



*Converging*  
**PROFESSIONAL WISDOM**  
**FOR Family Well-Being**

#### **CIFA-NET EDITORIAL GROUP MEMBERS:**

Dr. Miranda Chung, Mr. Timothy Li, and Dr. Herman Lo.  
Contribution of articles are welcome. Please express your interest to the editorial group through email [cifasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:cifasecretariat@gmail.com).

#### **SECRETARIAT:**

Portion B, 21/F Wofoo Commercial Building, 574-576 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2363 0700

Email: [cifasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:cifasecretariat@gmail.com)

Fax: (852) 2363 3010

Web: <http://www.cifa-net.org>

## **Message from Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson, CIFA**



This quarter has been a most eventful and exciting one with a lot of significant happenings, including the preparation and actual operation of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium, the rehearsals and conducting the Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020, the completion of the report on the Study of Best Practices and Social Impacts of the Wofoo 3A Project, and activities in observance of the International Day of Families.

Thanks to advancement in new technology and the positive spirit, flexibility, sense of commitment, perseverance and comradeship among CIFA Council members, we managed to survive and cope with the difficult time. Turning the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium and the Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 to be conducted online, a lot of preparatory work have to be done. With the staunch support from experienced and skilful technical teams in Taiwan and Hong Kong, these important events have been, amazingly, conducted without hiccups. We are pleased with the very encouraging and positive feedback from all quarters. These also provided excellent opportunities for all to learn and adjust to use technology as a new normal in the years to come.

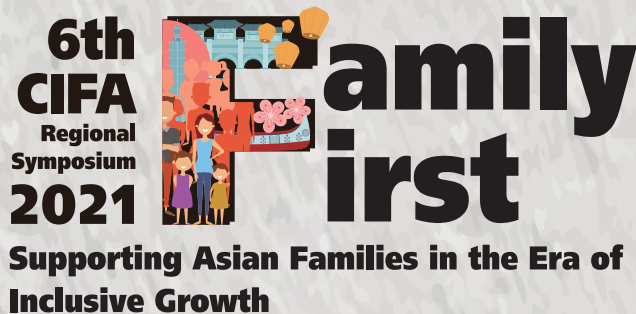
The completion of the Study on Best Practices and Social Impacts of Wofoo 3A Project is indeed a milestone in this regional initiative, providing concrete evidence to show the significance of the Project in providing a common ground for developing good practice while at the same time demonstrating its impacts at different levels. To echo the activities in observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2021, we have issued a press release to share the findings of the Study. We have also attended webinars conducted by the Focal Point on the Family on the theme of 'Families and New Technologies', which happens to be the theme of a keynote presentation at the Regional Symposium.

In this issue, we are pleased to share the experience of the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic, affecting both children and their parents. Once again the theme of new technology stands out and pointing clearly to all the inevitable trend in adopting new technology in many aspects of family life.

Last but not the least, I am pleased to share the good news that by paying an one off Membership Initiation Fee, you or your organisation will become a LIFE member of CIFA. ACT now and join the CIFA FAMILY as soon as possible!



# 6th CIFA Regional Symposium



The 6th CIFA Regional Symposium on Family First: Supporting Asian Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth was successfully held from 10 to 11 June, 2021 online. It was co-organised with the National Taiwan University Children and Family Research Center Sponsored by CTBC Charity Foundation (CFRC), Child Welfare League Foundation (CWLF), R.O.C., Department of Social Work of the National Taiwan University, International Council on Social Welfare, Taiwan (ICSW), Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation and Taiwan NPO Self-Regulation Alliance. The Symposium has been a great success with 730 participants from 11 countries/regions, breaking the record of registration of all previous CIFA regional symposiums.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by Mr. Ying-Jeou MA, the 12th - 13th President of the Republic of China, Taiwan, together with Prof. Ming-Syan CHEN, Executive Vice President, National Taiwan University, Taiwan and Head, Council Board, National Taiwan University Children and Family Research Center, Taiwan and Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson of CIFA.

In Mr. Ying-Jeou MA's Opening Address, he complemented the theme chosen for the Symposium being most relevant and timely. He also mentioned that he was particularly interested in the sub-theme of Inter-generational Approach to Sustainability as population ageing is the prevailing issue in Taiwan and the rest of Asia.

## Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme consisted of 3 keynotes, 3 plenary sessions (with 9 presentations), and 5 concurrent sessions (with 16 presentations), as well as the Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 (with 8 presentations), the details of which are covered on p.4-5. All sessions were attended by around 400 on-line participants. Despite the fact that speakers and participants could not meet face-to-face to share and exchange directly, the high-quality presentations had stimulated much discussion between them, generating much energy for future exchange and collaboration.

The three keynote speakers including Dr. Anjli DOSHI-GANDHI, Former Deputy Director General of The National Population and Family Development Board Malaysia, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia on the topic of "Family Well-Being (FWB) Index – Implications on Policy and Practice", setting the scene for deliberations. It was followed by that of Dr. Susan WALKER, Associate Professor of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, USA on the topic "Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and the Family" and Prof. Chien-Jen CHEN, the 14th Vice President of the Republic of China, Taiwan and Distinguished Research Fellow of Genomics Research Centre, Academia Sinica, Taiwan on the topic of "Supporting Families in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Inter-generation Approach".



Apart from the very informative and stimulating keynote speeches by these heavy weight speakers, over 28 academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners from 7 countries/regions including Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and USA delivered presentations on a wide variety of topics, including those being presented in Plenary Sessions on Supporting Asian Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth (A Cross-sectional Study on Family Well-Being in Hong Kong; Wofoo Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being: Good Practices and Impacts ; and Supporting Korean Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth); Marriage, Divorce, and Re-marriage (Parental Separation and Complex Family Needs in Australia; Landscape of Marriage and Divorce in Singapore-Trends, Policies and Programmes; and Marriage or Merry Age? The Recent Population Changes in Taiwan); and Inter-generational Issues (The Mental Health and Coping Styles of Adult Children Caregivers of Elderly; Two-Three-Child Policy Means Double or Triple Trouble for Chinese Grandparents? and Caregiver Burden of Adult Children from the Inter-Generational Family Perspective). Many other issues faced by the families in different economic and social settings in Asia have been discussed in the Concurrent Sessions, including: Good Family Practices & Intergenerational Issues; Marriage, Divorce & Parenthood; and Child & Youth Development etc.

During the lunch break of the Symposium, three sets of videos had been shown, including CIFA activities from 2008 to 2017, the Asian Family Summit in 2018 (which has been uploaded onto the United Nations Portal), and the greetings from CIFA Chairperson and Council members from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan, appealing to participants at the Symposium to support the work of CIFA and become one of its members.

We have received overwhelming positive and encouraging feedback from different fronts, fully appreciating the opportunity for sharing useful information and insightful analysis of family issues. They fully appreciated the chosen topics as well as the high quality of papers being presented. The Symposium has provided invaluable opportunities for various stakeholders to raise thought provoking questions on many issues affecting the quality of life of nowadays families. All the insights, experience and wisdom therein have definitely provided food for thought for professionals, researchers, academia, and policy makers in formulating strategies and policies, and developing initiatives and services to address the ever-changing challenges faced by all, the individual, family, community and the whole world.

With the kind approval from the Editors of the International Journal of Social Welfare(ICSW), quality papers presented at the Symposium submitted for review by the Editorial Group will be published in a Special Issue. The theme, namely Family First will be proposed to the ICSW for consideration. Professor Joyce Feng and Dr. Miranda Chung, the co-chairmen of the Scientific Committee will follow up on the matter.

## **CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022**

An announcement of the CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022 to be held in Singapore in November 2022 was made by Mrs. Chu at the Closing Ceremony. Ms. Ruth Chin and Ms. Swan Keng from the Ministry of Social and Family Development of Singapore presented a powerpoint to extend invitation to all to join the next regional event to be co-hosted by the Ministry of Social and Family Development and National University of Singapore, with CIFA. Everyone was excited and looked forward to further details to be provided on the event website to be developed in due course.

# Wofoo 3A Project 2020

The Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 was one of the highlights of 6th CIFA Regional Symposium when 8 finalist teams from Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan competed for **the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, Most Innovative Award and Best Collaborative Award**. These projects covered a wide variety of topics including community housing movement, anti-bullying education promotion, inter-generational community engagement, trauma treatment service for children, family resilience, co-parenting among divorced families, youth mental health issues, and vocational development project for indigenous adolescents. (for details of projects, please access the CIFA website at [www.cifa-net.org](http://www.cifa-net.org))

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 keen competition, the results of the Final Round Adjudication is as below:

Award	Country/ Region	Organisation	Name of Project
Gold Award & Best Collaborative Award	Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Community Housing Movement
Silver Award & Most Innovative Award	Taiwan	Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C.	"Change – Starts from Me" Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program
Bronze Award	Hong Kong	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service	Intergenerational Community Engagement Project
Outstanding Award	Hong Kong	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Central Service	BGCA Jockey Club Trauma Treatment Service for Children
Outstanding Award	Hong Kong	Caritas Dr. & Mrs. Olinto de Sousa Integrated Family Service Centre	Discovering the BLESSings in our Life
Outstanding Award	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	Parent-child Connect – Pilot Project on Children Contact Service in Hong Kong
Outstanding Award	Singapore	TOUCH Community Services	Upper Room – Mental Health Intervention Programme
Outstanding Award	Taiwan	World Vision Taiwan	Youth Ready – Equipping Taiwan Indigenous Adolescents through Vocational Development Project

- Since the Final Round Adjudication was conducted online, My Favourite Project which requires online polling of participants has been suspended this year.
- In recognition of prompt and active response to the crisis caused by COVID-19, Certificate of Appreciation had been presented to the following projects:
  1. "Self-Leadership: Women Empowerment during and Post-Pandemic" from Persatuan I-Alumni UKM (Malaysia)
  2. "Information Uptake of the Native Semai Community in Malaysia during a Pandemic" from Universiti Malaya (Malaysia)



The climax of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 was the Award Presentation Ceremony, with Dr. Joseph Lee of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the Title Sponsor as the Guest of Honour encouraging the awardees as well as giving recognition to the Wofoo 3A Project in sustaining the momentum in advancing family well-being.

## **A Study on Best Practices and the Social Impacts of the Wofoo 3A Project**

Wofoo 3A Project, occurring every other year since launched in 2010, has been recognised as one of CIFA's most significant, valuable and sustainable activities. With ten years of establishment and remarkable success in creating a platform for transdisciplinary collaboration and exchange while recognising outstanding, innovative family related initiatives, a study was conducted to identify the best practices and consolidate the social impacts of this initiative under CIFA, in collaboration with the Sau Po Centre on Ageing (CoA) of The University of Hong Kong. The study adopted a mixed-methods design involving document review and in-depth interviews.

### **Findings & Conclusion**

---

A Six Best Practices model adopted by the award-winning teams in congruence with CIFA's mission was demonstrated, namely the PIE-ISI (i.e., Project rationale, Implementation, Evaluation, Innovation, Sustainability and Replicability, and Institutional Synergy). This practice model is developed and promoted, in the regional and international arena.

On the other hand, it confirms that the Wofoo 3A Project encompasses professional, organisational, community, regional and international impacts. It has provided a platform for sharing and exchange, serving as a hub of learning marked by sustainability, scalability and replicability.

The Wofoo 3A Project of CIFA has achieved its mission and vision to "provide a platform for transdisciplinary collaboration with the ultimate goal to strengthen family functioning and promote family health". Continuous efforts will be made to expand 3A to 4A, with a reinforced "Alliance" for the consolidation of collaborative knowledge and practice wisdom among organisations to create greater impact.

To echo the International Day of Families, a press release has been issued on 15 May 2021 to share the findings of the Study. Furthermore, a paper on the study has been presented by Dr. Vivian W.Q. LOU, Associate Professor and Director of the Sau Po Centre on Ageing at the Plenary Session 1 of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium. Powerpoint presentation will be available at the Symposium website at <https://cfrc.ntu.edu.tw/cifa/> in due course.

For the full paper on the study, please visit: [http://cifa-net.org/files/news/Study/3A%20Project\\_Study%20on%20Best%20Practices%20and%20the%20Social%20Impacts.pdf](http://cifa-net.org/files/news/Study/3A%20Project_Study%20on%20Best%20Practices%20and%20the%20Social%20Impacts.pdf)



# Special Measures in response to the Outbreak of COVID-19 in Hong Kong

**The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong**  
A member organisation of CIFA

The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA), founded in 1936, is a renowned Non-Governmental Organization in Hong Kong with a mission to achieve a balanced and happy environment for the nurturing and growth of our young - physically, intellectually and emotionally. BGCA currently delivers services in Hong Kong through over 140 service points and reaches over 190,000 people this year, including over 70,000 members.



## Outbreak of COVID 19 in Hong Kong: Impact on Children and Families

Since the outbreak of global COVID 19, both social stability and economic growth were jeopardized while the daily life of all individuals and families have been seriously affected in Hong Kong. During the epidemic, BGCA has interviewed 507 children and 475 parents by telephone and online questionnaires in 2020 in understanding the situation of children and their parents during the suspension of schooling. The survey found that the emotional and mental health status of parents were generally worse than those of children. Reportedly the parents from grassroots and CSSA families have reached the level of concern, indicating that their psychological pressure worth our attention under the epidemic.

## Needs of Deprived Families & Children

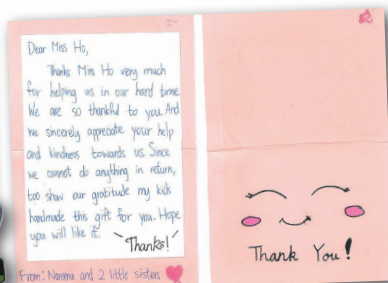
During the pandemic crisis, social workers of the Neighborhood Community-Based Centers of BGCA kept on connecting with the children, young people and their families through phone calls and various online platforms. Through these calls, social workers have identified their hidden needs and provided timely support or special services.

## Special Services & Programs in Meeting Challenges of COVID 19

### 1. "BGCA All the Way" Care Pack Campaign

The Integrated Children & Youth Service Centres of BGCA delivered 4 rounds of care packs to those needy families and children. More than 27,000 families were benefitted.

Care Pack Items	No. of Families benefitted	Period of Delivery
Rice Pack	11,660 (Every family two packs (4 Kg) of rice)	July 2020 – August 2020
Food Coupon	11,660 (Every family a coupon valued \$200)	July 2020 – August 2020
Books & Stationary Coupon	5,500 (Every family a coupon valued \$400)	August 2020 – September 2020
Blessing Bags	10,000 (Every family a Blessing Bag consisting of rice, noodles, healthy snacks, anti-epidemic items)	February 2021 – April 2021



BGCA was also one of the charity partners of Wellcome "Heartfelt Give-Back" Program. Through 24 service centres, a total of 9,600 sets of cash and food vouchers were delivered to the eligible deprived families between November and December 2020.

## 2. “EASY-Connect” Bridging the Growing Digital Divide

During the pandemic, most primary and secondary schools suspended the face-to-face teaching and could only provide online teaching for students. However, from a survey launched by BGCA, 30% students reported that their computers and internet were not adequate for online learning, especially for students from low-income families. Evidently, the disparity of digital divide was further widened during the epidemic crisis. The living and well-being of the deprived and disadvantaged children and youth were mostly affected.

With support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and various Charity Foundations, BGCA had disseminated computers, sim cards and hygiene supplies to help families overcome challenges brought by COVID-19, on top of the regular computer/internet technical service provision by its Community Digital Competence Hub (“CDCH”).



### i. New Laptop Computers for students in deprived families

More than 600 sets of new laptop computers and tablets, donated by Henderson Development Anti-Epidemic Fund and various donors, were presented to needy students. Technical support was also provided for those families in enhancing their skills of online learning.



### ii. Sim Card Donation

Some families did not have stable internet access through broadband in Hong Kong. Students living in village houses or subdivided units could only have the online access through sim cards. With the support from Legan Foundation, 400 sim cards (70GB) were delivered to those needy students.

### iii. Bandwidth Support for E-learning at Home Scheme

With support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, BGCA had distributed sim cards to over 710 schools and over 100,000 students with limited internet access. The Scheme also provided ZOOM licenses for online teaching so that students could continue learning and connecting with their teachers.

### iv. Continuous Support to Online Learning

The Community Digital Competence Hub (“CDCH”) of BGCA also supported deprived students to develop their e-learning capabilities and competence in using online tools and resources. Computer checking and technical support were provided to those families via online platform during the pandemic, which effectively removed the obstacles children encountered during online learning at home.

## 3. Non-stop Online Training and Support for Needy Families and Children

Despite challenges during the pandemic, family professionals of the “SMILE” On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services had committed to facilitate home-based training viz zoom for needy children and families as far as possible. The “Sunshine Campus” Kindergarten Social Work Service also continued to render individual and small group guidance through various media, such as the service website “Sunshine Parents”, Zoom programs, home-based activity packages for those parents with kids in kindergartens.

## 4. Membership & Program Promotion Campaigns

Due to the pandemic attack, the household income has generally been decreased in Hong Kong. In response, BGCA has launched two campaigns with an objective to relieve the economic burden of service users and encourage their participation in service programs, namely “Three Year Membership, Thanks! Campaign” and “Program Fee Promotion Campaign”.



## Way Forward

In the past year, BGCA has developed a series of special measures and programs in helping needy families during the pandemic crisis. In addition, it has delineated a new online and offline integrated social service mode to support and equip students and parents to face the new school year. To achieve its mission of creating a happy environment for the younger generation and families in Hong Kong, BGCA has re-engineered its services with a focus to support the deprived and needy children and families to meet with rising challenges in future.

## **Resolution on Membership Issues at Annual General Meeting on 25 June 2021**

During the AGM of CIFA held on 25 June, 2021, members took the opportunity to review the membership issues including membership fees and renewal arrangements as recommended by the Membership Committee and endorsed by the Council. A resolution has been passed that **WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY, 2021**, new members (Full and Associate) will only be charged an one-off Membership Initiation Fee (MIF) of HK\$2400/ HK240 (US \$300/US\$30) for Full / Associate members respectively. Once the individuals or organisations have paid the MIF, they will become “Life Member” of CIFA. The same principle applies to Existing CIFA members, and so they do not need to pay for the membership renewal fee for every 2 years anymore.

All members will be requested to update their individual or organisation information once every two years so that the Membership Database will be updated.

Members who would like to withdraw their membership may do so in writing to the CIFA Secretariat. The membership disqualifying clause under the existing MAA will continue to be applicable.

### **Benefits of being a CIFA member:**

- a. A Membership Resource Corner will be created in the CIFA website to promote transdisciplinary collaboration and partnership among organisations. Information, researches and initiatives related to families can be uploaded by member for sharing and joint effort with other member(s).
- b. An Archive on various subjects relating to family issues will be developed in the CIFA website to facilitate professional and information sharing among members.
- c. Members will enjoy special rate when registering for training activities and symposiums organised by CIFA.