

Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region Ltd. 亞洲區家庭研究聯盟

Special Issue on 3rd Regional Symposium & 3A Project 2012

The 3rd CIFA Regional Symposium with the theme of **Asian Families: Innovations in Practice & Policies** was successfully held from 11th to 13th December in Singapore, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore (NUS), Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (THK), and the Social Service Training Institute (SSTI), and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) as the supporting organization.

High level endorsement

It attracted 350 participants from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, USA and Vietnam. The Symposium received full support from the Singaporean administration, and honored by the presence of Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs & Trade and Industry as the Guest of Honor at the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Sheah Kian Peng, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament as the officiating guest at the Gala Dinner, and Mr. Chun Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social & Family Development as the speaker at the Plenary Session on Policies on Family. Participants were impressed by their understanding of the family issues and their commitment to preserve the family as the foundation of a stable and harmonious society, which echoes that of CIFA.

The Opening Ceremony

The Opening ceremony started with a lively drum performance by trainees of a training centre, followed by welcoming remarks by Mr Lee Kim Siang, chairman of THK and Mrs. Patricia Chu, chairperson of CIFA. The Guest of Honor delivered a very inspiring speech on the importance of family and the need for concerted efforts to preserve and support the family for the well being of its members. It was followed by presentation of souvenirs to the Guest of Honour and the co-organizers and supporting organization.



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The Scientific Program

The Scientific Program was full and of high standard. Two keynote speeches were delivered by world renowned experts on family therapy including Dr. Lee Wai Yung on “Exploring how Asian Couples Negotiate Differences: a Comparison of 5 Asian Regions” and “Healing Couple in Crisis: a Global Perspective” by Dr. Evan Imber-Black. Dr. Lee shared interesting video clips of couples from HK, Korea, Mainland China, Japan and Taiwan, demonstrating the cultural similarities and differences, highlighting the need to be sensitive to hidden messages in the interaction among the couples. Using a touching story of a middle aged couple and their son in coping with the deadly disease-cancer, Dr. Black beautifully illustrated how secrets once disclosed and openly addressed, and the rituals shared by family members can be a healing process. Dr. Black’s presentation touches our hearts and at the same time reminds us of the role of the helping professionals, and the need to give the family sufficient space and time to work out their life issues.



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Over 50 academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners presented papers at plenary sessions and concurrent breakout sessions on various topics including policies on families; coping, strengths and resilience of families in facing crisis, challenges for innovation and change in addressing family issues including mental health, cancer, substance abuse, special needs children, care of elderly, families in poverty, development of family therapy as a profession and impact of information technology on family etc. There were also over 20 poster presentations on various topics. The scientific program has stimulated much enthusiastic discussion and sharing with very positive feedback from participants. 8 Pre and post symposium workshops conducted by invited trainers and agency visits were fully enrolled with participants finding these training activities to be useful.



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12 noon, 12 December, 2012

An auspicious moment of 12 noon on 12 December, 2012 in the middle of the Symposium has been video-taped and uploaded on to Youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbyo_VoRyms&feature=youtu.be. You may like to access to share this special moment.

Final Adjudication of 3A Project 2012

Another highlight of the Regional Symposium was the final round adjudication of the “2012 Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-being (3A Project 2012)” when 8 finalist teams which had gone through two rounds of adjudication received subsidy to attend the symposium to compete for the Gold, Silver and Bronze and My Favorite Project Award. These projects cover a wide variety of topics including

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lesbian/gay/bisexual & transgender youth and families; working with bereaved children and their families affected by natural disasters; promoting positive life attitude among families with special needs children; women wellness scheme; family based counseling and support for families with mental illness; family friendly policies and practices; family development account to end poverty, and health start home visit for parents from disadvantaged background to enhance the healthy development of pre-primary children.

For details of the 3A Project 2012, please refer to the [Brochure](#).



All the teams had put up a very good performance with carefully chosen audio visual aids and power point presentations and at the same time demonstrating close team work. After a very keen competition, the adjudication panel and the participants at the session finally selected the project on Hope - Starts from the Home Working with Bereaved Children and Their Families Affected by Disasters of the Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C. to be awarded with both the Gold Award and “My Favorite Project” Award. Two Hong Kong teams, i.e. Heep Hong Society with the project on Promoting Positive Life Attitudes among Families with Special Needs Children and the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals with the project on Healthy Start Home Visit Program got the Silver and Bronze Award respectively.

The Social Program & Award Presentation of 3A Project 2012

Apart from the scientific program, the participants had ample opportunities to network and exchange during the tea breaks, lunches, Welcome Reception and the Gala Dinner at the Grand Ballroom of the Resort World Sentosa when participants enjoyed delicious food and wonderful performance by staff and service recipients of the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and the Hong Kong delegation. The climax of the evening was the award presentation ceremony of the 3A Project 2012 which was exciting and filled with joy and applause.



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The Closing Ceremony

At the well attended closing ceremony, Mrs. Patricia Chu, the chairperson delivered her closing remarks, summarizing the achievements of the symposium, expressing deep appreciation to the unfailing efforts of all to make the symposium a success and briefed participants about the actions being taken to plan for the next regional symposium in 2014, and advised people interested to join to watch out for further news on development.



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Items distributed & on sale at Symposium

A CIFA leaflet (4th edition 2012) with 9 loose sheets highlighting the work/development of CIFA in the past 5 years has been printed for distribution at the Symposium. The soft copy will be uploaded in due course.

A set of CIFA souvenir including a specially designed pencil case with CIFA logo and CIFA pin has been produced for sale at the Symposium. Those who are interested to buy the souvenir may contact the CIFA Secretariat for further details.

Sharing Session on 3AProject 2012

To provide an opportunity for sharing of knowledge, experience and practice wisdom to fulfill the objective of the 3A Project; all the finalist teams presented their projects at a Sharing Session held on 14th December, 2012 (Friday) at the Auditorium of Social Service Training Institute Singapore, stimulating much discussion and exploring how the experience and practice wisdom can be replicated. The session, attended by over 60 local professionals, including teachers, social workers, medical personnel as well as parents, indeed provided a golden opportunity for sharing and exchange.



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To sustain the momentum and synergy created so far, another opportunity for sharing will be provided in Hong Kong in mid 2013 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong when the finalist teams will present their projects and share how they have furthered their work with the families.

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For the full list of 8 finalist teams and the results of 3A Project 2012, please refer to the following table:

Organization	Project Name
Heep Hong Society (Silver Award Winner)	Promoting Positive Life Attitudes among Families with Special Needs Children
Taiwan Fund for Children and Families	Family Development Account Program: An Approach To End Poverty
Richform Holdings Limited	Family -Friendly, Happy Together
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Tsz Wan Shan Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	Project Touch-1st Social Service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youths and their families in Greater China
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Bronze Award Winner)	Healthy Start Home Visit Program
Hong Kong Children & Youth Services – Hung Hom Integrated Family Service Centre	Sleeping Beauty - Women Wellness Scheme
New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Seeing H.O.P.E.S.-family-based Counseling & Support Project
Child Welfare League Foundation R.O.C. (Gold Award & My Favourite Project Winner)	Hope - Starts from the Home Working with Bereaved Children and Their Families Affected by Disasters

For the full program of the Symposium and pre/post symposium workshops please refer to the [Program Booklet](#). The Symposium and CIFA Secretary are in the process of seeking consent from the speakers to upload their presentations onto the CIFA website. Please watch out for it.

A photo album for the Symposium and the 3A Project 2012 is being created and will be uploaded onto the CIFA website. Participants who have attended these events are welcomed to send in their photos to the CIFA Secretariat.

For those who are interested to join CIFA as a member, please take immediate action to download the application form and send a cheque payable to the **Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region Limited** to the **CIFA Secretariat at 6/F Tsan Yuk Hospital, 30 Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun, HK.**

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***We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year! May all of you enjoy the festive
season and a prosperous 2013!***

CIFA Members Share:

If you have recently attended a conference/workshop and would like to share your experience, or would like to share any news about your work that may be of interest to the community, please e-mail to: the secretariat of CIFA, info@cifa-net.org

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