

# **Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region**

## **Chairperson's Report ( 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2016)**

### **Introduction**

2016 is a busy, exciting and significant year in which the work of CIFA is fully recognized by the United Nations with the presence of Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of Division for Social Policy & Development, Department of Economic & Social Affairs as Guest of Honor at the 5<sup>th</sup> CIFA Regional Symposium and Award Presentation Ceremony of the Wofoo 3A Project in Seoul, Korea, bringing this regional platform to a new height. We witness the full support by the United Nations, treating CIFA as one of the partners and collaborators in its efforts to promote family well-being which is one of the basic ingredients of sustainable development. We are glad to be included in the United Nations Social Development Network (<http://unsdn.org>) in which CIFA can share our work, learn from others and build up the link with like-minded organizations and individuals. We will continue to build on this solid foundation as we go forward.

### **Corporate Governance**

#### **The Council**

During the year, there were changes in the representation from two member organizations resulting in replacement of Council members including Dr. Lee Ngak Siang who has retired from the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (TKHMS) and now representing the Singapore Chee Hoon Kog Moral Protection Society (CHKMPS) and Prof. Machiko Ohara replacing Dr. Shinichi Nakamura to represent the Japan Association of Family Therapy (JAFT).

I would like to take the opportunity to show appreciation to both Dr. Nakamura and Dr. Lee for their unfailing support and contribution throughout these years, serving the CIFA Council since its inception in 2008. I am particularly thankful for their efforts in co-organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CIFA Regional Symposium held respectively in 2010 at the University of Tokyo and 2012 at the National University of Singapore.

Throughout the period covered by this report, the Council has held regular meetings on a quarterly basis to steer the work of CIFA, while the various Committees have been working very hard to take forward the various aspects of work of CIFA.

### **Financial Management**

During the year, CIFA continued to receive funding support from the Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE), the Title Sponsor of 3A Project, which has been a staunch supporter of the Project since this regional initiative was launched in 2010.

To sustain the momentum of fund raising in the past years to raise the profile of CIFA and at the same time to raise funds to support our work, actions have been put in place in the latter part

of the year by the Promotion & Fund Raising Committee under Mr. Lai Chi Tong, to plan for two fund raising activities including the Walk For Family Well-Being and the Charity Concert for Family Harmony to be held respectively on 26 February and 18 June 2017.

I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Lai Chi Tong, Hon Treasurer, and Mr. Edwin Chiu, Hon Auditor for their input in looking after the financial well-being of CIFA. With prudent financial management and continued support from the community, I am pleased to report that we are in a healthy financial position. Mr. Lai will give you a detailed Financial Report for the year, together with that prepared by Mr. Chiu.

## **Membership**

As at 31 December 2016, there were 80 Full Members and 23 Associate Members, coming from 8 countries/regions in Asia.

A Membership Renewal Exercise for the year 2016-17 was launched at the beginning of the year. Efforts are being made to update the data in the membership list in order to maintain contact with members, and at the same time to follow up on outstanding payments. Continuous efforts on this front is required and the Council will examine ways to improve the situation, including the reinstatement of the Membership Committee.

## **Activity Highlights**

### **Wofoo 3A Project 2016**

Following the successful Launching Ceremony of the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 on 13 November 2015 with representatives from WSE and 2 winning teams of Wofoo 3A Project 2014 sharing their experiences and insights in participating in this meaningful initiative, invitation for entries had been widely distributed and a newspaper supplement was published on 11 Jan 2016 in the Hong Kong Economic Times to give an overview of the Wofoo 3A Project. We are thankful to Prof. Daniel Shek of the Family Council and Dr. Joseph Lee of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the staunch supporters of the Project since its inception to share their views. I, together with Dr. Agnes Ng, chairman of 3A Committee and representatives from the Gold and Bronze award winners of Wofoo 3A Project 2014 attended a radio interview at the Commercial Radio HK on 17 April to promote the work of CIFA as well as the Wofoo 3A Project. A handbook was produced for the first time to provide clear guidelines and stipulate the procedures for the whole process of competition.



Leaflet of Wofoo 3A Project 2016



Newspaper supplement on 3A Project



Radio interview at CRHK

A total submission of 36 projects from 6 countries/regions were received. The First Round Adjudication was conducted by the Screening Committee to short list 16 teams to enter into the Second Round Adjudication, the results of which were announced and uploaded onto the CIFA website on 8 April. Interview sessions for the shortlisted teams were held on 14 and 15 July at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the full assistance from the Department of Social Work in providing the venue and technical support.

During the second round, 8 finalist teams were selected including 5 teams from HK, 1 from Singapore and 2 from China, the results of which had been uploaded onto the CIFA website on

25 July. All the eight teams had received subsidy to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium in Seoul when the Final Round Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony took place on 4 November.

These two events were one of the highlights of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium. The 8 finalist teams competed for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, as well as My Favorite Project to be voted by the audience attending the session. A new award, namely The Best Collaborative Award was introduced for the first time to give recognition to the project which demonstrates most collaborative efforts among different disciplines and stakeholders to articulate the CIFA vision of Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-being.

These projects covered a wide variety of topics including parents of children with development disabilities or behavioral difficulties, excessive gaming among youths, pregnant women and mothers with psychotropic substance abuse problems, victims of industrial accidents, cancer family support, elderly and inter-generation engagement, and poverty etc.

All the teams had put up a very good performance with carefully developed audio visual aids and power-point presentations and at the same time demonstrating close team work. After very keen competition, the Adjudication Panel finally selected the project on “Happy Parenting Program-the first Local Evidence based Parenting Program for Parents with preschoolers with Developmental Disabilities from Heep Hong Society (Hong Kong) to be the winner of the Gold Award..The Project on “Touch Cyber Wellness Family Support Program” from Touch Community Services Pte Ltd (Singapore) won the Silver Award and my Favorite Project and the project on “Pregnant Psychotropic Substance Abuse Family Supporting Scheme” from the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service LC-HKS- Rainbow Lutheran Centre (Hong Kong) won the Bronze Award and the Best Collaborative Award.



Final Round Adjudication



Award Presentation Ceremony

The climax of the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 was the Award Presentation Ceremony held during the Gala Dinner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium with Ms. Daniela Bas and Dr. Joseph Lee as the Guest of Honor. Their remarks were most encouraging, giving recognition to the dedication and continuous efforts made by the teams to serve the specific target groups, echoing the observations made by the Adjudication Panel on the strong team work among the members in striving for improvement and excellence in the whole process of competition.



Dr. Joseph Lee giving speech at the Award Presentation Ceremony

To sustain the momentum and synergy created thus far, an Exchange Program involving Sharing Session and Agency visits would be held in June 2017. Preparatory work commenced including the seeking of sponsorship from the Family Council and exploring presence of a representative from UN to officiate at the Opening Ceremony of the Exchange Program.

My special thanks go to the members of, the Screening Committee and the Adjudication Panel for their hard work and advice in going through the various rounds of adjudication. These include: Dr. Lee Ngak Siang, Mr. Chan Whee Peng and Ms. Buang Rahayu,(all from Singapore), Ms. Chinapan Bawany (Malaysia), Dr. Shininchi Nakamura (Japan), Prof. Kim Yeong Hee (Korea), Ms. Virginia Chan and Prof. Tsui Ming Sum from Hong Kong. I must also thank Dr. Agnes Ng and her 3A Committee members for their hard work and attention to details in making the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 a success.



Adjudicators at the Final Round Adjudication

## 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium

The 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium on Asian Families: Change & Consistency was successfully held from 3 to 5 November at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, with the Korean Association

of Family Relations (KAFR) as a co-organizer, and the Family Council as well as a number of professional associations in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and Taiwan as supporting organizations. It attracted 448 participants from 9 countries/regions, breaking the record of registration of all previous regional symposiums.



This was the first time in the history of CIFA since its Inauguration in 2008 when full support and high level endorsement was received from the United Nations. CIFA is honored by the presence of Ms. Daniela Bas from UN to deliver an informative, stimulating and encouraging Opening Address at the Opening Ceremony. She was joined by Mr. Kwon Yong-Hyun, vice Minister of Gender Equality and Family from the Korean administration who delivered a Congratulatory Message at the Opening Ceremony followed by congratulatory messages from Family Council, Wofoo Social Enterprises and professional organization in Korea and Japan.



Photos of Ms. Bas, Mr. Kwon, Mrs. Chu and Prof. Yoon at the Opening Ceremony

Ms Bas found the theme of the symposium most appropriate as it attests to the fact that despite changing families and societies, the family remains a consistent element of all societies, worthy of focus of public policy. She strongly acknowledged the work of CIFA which not only contributes to the well being of families in Asia, but serves as a good example of collaboration among numerous stakeholders to reflect on the myriad of issues surrounding families, identify challenges and think of solutions.

While giving full recognition to CIFA as a regional platform, Ms. Bas also shared the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development promulgated by the UN, which is based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. She highlighted that many goals and targets are difficult to achieve without the support and engagement of families all around the world. She emphasized that in achieving some of the SDGs, we need family oriented policies to assist households in fulfilling their numerous economic, care-giving and educational functions.



Prof. Han giving keynote speech



Prof. Peng giving keynote speech

The Scientific Program was full and of high standard with two keynote speakers including Prof. Han Gyounghae from Seoul National University (Korea) and Prof. Peng Lin from Tsinghua University (China). Over 50 academics, researchers, governmental officials and practitioners presented papers on various topics on the Future of Asian Families, Contemporary Issues on Parenting; Family Happiness and Family Practice in Asia. Apart from the keynotes, 4 plenary sessions and 3 concurrent sessions, there were 65 poster presentations and exhibitions, pre-symposium agency visits and post-symposium workshops, all of which were well attended by participants. The scientific program had stimulated much discussion and sharing among participants, generating much energy for future exchange and collaboration. With the consent of the speakers, their presentations have been uploaded onto the CIFA website for sharing.



Poster Presentation



Ms. Bas visiting agencies' booths

The Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 was one of the highlights of the symposium, the full details of which have been covered in the previous section.

Apart from the Scientific Program, the participants had ample opportunities to network and exchange during the tea breaks, lunches, Welcome Reception and the Gala Dinner in the facilities and beautiful grounds at the National Museum of Korea. All the feedback from the participants were very positive and many were already looking forward to the next symposium to be organized by CIFA.

I would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee, especially the Korean team under the leadership of Prof. Yoon Gyung Ja and Prof. Chun Young Ju with Prof. Kim Yeong Hee providing all the necessary support and advice to make the symposium a great success.

### **Exploratory Study on Family Happiness in the Asian Region**

During the year, members of the Research & Training Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Miranda Chung, had been fully engaged in conducting the Exploratory Study on Family Happiness, with the objectives to develop a preliminary understanding of the family happiness in the Asian region, and to explore the relationship between family happiness and family relations, family social support and family members' physical and mental health.

The study covered several Asian countries/regions, including China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. A total of 4500 families with at least one child under the age of 18 were selected from both middle class and lower income groups in these countries/regions, adopting a convenience sampling method. The study adopted Smilkstein's APGAR Scale as the major tool, assessing family member's perception of family functions.

This Exploratory Study has attempted to build a united front in exploring the issue of family happiness in Asia. Given the time and resource constraints, and the exploratory nature of the



study, adopting a convenience sampling method and non-experimental research design, comparison of results across the countries/regions was not recommended though it had collected data to provide preliminary understanding of family happiness in the region.

The final report of the Study was presented by Dr. Miranda Chung and Dr. Herman Lo on behalf of the research team at the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium held in Seoul, Korea in November at the Plenary Session on Family Happiness. The presentation, together with those presented by other speakers, had generated much interesting discussion. Ms. Bas was deeply interested in the topic and all actively participated in the exercise led by one of the speakers, Prof. TH Lam of the University of Hong Kong.

In response to the interest expressed by Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the Focal Point on the Family, UN, a copy of the Final Report has been sent to her. A submission had been made to an academic journal on "Family Happiness". Furthermore, one will be sent to the Hong Kong Journal of Social Work for review for publication and to be included in the next issue of the CIFA-NET, quarterly newsletter of CIFA.

### **Training activities**

Efforts were made to identify the training needs and to organize training activities in response to these needs. A Training Workshop on Outreaching Youth services for Mainland Social Workers had been planned to be held on 25 February 2017 to tie in with the Walk For Family Well-Being 2017. Apart from workshops, agency visits were also arranged for participants to see services in action and to have direct dialogue with front line workers. Through this, the program will encourage professional exchange and learning between social workers from Mainland China and Hong Kong.

### **Promotion & Fund Raising**

Due to the timing of the upcoming fund raising activities, including the Walk For Family Well-Being (26 Feb 2017) and Charity Concert for Family Harmony (18 June 2017), members of the Promotion & Fund-raising Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lai Chi Tong, were fully engaged in planning these events, involving design of publicity materials, seeking of sponsorship, working out the detailed program rundown, liaising with concerned parties on venues, program activities, and other logistics etc.etc.

Apart from the above fund raising activities, efforts were also made to publicize the work of CIFA, including the 3A Project, the 5<sup>th</sup> symposium etc through different media, such as attending radio interviews and publishing newspaper supplement, uploading information on CIFA WEP and CIFA-NET, and also linking with related websites such as the Happy Family Hub of the Family Council to spread the messages.

## CIFA WEP & CIFA-NET

With the steer of WEP Development Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Kwok Wai Keung, the CIFA website had been revamped both in terms of design and speed in which readers can access the website more easily. Information on CIFA are uploaded to provide updated development of CIFA. Coupled with this, the newsletter, CIFA-NET, has been published on quarterly basis to include reports on CIFA activities and its member organizations, abstracts of papers by academics and professionals which had been presented at CIFA regional symposiums. Thanks go to the editorial group with Dr. Miranda Chung as chief editor and Dr. Herman Lo as member, working closely with me and the CIFA secretariat to issue the newsletters. Many of the readers of CIFA-NET find the newsletter informative with attractive design.

## Celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIFA

CIFA will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. Discussions on how to commemorate and celebrate this important milestone were already underway in 2016. The Council has agreed that the next regional symposium in 2018 will be held in the form of an Asian Family Summit in Hong Kong. A formal announcement was made during the Closing Ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium, when I presented a video provided by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and invited participants to join the summit in Hong Kong.

Preliminary ideas on other activities were suggested and further detailed discussions will be made during 2017. Meanwhile, action had been made in seeking the collaboration from various stakeholders to be the co-organizers of the Asian Family Summit. So far, the response has been very positive.

## Strengthening network with UN

Further to establishing initial contact with the Focal Point of the Family of the United Nations as a result of sharing the IYF publication in early 2015, CIFA is most pleased and honored to strengthen its network with the United Nations during the year, with Ms Daniela Bas, Director of the Division of Social Policy & Development, Department of Economic & Social Affairs to be the Guest of Honor at the Opening Ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium and Award Presentation Ceremony of Wofoo 3A Project held in November in Seoul. Apart from delivering the Opening Address, Ms. Bas has also send a very encouraging message to CIFA on the occasion which has been included in the Program Brochure of the Symposium. The details of her participation has been covered in the relevant parts above.



As a result of Ms Bas active participation at the symposium, the Symposium was reported in the United Nations Social Development Network (<http://unsdn.org>), bringing CIFA to a new height. It opens further opportunities for collaboration and sharing with the various arms of the United Nations.

The tie with UN is further strengthened when Mrs. Renata Kaczmarska of the Focal Point of the Family accepted our invitation to be the Guest of Honor at the Opening Ceremony of the Exchange Program on 3A Project and Charity Concert For Family Harmony in June 2017. We will also take the opportunity of her visit to Hong Kong for her to meet concerned stakeholders including the Family Council, Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the University of Hong Kong to establish closer relationship between Hong Kong and the United Nations in family work and promoting family well-being. We will also seek advice from her regarding the planning of the Asian Family Summit with the hope that we can involve more Asian countries. We also aim to invite a representative from UN to be the Guest of Honor of the event.

## **Conclusion**

With strengthened ties between various sub-regions through the involvement of the Vice-chairpersons and the full support, hard work and dedication of the Council and Committee members, the work of CIFA is progressing steadily at all fronts, as demonstrated by the growing recognition received at local, regional and international levels, record breaking number of participants at the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Symposium, the encouraging number and quality of submissions for the Wofoo 3A Project, and the collaboration on cross country study, and the growing recognition and networking with the United Nations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for their unfailing support and advice throughout the year. Without your dedication, perseverance, hard work and strong commitment in sharing the vision and mission of CIFA, our dream would not have realized. I will continue to count on you for your contribution and let's look forward with confidence and hope when we chart our way into the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018.

Patricia CHU  
Chairperson