



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region

Chairperson's Report (1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019)

Introduction

2019 is a significant year as CIFA steps into the second decade of its development. With the concerted efforts of the Council and CIFA members, as well as the full support from all fronts, including that from the United Nations, the foundation laid in the past decade has been consolidated, paving the way for further advancement of this regional platform.

The year has been a busy and exciting one, with a lot of activities going on throughout the year, including the preparatory work for the 6th Regional Symposium to be held in Taiwan in November 2020, the various programs and exciting development on the front of the Wofoo 3A Project, the unfailing efforts to organize fund raising events, the continuous involvement of seven countries/regions in conducting cross country studies, updating and fine tuning the membership system, the relocation of the Secretariat office and attendance at the 2nd Asian Family Conference in Singapore to strengthen ties with the Ministry of Social and Family, non-governmental organizations and tertiary institutes. The last but not the least, the submission of application for consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

This is also the year when new Council members, office bearers and committee members are elected/appointed during the Annual General Meeting and Council meeting held in June, introducing new faces to the governing body of CIFA. With understanding, dedication and close collaboration, all 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.

The work of CIFA in the year has to be seen against the backdrop of the social unrest in Hong Kong since June and the unprecedented attack of Covid19, the pandemic that has affected the whole world since December. Many of the activities of CIFA have to be cancelled or postponed, despite a lot of efforts have been made to plan and organize them. Nevertheless, the high team spirit has been sustained, discussion and preparatory work continued through zoom meetings, thanks to the advancement in technology!

Corporate Governance

The Council

As this is the election year, apart from the serving Council members who have been re-elected, two new Council members, namely Ms. Phoebe Wan of Wofoo Social Enterprises (replacing Ms. Maggie Lo) and Ms. Alice Wan of Aberdeen Kai-Fong Association have been elected during the Annual General Meeting held on 14th June. In the Council meeting immediately held after the AGM, four co-opted members, including Mr. Lai Chi Tong, Dr. Miranda Chung, Ms. Tabitha Ho and Mr. Kwok Wai Keung have been appointed. During the said meeting, the office bearers and chairmen of various committees have been elected, the full list of which is available at <http://www.cifa-net.org>.

We are most thankful to Ms. Elsie Leung, Ms. May Tsui and Mr. Edwin Chiu, who have kindly agreed respectively to be our Hon. Advisor, Hon. Legal Advisor and Hon. Auditor. Their timely and unfailing support and sharing of wisdom/advice on many important issues are much appreciated.

As mentioned above, with high team spirit and close collaboration, the Council has 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 organizations, 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.

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-organize the Exchange Programme 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, the funding bodies are very satisfied with the deliverables and financial management of the various activities.

On the front of fund raising, CIFA has successfully organized the Charity Concert for Family Well-Being in April, receiving a total of \$560,000, breaking the record of all the previous fund-raising concerts. This is made possible by the concerted efforts of the Publicity & Fund-Raising Committee (P&FR Com) under the leadership of Mr. Lai Chi Tong.

With the relocation of the Secretariat from Tsan Yuk Hospital (TYH) the recurrent expense on rental has increased by eight times when compared to that charged by TYH, although it is already a 50% discount of the normal rental charged by WSE on other occupants in the building. We are thankful to Dr. Joseph Lee, President of WSE

for his kind consideration on our financial situation and his generous support in charging a concessionary rate so as to make it easier for CIFA to make both ends meet.

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 Mr. Lai, who has served as the Hon. Treasurer and chairman of the P&FR Com for all these years, and has stepped down to allow new blood to take over these important posts. I am also thankful to Mr. Edwin Chiu, Hon. Auditor for his input, together with that from Mr. Lai, in looking after the financial well-being 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

In the past year, the Membership Committee (MC) has put in a lot of efforts in fine tuning the CIFA membership system, updating membership data and following up on membership renewal. To promote the sharing of CIFA members' expertise, a Members Resource Information Sheet has been designed to capture the service areas and expertise of Full and Associate Members. These information will be uploaded to a new Resource Sharing Corner in the CIFA website which can be accessed by CIFA members. A search engine will be installed in the Resource Sharing Corner to facilitate easy access to information. The Resource Sharing Corner is in the process of construction and will be made available in the last quarter of 2020.

As at December 2019, there were 88 Full Members and 49 Associate Members, coming from 8 countries/regions in Asia. The MC will continue to keep in touch with members through our website, our quarterly newsletter CIFA-NET. The MC has also appealed to the Vice Chairpersons responsible for various regions to introduce the work of CIFA with the view to get more individuals and organizations to register as CIFA members. The MC very much looks forward to renewing the acquaintance with all CIFA members as well as introducing CIFA to many more new interested parties and individuals on various membership drive occasions, including the upcoming 6th Regional Symposium in Taiwan.

Preparation for 6th Regional Symposium in Taiwan 2020

To initiate preparatory work for the 6th Regional Symposium in Taiwan as announced during the Closing Ceremony of the Asian Family Summit, I led a team comprising 7 Council/Committee members to conduct a site visit to the National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei to meet representatives of co-organizers and inspect the accommodation and venues recommended for the Symposium. The team also took the opportunity to visit 3 interesting and innovative service units and do some sight-seeing during the visit. With the very efficient and detailed arrangements made

before the visit, and the warm hospitality of the Taiwan team headed by Prof Joyce Feng, it turned out to a very fruitful and memorable one.

During the Preparatory Meeting held on 25 February at NTU, agreement was reached on the dates, theme, program, venues, and registration fees etc. which were later submitted to the CIFA Council for consideration. The Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee were subsequently formed to work out further details of the Symposium. With the endorsement given by CIFA Council and continuous close dialogue between the Taiwan team and CIFA Council and Secretariat, actions had been taken to invite keynote and plenary speakers, identify pre-symposium agency visits and workshop trainers etc. Detailed information of the Regional Symposium have been uploaded onto the respective websites of CIFA and NTU in October with updates from time to time, to invite potential participants to register online, and call for submission of abstracts for presentation.

Through the efforts and connection of Prof. Joyce Feng, we are pleased to have the agreement from the Editorial Board of the International Journal on Social Welfare to set aside a special issue for the papers to be presented at the Symposium. It is indeed a recognition of the work of CIFA and another example that we have reached another height in our development.

Due to the onset of Covid-19 in December, and the declaration by World Health Organization of the pandemic throughout the world, the CIFA Council has endorsed the recommendation of the Organizing Committee on contingency plans and a decision will be made in August 2020 as to whether the Symposium will take place as originally planned in November 2020 , or postponed to 2021. Despite this uncertainty, preparatory work continued.



CIFA team at the International Conference Hall, GIS NTU Convention Centre, NTU

CIFA team at the Songshan Parent-Child Centre (松山親子館) operated by Child Welfare League Foundation (CWLF)





Prof. Joyce Feng, Dr. Agnes Ng, Dr. Miranda Chung, Mr. Lai and Mr. Moses Mui holding OC meeting in HK.

Wofoo 3A Project

Since its commencement in 2010, the Wofoo 3A project has become a regular and signature activity of CIFA, providing the platform to give recognition to outstanding projects that have advanced an innovative idea, model or paradigm that improves the quality of life and enhances family well-being, while at the same time giving a chance for exchange of valuable knowledge and experiences among professional groups and sustaining the momentum of innovation and knowledge transfer among different countries/places in achieving its mission of “Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-being” in the Asian Region. Wofoo 3A Project plays an important leading role in coordinating multi-disciplinary sectors to promote family work not only in Asia Region, but also extended to international level as recognized by the United Nations. The following highlights significant developments of 3A Project during the year.



Prof. Daniel Shek, Mrs. Chu, Dr. Ng and representatives of 3 award winning teams of Wofoo 3A Project 2018 attending the radio programme

Development of Wofoo 3A Project

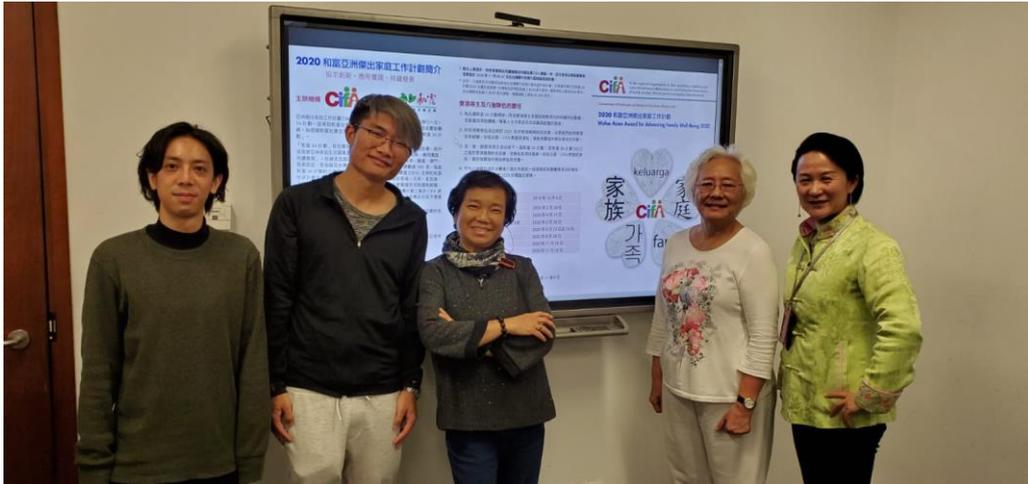
To build on the solid foundation that the Wofoo 3A Project has created thus far, efforts have been made to further expand the idea of From 3A to 4A (Alliance) as promulgated in 2018. With a view to strengthen the link among organizations that have participated in the Wofoo 3A Project, it is planned to 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. These ideas have been shared with the Research & Training Committee (R&T Com) and there is a consensus that 'mental health resilience' is a subject that deserves priority. It was also agreed that joint efforts be made with the R&T Com to create learning platform and opportunities for professionals on subjects such as Building Better Family Mental Health and Enhancing Mental Health Resilience of Children and Youth.

Study on Best Practices & Social Impact of Wofoo 3A Project

The 3A Committee has conducted a review on 3A Project, taking into consideration feedback from participating organizations, funders and the representatives from the United Nations who have witnessed the development of 3A Project, and decided in late 2018 to carry out a Study on Best Practices and Social Impact of Wofoo 3A Project by compiling, consolidating and analyzing related data of projects as well as the overall initiative.

With the collaboration of Dr. Vivian Lou and her team at the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of The University of Hong Kong, the 3A Committee has been working out the framework and methodology to conduct the study. Apart from compiling and analyzing the data on the 40 finalist projects in the 5 rounds of competition since 2010, in-depth case study will be carried out on 4 projects to collect their views about the experience of participating in the competition, the impact of the specific project, as well as the overall impact of the Wofoo 3A Project as a whole.

In conducting the interviews, we have adopted the 6 key dimensions of the COMPASS (Source: <http://impactcompass.stanford.edu>) to measure impact. 4 projects involving 2 gold award winning teams from 2012 and 2018; and 2 outstanding award teams from 2010 and 2016 from various regions have been selected to undergo the in-depth interview to be conducted by the research team. Based on the data collected thus far, the preliminary results have been positive and there are encouraging messages on the various projects and 3A Project as a whole. The research team is in the process of preparing the report on the Study for the endorsement of the Council, and subsequently to be presented at the 6th Regional Symposium in November 2020. The research team also aims to publish a paper on the Study in an international journal to share the experience and wisdom gained through this regional initiative.



Dr. Vivian Lou and her team, Mrs. Chu and Dr. Agnes Ng at HKU after a meeting on the Study on Best Practices & Social Impact of Wofoo 3A Project

Exchange Programme of Wofoo 3A Project 2018 cum Launching of 3A Project 2020

Continuous efforts have been made to promote 3A Project and raise awareness on specific family issues, arrangements have been made for award-winning teams to attend a series of radio interviews when professionals and service recipients share their experience and feedback on the program, thus sustaining the momentum of the 3A Project.

Moreover, to follow the tradition of providing a platform for sharing after the competition, a proposal for funding to organize the Exchange Programme of Wofoo 3A Project 2018 cum Launching of 3A Project 2020 scheduled in December 2019 has been submitted to the Family Council. Approval of fund as well as to co-organize the event has been received from the Family Council. We are also pleased that a representative from Family Council will join us as one of the officiating guests at the Opening Ceremony. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the postponement of the activity to Feb. 2020, the activity has eventually been cancelled as all the overseas teams were unable to come and share their projects, while we also need to comply with the advice from the health authority on social distancing. Nevertheless, action on production of USB on Wofoo 3A Project 2018 has continued so that these will be distributed to the participating organizations, cooperating partners, stakeholders, and social organizations for sharing the information and valuable experience of Wofoo 3A Project 2018.

Wofoo 3A Project 2020

Upon submitting the report on Wofoo 3A Project 2018 and a lunch meeting with Dr. Joseph Lee, President of WSE to brief him on exciting development of 3A Project, a new proposal to organize Wofoo 3A Project 2020 has been submitted and approved by WSE, giving a generous sponsorship of \$440,000. This is a very encouraging sign to CIFA as it is a recognition and appreciation for our efforts in sustaining this regional initiative for the 6th time and bringing to another height. The same theme of

Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation & Applicability (ASIA) is adopted for continuity. The Adjudication Panel involving representative from WSE, academics and professionals in the family field from various parts of the region has been formed and we are thankful for their input to maintain the high standard and credibility of the competition.

Although originally it was planned to combine the Exchange Programme of Wofoo 3A Project 2018 with the Launching of Wofoo 3A Project 2020 as mentioned above, the 3A Committee eventually has decided to organize the Launching separately on 6th December, 2019. On the occasion, we are thankful to Ms. Phoebe Wan, representative of WSE, the Title Sponsor and representatives from 2 winning teams to share their thoughts in participating in this meaningful competition. Over 30 participants have joined the event and given very positive feedback and already indicated interest to submit projects to this new round of competition.

The Final Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony of all the previous 3A Projects have always been a highlight of CIFA Regional Symposiums. However, as mentioned above, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the CIFA Council has been watching the development and will decide in August 2020 whether the 6th Regional Symposium be continued as originally planned in November 2020, or rescheduled to 2021. Any change of the timing of the Symposium will affect the adjudication process of the Wofoo 3A Project 2020. An announcement on this arrangement has been made to inform all concerned parties.



Representative from AKA shared her experience at the Launching Ceremony of Wofoo 3A Project 2020

Publicity and Fund-raising

During the year, the Publicity & Fund-Raising Committee (P&FR Com) mainly focused on the biennial signature fund-raising concert. With the staunch support and enthusiastic involvement from all quarters and supporters, the Charity Concert For Family Harmony (愛樂·愛家·共譜和諧慈善音樂會) held on 16 April 2019 has been a great success, raising a record high of over HK\$560,000 which was above our target and breaking the record of funds raised through this nature of event. The Charity Concert was co-organized with the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra in the Hong Kong

Cultural Centre, being the fifth time of collaboration. The audience had enjoyed the wonderful musical performance by the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra, Dr. David Fang, Dr. Michelle Tsui, as well as Ms. Colleen Lee, all renowned performers in Hong Kong. We were honored that Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations had kindly written a message for the Programme Brochure of the Concert while Dr. Law Chi-kwong, Secretary for Labor and Welfare of the HKSAR came to officiate at the Opening Ceremony of the Concert. We were very encouraged that over 1500 audience had attended the Concert.

In producing the Programme Brochure of the Concert, other than Ah Chung, Ven Chang Lim, Mr. Wong Ying Kit and Ms. Sui May who had contributed their art pieces to enhance the content of the Brochure, we have attempted to insert several art pieces contributed by social service recipients, sharing their experience and insights through different art forms in the Brochure, adding much color and substance to the Brochure, and making it more attractive and treasured by the audience.

Dr. Michelle Tsui and Dr. David Fang's duet performance at the Charity Concert



Dr. Law Chi-kwong as GOH at the Opening Ceremony of the Charity Concert

Apart from the Charity Concert, the Committee had started to plan for the "Walk For Family Well-Being 2020" originally to be held in March 2020 with the objectives of raising awareness and promote the importance of family well-being; providing an opportunity for members, supporters and their families to enjoy a relaxing walk and beautiful scenery of the country side along the Wong Nai Chung Tree Walk, and also to raise funds for CIFA. Attractive activities including warm up exercises, family fun programs, eco tour and family orienteering game etc have been planned. We were also thankful to Mr. Gordon Leung, the new Director of Social Welfare for agreeing to officiate at the kick off ceremony. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund-raising walk has eventually been cancelled.

Details of the Walk
 Name: Walk For Family Well-Being 2020
 Date: 22 March, 2020 (Sunday)
 Time: Registration: 9:00 am
 Kick off Ceremony: 10:00 am (to be officiated by Mr. Gordon LEUNG, JP, Director of Social Welfare)

Route of the Walk
 Starting Point:
 Hong Kong Girl Guides Association Sandilands Centre
 141 Wong Nai Chung Gap Road, Hong Kong

Via:
 Wong Nai Chung Tree Walk

Finishing Point:
 Mount Butler Road (near Henderson Road)
 (Public Inspection near Mount Butler Road)
 Bus: 22
 MTR bus: 248, 248F
 (Public Inspection at Aviclon Road Post Office)
 Bus: 22, 41A, 63
 MTR bus: 248, 248F

Length of route: 1.5 km
 Time needed: about 40 minutes
 Hiking condition: suitable for families, including children and seniors

Activities
 Apart from the Walk, other related activities will be organised including:
 - At start point: Warm-up exercises, family fun activities and live performance
 - Along Wong Nai Chung Tree Walk: Eco-tour and family orienteering game
 - Finishing point: Family photo and souvenir

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Information sheet on the Walk for Family Well-Being

Research & Training

It is gratifying to note that a paper on “Exploratory Study on Relationship Between Family Functioning, Demographics and Individual Well-Being in East Asia” developed from findings of the CIFA Cross country study on Family Happiness and Family Functioning has been accepted and published in the Hong Kong Journal of Social Work.

Throughout the year, the Research & Training Committee has endeavored in launching the CIFA Cross-Regional Study and planning for two professional training workshops for family professionals as detailed below.

CIFA Cross-Regional Study: “Mental Health and Coping Styles of Adult Caregivers of Frail Elderly in East Asian Societies”

In view of the burning issues of ageing population and the concern over the mental health of adult care-givers in coping with this challenge in Asia, the R&T Com has chosen “Mental Health & Coping Styles of Adult Caregivers of Frail Elderly in East Asian Societies” as the theme for a Cross Regional Study to be conducted by CIFA. Representatives from 7 regions/countries, including Dr. Miranda Chung (Hong Kong), Dr. Herman Lo (Hong Kong), Mr. Moses Mui (Hong Kong), Prof. Kim Yeong Hee (Korea), Dr. Machiko Ohara (Japan), Prof. Zhu Meihua (China), Mr. Wong Kwong Sing (China), Ms. Bawany Chinapan (Malaysia), , Dr. Peace Wong (Singapore) and Prof. Joyce Feng (Taiwan) have joined the research team.

The Study proposal has been endorsed by the Council and launched since November. Unfortunately, the Study has encountered unprecedented social and political crisis in Hong Kong and the horrifying global attack by the COVID 19 pandemic in the subsequent months, affecting the collection of data. While the team members are concerned about the difficulties in getting potential interviewees, all of them are excited and dedicated to complete the Study as far as possible. Meanwhile, the Committee has been watching the situation closely and trying to find innovative ways to contact potential interviewees so as to collect data for compilation and analysis.

The Committee still hopes to complete the Study if circumstances permit, with a view to presenting the preliminary findings at the 6th Regional Symposium in November if it is to be organized as originally scheduled.

Training Workshops

Originally two training workshops on family well-being and family therapy have been planned, to be conducted by Prof. Ohara Machiko (Japan) and Ms. Bawany Chinapan (Malaysia) in the summer of 2019. Due to the unstable social situation in Hong Kong, the two workshops have been cancelled.

Attendance at 2nd Asian Family Conference in Singapore

Since the Inauguration of CIFA in 2008, Singapore has been a staunch supporter to the work of CIFA. We have been maintaining close relationship with personnel from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) National Council of Social Services (NCSS), National University of Singapore (NUS) and various social service organizations in the NGO sector.

To further strengthen the tie, CIFA is honored to have been invited to join the 2nd Asian Family Conference and Round Table Meetings in November. hosted by the MSF, with the theme of “Parenting For Stronger Families: Challenges and Opportunities”. 3 Council members and 2 representatives from the NTU Children and Family Research Centre (co-host of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium) joined this exciting conference.

The conference has provided an excellent opportunity for CIFA to reconnect with old acquaintances and establish new contacts, as well as to promote the latest development and upcoming events of CIFA. We find the presentations informative and enlightening especially the sharing of evidence-based findings, collected through vigorous researches and longitudinal studies. We find the experience to be very rewarding and fruitful.

In return for the hospitality showered upon me by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for a private dinner attended by speakers and officials, CIFA has hosted a dinner for representatives from the Ministry, NUS and speakers. While enjoying good food and company, we also took the opportunity to explore the idea of Singapore co-hosting the 7th CIFA Regional Symposium in 2022. Subsequently, NUS and MSF will be submitting a bid to co-host the said symposium in Singapore to the CIFA Council for consideration.

CIFA representatives who have joined the Conference are deeply impressed and have shared their feedback and thoughts on attending the Conference. We are also most thankful to the Ministry for providing a very informative piece on the Conference, sharing the keynote and panel presentations on Parenting, and new initiatives on parenting programs advocated and supported by the Ministry, providing much food for thought for readers. These pieces have been featured respectively in the 27th and 28th issue of CIFA-NET which can also be found in the CIFA website.



Council members and representatives from NTU Children and Family Research Centre at the 2nd Asian Family Conference

CIFA WEP and CIFA-NET

As demonstrated above, both the CIFA website and newsletter continued to serve the purpose of providing information on the work of CIFA, sharing its development and activities. These include reports on CIFA activities and its member organizations, abstracts of papers by academics and professionals which have been presented at the Asian Family Summit and Regional Symposiums, sharing of experience of 3A Projects etc, 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 has 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. Moreover, in response to the recommendation from the MC, the WEP Development Committee is planning to introduce a membership corner in the CIFA website so as to make it more convenient for members to update their information for sharing. Action is in hand to invite tenders from the vendors to implement the project.

Submission of Application to ECOSOC for Consultative Status

To follow up on the advice given by Ms. Elsie Leung, our Hon. Advisor, and to further strengthen the tie with the international community, the Council has given the green light to proceed with the application for Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the Focal Point on Family of the United Nations has pledged support and assistance in the application process. Although the process is time consuming and tedious, involving

legal and other issues, however, with much input from all, especially Moses Mui, the Hon. Secretary, Ms. May Tsui, Hon Legal Advisor and the CIFA Secretariat, we have been able to submit the application before the deadline on 30th May with a copy forwarded to Mrs. Kaczmarek for her reference and assistance. After much to and fro communication and clarification with the vetting unit regarding the terminology to be adopted in the application form, I am glad that we have eventually completed the application process. We have received assuring message from Renata that she had touched base with the vetting unit at the NGO Branch, and advised that things are in order. We understand that the vetting procedure will take about a year to complete.

Relocation of office

In order to vacate the premises in Tsan Yuk Hospital to make way for the decanting of units from the Queen Mary Hospital for its redevelopment, the Secretariat office has to be relocated elsewhere. Actions have been taken to identify alternative accommodation. With kind assistance and support from WSE, an office has been identified in the Wofoo Commercial Building in Mongkok, Kowloon, with a concessionary rate of \$4000 per month, which is a 50% reduction from the normal rental charged. Upon the signing of lease agreement, with input from Ms. May Tsui, active steps have been taken to facilitate the removal, including minor fitting work, installation of telephone lines and setting up of internet access, actual removal from Tsan Yuk Hospital and notice to all concerned parties of the change. Starting from November, CIFA has been operating in the new office, with much support from WSE, including the use of meeting facilities and loan of some furniture for free.

Conclusion

The year has been a very busy and challenging, yet fulfilling one, in the midst of the social unrest in Hong Kong since June and then the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic all over the world at the end of the year. Despite all the uncertainties and worries, CIFA has managed 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 as demonstrated 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.

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 tread 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. I am sure this unprecedented challenge and experience will stimulate our thoughts and guide us to adopt innovative and effective

ways in our collaborative endeavors to promote family well-being. These will probably form the basis for our forthcoming deliberation on family work in the Asian Region and beyond.

Patricia CHU
Chairperson
CIFA

12 June 2020