



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region

Chairperson's Report (1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018)

Introduction

2018 marks the 10th Anniversary of CIFA, an important milestone in which we look back with pride and satisfaction as a result of concerted efforts from all fronts contributing to the steady and healthy development of this regional platform.

The highlight of the year was the Asian Family Summit which had received staunch support, not only from the administration of the HKSAR through the Family Council and the Social Welfare Department, but from many quarters in Hong Kong and the Asian region. Most significant of all was the presence of Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the HKSAR and Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division on Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations at the Opening Ceremony of the Summit. We were also most thankful to the Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS) of the University of Hong Kong to facilitate the planning, operation and logistic support of this significant event, the place where the seed of CIFA was planted more than a decade ago with the visionary guidance of Mr. Peter Wong, the Chairman of the Management Committee of the then Hong Kong University Family Institute (HKUFI) and Professor Ian Holiday, the Dean of the FOSS at that time.

The development of Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A Project) was also most encouraging. For 3A Project 2018, we had received a total of 46 submissions, breaking the record over the years. We were pleased to note that the submission covered a variety of issues and many challenges faced by nowadays families. To document the development of 3A Project, a Brochure was produced with sponsorship from Wofoo Social Enterprises, (WSE) the Title Sponsor of 3A Project since its inception in 2010. Moreover, upon the review by the 3A

Committee, advice from Ms. Bas, observation of the adjudication panel, and support from Dr. Joseph Lee, President of WSE, action is in hand to conduct a Social Impact Study on the 3A Project by compiling, consolidating and analyzing related data of projects and the overall impact of this regional initiative.

It is gratifying that formal recognition has been given by the United Nations as demonstrated by the fact the CIFA activities have been included in the Report of the Secretary General submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations and that videos have also been uploaded onto the UN portal for wider distribution in the international community. With these developments, the Council had decided during its meeting in November 2017, to submit an application to the United Nations to be granted Consultative Body Status. Mrs. Kaczmarska of the Focal Point of the Family had kindly agreed to assist in the process. According to the guidelines given, the application was expected to be submitted by 1 June 2019 and the whole process would take a year to be completed.

As CIFA enters into the second decade, we will continue to consolidate on the achievement made thus far, with the view to showcase to the other parts of the world that collaborative and continuous efforts can contribute to the well-being of families which is an essential element in the long term sustainable development of the human kind.

Corporate Governance

The Council

It had been a very busy year for the CIFA Council. Apart from holding regular meetings on a quarterly basis to steer the work of CIFA, various committees had been working very hard to take forward the various aspects of work of CIFA to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. A lot of efforts had been made by all members, with the unfailing support from the secretariat, to liaise and coordinate with concerned stakeholders to seek their support and sponsorship, work out details of collaboration and using various channels to publicize the Asian Family Summit and 3A Project etc. All the members found the experience, though demanding, rewarding and worthwhile.

Having served the CIFA Council since its formation in 2008, Dr. Lee Ngak

Siang of Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, also Vice Chairperson for Singapore and Malaysia, had tendered his resignation in May, 2018 upon his retirement from the organization. The Council extended its appreciation to Dr. Lee for his dedication and active involvement throughout the years, especially in co-hosting the successful 2nd CIFA Regional Symposium in Singapore in 2012. The Council would try to identify a replacement for that part of the region.

Dr. Margaret Wong who originally represented the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals had left the organization to take up the post as head of Social Work Department at the Shue Yan University. Ms. Brenda Chung replaced her as the representative from TWGHs as member of CIFA Council. As a result, the Council invited Dr. Wong to continue to serve as a member of the Council, representing the Shue Yan University.

Financial Management

During the year, CIFA continued to receive funding support from the Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE), the Title Sponsor of 3A Project, which had been a staunch supporter of the Project. With growing recognition from UN and various quarters, CIFA was pleased to receive financial support from the Family Council as the major funder for organizing the Asian Family Summit. Apart from that, we were also grateful to receive sponsorship from charitable foundations and like-minded individuals. We were particularly thankful to the team at FOSS/HKU, under the leadership of Mrs. Amy Tsang, for their intensive involvement in providing secretariat support and development of website for AFS, contributing to saving many expenses to be incurred in organizing the Summit.

To facilitate the payment of fees through on-line registration for the AFS and future financial transactions, the Council decided to open a merchant account at Bank of East Asia. Although it took a while and much efforts by Mr. Lai and the CIFA Secretariat, the account was eventually opened in October, 2017.

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 had been put in place, under the leadership of Mr. Lai of the Publicity & Fund Raising Committee, to organize the Charity Concert for

Family Harmony to be held on 16 April 2019.

I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Lai, 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 the Auditor.

Membership

The Membership Committee was actively exploring ways to maintain contacts with members, recruit new members, and to set up a better Membership Registry. Throughout the year, continuous efforts had been made to follow up on the Membership Renewal Exercise for the year 2018-19, to maintain dialogue with existing members by sending questionnaires to them to assess their training needs, circulating electronic CIFA-NET to members and providing Chinese version of membership application forms etc. Membership codes had been provided to paid-up Full/Associate members to enjoy discounted rate on registration fee for the Asian Family Summit. The Committee had also set up a booth at AFS dedicated to appeal for membership registration and managed to get 4 new full members and 22 new associate members.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 88 Full Members and 49 Associate Members, coming from 8 countries/regions in Asia. Continuous efforts will be made on membership drive, especially in other countries/ regions so that CIFA is more widely represented as a regional platform.

Activity Highlights to celebrate 10th Anniversary of CIFA

Asian Family Summit

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of CIFA and to echo the international efforts on the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development, the Asian Family Summit on “ Sustainable Development & Family Well-Being: Agenda for Action in Asia “ , was successfully held from 19 to 22 August in Hong Kong. It was co-organized with the Faculty of Social Sciences of The University of Hong Kong, the Family Council and the Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR, and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service,

with 24 social service organizations, professional associations and tertiary institutes as supporting organizations. It attracted over 560 participants from 17 countries/regions, breaking the record of registration of all previous CIFA regional symposiums.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Hon. Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive, HKSAR and Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations, together with Prof. the Honorable Arthur Li, Chairman of the Council and Prof. Xiang Zhang, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong.

Mrs. Carrie Lam's presence denoted her recognition and support to this regional initiative. In her Opening Address, she confirmed the commitment of the HKSAR Government to be pro-child and pro-family, attaching importance to policies on family well-being. She also reminded us of the need for a shared belief to drive actions and the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-professional collaboration.



Co-organizers, GOHs and speakers at the Opening Ceremony

This was echoed by Ms. Bas who highlighted the global consensus and commitment to work towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a view for Member States to submit a first report in 2020 on the progress made thus far. She also emphasized that the success of achieving these SDGs depended on how well family policy issues were integrated into the overall development planning and the degree of partnership and collaboration between various stakeholders in the society.

Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme was full and of high standard. Altogether we had 3 keynotes, 4 plenary sessions (with 16 presentations), 4 concurrent sessions (with 58 presentations), 8 poster presentations as well as Post-Summit agency visits and Post-Summit workshops, all of which were well attended by participants. The scientific programme had stimulated much discussion and sharing among participants, generating much energy for future exchange and collaboration. Other highlights of the Summit included the Family Well-Being Expo held on 19 August and the Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo Asian Award For Advancing Family Well-Being (Wofoo 3A Project) 2018, the details of which are covered in the paragraphs below.

The three keynote speakers including Ms. Daniela Bas from the United Nations on the topic of “Sustainable Development 2030 – An Agenda for World Action”, setting the scene for deliberations. It was followed by that of Prof. Daniel Shek, Chairman of Family Council, HKSAR on the topic “Family Impact Assessment in Policy Formulation-The Hong Kong Experience” and Prof. Richie Poulton from the University of Otago, New Zealand on the topic “The Dunedin Study – Insights for Advancing Family Well-Being”. Both keynotes have reminded that more emphasis should be put on scientific methods to collect meaningful data for evidence based policy formulation and service development. The sharing by all the three keynote speakers has provided much stimulation on how things can be done differently to reap the biggest impact.



Ms. Daniela Bas from UN as GOH and Keynote Speaker



Prof. Poulton from New Zealand as Keynote Speaker

Apart from the very informative and stimulating keynote speeches by these heavy weight speakers, over 100 academics, researchers, government officials and practitioners delivered presentations on a wide variety of topics, including those on Alleviation of Poverty: Dependency Vs Empowerment (on Welfare Schemes in Hong Kong and China, and people empowerment in developing countries); Family Work Balance: Family Friendly Policies and Practices (in Singapore, South Korea, China and multinational private corporation); Family Health, Happiness and Harmony (on Hong Kong Jockey Club project to promote holistic health and family harmony, environmentally sustainable living for modern family, family in action against Non-Communicable Diseases in Hong Kong, and a Cross-Country Study on adolescents perceived family functioning and quality of life in Asia); Population Ageing: Challenges and Opportunities (on strategies adopted by Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan) and many other issues faced by the families in different economic and social settings in Asia. These included, e.g. Family Life in the ICT Age; Gender Equality and Family Life; Migration/ Integration/ Inclusion; Good Practices in Family Work; Marriage and Parenthood; Carer Support etc.

Family Well-Being Expo

Another highlight of the Summit was the Family Well-Being Expo held on 19 August as the prelude of the Asian Family Summit. With the theme of “You are the Spring of Family Happiness”, it attracted over 1,300 family members of multi-generations, ethnic origins and ability/disability from 18 districts to participate in interactive games, themed workshops and performances to raise the awareness on importance of family well-being and ways to enhance quality of family life in various aspects of daily life, covering clothing (惜衣), food & nutrition (足食), living & environment (安居) and travelling & leisure (樂行).



Game booth at Family Well-Being Expo

We were honored to have Mr. Bernard Chan, the Convenor of the Non-Official Members of the Executive Council, Hong Kong Government, Mr. Chan Ka Ho and Ms. Yiu Kit Ching, both Hong Kong gold medal distance runners, to share their experience and insights on enhancing family relationship and well-being. While the families had an enjoyable day at the Expo, they had also acquired much knowledge and skills in maintaining happy and harmonious family life. Their feedback is most encouraging.

Round table meeting

CIFA took the opportunity of the presence of UN representative and world renowned researchers in Family to arrange a Round Table Meeting for them to meet the senior government officials of the HKSAR and representatives from co-organisers of the AFS to deliberate on various family issues such as divorce, marriage and split families etc and share her views on how these could be addressed. The meeting provided a good opportunity for sharing and stimulation of thoughts for further action.

The Closing Ceremony

At the well attended closing ceremony, the co-chairpersons, in delivering their closing remarks, summarized the deliberations and outcome of the Summit, highlighted the directions for action and appealed for continuous collaboration and partnership amongst different stakeholders in the region to advance family well-being for the sustainable development of the society. A video capturing the highlights of the Summit was shown and everyone was excited about the memorable moments of the event.

An announcement of the next CIFA Regional Symposium to be held in Taipei, Taiwan in 2020 was made by Mrs. Chu at the Closing Ceremony. She invited Prof. Joyce Feng, Vice Chairperson of CIFA, and her team to go onto stage to extend invitation to all to join the next symposium to be cohosted by the National Taiwan University. A very attractive video on Taiwan was shown to appeal for participation and support. Everyone was excited and looked forward to another successful symposium in two years time. As a follow up, site visit and preparatory meeting to meet co-organizers, the venue of the Symposium and co-ordination, etc. has been arranged in February, 2019.

Summing on AFS

We have received overwhelming positive and encouraging feedback from speakers and participants who fully appreciated the breadth and depth of the topics covered, and attention to details in providing opportunity for sharing, learning and networking to achieve the common goal of advancing family well-being. The Summit has provided invaluable opportunities for various stakeholders to raise thought provoking questions on many issues affecting the quality of life of nowadays families. The interactive discussions and sharing among participants throughout the Summit have not only inspired new perspectives and given fresh impetus to mapping out the way forward, but also generated much energy for future exchange and collaboration.

We are particularly encouraged by the remarks made by Ms. Bas and Prof. Poulton who are deeply impressed by the collaborative efforts among the various sectors on a common goal, with Hong Kong taking the lead in the region, setting an excellent example for other parts of the world.

Taking the opportunity of the CE preparing her Policy Address 2018, CIFA made a submission to her to report on the highlights and outcome of the AFS and the discussion at the Round Table meeting. During the consultative session organized by CE's office on the drafting of the Policy Address, CIFA chairman and Prof. Lam Tai Hing (who has been actively involved in CIFA activities), both were members of the Family Council shared the deliberations at the AFS and received encouraging response from CE and others attending the meeting, highlighting the importance of viewing the family perspective in formulating social policies.

We are also pleased that the full version of the video with highlights of the AFS has been uploaded onto the UN portal, and included in the Report submitted by the Secretary General to the General Assembly of the United Nations. This formal recognition is of significance to the development of CIFA.

Wofoo 3A Project 2018

The Wofoo 3A Project has come to its 5th round and continued to be a signature activity of CIFA and continuous efforts had been made by the 3A Project Committee to improve upon the operation of the project such

as to achieve the aim of identifying outstanding family work and provide platform for sharing of knowledge, experience and good practice.

The process of engaging stakeholders throughout the years during the competition, award presentations and exchange programmes have played a significant motivational role to drive more and more participation and sharing. The good response from the social service sectors in the Asian Region has again proven the growth and success of this project as the number of entries has a 27.8% increase from 36 in 2016 to 46 in 2018. After the Second Round Adjudication which had taken place on 31 May and 1 June 2018 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Final Round Adjudication was held on 21 August at the AFS when 8 finalist teams from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan competed for the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, My Favorite Project Award and The Best Collaborative Award.



Wofoo 3A Project

Aspiration for
Sustainability,
Innovation &
Applicability
(ASIA)



Wofoo 3A Project 2018



Exhibition materials on Wofoo 3A Project

These projects covered a wide variety of topics including persons with dementia and role of caregivers; empowerment of underprivileged children; maintaining relationship between prison inmates and their families; families who lost their only child, home-based speech training programme for language impaired children and their families; educational project for media literacy etc. To document the development of 3A Project, a Brochure was produced with sponsorship from Wofoo Social Enterprises. The Brochure was distributed to all participants attending the AFS and subsequently sent out to all the contacts of CIFA. Exhibition materials were also produced and displayed at the AFS to enable people to have better understanding of the

Projects.

All the teams had put up a very good performance with carefully developed audio visual aids and powerpoint presentations and at the same time demonstrating close team work. After a very keen competition, the Adjudication Panel finally selected the project on “BeNetWise – Educational Project for Media Literacy” from The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups – Media Counselling Centre (Hong Kong) to be the winner of the Gold Award. The project on “Talk Right – Speech Therapy Training Kit and Home Program” from Hong Kong Christian Service (Hong Kong) won the Silver Award and The Best Collaborative Award and the “Person with Dementia and Caregiver Companion Project” from Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service (Hong Kong) won the Bronze Award. Upon appeal for support by the finalist teams, the Hong Kong Christian Service project was also elected My Favorite Project by those who participated in the Final Round Adjudication session.

Gala Dinner and Award Presentation Ceremony

Gala Dinner cum Award Presentation Ceremony was another highlight of the AFS to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of CIFA. It took place on 22 August at the Metropol Restaurant and attended by over 200 including guests, sponsors, adjudicators and winning teams of previous rounds of 3A Project, representatives from CIFA member organizations and participants of AFS. Apart from wonderful performance by a group of elderly musicians from NT West Elder Academies Cluster and the delicious food, participants enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances and met new friends, sharing their views on the work of CIFA and its achievements over the decade.

The climax of the Gala Dinner was the Award Presentation Ceremony of the Wofoo 3A Project. 2018, with Mr. Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, Chief Secretary for Administration of HKSAR, Ms. Bas and Dr. Joseph Lee of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the Title Sponsor to serve as the Guests of Honor to present the awards to the winning teams. Their remarks were most encouraging, giving recognition to the Wofoo 3A Project and generating synergy in the sharing of innovative projects and practice wisdom in addressing various issues faced by families on Asia.



Mr. Matthew Cheung presenting award to The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Gold Award Winning team



Finalist teams, adjudicators and guests at the Award Presentation Ceremony

From 3A to 4A (Alliance)

To build on the solid foundation that Wofoo 3A Project created so far, we consider it appropriate and timely to make use of the collective wisdom and human resources in a more systematic and effective way, in order to further the vision and mission of 3A Project. To expand the 3A to 4A, we are exploring the possibility of forming an “Alliance” to strengthen the link among organizations that have participated the Wofoo 3A Project and mobilize them to co-construct integrated projects, where possible, through inter-organizational and/or cross country/region collaboration on specific issues that have been identified. These involve research studies and training in order to influence policy formulation and

professional competence advancement in carrying out family work with specific issues of concern.

With the support in principle from WSE and the input from Dr. Vivian Lou of the University of Hong Kong and her team, we are in the process of mapping out the way forward to carry out a Social Impact Study by compiling, consolidating and analyzing related data of projects as well as the overall initiative of 3A Project with a view to present a paper at the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium in November 2020 in Taiwan, and to publish a paper in an international journal to share the experience and wisdom gained through this regional initiative.

Publicity and Fund-raising

During the year, the Committee had been busily engaged in exploring different ways to promote the work of CIFA, and at the same time to appeal for support and sponsorship for its activities. Various medium including the electronic media (radio and TV) and printed media had been used to promote the work of CIFA, AFS, Wofoo 3A Project and appeal letters had been sent to supporters. In organizing the AFS, the Publicity and Fund-raising Committee was busily involved in providing support to the CIFA Secretariat to promote AFS and Wofoo 3A Project through the following :-

1. Press conference held on 4 August, 2018 at HKU with the three co-chairman of AFS to introduce CIFA, the family situation in HK and themes and highlights of the AFS.



Mrs. Chu, Prof. Shek and Prof. Tse at the AFS press conference

2. Radio programmes: 政好星期天 (Commercial Radio Hong Kong) on 5 August and 28 October, 2018; 開心日報 (Radio Television Hong Kong) on 15 August, 2018; and 新紫荊廣場 (Radio Television Hong Kong) on 13 and 20 September, 2018



Mrs. Chu, Dr. Ng and representative of HKLSS Rainbow Lutheran Centre at 政好星期天



Representative of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups at 新紫荊廣場

3. TV programme: 都市閒情 (TVB) on 13 August, 2018



Advertisement at Wanchai MTR station

Apart from the above, with the support of the MTRC, posters on the AFS and Family Well-being Expo were posted in many MTR stations along several routes. During the AFS, radio and newspaper interviews were also conducted with the keynote speakers to raise the awareness on the importance of family and its relationship with sustainable development. As a result, there were wide media coverage of the AFS and 3A Project and the work of CIFA became more widely known amongst the public in HK.

The efforts to raise funds for CIFA continued during the year, with the

planning of the Charity Concert for Family Harmony to be held on Tuesday, 16 April, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre which was co-organized with the SAR Philharmonic. The Committee targeted to raise \$500,000 from this event.

Research & Training

Throughout the year, the Research & Training Committee had been working very hard in the area of training and research as highlighted below.

A Study on Adolescent Perceived Family Functioning and Quality Of Life in Asia

To follow up on the exploratory cross-country study on Family Happiness in the Asian Region which was presented at the 5th Regional Symposium in November 2016 in Korea, the report was forwarded to Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the United Nations, and actions taken to conduct a second cross country study with focus on children and adolescents. It is entitled "*Study on Adolescents Perceived Family Functioning & Quality of Life in Asia*". The research team members include Dr. Miranda Chung (Hong Kong), Dr. Herman Lo (Hong Kong), Mr. Moses Mui (Hong Kong), Dr. Machiko Ohara (Japan), Prof. Zhu Meihua (China), Mr. Wong Kwong Sing (China), Ms. Bawany Chinapan (Malaysia), Dr. Lee Ngak Siang (Singapore), Dr. Peace Wong (Singapore) and Prof. Joyce Feng (Taiwan).

The Study was conducted between November 2017 and May 2018, with the enthusiastic support from the research team. The findings confirmed the importance of family functioning in affecting the quality of life and self-efficacy of Asian adolescents. The traditional values of collectivism and filial piety also played a positive role in strengthening the family functioning and self-efficacy.

The Research & Training Committee, represented by Ms. Bawany Chinapan of Malaysia and Dr. Herman Lo of Hong Kong, presented a paper on the preliminary findings of the Study at the Plenary Session on Family Health, Happiness and Harmony at the Asian Family Summit on 21 August, 2018.

CIFA WEP and CIFA-NET

Both the CIFA website and newsletter continued to serve the purpose of providing information on the work of CIFA, sharing its development and activities.

CIFA-NET had 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 the Asian Family Summit. Thanks 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. The newsletter had been widely distributed among CIFA members, related stakeholders and supporters to keep them abreast of the work of CIFA. We had received very encouraging feedback from readers, finding it to be informative with attractive design.

Action is being made to improve the administration of the CIFA website with the view to provide more updated information in a timely manner.

Conclusion

The year has been a busy and yet exciting one, with a number of breakthrough, including the recognition by the HKSAR and the UN, paving the way forward for a formal status as a consultative body of UN, and the initiative from 3A to 4A collecting evidence on its impact and point to the future development of this Project.

The growing recognition and linkage with the United Nations is of great significance to CIFA, alleviating our profile as a regional platform to advance family well-being to the international level. With strengthened ties, support and cooperation between various sub-regions, and hard work and dedication of Council and Committee members, we will continue our efforts to progress further at all fronts, to receive further support and recognition at local, regional and international levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for your unfailing support, active participation and advice throughout the year. We have, in the past decade, encountered difficulties and faced challenges and hard times in sustaining CIFA as a regional platform. However, with dedication and shared vision, we have survived and flourished. Without your commitment, patience, perseverance and strong believe in our mission,

our dream would not have been realized and sustained. I will continue to rely on all of you for your support, advice, and personal involvement as we move steadily and proudly forward into the next decade.

Patricia CHU
Chairperson
CIFA

14 June 2019