA mean a lot to us. Without your support and commitment, the work of CIFA would not have been able to pass through the journey so smoothly.

I look forward to seeing another successful year of CIFA with your support. With our joint efforts, we will be able to achieve our mission of Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-being in the Asian Region.

Patricia CHU (Mrs.)

Chairperson, CIFA Council