



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region Chairperson's Report (1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020)

Introduction

2020 is a memorable and challenging year due to the onset of COVID-19 and its prolonged impact throughout the year. With the pandemic spreading quickly to every corner of the earth, it has affected individuals, families, medical professionals, businessmen, government officials and politicians. Inevitably, activities in the family, educational institutions, private, government and civil society are being affected. These involve school suspension, work at home, closing down of businesses, cancellation of fund-raising events, ban on gathering and lockdown controls causing rescheduling or changing the format of activities.

Despite worries and uncertainties, life has to go on. CIFA manages to survive, coping with the challenges with positive spirit, flexibility, sense of commitment, perseverance and comradeship, making it possible to move forward with activities on different fronts in these difficult times. I am most impressed by the high team spirit among CIFA members, especially that of the Council and committee members for their active involvement in and contribution to the work of CIFA during the year, building upon the solid foundation laid thus far in the development of this regional platform.

With the support of new technology, the work of CIFA continued with Council and committee members actively attending online meetings as scheduled to plan for activities and work out details of various programs, with much adjustments in the midst of the pandemic, including the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium, Walk for Family Well-being, Wofoo 3A Project 2018 and 2020, Study on Good Practice and Social Impacts of Wofoo 3A Project, and the Bringing Hope Home Concert etc. Ongoing efforts on reviewing membership issues, revamping of the CIFA website, and issue of CIFA-NET on a quarterly basis etc took place as planned. On top of all these, CIFA is pleased to have maintained close dialogue with the Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations through participation in its activities and invitation to co-host Webinar II on Impact of Pandemic on Family Life in Asia.

Corporate Governance

The Council

With understanding, dedication and close collaboration, the Council and committee members have demonstrated oneness in continuing to strive for the common goal of “Converging Professional Wisdom For Family Well-Being”, a mission pledged by the Founding Members of CIFA when it was inaugurated in 2008 with increasing recognition, not only in Asia, but in the international arena.

We are most thankful to Ms. Elsie Leung, Ms. May Tsui and Mr. Edwin Chiu, who have kindly agreed respectively to continue to serve as our Hon. Advisor, Hon. Legal Advisor and Hon. Auditor, giving timely and wise advice on many important issues. We are most thankful for their staunch support and involvement whenever their expert input is called for.

As mentioned above, with high team spirit and close collaboration, the Council and various committees have been busily engaged in the various aspects of work of CIFA, with the support from the Secretariat. This involves a lot of coordination with concerned parties, including funding bodies, member organisations, collaborators in specific projects etc. In the spirit of accountability and transparency, reports to funders and information on events and announcement of upcoming activities have been included in CIFA-NET, the quarterly newsletter, and uploaded onto the CIFA website. All these are made possible due to good will and understanding in achieving a common goal to strive for improvement and excellence.

Financial Management

CIFA has continued to receive funding support from Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE), the Title Sponsor of the Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A Project) since this regional initiative was launched in 2010. CIFA is also thankful to the Family Council for its approval of funds to co-organise the Exchange Program on 3A Project 2018 to provide opportunity for sharing of knowledge, experience and good practice. Through close dialogue with concerned parties and monitoring under the chairmanship of Dr. Agnes Ng, of the 3A Committee, the funding bodies are very satisfied with the deliverables and financial management of the various activities under the Wofoo 3A Project umbrella.

On the front of fund raising, despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and eventual cancellation and non-participation, CIFA has successfully raised funds through the generous support of sponsors and donors, while at the same raising the profile of CIFA, breaking the record of all the previous fund-raising activities. This is made possible by the concerted efforts of the Publicity & Fund-Raising Committee under the leadership of Ms. Alice Wan.

With prudent financial management and continued support from various quarters of the community, I am pleased to report that we are in a healthy financial position. I

wish to express my full appreciation to Ms. Lam Yee Mui, the Hon. Treasurer to work closely with the Secretariat in overseeing the financial management of CIFA.

We will continue to adopt a prudent approach in financial management as well as complying with the spirit of transparency and accountability, to gain the recognition and trust from our supporters and members.

Membership

The Membership Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Margaret Wong, has met over zoom in the past year regularly on a quarterly basis despite the pandemic. Considerable efforts have been made by members to update the membership data base, design resource forms to capture members' information, send reminders and emails and contact members personally regarding membership renewal and membership fee collection. As of December 2020, there were 105 Full Members and 84 Associate Members with about 30% of them completed the renewed process and paid up membership fees.

In view of the continuing low rate of membership renewal and fee payment, and taking into account the costs involved in administering the renewal, the Membership Committee has undertaken a review of the CIFA membership renewal and payment system and procedures throughout the year, resulting in submission of a comprehensive paper on membership issues to the CIFA Council in March 2021. A recommendation has been made to the Council to replace the biannual membership renewal by a one-off Membership Initiation Fee (MIF) of HK\$2400 (US\$300) and HK\$240 (US\$30) respectively for new full member and associate member joining CIFA, and applying the same principle to current members so that they do not need to renew on a biannual basis. While the recommendation has been endorsed by the CIFA Council, upon the advice of the Hon Legal Advisor, there is a need to go through the proper procedure of approval at the AGM before implementation with effect from 1 July 2021.

In addition to reviewing the membership system and practice, the Membership Committee has also worked closely with the CIFA WEP Development Committee to revamp the CIFA Website with a view to include a Membership Resource Corner to share expertise, information and research initiatives among CIFA members. A new e-mail address (cifamembership@gmail.com) has also been set up specifically to facilitate members' communication and this initiative has been publicised in the CIFA NET. The membership data base has also been updated with the great help from Mr. Ivan Tam, member of Membership Committee.

Membership drive efforts will be made e.g. at the 6th CIFA Symposium in Taiwan to promote the mission and vision and collaborative professional platform under CIFA and also to share the good news of the new procedures regarding membership after proper endorsement procedure.

Having served the Membership Committee for the past 3 years, Mr. Clement Lau has taken up new work assignments in TWGHs. He was replaced by his colleague Ms. Vienna Wong.

Preparation for 6th CIFA Regional Symposium



In the year, the horrifying pandemic COVID-19 has continued to spread its devastating impact on individuals, families and communities around the world, it has not just threatened lives but also hampered global health, economy, political and social stability as well as restrictions on travelling. Taking into consideration of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, CIFA Council has no choice but to reschedule the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium with the theme of 'Family First: Supporting Asian Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth' to be held online on 10 to 11 June 2021 at National Taiwan University, shortening from 3 days to 2 days with cancellation of workshops and study tour.

Due to the change in schedule, a lot of coordination and liaison work have to be carried out by the Symposium Secretariat with the invited speakers. We are most grateful to have eventually secured the agreement from renowned academia, researcher, practitioners and policy makers to deliver 3 keynotes and 9 presentations at 3 plenary sessions and submission of abstracts by over 20 speakers to do presentation at concurrent sessions. Moreover, with the generous financial support from the National Taiwan University, the Organising Committee can make the decision that no registration fees will be charged. Updating on development and sharing of information have been uploaded onto the Symposium Website on a regular basis and we are very pleased to see growing number of participants registering to join the Symposium.

A special thanks goes to the members of the Scientific Committee under the co-chairmanship of Prof. Joyce Feng and Dr. Miranda Chung, as well as the Symposium Secretariat for their unfailing efforts in coping with all the uncertainties. It has also been a valuable learning experience for all of us, adopting new technology to support the implementation of the regional symposium.

Bidding from Singapore to co-host the next CIFA Regional Symposium in 2022

To plan ahead for the next CIFA Regional Symposium, the Council is pleased to have received a bid jointly submitted by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF) of Singapore to co-host the CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022. Upon clarification and discussion on several issues including the title of the event and the financial arrangement in organising the event, the Council accepted the bid. Formal announcement of the arrangement will be made at the Closing Ceremony of the 6th CTIFA Regional Symposium in June 2021 and the co-organisers have been invited to appeal to potential participants to join the event. Follow up on formation of Organising Committee and Scientific Committee and other detailed arrangements will be made in the second half of 2021.

Wofoo 3A Project

The pandemic has affected our plans in conducting activities related to Wofoo 3A Project. Our original plan was to co-organise the Exchange Programme of 3A Project 2018 with the Family Council, with its funding support, in December 2019, to tie in with the launching of Wofoo 3A Project 2020. Unfortunately due to the onset of COVID-19, the event had been once postponed and eventually canceled. We are grateful to the Family Council for allowing us to claim expenses incurred in planning of the Exchange Program when we submit the report to it as required in using public fund.

As for Wofoo 3A Project 2020, thanks to the cooperation and resilience of 3A Committee members, we have survived the challenges posed by the pandemic. Knowing that organisations have to give priority to timely attention and support to families affected by the pandemic, and to tie in with the rescheduling of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium to June 2021, submission deadline for the competition has been extended twice. We are pleased that we have eventually received 30 submissions from 4 countries/regions covering a wide range of topics. Altogether we have received an accumulative total of 210 submissions since 2010, from seven countries/regions in Asia (i.e., China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan). The support from organisations are most encouraging.

For the current round of competition, the same theme of Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation & Applicability (ASIA) has been adopted for continuity. Apart from CIFA

Council members (including Prof. Kim from Korea, Prof. Ohara from Japan and myself), we are pleased and thankful to have Ms. Virginia Chan representing WSE, the Title Sponsor, Ms. Ang Bee Lian, Director of Social Welfare and Ms. Madelene Yeo of the Ministry of Social and Family Development of Singapore, and Prof. Mooly Wong, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Department of Social Work at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, to join the adjudication panel. A vote of thanks also goes to the Screening Committee for screening the submission in the first round.

The announcement of the first round adjudication results was made on 20 November with 16 projects shortlisted to enter the second round adjudication to be conducted on 18th and 19th March 2021. By then, 8 finalist teams will be shortlisted to join the final round adjudication at the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium on 10th June 2021.

The shortlisted 16 projects are as follows:

Region/Country	Organisation	Project Name
Hong Kong	People On Board Social Enterprise Limited	People On Board
Hong Kong	Caritas Family Crisis Support Centre	Grains of Soul: Community Support Programme on Psychological Wounds
Hong Kong	Caritas Personal Growth Centre for Men	“Friendly Times” - Men’s Social Support Service
Hong Kong	Caritas School Social Work Team	Brightening Family with Virtues
Taiwan	Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C.	“Change—Starts from Me” Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program
Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung Outreaching Social Work Team	Project “Begin from Family”
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	Parent-child Connect – Pilot Project on Children Contact Service in Hong Kong
Taiwan	International Council on Social Welfare, Taiwan	Hsinchu City Community Care Center Innovation Plan Introduction: Old Fashion Sports Program
Taiwan	World Vision Taiwan	Youth Ready – Equipping Taiwan Indigenous Adolescents through Vocational Development Project
Hong Kong	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Central Service	BGCA Jockey Club Trauma Treatment Service for Children
Singapore	TOUCH Community Services	Upper Room - Mental Health Intervention Programme
Hong Kong	Caritas Dr. & Mrs. Olinto de Sousa Integrated Family Service Centre	Discovering the BLESSings in our Life

Malaysia	MySkills Foundation	Holistic Transformation Skills Training for Youth at Risk
Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Community Housing Movement
Hong Kong	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service	Intergenerational Community Engagement Project
Hong Kong	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong Wong Choi Ming Joyful Family Nurturing Centre	"Happinese to Share": A Project on Nurturing of Happy Families

All the teams will compete for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze and Outstanding Awards, The “Best Collaborative Award” will be presented to give recognition to the project which demonstrates most collaborative efforts among different disciplines and stakeholders to actualise the vision of “Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being”; and the “Most Innovative Award” will be presented to the project that demonstrates exceptional creativity and pioneering efforts in responding to the ever changing needs of the community and society.



Wofoo 3A Project 2020 Leaflet

In view of the pandemic situation affecting family life, the 3A Committee has decided to present Certificates of Appreciation to projects with programs specially designed to meet needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, since the Symposium will be held online, the ‘My Favourite Project’ which requires polling of participants on-site has been suspended for Wofoo 3A Project 2020.

Another exciting development in Wofoo 3A Project is the completion of a Study on Best Practices and Social Impacts of Wofoo 3A Project, as the findings of the study have conveyed a strong and positive message that all the projects have made great

contribution to the work in promoting family-well-being. This study is only made possible with the involvement of Dr. Vivian Lou and her team at the Sau Po Centre on Ageing (CoA) of The University of Hong Kong, conducting the study on a pro-bono basis. The study aimed to identify the best practices of the 3A Project awardees; and consolidate the social impacts of the 3A Project under CIFA, adopting a mixed methods design involving document review and in-depth interviews. The study reveals that the Wofoo 3A Project has successfully actualised CIFA's mission and vision by providing an impactful platform for transdisciplinary collaboration with the ultimate goal to strengthen family functioning and promote family health. The study report has highlighted that all Wofoo 3A Project awardees have exhibited a capacity to identify social needs and develop intervention projects and/or service models that filled service gaps, and many also aimed to empower service users and/or advocate for their needs. Six best practices, adopting the **PIE-ISI** model, including **Project** rationales, **Implementation**, **Evaluation**, **Innovation**, **Sustainability** and replicability and **Institutional Synergy** provides a very useful framework for practitioners. A paper on the study will be presented at the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium in June 2021.

Since last year, the 3A Committee has decided to expand the 3A to 4A, with the view to strengthening the "Alliance" among all the teams for further consolidation in knowledge and wisdom practice sharing among organisations to create further impact. To achieve this, we plan to use the online platform to hold sharing and or training events on promoting family well-being work. For the year to come, our Wofoo 3A Project will continue to play an important role in creating a strong professional network in the Asian Region for promoting family well-being through the sharing of knowledge and practice wisdom.

Publicity and Fund-raising

Cancellation of "Walk for Family Well-Being 2020"

The biannual fundraising event of CIFA, Walk for Family Well-Being 2020 scheduled on 22 March, 2020 was cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Originally, the Charity Walk was organised to raise funds to support a number of CIFA events, including the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium 2020 to be held on 25th – 27th November, 2020. Despite a lot of preparatory work, the event has to be cancelled due to the pandemic situation. Instead, an appeal for donation had been sent to CIFA members to raise fund. With the support of Chairperson and CIFA members, HKD622,200 donation has been received.

Bringing Hope Home Concert 2020

In July, 2020, upon the invitation of the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra, CIFA agreed to become one of the beneficiaries, with Haven of Hope as the other beneficiary, of a Charity Concert, namely Bringing Hope Home Concert 2020 to be held on 22 November, 2020 at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Within a very short time frame, representatives from SAR, HOH and CIFA had been liaising closely to work out the details of the concert, including deciding on the theme of the concert, invitation of Guest of Honor, production of leaflet, appeal for sponsorship and donation, getting supporters to fill up the seats in the concert hall as well as the production of the E program brochure.

In the light of the latest development of COVID-19 pandemic in early November, 2020 and the advice of Professor Gabriel Leung, the Guest of Honour of the event and the Government to minimise unnecessary social activities and gatherings, and taking into consideration the safety of performers and audiences, as well as the staff and volunteers, CIFA, being a responsible organisation was not in a position to endorse large scale indoor congregation under the current pandemic situation. While SAR Philharmonic Orchestra and Haven of Hope Christian Service preferred to go ahead with the concert, CIFA decided not to participate in the concert. That being the case, CIFA was not represented at the event. A Special Announcement had been immediately sent out to all our sponsors and supporters to inform them of this decision and we had received a lot of support as they agreed that safety should be the top priority. We understand from SAR that eventually there were about 350 attendees at the concert.

Despite the short lead time in organising the concert, and the uncertainties in the midst of COVID-19, we have raised around HK \$620,000 which was above our target, demonstrating collaborative efforts of all parties involved, as well as the sharing of the common goal of Bringing Hope Home among people in Hong Kong in facing the unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic. The acknowledgement on support by sponsors and donors as well as a special section on artistic pieces by Ah Chung, Ven Chang Lim, Mr. Wong Ying Kit, Ms. Sui May and Mrs. Susan Mak as well as social service recipients from three member organisations of CIFA were featured in the E-Program Brochure which had been posted onto the CIFA website and sent to sponsors and donors together with thank you letters. The E Brochure was also sent to Renata of Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations to keep her informed of CIFA's efforts in response to the pandemic. We are pleased to receive acknowledgement from Renata on this initiative.



Bringing Hope Home Concert 2020 Brochure



QR code to Concert Brochure

Research & Training

Under the very unfavorable pandemic situation, although the Research Team has tried its best to continue with the data collection for the Cross-country Study on “The Mental Health and Coping Styles of Adult Caregivers of Frail Elderly in the Asian Region” in 7 Asian countries/regions (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia) in 2020, the efforts did not reap positive results. Only Taiwan has been successful in collecting data while the rest could not launch any fruitful surveys or interviews in their countries due to various government pandemic policies. Therefore, Preliminary Report of the Study could not be compiled for CIFA Council’s endorsement as scheduled. However, we are pleased to report that Professor Joyce Feng would present her findings of Taiwan Study at the Plenary Session of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium in June 2021. In a similar light, all training workshops and exchange programs for family professionals have not been conducted in 2020.

CIFA WEP and CIFA-NET

In 2020, CIFA-NET had continued to publish on quarterly basis to include reports on CIFA activities and its member organisations, and abstracts of quality papers by academics and professionals, including several CIFA Council/committee members. The newsletter has been widely distributed among CIFA members, related stakeholders and supporters and even the United Nations, to keep them abreast of

the work of CIFA. In response to the growing concern over the plight of families in facing the pandemic, the Editorial Group has decided to choose “Helping Families to meet with the Challenges of COVID-19” as the theme for the issues, encouraging professionals to share their practice wisdom and shed light in helping families in distress. We are thankful to CIFA member organisations to contribute articles to the CIFA-NET.

Separately action has been taken to follow up on the revamping of the CIFA WEP. Meeting with the chairman of the various committees was organised to consolidate a realistic expectation on the functions that had to be included in the new CIFA WEP. Basing on the consensus drawn, the WEP Development Committee has been meeting very frequently to work out the specific users’ requirement for the tender specification, which is expected to be ready by the end of May 2021. The tendering process would start in June 2021 and it is expected the revamping exercise will be completed by the end of 2021. By then, interested parties can submit their application and payment for membership and programs on-line. Members can access to the members’ corner for information that can only be accessible for members via the member’s account. Besides a more user-friendly backend engine will be included for administrators to upload information and to manage the system more efficiently and effectively.

Strengthening relationship with UN

Throughout the year, close relationship has been maintained with Renata of the Focal Point on the Family. In observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2020, I have participated in the webinar on Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing +25 when issues facing families in the midst of the pandemic was presented and discussed by a number of prominent speakers. It was a very interesting session raising much food for thought.

Separately in preparation for the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family by the United Nations, CIFA has been invited to share our thoughts on plans to echo the United Nations to celebrate IYF +30. In response to this request, the issue was discussed at one of the Council meetings and submission has been made on subjects to be covered as well as activities to be organised. Subsequently we have been invited to join Expert Group meetings on new technology and family, parenthood, demographic changes especially ageing and inter-generational issues and climate change and its impact on family. etc. The presence at UN activities is of vital importance to enhance the linkage between CIFA and the international community.

In recognition of CIFA as a representative regional platform in Asia, and to sustain the momentum of collaboration, between CIFA and UN, we have been invited to join and co-host Webinars on Impact of Pandemic On Family Life in Asia. It was a most rewarding experience and raising the profile of CIFA with academic, researchers and service providers in the region. Renata is most thankful of our presence and input in the world- wide effort in addressing the challenges posed

by COVID-19.

All the above events have been featured in CIFA-NET for sharing, with very positive feedback from Renata.

Conclusion

The year has been a most challenging, yet fulfilling one, in the midst of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world. Despite all the uncertainties and worries, CIFA has demonstrated its strength in coping with the challenges with positive spirit, flexibility, sense of commitment, perseverance and comradeship, making it possible to move forward with activities on different fronts as illustrated in this report.

The growing recognition and support from all quarters and different levels, be it local, regional and international, has been most encouraging and giving the Council and Committee members the impetus and increasing energy to charge forward. I am indebted to them all for their dedication and selfless contribution towards the work of CIFA.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the significant development of CIFA over the years and joining us to move forward together on the path towards promoting the family well-being in Asia and beyond. This is especially so in the face of the ongoing thread of COVID-19, which is affecting different aspects of family life. As many have pointed out, it has long lasting psychological, social, economic and political effects requiring collaborative and innovative ways to cope with this unprecedented situation. I am sure our experience in coping with the challenges will stimulate our thoughts and guide us to adopt innovative and effective ways, viewing silver lining in every cloud, and turning crisis into opportunities, in our endeavors to promote well-being of families to achieve the long-term Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to global advancement.

Patricia CHU
Chairperson
CIFA

25 June 2021