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In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the IYF

CONVERGING PROFESSIONAL WISDOM for FAMILY WELL-BEING



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Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being – In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the IYF



Foreword

2014 marks the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF). It offers an opportunity for all to reflect on the role of families in social development, review challenges faced by families worldwide, take stock of recent policy changes, share good practices and recommend solutions. It also has a special meaning to me as I reflect upon my journey in the past two decades as a professional social worker, civil servant and volunteer, in the development of family work.

Twenty-one years ago, in preparation for the IYF in 1994 as declared by the United Nations, I attended the World NGO Forum in Malta representing the Social Welfare Department of Hong Kong. At the same time, I co-chaired the Hong Kong Coordinating Committee on IYF, which was awarded as a Designated IYF Patron for exemplary support to the UN Program, to plan strategies and co-ordinate efforts to celebrate this global event. Throughout 1994 and thereafter, concerted efforts were made amongst the public, academic, professional, religious and NGO sectors in Hong Kong to publicize the theme “Family & Community: Unity, Harmony, Development”, organizing related district and territory-wide activities celebrating IYF and the International Day of Families on 15th May of each year.

In work and volunteer capacities, I have continuously dedicated myself to advocate the importance of family, review policies and practices to ensure that they keep pace with emerging family needs. I am proud to have been a part of the progress made in Hong Kong and the Asian region, particularly through the formation of the Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA), a regional platform inaugurated in 2008 to promote family well-being, serving as its Chairperson since inception.

To echo the call of the United Nations, CIFA would like to take the opportunity to share our experience with the rest of the world. In this commemorative publication, an overview of this regional platform, its philosophy, formation, development, major activities, challenges and achievements is given. Apart from show-casing our work, sharing the struggles and fulfillment by those involved in CIFA's growth, we also aim to appeal for more support, participation and collaboration to promote family well-being in Asia and at the international level.

I would like to thank all who have taken part in the development of CIFA, assisted to create the momentum and shared the joy and satisfaction of its growth. The contributions in this publication bear witness to a common vision, commitment, and comradeship in the on-going and challenging journey of “Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being”.

Mrs. Patricia P.Y. CHU
Chairperson, CIFA



Mrs. Patricia P.Y. CHU

Endorsements



Ms. Bee-Lian ANG
Director of Social Welfare,
Singapore

CIFA has, since its inception, garnered the sharing of views and practices to help institutes that research and support the institution of family to be relevant and responsive. Its activities and advocacy work has enabled organizations with the same mission to be more connected, and to co-operate in sharing fresh initiatives and policy insights to become a region that is in touch with how families in Asia are developing and adapting to the global and fast changing environment. Good research and the application of evaluative thinking will take us deeper into the evolving changes within families such as in values and functioning. This in turn will enable policies, programmes and services to consequentially adapt or be designed to support and preserve the integrity of the family as an institution that will continue to be a place of solace, comfort and be able to care for vulnerable family members.



Prof. Daniel T.L. SHEK
Chairman, Family Council, HKSAR
Chair Professor, Hong Kong
Polytechnic University

I wish to congratulate CIFA for publishing this book entitled “*Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being*”, which is a significant illustration of CIFA as a regional platform to allow family practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to come together for exchange on family issues in the Asian cultural context. Although well-being and quality of life are hot topics in the social science literature, few studies have been conducted to examine these, especially in Asia. Hence, the sharing of experience in conducting cross-country studies in Asia by CIFA in an attempt to fill the gap is applauded and encouraged. While professional wisdom plays an important role in guiding family practice and research, the 3A Project initiated by CIFA also sets an excellent example of how related knowledge and experience can be systematically accumulated, shared, documented and applied.

I am particularly impressed by the slogan design adopted by CIFA. By using colour pencils converging at the centre point, it depicts two elements of “returning to the basics”. That is, the concept of family well-being as the foundation of a harmonious society; and the use of the pencil, a basic writing and drawing tool for documentation of research and related work. I believe these are the fundamental principles to guide the efforts of different stakeholders to achieve the objectives of CIFA.

I have my full endorsement for CIFA's work and would strongly recommend this publication to all who are concerned about the family, summoning joint force with CIFA to advance family well-being in Asia and beyond.

2014 marks the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. I am delighted that the Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA) has issued this publication “*Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being*” to commemorate this occasion, with a view to advocating the importance of family, strengthening family functioning and promoting family health.

The fundamental principle of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's family policy is to recognize and promulgate that the family is the cornerstone of our society. The objective of our family policy is to enhance family harmony, with a view to building a harmonious community and alleviating social problems. Since its inception in 2008, the CIFA has been a sterling partner of the Family Council and the Home Affairs Bureau in cultivating a pro-family environment in Hong Kong.

Over the past six years, CIFA has organized a series of meaningful events, such as the Sharing Session on 3A Projects and the Regional Symposiums in 2008, 2010 and 2012, etc. These events not only provided a regional platform for professionals, academics and organizations in the public and private sectors to exchange and share experience and knowledge related to family issues, but also enhanced the collaboration between different stakeholders in further strengthening family functioning and promoting family health in our region.

I commend CIFA for its dedication and contribution to promoting family well-being. I wish CIFA every success in promoting family welfare throughout our region in the years to come.



Preserving the family as the basic social unit is the key to the well-being of a community. Harmonious families nurture healthy individuals and contribute to the development of a stable and prosperous society. They are also precious sources of encouragement and emotional support to individuals.

Since the Inauguration and Inaugural Symposium of CIFA in 2008, we have witnessed its strong dedication in promoting its mission of “Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being”. At a time when families are being re-shaped by the enormous social changes and new solutions to family issues are always called for, CIFA has been serving as a regional hub for networking and a platform for trans-disciplinary collaboration to strengthen family functioning and promote family health in the Asian region. I commend CIFA for their professionalism, dedication and untiring efforts in supporting and enhancing research and training initiatives, and sharing of clinical experiences and policy formulation on families that are unique in the region.

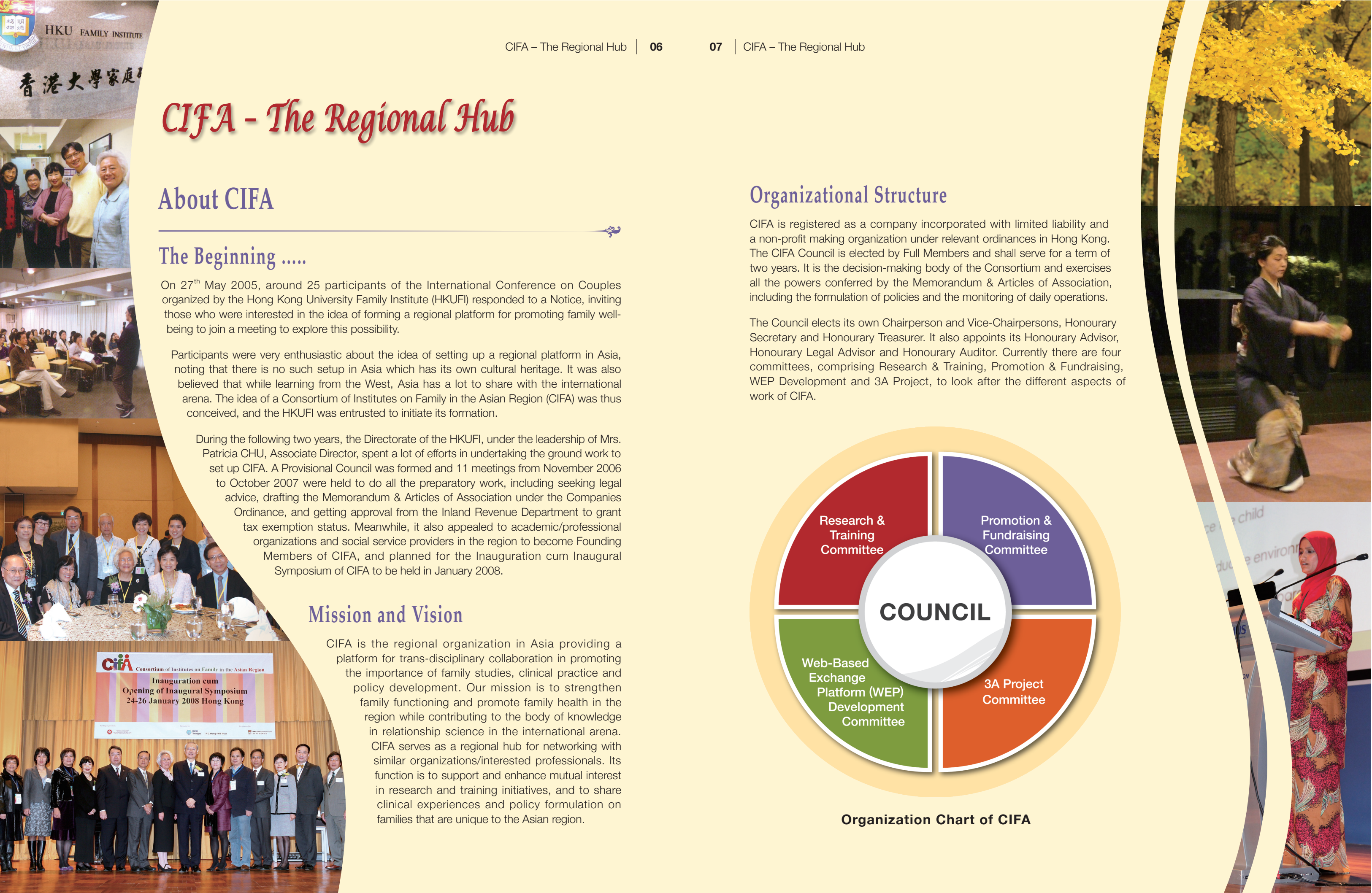
I congratulate CIFA on this commemorative publication which gives an overview on CIFA's dedication and major achievements throughout the past six years and wish every success in its future endeavours.



Ms. Florenece H.F. HUI
Under-Secretary,
Home Affairs Bureau, HKSAR



Ms. Carol M.K. YIP
Director of Social Welfare, HKSAR



CIFA - The Regional Hub

About CIFA

The Beginning

On 27th May 2005, around 25 participants of the International Conference on Couples organized by the Hong Kong University Family Institute (HKUFI) responded to a Notice, inviting those who were interested in the idea of forming a regional platform for promoting family well-being to join a meeting to explore this possibility.

Participants were very enthusiastic about the idea of setting up a regional platform in Asia, noting that there is no such setup in Asia which has its own cultural heritage. It was also believed that while learning from the West, Asia has a lot to share with the international arena. The idea of a Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA) was thus conceived, and the HKUFI was entrusted to initiate its formation.

During the following two years, the Directorate of the HKUFI, under the leadership of Mrs. Patricia CHU, Associate Director, spent a lot of efforts in undertaking the ground work to set up CIFA. A Provisional Council was formed and 11 meetings from November 2006 to October 2007 were held to do all the preparatory work, including seeking legal advice, drafting the Memorandum & Articles of Association under the Companies Ordinance, and getting approval from the Inland Revenue Department to grant tax exemption status. Meanwhile, it also appealed to academic/professional organizations and social service providers in the region to become Founding Members of CIFA, and planned for the Inauguration cum Inaugural Symposium of CIFA to be held in January 2008.

Mission and Vision

CIFA is the regional organization in Asia providing a platform for trans-disciplinary collaboration in promoting the importance of family studies, clinical practice and policy development. Our mission is to strengthen family functioning and promote family health in the region while contributing to the body of knowledge in relationship science in the international arena. CIFA serves as a regional hub for networking with similar organizations/interested professionals. Its function is to support and enhance mutual interest in research and training initiatives, and to share clinical experiences and policy formulation on families that are unique to the Asian region.

Organizational Structure

CIFA is registered as a company incorporated with limited liability and a non-profit making organization under relevant ordinances in Hong Kong. The CIFA Council is elected by Full Members and shall serve for a term of two years. It is the decision-making body of the Consortium and exercises all the powers conferred by the Memorandum & Articles of Association, including the formulation of policies and the monitoring of daily operations.

The Council elects its own Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, Honourary Secretary and Honourary Treasurer. It also appoints its Honourary Advisor, Honourary Legal Advisor and Honourary Auditor. Currently there are four committees, comprising Research & Training, Promotion & Fundraising, WEP Development and 3A Project, to look after the different aspects of work of CIFA.



Organization Chart of CIFA

Activity Highlights

Throughout the past six years, CIFA has organized various activities, including Regional Symposiums and training activities, Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A) Project, cross-country studies, as well as promotional and fundraising initiatives. To facilitate sharing and exchange, CIFA also developed the Web-Based Exchange Platform (WEP) and issued newsletters for distribution.

In celebration of the 5th Anniversary of CIFA, a series of activities was organized in June 2013 with Council members and professionals from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan coming to witness this important and exciting milestone in the development of CIFA. Apart from the Charity Concert for Family Harmony, Exchange Programme on 3A Projects, three significant activities namely the Visits to Family Council and Social Welfare Department, CIFA Council Retreat and the Anniversary Dinner marked the highlight of the celebration. These efforts laid a solid foundation for CIFA to charge forward and also set the scene for collaboration with strategic partners in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014.

Impact Created

Through the concerted efforts in organizing activities with support from many quarters, CIFA is growing steadily and beginning to consolidate as a regional platform in promoting family well-being in Asia. CIFA is pleased to witness the growing involvement of member organizations and significant others in these activities, as confirmed by the increasing number of participants and countries represented in Regional Symposiums, the number of papers presented, the rising number of entries for the 3A Project, and the organization of the Family Summit in 2014 jointly with the Family Council, Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, etc., building up the momentum and creating the synergy for further collaboration and exchange.

Logo and Slogan Design

With pro-bono services rendered by the Beta Design Limited and the input from members of the Provisional Council, the design of the logo evolved, incorporating the ASIA concept, FAMILY concept, and CIFA Letter concept. Much discussion was also made regarding the corporate colours to be adopted, resulting in the current logo endorsed for all CIFA publications and events.



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region Ltd.

- The logo graphics imply a Set in Motion, a Move Forward.
- The logo graphics also imply a Close Link and Support among different realms.
- The Consortium is significant because it helps to deliver this sunshine message of Healthy Family, which is ultimately beneficial to our Next Generations.
- Hue / Palette portrays a happy, healthy, joyful, optimistic, constructive attitude.
- Hue carries a message of sunshine.

Different colours in logo graphics symbolize Components from Different Realms. The Consortium is a collaboration of four major areas:

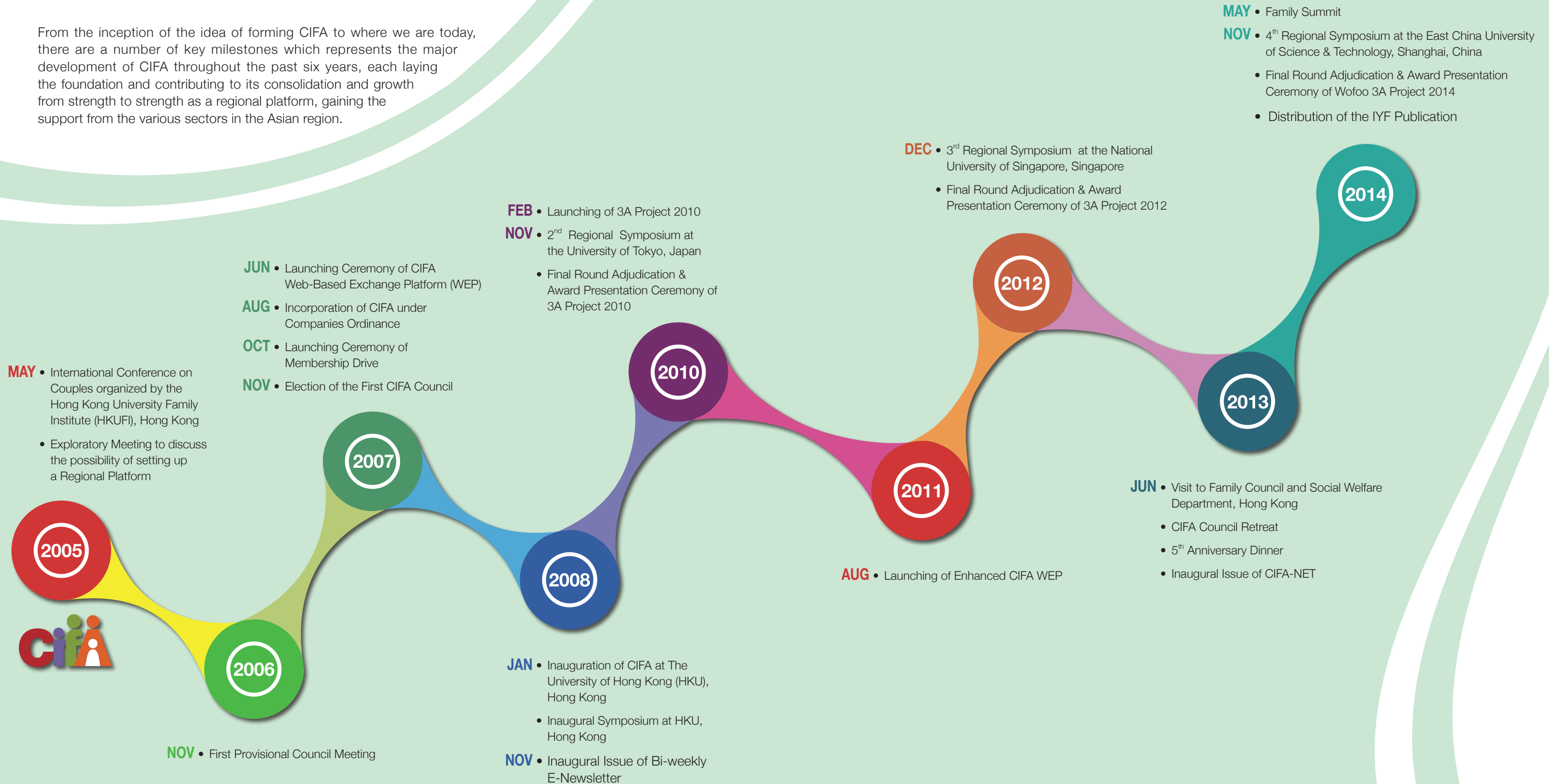


At the same time, the Provisional Council also adopted **“Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being”** as the slogan to reflect the mission of CIFA in advancing family health. A special design showing several colour pencils meeting at the centre, depicted the message of common mission and collaboration by different stakeholders in various sectors. The design has, since then, been used on the promotional leaflets of CIFA, and adapted for the cover of this publication.



Milestones

From the inception of the idea of forming CIFA to where we are today, there are a number of key milestones which represents the major development of CIFA throughout the past six years, each laying the foundation and contributing to its consolidation and growth from strength to strength as a regional platform, gaining the support from the various sectors in the Asian region.





Mrs. Justina M.Y. LEUNG

Council Member
Subscribers in the Incorporation of CIFA
representing The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

Family is important to everybody and to the society. In concomitant with the ever-changing society, family is facing increasing issues and challenges. Being the helping professionals from different disciplines, we always concern about the well-being of family and strive hard to work at various levels in examining and tackling the problems, providing services, advocating for policy changes and formulations.

The cities in the Asian Region are relatively close in proximity. Similarities with each other yet great diversities in ethnicity, culture, belief, social institutions, etc. are witnessed. Asian families come across some common problems, share some similar social phenomena but hold some different values and acquire diversified life styles. CIFA provides a very good platform to facilitate sharing, dialogue and collaboration of the professional communities working for family. It enhances mutual inspiration and collective wisdom in the development of research, practice and training of the participating cities as well as at regional level. It is very encouraging to see the growth and contribution of CIFA in the past years with the concerted efforts of colleagues from different parts of the Region. The participation of CIFA in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family is a most meaningful fulfillment of its mission.

Dr. Wai-Sheng NG

Founding Member
Member of the First CIFA Council
representing HELP University, Malaysia

I fondly remember the first time I “met” CIFA... It was 2007, at the World Mental Health Congress in Hong Kong, I was drawn to a message on the notice board, calling for those interested in family work in the Asian region... Not knowing anyone at the meeting place, I was greeted by the warm and passionate Agnes Ng! (Haha...Talk about same-surname attraction!) And as we talked further, Agnes told me her husband is from Malaysia, and a clinical psychologist too like me!! (Jeng jeng.... More similarities attract!) Through Agnes, I got to know Mrs. Patricia Chu, the Chairperson, and many others who were coming together to help the formation of CIFA. I walked away from the meeting that day feeling the synergy of this group of passionate people championing a cause that I share deeply with.

How I became one of the Council Members of CIFA (2008-2011), being the youngest and least experience of all, remains a mystery to me! I was only grateful to be a part of a great cause for families, and for the Asian region. Since CIFA's inauguration in 2008, I have the privilege to witness its growth and evolvement. But one thing that stood out to me is CIFA's capacity to bond diverse people together. Having attended many other professional conferences, I will say that attending CIFA Regional Symposium every two years has a special meaning to me: It's about coming home, being embraced by like-minded old friends from different parts of the world, being inspired by new ideas, being challenged and supported by each other.

And so, what does CIFA mean to me? It's none other but FRIENDSHIP and COMMUNITY...

Prof. John P. BURNS

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
The University of Hong Kong

CIFA was set up under the auspices of the then HKU Family Institute of the Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong in 2008. The Faculty highly values family studies using an inter-disciplinary approach, acknowledging that families are embedded in a changing environment that includes the pressures of globalization, income disparities, mobility issues, and attitudes toward marriage and parenthood. New solutions to family issues require the collaboration of many actors, including professional, academics and the community.

I am pleased to note that CIFA plays an important role by providing a regional platform for advocating the importance of the family, strengthening of the functions of the family, and promoting family health through multi-disciplinary collaborations. CIFA also brings together knowledge, experience and best practice from academics, professionals, and organizations in the public, private and NGO sectors in the region through research and symposiums.

I wish CIFA every success in its future endeavours as it seeks to strengthen and disseminate professional wisdom for family well-being in Hong Kong, the region, and more globally.



Echoes from the Asian Region

While the CIFA Council and Secretariat are based in Hong Kong where it was first incorporated, five Vice-Chairpersons have been elected to represent the various sub-regions in Asia, namely Mainland China, Japan, Korea, Singapore & Malaysia, and Taiwan to truly reflect the regional nature of the setup. Facing the challenges of geographical distance, heavy engagement in one's own professional and academic capacities, and different degrees of involvement and support due to other reasons, the CIFA Council has been successful overcoming these difficulties to meet and dialogue through modern information technology, travelling between different parts of the region to explore opportunities for collaboration, attending Regional Symposiums and other activities, and co-organizing training programmes. A majority of the Council members had managed, despite of their very busy schedules, to join the 5th Anniversary celebration of CIFA in Hong Kong in 2013. Their active participation at the Council Retreat to review the progress and map out strategies for the future of CIFA has fully demonstrated their heartiest commitment and strong sense of comradeship, with renewed and recharged energy for CIFA to move forward.



Prof. Song-Guo YI

Vice Chairperson, Mainland China
Professor, Department of Sociology, Shenzhen University

The great progress and achievement of CIFA has reaffirmed the critical importance of the family as a central unit of society. It plays an essential role not only in satisfying the emotional and physical needs of individuals but also in promoting the economic and social development. Although worldwide challenges in family problems are still fierce, like conflicts between husband and wife, generation gap between parents and children, and the rising divorce rate, I have witnessed the efforts and achievements of CIFA as a regional platform in this field. Scholars and professionals from different countries and regions in Asia get together for communication and collaboration in family research, policies and therapies. A series of forums and workshops have been run successfully to share the findings of research and experiences of services in marriage and family around Asia. This publication is a good showcase of CIFA's work.

I am deeply impressed by the enthusiasm, vitality, and efficiency of the Council Members of CIFA and feel greatly honoured to work with them. In the past years, we breathed together and grew together, and I have harvested so much. Seeing the development and contribution of CIFA in Mainland China, I am full of appreciation and mission. On this special occasion, I heartily felicitate CIFA and expect more opportunity to devote myself to its great cause in the future.



Prof. Song-Guo Yi



Dr. Shinichi NAKAMURA

Vice-Chairperson, Japan
Vice President, Japanese Association of Family Therapy

We at the Japanese Association of Family Therapy have a 30-year-old history of providing better mental health to families. Since the foundation of CIFA, we have also been committed to CIFA's activities which have broadened our reach to other Asian regions. It is a very stimulating evolution for our Japanese colleagues to be able to exchange ideas and experiences with other Asian regions, so we are very grateful to the setting up of CIFA. On this 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, we hope to continue to contribute to the advancement of family mental health throughout Asia and the world. We are very excited to be able to meet again in the 4th Regional Symposium of CIFA in Shanghai in November 2014. We strongly wish to have further and fruitful exchange in this meeting to promote family well-being in Asia.



Dr. Shinichi NAKAMURA

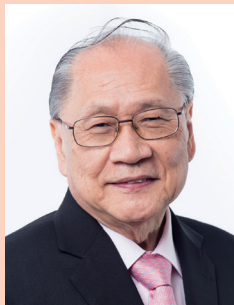


Prof. Yeong-Hee KIM

**Prof. Yeong-Hee KIM**

Vice-Chairperson, Korea
Professor, Chungbuk National University

Since I participated in the 3A Project of CIFA by submitting an entry on 3SEM (Smart, Smile & Sharing Eating Movement) Project in 2010, I have closely witnessed great efforts made by CIFA to advocate the importance of family, reinforce family functioning and promote family health in Asia as a regional platform. It has been my great pleasure of having an opportunity to learn the similarities and differences on family practices as well as interventions across different Asian countries. My other pleasure is to meet so many scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers involved in family work in the region every two years and during several CIFA events in Hong Kong. I am so impressed by the leadership of Mrs. Patricia Chu, the Chairperson. I have no doubt that she, together with the CIFA Council members, will bring all their plans to fruition with success. As a Vice-Chairperson, I have been trying to solicit more support and involvement by those in Korea. I hope CIFA will continue to play the vital role in bringing like-minded people, including professionals, academics, and those from the public, private and non-governmental organizations together so that professional wisdom can be converged for family well-being. Most importantly, with concerted efforts, we hope to involve more family policy-makers, and to create greater impact through researches/studies to provide the scientific evidence for the formulation of family policies of the Asian countries.



Dr. Ngak-Siang LEE

**Dr. Ngak-Siang LEE**

Vice-Chairperson, Singapore & Malaysia
Chief Executive Officer, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, Singapore

Twenty years ago, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (THKMS) celebrated the International Year of the Family by reinforcing the family as the building block of the Singapore society. We paid for the use of back panels of 100 buses plying the Singapore roads for six months, bringing messages honouring the family. The messages were conveyed through four languages (Chinese, Malay, Indian and English) to ensure the reach to the multi-racial, multi-religious Singapore society. Some of the messages conveyed to the community were:

“Family - Where True Love and Warmth Is”; “Treasure Your Spouse, Love Your Children”; and “Respect Your Sibling, Be Filial to Your Parents”.

THKMS is honoured to be a founding member of CIFA. Since 2008, CIFA has created an excellent platform, through its biennial regional symposiums, to connect professionals in sharing and learning the challenges and achievements in working with families in an ever-changing environment.

Twenty years on, despite an ever-changing world, we still hold true that “Family - (is) Where True Love and Warmth Is.” I wish everyone a happy family life, and it has been a very satisfying journeying with CIFA to promote professional wisdom for the well-being of families in Asia.



Prof. Joyce Y. FENG

**Prof. Joyce Y. FENG**

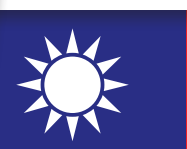
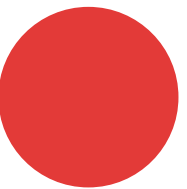
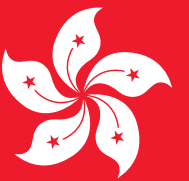
Vice-Chairperson, Taiwan
Minister-without-Portfolio,
Executive Yuan of R.O.C. (Taiwan)

Family value is regarded high in almost all Asian societies. CIFA has been established as a regional platform to support professionals, academics and organizations in promoting family health cross the region. It gets together family related professionals from different societies to share experiences, exchange ideas and programme innovations.

Being a Vice-Chairperson of CIFA, and the President of the Child Welfare League Foundation in Taiwan, I have had the privilege of co-organizing training activities and participating in cross-country study that provide good opportunities for family related workers to share professional expertise with their counterparts in other countries. Participation of the 3A Project also brought about a “bench-marking” movement in my Foundation by means of the best practice election among our own projects. The unique feature of the follow-up Exchange Workshop and service sites visiting were so exciting that created further impact. More organization/institutes joined CIFA and its activities, and the National Taiwan University Children & Family Research Center is one.

We collaborated with CIFA to host an International Conference and Workshop on “Right of Children” in November 2013 to start celebrating the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in Taiwan. All participants were very satisfied with the Conference, impressed by the capacity and advocating power of CIFA.

This publication recording the growth and achievements of CIFA from the past six years would provide valuable information to related professionals in this region, and other parts of the world.



Major Work of CIFA



Networking among Members in the Region

As a regional hub, the major function of CIFA is to provide a platform for networking and exchange among interested professionals and organizations in the region. The role of CIFA in steering, facilitating, coordinating, motivating and development are actualized through various channels and activities.

The CIFA Council, comprising members from different countries/regions of Asia, meets very regularly through video conferencing to steer its functions. Respective Committees also communicate and discuss via teleconferences, emails and modern technologies to carry out their work. Through such, decisions are made, researches planned, training activities promoted and new initiatives materialized. With an established web platform, information is disseminated and updated, knowledge shared, and exchanges facilitated to support enhancement of family well-being. In the past years, CIFA has been successful in organizing biennial Regional Symposiums rostering among different Asian regions, hosting competitions to allow for sharing of practice experiences, coordinating cross-country researches, and stimulating wisdom connections through the issuing of newsletters.

Apart from the above, continuous efforts have been made to establish dialogue with local, regional and international organizations to become co-organizers or supporting organizations in various conferences/forums such as the International Conference on Social Work in 2010, the International Conference on Rights of Children in 2013 and the Family Summit in 2014. During these occasions, members of CIFA served as speakers to share research findings and good practices, promote the work of CIFA and appeal for support. The presence in these activities has heightened the profile, increasing recognition and involvement.

In planning for the Regional Symposiums, Council members have travelled to Japan, Singapore and China to meet co-organizers to work out details such as format of collaboration, formation of Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee, framework of programmes, and inspect symposium venues. Opportunities were also taken during these trips to visit local agencies working with families to better understand the specific needs and service characteristics of the community. These have proven to be valuable endeavours, establishing linkage and appealing them to become CIFA members.

CIFA has also been effective in building up positive relationship with governmental organizations, professional bodies, academic institutes and NGOs, such as the Family Council, Home Affairs Bureau and the Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR administration, Ministry of Social and Family Development of the Singapore government, Japan Association of Family Therapy, The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Tokyo, the National University of Singapore, the East China University of Science and Technology, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the National Council of Social Services of Singapore, etc. These endorsement and recognition enhance the work of CIFA, for example in boosting up participation in Regional Symposiums, submission of entries for the 3A Project as well as providing funding support for CIFA activities.

The celebration of the 5th Anniversary of CIFA in 2013 evidenced a new height of CIFA's networking function. Council members and professionals from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan joined the series of activities and witnessed such important and exciting milestone in CIFA's development. Among various activities, the Anniversary Dinner particularly, provided much opportunity for interaction and consolidation of comradeship. The Council Retreat was fruitful in reflecting our strengths in terms of expertise, experience, branding, connections and resources, reviewing progress, affirming mission, and mapping out strategies for future advancement. The CIFA Council was very enthusiastic and excited about the exercise, with renewed team spirit and energy for heading forward.



Inaugural & Regional Symposiums

CIFA, in collaboration with its member organizations from various Asian countries, organizes regular Regional Symposiums on a biennial basis. It aims to provide a regional platform for family practitioners, researchers and policy-makers from various backgrounds to get together and share their experiences, innovations and evidence-based research findings. The Symposiums are conducted in a rich cross-cultural context and respond timely to the current challenges faced by Asian families. The Inaugural and subsequent Regional Symposiums were held in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore respectively and the 4th one is to be held in Shanghai this year.

Inaugural Symposium in Hong Kong, 2008

The Inaugural Symposium on “Families in Asia: Challenges & Opportunities”, co-organized with the Hong Kong University Family Institute (HKUFI), was held between 24th and 26th January 2008 at The University of Hong Kong. It was preceded by the CIFA Inauguration Ceremony officiated by the Acting Chief Secretary of the HKSAR, who delivered an address and witnessed the signing of the Inaugural document. The Symposium had attracted over 40 speakers and 300 participants from eight countries to share their experiences in working with different family issues. Apart from keynote and plenary sessions, pre- and post- symposium workshops, welcoming reception, agency visits, farewell party, sightseeing and cultural activities were also organized. Very positive feedback had been gathered from the participants, generating the synergy for cross-regional collaboration and sharing in the following years.



2nd Regional Symposium in Tokyo, Japan, 2010

The 2nd Regional Symposium with the theme “Asian Families in Social Change” was co-organized with Japan Association of Family Therapy, Japanese Association of Family Psychology and Korean Association of Family Therapy. It was held between 26th and 28th November 2010 at the beautiful campus of the University of Tokyo with over 300 participants from eight countries/regions. There were five pre-symposium workshops which were all fully enrolled. Highlights of the Symposium included a presentation on the preliminary findings of a comparative study in five Asian regions on “Decoding how Contemporary Couples Negotiate Differences”, and the Final Round Adjudication of the 2010 Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A) Project. Cultural and social activities including Japanese dance and tea ceremony were also arranged to share the Japanese heritage. The participants found the Symposium and related activities very stimulating and interesting, while at the same time strengthening the bond between participants and different organizations/countries.





3rd Regional Symposium in Singapore, 2012

The 3rd Regional Symposium on “Asian Families: Innovations in Practice & Policies” took place from 11th to 13th December 2012. It was co-organized with the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, the Social Work Department of the National University of Singapore and the Social Service Training Institute, with full support of the National Council of Social Service. It attracted 350 participants from 11 countries, and the event was honoured by several senior officials from the Singaporean administration, both at the Opening Ceremony and the Gala Dinner, as well serving as a speaker at the plenary session on “Policies on Family”. Apart from the two keynote presentations by world renowned experts on family therapy, there were altogether 52 paper and 22 poster presentations, together with the pre/post symposium workshops, stimulating very enthusiastic discussion and sharing, gaining very positive feedback from the participants. Another highlight was the Final Round Adjudication of the 3A Project 2012 with its climax at the Award Presentation Ceremony at the Gala Dinner which was exciting, filled with joy and applause both for the Project winners, and performance by staff and service recipients of the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and the Hong Kong delegation. All participants were deeply impressed by the efficiency of the event management team, enabling the Symposium to be a successful, enjoyable and memorable event.

4th Regional Symposium in Shanghai, China, 2014

Preparation for the 4th Regional Symposium is underway, co-organizing with the East China University of Science & Technology, to be held between 13th and 15th November 2014 in Shanghai, China. This Symposium is a special one as CIFA together with the world, is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. “Visioning the Future of Family: Policy & Practice” has been chosen as the main theme, with three sub-themes as advocated by the United Nations, namely Poverty in Family, Trans-generational Issues and Work-Family Balance. Apart from the keynote speeches, plenary and concurrent sessions, pre- and post- symposium workshops and agency visits will be organized to encourage and deepen professional exchange of knowledge and practice wisdom. The Final Round Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony of the Wofoo 3A Project 2014 will also take place at the Symposium.

Prof. Cecilia L.W. CHAN

Presenter at the Inaugural, 2nd & 3rd Regional Symposiums
Head, Department of Social Work & Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Loneliness is the cause of death in many ageing societies when people live alone. The death of the family through divorces, violence and betrayal resulted in unhappiness and loneliness of elderly people. CIFA has been promoting a regional platform for raising awareness on the importance of nurturing families in the Asian context by mobilizing family therapists, public health experts, social workers, psychologists and NGO leaders to be working together. It is time for us to reinstate the importance of unconditional love and forgiveness in the family and to enhance communication, cohesion and conflict resolution in families as family is the basic unit of a healthy society. Governments and societies should all invest heavily into cultivating happy families to bring up leaders of tomorrow for all of us.

Ms. Peggy KWONG

Congress Organizer for the 3rd Regional Symposium
Ping Healthcare Pte Ltd., Singapore

As the congress organizer for the 3rd CIFA Regional Symposium on “Asian Families: Innovations in Practice and Policies”, it has been my honour to serve the 2012 steering committee. A lot of behind the scene logistics albeit challenging, was a pleasant journey when eventually we saw so many speakers with excellent views to share, the smile and happy faces of delegates from all around Asia coming together to mingle, exchange and learn from each other. This had been truly a remarkable journey and I whole-heartedly wish all the best for CIFA, in their selfless endeavours and future events to come.

Mr. T.K. KANG

Presenter at the Inaugural and 3rd Regional Symposiums
Clinical Psychologist, Malaysia

CIFA has certainly achieved her mission in highlighting the importance of family work in Asia and I am glad to have been a part of it. Over the past five years I have met and befriended people in the CIFA network who are impact leaders in their respective countries. Face to face interactions with them over training activities or social activities have created fond memories for me.

I believe the challenge for CIFA is to engage more stakeholders with the continuous effort to create dialogue, encourage participation and facilitate sharing which are the key words of today. How exciting if I can participate at CIFA 4th Regional Symposium at Shanghai in November 2014 and to share the concept of “Together Together”, which is the theme of another international conference in Malaysia to be held at the same period of time, to remind all of us that the breaking down of barriers between people from different regions of Asia is our common goal.



The Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A) Project

The 3A project has been recognized as one of the most significant, valuable and sustainable activities of CIFA as it has actualized CIFA's mission and vision of creating a platform for trans-disciplinary collaboration in promoting the importance of family well-being work in the Asia region. When we recall how this project was initiated, it was just a quick thought shared among a few Council members over a cup of tea when they brainstormed on the future development of CIFA. To fulfil the objective of information exchange, the core strategy is to formulate concrete action plan to provide opportunities for sharing of knowledge, experiences and practice wisdom. Thus, the idea of 3A was conceived. With "A" symbolizing excellence, the 3 "A"s denote "Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being". Furthermore, "ASIA" was chosen to be its theme, highlighting the characteristics of "Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation and Applicability".

The 3A Project, the first of its kind, aims 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 provides an opportunity for exchange of valuable knowledge and experiences, with a view to replicate and develop family work to suit the circumstances of the different parts of Asia without reinventing the wheel. Through the enthusiastic support and participation from many committed and visionary individuals and organizations, the 3A Project has, since its introduction in 2010, attracted a total of 97 entries from eight counties/regions including China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan, covering a wide variety of topics. With the involvement of the dedicated Adjudication Panel, eight projects are shortlisted every time for the Final Round Adjudication held during the Regional Symposium, to be followed by the Award Presentation Ceremony to recognize the Gold, Silver and Bronze Award winners and outstanding projects. Over the three 3A Project competitions organized for 2010, 2012 and 2014, a total of 24 projects have been selected, and the Final Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony of the 3A Project 2014 will be held during the 4th Regional Symposium of CIFA at Shanghai in November this year.



With emphasis on creating and sustaining the momentum of the Project, exchange programmes including sharing sessions, exhibitions and agency visits have been organized when finalists teams presented their projects and award winning teams reported on the progresses made, allowing much sharing and deliberation on possibilities for replication. Moreover, to consolidate the knowledge and experiences of this regional initiative, efforts are made to document the projects which include the publication of the 3A Brochures, and production of DVDs as a reference guide to facilitate replication for wide distribution to government and non-governmental social service organizations, schools and related sectors. Video clips of the 3A Sharing Session in 2010 was uploaded onto websites for public viewing.

A significant number of positive and encouraging feedbacks have been received and there is no doubt that the 3A Project is a resounding success, creating the momentum of innovation and knowledge transfer among professionals and sustaining the development of family work in the whole Asian region. In recognition of such achievement and development, CIFA is grateful to receive continuous support from the Wofoo Social Enterprises which has provided funding support in 2010 and 2012 and becomes the titled sponsor starting 2014. We are also indebted to the Family Council of the HKSAR for sponsoring and co-organizing our Exchange Programmes, and The Chinese University of Hong Kong for providing the venue and technical support for our second round adjudications and sharing sessions. Without their staunch support, the 3A Project will be too far away from where it has achieved today.

To conclude, the 3A Project, now titled the Wofoo 3A Project, has much contribution to the work of family life enrichment in the Asia Region. A regular platform for knowledge, skills and experiences sharing across countries and organizational boundaries has been created. Challenges and gaps in our ability to address family issues are identified, yet professional capacity, proven effective solutions and achievements have been demonstrated by the award winning projects. Through participation, experiences are readily shared, and information can be accessed for further development of credible, sustainable, and replicable models for professional practice. As reflected by the project teams, significant professional growth and development are gained in improving their project designs, presentation format and skills, team building and cooperation, language proficiency and confidence.



3A Project 2010

Award	Name of Project	Region
Gold	Family Mental Health Service cum Family Oasis Project Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	Hong Kong
Silver	Family Achievement Award Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society	Singapore
Bronze	When Teens Meet Angels Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Outstanding Projects		
	Spring Breeze – Assistance to Families with Victims of Sexual Assault China Sexual Assault Prevention Web	China
	“City Beneath the Light” Tin Shui Wai Drama Project International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	Hong Kong
	3 SEM (Smart, Smile & Sharing Eating Movement) Project Cheongju Healthy Family Support Center	Korea
	Family-Based Micro Finance & Agricultural IGP’s Intervention in Indigenous People Communities Malaysian Care	Malaysia
	The Project of Family Mediation Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C.	Taiwan

3A Project 2012

Award	Name of Project	Region
Gold	Hope – Starts from the Home: Working with Bereaved Children and their Families Affected by Disasters* Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C.	Taiwan
Silver	Promoting Positive Life Attitudes among Families with Special Needs Children Heep Hong Society	Hong Kong
Bronze	Healthy Start Home Visit Programme Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Hong Kong
Outstanding Projects		
	Family Development Account Program: An Approach to End Poverty Taiwan Fund for Children and Families	Taiwan
	Family-Friendly, Happy Together Richform Holdings Limited	Hong Kong
	Project Touch – The First Social Service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youths and their Families in Greater China The Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
	Sleeping Beauty – Women Wellness Scheme Hong Kong Children & Youth Services	Hong Kong
	Seeing H.O.P.E.S. – Family-Based Counselling & Support Project New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Hong Kong

* The “Hope – Starts from the Home: Working with Bereaved Children and their Families Affected by Disasters” Project of the Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C., Taiwan also won the award of “My Favourite Project” this year.



3A Project 2014

Name of Project	Region
HOPE-20 The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Healthy Divorced Men Project Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	Hong Kong
Family Preservation and Restoration: Family Intervention Services in Child Abuse Child Welfare League Foundation, R.O.C.	Taiwan
‘Walk with Love’ Family Supportive Project Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council	Hong Kong
Co-Parenting Project for the Divorced & Separated Parents The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	Hong Kong
Caregivers-to-Caregivers Training & Support for Families of Persons with Mental Illness Caregivers Alliance Limited	Singapore
uTouch Cyber Youth Outreach Project The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Hong Kong
“Abundant and Fulfilling Life” - Intergenerational Life and Death Education Project Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre, Social Welfare	Hong Kong

* The Gold, Silver, Bronze, Outstanding Projects, My Favourite Project and Best IYF Project are to be adjudicated during the 4th Regional Symposium of CIFA, to be held in Shanghai, November 2014.



Child Welfare League Foundation Taiwan (R.O.C)

Gold Award and “My Favourite Project” Award Winning Organization, 2012
Outstanding Award Winning Organization, 2010

Having been able to participate in the 3A Project in 2010 and 2012 was truly a rewarding experience for Child Welfare League Foundation Taiwan. By this, we had been able to examine our programmes in details as well as to review aspects of the programmes that would require improvement in the future to better benefit our service recipients. What more exciting was that the 3A Project had created a platform where professionals striving for the well-being of families from across the Asian region could gather together to share their experiences and knowledge and inspire each other. Knowledge becomes much more powerful when it is shared and the 3A Project made it happens! This year is our third time participating in the Project and we truly appreciate and treasure this wonderful opportunity of exchanging professional knowledge for family well-being.

Mr. Franck Y.C. LIN

Taiwan Fund for Children and Families

Outstanding Award Winning Organization, 2012

For me, it was an exciting but painful journey. When we got the message about 3A project in 2012, we decided to participate in it. We were glad to share our experiences about working with low income families, and we had confidence that our project had many outstanding features to share. However, English is not our native language. How could we interpret our experiences in English properly? Through many efforts, we passed the first and the second round adjudication and finally, we were selected to participate in the final round presentation in Singapore. Was it just a fantastic dream? No, it's true! During the final adjudication in Singapore, we had not only learned a lot from many excellent projects focused on the topic of families, but also come to know many friends from different countries and different organizations. All of us shared the same goal – to enhance the welfare of family. Thank you, CIFA! It was really a great experience for me.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong

Bronze Award Winning Organization, 2010

Teenage pregnancy is a controversial issue in Hong Kong. Pregnant teens face multiple challenges in family building, child-raising, career development and educational attainment. They also face negative criticism from the public. The “When Teens Meet Angels” was a pioneer project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong from August 2008 to March 2013 and April 2013 to March 2016 respectively to serve these marginalized and disadvantaged teens.

In 2010, the project was among the eight finalist teams of the 3A Project competition. We were honoured to receive the Bronze Award in the CIFA Regional Symposium in Japan. We were then invited to present in a sharing session held immediately after the Symposium. We made full use of such wonderful opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise with other helping professionals and the public. Research on the literature, preparation for the adjudication interviews and presentation, all helped us to reflect on our experiences. In 2013, the project was listed among one of the Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare in Hong Kong.



Heep Hong Society

Silver Award Winning Organization, 2012

The participation in 3A Project has been a wonderful and valuable experience for the project team of Heep Hong Society. It presented us with a golden chance for professional growth through exchanges of views with participants from other Asian regions, and an opportunity to crystalize our frontline experience within a conceptual framework. All team members reaped the benefits from the dynamic process of genuine sharing and learning. It further affirmed our belief that every family with a special needs child is unique in their own way. What they are going through could be disheartening on one hand, and uplifting on the other, depending on which side they take. Our project demonstrated a practical application of positive psychology and showed parents an alternate way to rewrite their stories. Looking at the positive feedback and inspiring reflections collected, we strongly believe that positive psychology provides a new and effective intervention approach to serving the families with special needs children.

Ms. Daphne L.O. LO**Hong Kong Family Welfare Society**

Gold Award Winning Organization, 2010

As a social service agency serving the community for 65 years, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society initiated an innovative project, the “Mental Health Service cum Family Oasis Family Health Redevelopment Project” in 2010. This was designed to use alternate approaches through timely intervention, to improve the mental health of individuals or their family members who exhibited mild to moderate neurotic symptoms, and to enhance family functioning to support the mental health of individuals in the community. Taking a family perspective, the project was implemented in our five family service centres where synergy with other services such as elderly and youth services could be achieved to maximize the benefits for our service users.

It has been four years now but still a memorable moment with overwhelming joy and excitement, when we were announced to be the Gold Award Winner in the 3A Project competition of CIFA in 2010. Looking back, we had learned a lot while revisiting the project along the way through different rounds of adjudication. I still remember the time when our team of four gathered in the hotel room in Tokyo, preparing and rehearsing for the presentation. We were totally involved in the fruitful discussion and sharing that we deeply experienced the kind of team work we never had before. The award was not only recognition of achievement for the project team, but also an encouragement to our continuous effort to strive toward evidence-based practice. Here, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to CIFA for granting us the award, and to all the project workers who had involved making it a success.

Richform Holdings Limited

Outstanding Award Winning Organization, 2012

Richform believes that happy and satisfied associates (staff) will lead to loyal customers. Loyal customers, in turn, lead to business growth and sustainability. As such, we aim to build up a happy workplace for our associates through a variety of self-development programmes and caring initiatives. Unlike large enterprises that can allocate a huge amount of money for employee well-being, small/medium enterprises like Richform only have limited resources. However, we regard the expenses for our associates' well-being and caring initiatives our best investment. After participating in the 3A Project, we have learned that care and innovation matter more than money. Our associates feel valued and cared for and become proud of being a member of Richform's work team. They devote themselves to providing quality work in return. Moreover, customers receive higher quality service and this leads to an increase in repeated business. All in all, the 3A Project has helped generate a positive and reputable corporate image as well as an advancement platform for Richform.

Mr. Ivan C.H. TAM

Member of the 3A Project Committee

I joined CIFA since 2009 as a volunteer to prepare for the first 3A Project. In the process, I acquainted with new friends in the field of family services, got in touch with latest skills, knowledge and concepts for family well-being in the region. We gathered every two years in an Asian city, i.e. 2010 in Tokyo, Japan, 2012 in Singapore, and in November 2014, we will meet in Shanghai, China. Apart from the academic and social exposure that enhances my experience, the 3A Project is also an excellent empirical exchange platform for family workers to transform social innovations into social ventures. Synergy created by the collaboration and sharing among workers in the region has been witnessed. It is hoped that the award projects may be implemented in different Asian cities, becoming viable and replicable, to achieve the aim of converging professional wisdom for family well-being, promoting sustainability, innovation and applicability.

I enjoy the moments working and sharing with members of the 3A Project Committee, the secretariat, and workers of the participating teams. I look forward to the 4th 3A Project to come in 2016.



Ms. Kitty Y.K. HEUNG
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
 Bronze Award Winning Organization, 2012

It has been a great delight that our “Healthy Start Home Visit Programme” won the Bronze Award in the 3A project of 2012 in Singapore. This new initiatives was a joint venture with Prof. Cynthia Leung of The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong and Dr. Sandra Tsang of The University of Hong Kong. I felt so fruitful in the whole learning process which included attending adjudication interviews, presentation in the conference and professional sharing, etc.

I would like to use **HEALTHY** to conclude my learning journey as below:

Happy that it was not just a competition, but a learning process with lots of satisfaction.
Exchanged with other professionals in different countries and inspired by their sharing.
Awarded with Bronze prize.... It was a great recognition in the field!
Learned how to give a good presentation in front of experts among family professionals.
Travelling experience in Singapore...eating...shopping and sightseeing!
Hope – Due to successful winning of the award, our funder agreed to extend our project to other districts to maximize the benefits for other families, bringing them hope.
Y– Why don't you join the CIFA 3A Project as well?

Congratulation to the success of CIFA in the past years and wish her success for another 10 years, 20 years, 40 years...

Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society
 Silver Award Winning Organization, 2010

Our Singapore colleagues in Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (THKMS) were inspired by the concept of the 3A Project. They were challenged to design and inspire the families they worked with to discover their potentials and their capabilities. They were excited to share, such that in 2010, a team participated in the inaugural 3A Project held at the CIFA Conference in Tokyo. The merits of the 3A Project in strengthening the family has now been implemented beyond a centre in THKMS, with some centres adapting and crafting the 3A concepts to meet the needs of the families in their care. Beyond the Singapore shores, 3A Project has been introduced to THKMS Centre in China.

Hong Kong Children & Youth Services
 Outstanding Award Winning Organization, 2012

It had been a great pride and treasure for us to join the 3A project in 2012, which was a very inspiring and meaningful process. With this opportunity, we had the valuable chance to think bigger from different perspectives about our project, “Sleeping Beauty – Women Wellness Scheme”, provided for 100 women who suffered from insomnia. Since launching of the Scheme in 2005, its effectiveness had been encouraging with all participants reporting improvement with their well-being. Stimulated by international exchange through the CIFA platform, we had refined the Scheme in the recent two years, developing the ex-group members to become peer counsellors to support the new participants so as to sustain their own personal change. Through CIFA, we were exposed to different appreciable experiences in developing family work in the Asian region. We had learned to further improve the quality of life of individuals and families by adopting more innovative models that fit the Chinese culture.



Research & Training

CIFA was founded with a mission to disseminate and develop knowledge and practice wisdom on family well-being among clinical practitioners, allied health care professionals as well as policy-makers in the Asian region. To achieve this goal, CIFA endeavours to promote researches and training on family wellness, providing a platform for sharing valuable family practice wisdom and theory building, as well as giving appreciation and support to new project initiatives in the region. Furthermore, CIFA also takes the leadership role in identifying training needs in different cultural contexts, and co-organizing and coordinating regional training and research activities in addition to the biennial Regional Symposiums to meet their needs.

Research and Studies

Survey on Challenges Faced by Families in Hong Kong (2007)

Two public opinion surveys on “Challenges faced by Families in Hong Kong” were conducted between June and August in 2007 in Hong Kong to provide a snapshot of the current situation of Hong Kong families and to serve as a basis for a similar survey in other Asian countries to facilitate cross-country comparisons on family challenges. Survey findings indicated that the most common challenges faced by families in Hong Kong included: (1) long working hours/heavy workload; (2) worries over how they could do their best to nurture their children as well as to provide them with best education opportunities; and (3) great stress due to illness or anxieties over physical or mental health. Recommendations on family friendly policies and practices as well as parent education were forwarded to the Family Council of Hong Kong for consideration in formulating policies and services. The findings of the survey were announced in November 2007 and attracted some media attention.

Survey on Challenges Faced by Families in Asian Region (2009)

It was the first attempt of CIFA to coordinate a cross-country survey, involving four sub-regions namely Mainland China (Shenzhen), Hong Kong, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and Taiwan (Taipei & Kaohsiung). A Working Group was set up to coordinate and ensure consistency in methodology, sampling and data collection in the four sub-regions. The survey was completed at the end of 2009 providing informative and valuable findings to enable participating organizations to develop a better understanding of the family concerns in these sub-regions. It had also provided food for thoughts for various practitioners and policy-makers while reviewing and formulating their family policies and practice in Asia.

Cross-Country Study on “Decoding How Contemporary Couples Negotiate Differences” (2010)

This is a key cross-country study initiated by CIFA in 2010, with the research team headed by Dr. Wai-Yung Lee of the Hong Kong University Family Institute (HKUFI), and members from four other Asian countries namely Dr. Fu Meng and Dr. Cui-Lian Liu (Mainland China), Dr. Shinichi Nakamura (Japan), Dr. Moon-Ja Chung and Dr. Young-Ju Chun (Korea), and Dr. Shu-Chuan Liang (Taiwan).

Throughout the research process, there were close collaboration and exchange of ideas among the team members through meetings to review the video tapes of the couple discussion, deliberate and compare their observations and analyses on themes, natures of conflicts and interactive patterns manifested in the tapes. They all felt the intellectual exchanges and sharing in this rigorous regional research very stimulating, exciting and rewarding.

The team was thrilled when their submission of the paper entitled “Exploring How Contemporary Couples Negotiate Differences – A Comparative Study among Five Asian Regions” was accepted and published in Vol.52 No.3 2013 of the *Family Process*, a high impact journal on family issues. Moreover, preliminary findings and final findings of this research had also been presented respectively at the CIFA 2nd and 3rd Regional Symposiums in Tokyo and Singapore, stimulating a lot of interests and discussion, especially on the cultural differences in couples’ negotiation of their differences among the Asian countries.



Training Activities

Forum on Dialogue between Clinical Practitioners and Policy-Makers (2008)

The CIFA Inaugural Symposium had generated much interests and enthusiasm among the family practitioners, academics, allied welfare professionals and policy-makers in the promotion and development of family well-being in the Asian region. A follow-up Forum on “Dialogue between Clinical Practitioners & Policy-Makers” was jointly organized by CIFA, Hong Kong Council of Social Service and sponsored by the Social Welfare Department of Hong Kong in 2008, attracting about 150 participants.

Forum on Financial Tsunami and Families (2009)

In response to the global financial tsunami which also affected Asia in 2008, a forum was held by CIFA in 2009 after its Annual General Meeting, inviting speakers from various sectors to share their views and experience on the impact of the tsunami and how services were developed to address these issues. All the Forum participants found the session informative, valuable and stimulating.

Agency visit to Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSC) (2009)

To enable CIFA members to have first-hand information on the latest delivery model of services for families in Hong Kong, a local agency visit to two Integrative Family Service Centres in Tin Shui Wai was organized, attracting 20 participants. This provided an opportunity for them to understand the profile and service needs of residents and how service providers faced the challenges by innovative approaches and programmes to meet these needs. Feedbacks from participants had been most encouraging.

Workshop on Dealing with Sexual Problems in Couples (2009)

Workshop on Dealing with Sexual Problems in Couples was held in Hong Kong attracting 85 participants from various professional sectors. Prof. Man-Lun Ng, Associate Director of the HKUFI and a renowned sex therapist, served as the speaker when the concepts and skills related to sex therapy were elaborated with video demonstration of cases, role plays, cases sharing and discussion. The feedback from the participants was very favourable.

Exchange Programme with Brigham Young University (BYU) (2009)

An Exchange Programme was co-organized with the Hong Kong Institute of Education and the BYU, including a Public Seminar on “Strengthening the Family: The Best Way to Raise Great Children” attracting nearly 300 participants. The second part involved an Academic/Professional Exchange at the HKUFI, attracting over 25 representatives from the co-organizers. During the session, experience was exchanged and possibilities for future collaboration were explored.

“Cross-Strait Four Regions Forum on Anti-Family Violence” in Shenzhen (2013)

The Forum was co-organized by the Department of Sociology of Shenzhen University (a CIFA member), Shenzhen Pengxing Social Work Service Center, Pengxing Anti-Family Violence Center and the Shenzhen Research Association of Marriage and Family, and supported by CIFA. To express our staunch support, Mrs. Patricia Chu, Chairperson of CIFA, attended the Forum with three Council members from Hong Kong. She delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony, encouraging concerted efforts in promoting family wellness by family practitioners and policy-makers

in Asia. Papers were presented by two CIFA Council Members, Dr. Miranda Chung and Ms. Margaret Wong on “Reciprocal Interactional Analysis of Child Abuse: Implications for Intervention and Prevention” and “Prevention and Intervention of Domestic Violence – A Hong Kong Experience” respectively during the Forum. The professional exchange was active while the presentations were all stimulating and informative. Overall feedback was very positive.

International Conference and Workshop on “The Rights of Children and Innovative Family Services” in Taiwan (2013)

To celebrate CIFA’s 5th Anniversary and the upcoming 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the National Taiwan University (a CIFA Member) and its Children & Family Research Center organized the international conference and workshop in Taiwan in November 2013, with CIFA as the supporting organization. The Conference was officiated by the President of the National Taiwan University, Dr. Pan-Chyr Yang, together with CIFA’s Vice-chairperson, Prof. Joyce Yen Feng (the Minister-without-Portfolio) at the Opening Ceremony. Prof. Jaap E. Doek, Consultant for UNICEF country offices in Azerbaijan, Nepal and Suriname was invited to give the keynote speech on “Rights of the Child”. Papers presented at the conference, covering research reports and innovative projects on promoting family works, were very informative, stimulating and inspiring. Ms. Agnes Ng, CIFA’s Hon. Secretary also presented a paper on “Nurturing Young Children with High Potential through Early Identification and Parenting Work with Low Income Families”. The Conference was well-received and attracted over 200 participants from the Asian region. A 2-day Post-Conference Agency Visit Program was also arranged for 26 social workers from China to provide further learning and sharing. Participants found the visit a valuable experience, and also appreciated CIFA for providing the platform to facilitate professional exchange.



Dr. Wai-Yung LEE

Clinical Director, Academy of Family Therapy
Founding & Former Director, Hong Kong University Family Institute

The most fulfilling part of my involvement with CIFA has been, undoubtedly, the research that compared how contemporary couples negotiate their differences among five Asian regions including Japan, Korea, Shanghai, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

It is noted that although these regions share a root in Confucianism, we have very different socio-political structures, different languages, different mentalities, and geographically, we are miles apart. The obstacles and challenges that we have to overcome are tremendous in conducting a study of this magnitude. The project took four years to complete, and have gone through many revisions and re-writes. When it finally appeared in *Family Process*, the prestigious journal in family studies, we were esthetic.

The article was chosen as a special feature by the journal and was regarded as an eye-opener in depicting the many unique cultural nuances and patterns of couple interaction that we were previously unaware of in each region. Not only had we developed a method for multi-cultural and multi-regional study, we have also formed an “Asian bond” through the process of working so intensively together. I hope this can pave the way for more joint adventures in the future and trust that CIFA will continue provide this platform.

**Mr. Kwong-Sing WONG**

Council Member
Principal Consultant of various NGOs in Guangdong, China

Social work development in China has a “Great Leap Forward” in recent years, especially in Guangdong Province. In Guangzhou, the first Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) was set up in October 2010. In less than two years’ time, the number has increased to more than 130 and today there are 155 IFSCs in Guangzhou. Every year, the government fund allocation for IFSCs is about RMB400 million, which is record high in China for a single social service programme.

Followed by the rapid development of social welfare facilities in China, the demand for trained social workers to deliver the services is also high. However, the provision of social workers is far behind the demand and presently the serving ones are mostly fresh graduates without much field experience. In the circumstances, CIFA plays a vital role in supporting the young and inexperienced social workers in the Mainland. CIFA members have been invited to conduct training for them periodically. CIFA also arranged international networking for their professional exposures in Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Positive feedbacks were given for these learning opportunities. Continual professional supports in the areas of broad governance, service planning and evaluation, supervision and training on professional practice are expected.

Dr. Young Ju CHUN

Professor, Silla University, Korea

As a researcher, it was my honour and great pleasure to be involved in the research team to conduct the comparative study on how Asian couples negotiate their differences, across five Asian regions. The study was a very unique research using not only systemic observation but qualitative analysis to explore couple interactions. I remember our research meeting in Hong Kong was so intensive that we ate our lunch at the seminar room watching video of couples. Despite the difficulties such as geographical distance and communication constraints, this historical outcome in the arena of couple research contributing to better understanding of the dynamics of Asian couples was made possible through Dr. Wai-Yung Lee’s leadership, co-researchers’ commitment, and everyone’s open-minded attitude. I sincerely appreciate the warm support of CIFA, all our colleagues, research assistants, and the 50 Asian couples.

Communication Platforms among Members

CIFA Web-Based Exchange Platform (WEP)

To facilitate on-going networking and exchange of information among CIFA members, the Web-Based Exchange Platform (WEP) was developed by the WEP Development Committee under the steer of the Provisional Council, with input from information technology experts. It was launched on 6th June 2007 at the HKUFI, officiated by the Hon. Bernard Chan, GBS, JP, Chairman of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and Prof. Ian Holliday, then Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong.

Since then, the function of the WEP had been further enhanced in November 2008, providing the platform for CIFA E-newsletter which was issued on a bi-weekly basis, to keep members abreast of the development of CIFA, share findings on research projects conducted by member organizations and make announcement on upcoming events.

The Committee continued to monitor the usage of the WEP and explored ways to improve its attractiveness to users. In 2009 the Committee initiated action to enhance the WEP by phases with the assistance of the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) of the Vocational Training Council, with the first phase focusing on design and layout to make the WEP more attractive and user-friendly, and the second phase to enhance its function as a platform for exchange and knowledge management. The enhanced WEP, which has become more organized, modernized and professional, was launched on 26th August 2011, on the occasion when recognition was given to the HKDI for its pro-bono services rendered to CIFA.

Follow up action was made to categorize the information in the WEP under specific subjects to facilitate retrieval of information and research projects. Attempts have also been made to encourage interactive exchange among members through social media and different applications. However, these efforts do not seem to get much encouraging response, and there is much ground for improvement as one member of the WEP Development Committee confesses:

“CIFA has a web presence but the target goal of creating a truly interactive platform for virtual exchanges has not materialized, despite the explosive growth of mobile technologies in the last few years. In technology jargon CIFA web presence is still at a Web 1.0 (read only) era. The world and families today in developed nations are functioning at a Web 3.0 era, that is, people participate virtually as they read, write and share exchanges with mobile conveniences.”

The WEP Development Committee, together with other Committees of CIFA that provide the information and data to be uploaded onto the WEP, will have to address the various issues to keep pace with modern technology development and related human behaviour so that the WEP can perform its functions more effectively as an exchange platform for people who are interested and involved in family work.

CIFA E-Newsletter and CIFA- NET

To achieve the goal of facilitating sharing and exchange, the bi-weekly E-newsletter had been issued since November 2008 and uploaded onto the CIFA WEP to keep members abreast of the development of CIFA, share information on research projects and make announcements on upcoming activities. To sustain the effort and interest among members, strengthen academic exchange and stimulate insights for research and training, a section namely the “Family Corner” was introduced in April 2009, with contribution from members of the Research & Training Committee.

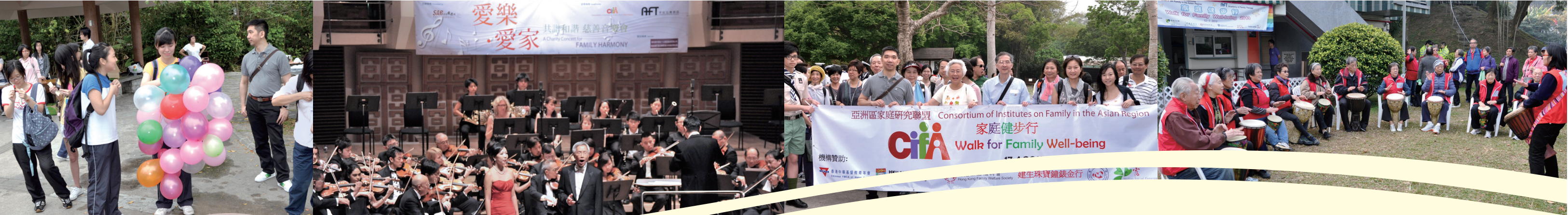
A common phenomenon faced by the Editorial Group was the difficulty to chase after concerned parties scattered in the region to forward their contributions in a timely manner so that the E-Newsletter can be issued as scheduled. Nevertheless, over the years, there was growing involvement and commitment of member organizations contributing to the E-Newsletter. The articles have provided readers with a better understanding of family related issues and efforts made in addressing these in the Region. Apart from articles, paintings/cartoons on family issues and photographs of activities have also been uploaded to make the newsletter more attractive and interesting.

To tie in with the celebration of the 5th Anniversary of CIFA, the Council decided to revamp the E-newsletter and launch CIFA-NET with a view to turn it into a professional journal in the long run. A new Editorial Group was formed in 2012 with Dr. Miranda Chung as the Chief Editor and Dr. Herman Lo a key member. Since the Inaugural Issue covering April to June 2013 was published and distributed during the 5th Anniversary Celebration in Hong Kong in June 2013, the CIFA-NET has been issued on a quarterly basis, both in printed and electronic version and widely distributed in Asia and beyond.

In the past five issues, CIFA-NET has received contributions from China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. Apart from articles on exploratory studies, surveys, cross-country studies and innovative approaches, there were reports and announcements on the 5th Anniversary celebration of CIFA, regional forums and conferences, and CIFA efforts to echo the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 as declared by the United Nations, in collaboration with member organizations and strategic partners.

It is believed that CIFA-NET carries a very important mission to disseminate valuable practice wisdom, research findings and new innovations in the family arena. Through genuine sharing, support and appreciation among family practitioners, academics, related professionals and policy-makers, we will be successful in creating a more solid foundation for mutual learning, respect for cultural differences and better understanding of challenges faced by all, and concerted efforts to build a better future for our families in the Asian Region.





Fundraising & Promotion

Fundraising

Money is ever important to all non-profit-making organizations, particularly CIFA which is self-funded with a mission to link up institutes on family in the Asian Region. Of its income sources, other than the annual membership fees and small amount of fee collection from training activities, one of the ways to secure adequate revenue for CIFA's operation and development is to get donation from the public. Thus, organizing fundraising activities has become a core subject area of CIFA since its establishment in 2008. These also raise CIFA's profile to gain support for its work. In the last few years, CIFA has in total conducted four fundraising events which comprised two fundraising walks and two charity concerts.

Two fundraising walks titled "Walk for Family Well-Being" were held in April 2011 at the Aberdeen Country Park and January 2013 at the Peak, Hong Kong respectively. With support from member organizations, volunteers and supporters, a total of 300 individuals and their families were mobilized to join the Walk, financed by their sponsors. Content of these programmes were enriched to suit all age groups, including game stalls, warm-up exercises, group dancing, eco-tour, etc. On both occasions, CIFA was honoured to have the Director of Social Welfare as the officiating guest at the kick off ceremony.

Two "Charity Concerts for Family Harmony" were held in November 2011 and June 2013 with the full support of the SAR Philharmonic, Hong Kong. In the first one, two world class guest performers staged in the event, namely the famous pianist Dr. Julie Bees from USA, and the outstanding soprano Ms. Lan Rao of Hong Kong. In the second one, other than the outstanding performance of the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra, the concert was featured by the renowned Hong Kong tenor Dr. David Fang, lyrical leggero soprano Dr. Michelle Tsui, and the distinguished pianist Dr. Uriel Tsachor from USA. In both concerts, CIFA was privileged to have the presence of high profile dignitaries including Dr. C.H. Leong of the Executive Council and Prof. Daniel Shek, Chairman of the Family Council of Hong Kong as guests of honour. CIFA had succeeded to raise fund through the sponsorship and the audience were able to enjoy the excellent musical performances.

Apart from organizing public fundraising activities, CIFA also appeals to corporates and the HKSAR Government for financial support. Among our donors and sponsors, there have been The Hong Kong & China Gas Company, Asia Financial Group, EGL Tour, Wofoo Social Enterprises and Family Council. Their monetary and material support do not just relieve our financial burden helping us maintain a healthy and robust budget, it also represents increasing recognition and endorsement of the value of CIFA as a regional setup to promote family health.

Promotion and Publicity

CIFA sends membership invitation and pamphlets regularly by post and through the internet to family work related organizations in the Asian Region. Apart from the CIFA WEP where updated news of CIFA is available, it is hyperlinked with websites of member organizations and the Happy Family Hub of the Family Council, Hong Kong. Press releases and briefings as well as radio interviews were arranged to tie in with major activities of CIFA to inform the public about the importance of family well-being and the work of CIFA.

Apart from refreshing the content of CIFA pamphlets from time to time, we have also developed a set of beautiful bookmarks, with water colour comics drawn and family enhancement messages written by the famous Hong Kong comic artist Ah Chung, for wide distribution to deepen the image of CIFA among the public. Moreover, souvenir pins and pencil cases bearing the logo of CIFA were produced and made available for sale at all CIFA activities.

Promoting the image and work of CIFA, a newly founded organization, is definitely not an easy job. We have worked very hard in the few years and CIFA is pleased to witness increasing understanding and recognition of its mission and work in more Asian countries. It is hoped that the momentum will carry on while CIFA builds its track record and becomes a widely known and credited organization in the international community, with growing participation in the years to come.



Ms. Bethany T.S. CHENG

Participant of Fundraising Events

I first got to know CIFA when I joined the “Walk for Family Well-being 2011”. It was a beautiful sunny day with moderate breeze. The walk was very smooth and I had thoroughly enjoyed it with my father. Later on, I attended the “A Charity Concert for Family Harmony” in 2013. The music played by the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra was blissful, joyful and nourishing. My friend who was a music teacher complimented that all music pieces presented in the concert were professionally and beautifully played, reflecting the harmony CIFA advocates. We were totally blown away by the wonderful music melodies. Both the Walk and the Concert were very enjoyable and organized for a good cause. I look forward to joining more CIFA's activities in the future and sincerely wish every success in CIFA's coming events!

Dr. Julie BEES

Piano Soloist with the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra in CIFA's 2011 Charity Concert
Professor, School of Music, Wichita State University, Kansas, USA

Music surrounds us at every level. Mothers sing lullabies to their babies; children chant nursery rhymes at play; teenagers listen slavishly to current popular songs; lovers find their feelings in love songs; and old people find peace and solace in their favourite musical genres. Music can be an adhesive that binds us to one another. The impact of music on us as individuals and groups is profound and necessary for peaceful and harmonious relationships.

While different aspects of a family may affect a child in his development, family harmony is very important. During difficult moments in life, professional counselling and support may also help to bring positive changes. Hunger, physical and mental illness, unspeakable acts of violence, emotional and physical abuse, religious intolerance, and centuries-old conflict constantly threaten our very existence. We must all reach out and help each other, be sensitive to each other, and see each other persons as he sees himself, to have any hope of world harmony.

The mission of CIFA is to strengthen family functioning and promote family health through converging professional wisdom in the Asian region. Harmony begins in the home, and we need to provide resources to help individual families when help is needed. For this reason, I strongly support CIFA and its mission of helping to uphold family harmony.

Mrs. May SUI-NG**Title: Trio (2003)**

Oil on Canvas, 64cm x 124 cm

Excerpt from the brochure of the CIFA Charity Concert for Family Harmony 2013

**Ms. Carrie K.Y. LAI**

CIFA Volunteer

I have been to different organizations and worked as a volunteer since a young age, but what has kept me volunteering at CIFA in the recent years?

CIFA is an organization that promotes family well-being. Family is important to everyone and it is where people spend most of their time and efforts. Therefore, being a volunteer to promote family well-being gives me extraordinary satisfaction.

Fundraising walks encourage family members of all age groups to live a happy and healthy life, while charity concerts provide an opportunity for families to enjoy some good music. Taking part in these activities as a volunteer, I always see the happy faces of the participants. From their smiles, I know that I have made the right decision and that I have helped to bring happiness to other families.



CIFA Council Members and Committees

Council Members

Mrs. Patricia P.Y. CHU	Chairperson	Ms. Wei HE	Council Member
Ms. Agnes K.T. NG	Hon. Secretary	Ms. Tabitha W.M. HO	Council Member
Mr. Chi-Tong LAI	Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Wai-Keung KWOK	Council Member
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Dr. Ngak-Siang LEE	Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Maggie T.L. LO	Council Member
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Dr. Miranda L.F. CHUNG	Council Member	Ms. Sania S.W. YAU	Council Member

Chairmen of Committees

Research & Training Committee	Dr. Miranda L.F. CHUNG
Promotion & Fundraising Committee	Mr. Chi-Tong LAI
WEP Development Committee	Mr. Wai-Keung KWOK
3A Project Committee	Ms. Agnes K.T. NG

Honourary Advisor

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Honourary Legal Advisor

Ms Ivy M.H. TONG, Messers. Au-Yeung, Cheng, Ho & Tin Solicitors

Honourary Auditor

Mr. Edwin N.W. CHIU, T.C. Ng & Company CPA Ltd.



Sharing from Strategic Partners and Supporters

As we firmly believes that, promoting family well-being for social harmony and stability leading to sustainable development of society is not a monopoly of the human service professionals such as psychologists, social workers and the educators, CIFA has, since inception, been striving to build alliance with various stakeholders.

It is gratifying to witness increasing recognition and support of CIFA from various organizations in public, private and NGO sectors of the community which share the same dream of promoting family well-being. These include, for example, the Family Council of the HKSAR and the Social Welfare Department of the HKSAR administration; the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Wofoo Social Enterprises, The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong in the NGO and academic sectors; and the Beta Design Ltd., Hong Kong & China Gas Co. Ltd., Asia Financial Group, EGL Tours and Ah Chung of the Artware of the private sector. CIFA is most thankful to individuals and representatives of some organizations for appearing in video clips to appeal for support to the work of CIFA, which have been uploaded onto the CIFA WEP.

Through establishing strategic partnership with these organizations, in addition to providing third party endorsement and enhancing the public image of CIFA, it also offers sponsorship for the CIFA activities such as the 3A Project and Sharing Sessions, assists in promoting the importance of family health through various media, television and radio programmes such as the Family Council website and radio interviews, and contributes respective expertise in different CIFA endeavours which include Ah Chung designing a set of bookmarks with messages on families to be used as souvenirs distributed at various CIFA functions, and EGL Tour in making travelling arrangements for participants to attend the Regional Symposiums in Tokyo, Singapore and Shanghai respectively in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Here, our strategic partners, corporate and individual supporters share their thoughts on CIFA and why they have rendered support to us, pointing towards closer collaboration in the future in the CIFA endeavours as an Asian platform to promote family well-being.



Dr. Joseph C.T. LEE
President, Wofoo Social Enterprises

Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE) supports the idea that family is a fundamental institution of human society. Over rapid socio-economic and demographic transformation, families are reshaped and roles changed. With ageing population, poverty disparity and long working hours, it is more and more difficult for individuals to reconcile work and family responsibilities and to maintain many of the core old values that once sustained families.

WSE cares about issues arising from social development. For this, community service networks have been established for professionals and stakeholders to support the well-being of youth, ageing, family and the community, with the vision of "Harmony Brings family Prosperity, Cohesion Makes a Nation Wealthy". WSE treasures the opportunity to work with CIFA in setting up the 3A Project, a platform where professional minds from Asian cities are pooled for exchange, exploring ways to advance family functions.

CIFA demonstrates a significant model of collaboration within the region, bringing in multiplayers for tackling family problems. I look forward to seeing more viable, diverse and innovative ideas being stimulated through the CIFA platform in the days to come.



Mr. Ying-Kit WONG
Title: Home

- The dynamic yet fluid strokes exude the essence of "Home", representing the True Abode for Family Therapy.





Prof. Joyce L.C. MA

Professor, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

I like to congratulate the achievement of CIFA in connecting different professional and academic institutes in Asia such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan to join hands together to promote quality social service programmes and interventions to help families with diverse needs and problems. The dedication and commitment of the Council Members deserve our salute and deep appreciation.

Prof. Alfred C.M. CHAN

Director, Asia Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

I would like to extend my congratulations to CIFA's publication of "**Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being**" and the organization of CIFA's 4th Regional Symposium, which have created a platform to elevate our good practices of family policy of the Asian region to the international level while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the IYF.

The value of family wholeness has long been upheld in Asian cultures, especially when Confucianism has historically influenced many Asian countries. Yet, individualism of the modern era is disseminating the traditionally cohesive structure of family.

Since 2008, CIFA has been founded to strategically meet the various challenges exerted to families in the Asian region by advocating and appealing for timely and appropriate intervention through family policies and programmes from many parties.

I wish to take this opportunity to give my best wishes to CIFA and all friends promoting family well-being for their continuous efforts.



Mr. Bernard C.S. CHAN

Chairperson, Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Founding CIFA Member

We are now in an era in which the family is in many ways under attack. The family is the cornerstone of society worldwide, yet as an institution it is facing great challenges brought about by rapid social changes.

I am pleased to see how CIFA has developed as a platform for trans-disciplinary collaboration in the Asia region since its establishment in 2008. In our global village, no single organization or even government is alone in striving for family well-being. I am grateful to CIFA for bringing so many parties together along the way, and with such passion. As a founding member, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service is honoured to have worked with other organizations dedicated to family well-being through CIFA in past years. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and progress.

Dr. Rosaleen OW

Head, Department of Social Work, National University of Singapore



First, I would like to congratulate CIFA on issuing this very significant publication related to converging professional wisdom for family well-being as part of the United Nations 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Family is the cornerstone in the building of a rich and vibrant community. In many societies the institution of the family is under stress from changes in many quarters such as those in the social, psychological and spiritual arena. CIFA provides the impetus to those who are concerned with the well-being of the family to rally together to find the best practice in supporting families from both a remedial and a developmental perspective. Its biennial symposiums allow for the sharing of interesting and effective intervention modalities through the 3A projects and the research papers presented at the workshop sessions. CIFA's approach to encourage evidence-based practice is timely and in keeping with the focus on accountability and long-term outcomes from social service provisions. I hope CIFA will continue this good work and wish the 4th Regional Symposium to be held at the East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai in November 2014 a great success.

Second, CIFA is poised to make an important contribution to social work with families across the globe. There are now very few societies without an Asian population group among their midst and the work of CIFA can certainly contribute towards understanding how to work effectively with families with an Asian background. Since its inception, CIFA has been steady in its growth but it certainly deserves much more support from social service organizations and the academia to develop its regional and international work. One of the difficulties in engaging like-minded individuals and organizations outside Hong Kong may be the competing demands on time and resources that make it very challenging for non-Hong Kong supporters to be able to readily support the very interesting CIFA events taking place in Hong Kong. Although online dissemination of information is very helpful, nothing beats face-to-face conversations for creativity, innovation and engagement.

As such, my wish list for CIFA is that it will gain more international recognition for its very important work, have a regular funder/s that can support more regional participation, and be known in the professional circle as a sound resource for information on innovative family social work practice and research.



Dr. Takeshi TAMURA

Presenter at the Inaugural, 2nd & 3rd Regional Symposiums
Psychiatrist and Family Therapist in Private Practice, Japan

I believe CIFA is a very unique and variable organization in many ways.

First it is targeting Asian region, which fills a gap between organizations in each nation and the worldwide international ones. National organizations in respective countries deal with local issues of each society in depth. International organizations tend to be led by Euro-American leadership. CIFA fills a gap between the local and international organizations. It focuses on Asian neighbouring countries which share many similarities and differences. Family life is so diverse in place and time. The value and structure of the family in the western culture are so much different from those in the Asian culture. It is valuable for the people in Asia to have opportunity to discuss family with our Asian perspectives.

Second, CIFA consists of multidisciplinary membership, which includes social welfare officers, educators, policy-makers, counsellors, mental health professionals and so on. We can share our experience and knowledge across the disciplines which enable us innovating new horizon for effective family support system.

I hope CIFA continues to grow and function as a crossroad for the people from multiple disciplines and cultures in the future.

Dr. Do-Hee RYE

Head, Suyeonggu Healthy Family Support Center, Korea

It was a great experience to attend CIFA's 5th Anniversary celebration in Hong Kong in 2013 where I could meet a lot of people around the world who have the same interests with me. The Charity Concert for Family Harmony had freshened up my fatigue and I was much relieved. The time I participated together with other Korean members was the opportunity to reflect on myself as one who studies family therapy. More especially, I was so impressed by the leadership of the CIFA Council Members and they had really done their best to converge professional wisdom for family well-being. I look forward to seeing great future of CIFA.

Mr. Y. S. LIU

Chairman, SAR Philharmonic, Hong Kong

On behalf of the SAR Philharmonic, I am delighted to join CIFA in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Since 1999, the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra has been presenting classical music concerts in Hong Kong for the purpose of helping local charities raise funds. We have a simple goal: Helping to lessen suffering through Sweet and Romantic Music. Orchestra members are dedicated volunteers who give their services freely thus maximizing the financial benefits for the recipient charity.

We are honoured to have organized two concerts in 2011 and 2013 to raise funds to support the wonderful work of CIFA and we look forward to presenting another concert for CIFA on 12th April 2015 at the Hong Kong City Hall.

Best wishes for a most wonderful and successful 20th Anniversary IYF Celebration!



Mr Yee-King YIM (Ah Chung)

Title: Tolerance



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- Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, HKSAR •
- SAR Philharmonic •
- Singapore Pools and Tote Board •
- Social Service Training Institute, Singapore •
- Social Welfare Department, HKSAR •
- Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, Singapore •
- Wofoo Social Enterprises •

The Way Ahead

Asia is a rapid growing region facing challenges brought about by globalization, migration, income disparity, fast development in information technology, ageing population, changing attitudes towards marriage and parenthood, etc., affecting family life of the people. CIFA as a regional platform, is dedicated to continuing its efforts in promoting family well-being in Asia through various initiatives, while maintaining the momentum for long term sustainability of the organization.

In the Council Retreat to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of CIFA in 2013, strategies for future development were worked out in terms of quick-win, buy-in, add-in and next dream, which are interlinked. The resolutions included strengthened governance, increased collaboration in training and research, enhanced knowledge management and sharing, to raise the profile of CIFA and build strategic partnership, going beyond Asia.

In terms of strengthened governance, CIFA will strive to better our membership drive in more parts of Asia, identify funding support from government, private corporations and regional funding bodies, manage our resources prudently, and to map out succession plan through broader participation of members in the Council and the Committees.

For increased collaboration, we shall continue to detect training needs of our members and arrange corresponding training activities, locate resource persons within the region to provide consultancy and advice to member organizations, scale up the 3A Project and develop culturally relevant assessments tools on the quality of family life. Cross-country researches will be conducted and papers on family will be submitted to professional journals. More systematic documentation and dissemination for effective knowledge management and exchange through the CIFA WEP and CIFA-NET will be ensured.

CIFA needs the support from various quarters to move forward. In doing so, efforts will be made to raise our profile and enhance the buy-in. This can be done through well-planned promotional inputs which include increased media coverage and fundraising activities, documentation of CIFA's work and publicizing to raise community awareness. Corporations and professional bodies will be involved for building strategic partnership to provide funding support and pro-bono professional services and expert advice to various aspects of our work.

The current effort to issue this publication “**Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being – In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the IYF**” demonstrates our attempt to go beyond Asia. We hope to share the experience of CIFA in family work in Asian Region with the international community, to gain recognition from the United Nations and funders as a regional setup that echoes the global endeavours on addressing family issues. Our next dream for the future is to organize an Asian Family Summit involving government officials, academics and professionals to map out a regional agenda for family well-being, for the public, private and NGO sectors. Another initiative is the idea of a CIFA Award to be bestowed onto individuals, organizations and projects that exemplify our vision/mission.

Twenty years ago, the United Nations had lighted up the hearts of many on the importance of family by declaring 1994 as the International Year of the Family. It gave professionals a very clear signal that we are there to facilitate and enable families to cope with challenges in everyday life. This has also been the principle adopted by CIFA in our work in enhancing family well-being.

As a final note for this publication, we would like to quote from the message made by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath El Hassan of Jordan at the World NGO Forum held at Malta from 28th November to 3rd December 1993 as below:

“In the relationship between family and state, we should not seek to replace family functions by institutionalizing their support mechanism. We should enable the families as a unit to cope with contemporary challenges. Solutions must be tailored to specific cultural sensitivities, building on existing structures to encourage a process of nurtured evolution, rather than an engineered revolution.”





Converging Professional Wisdom for Family Well-Being – In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the IYF

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