



5th CIFA Regional Symposium 2016

Asian Families : Change and Consistency

National Museum of Korea, Seoul
Nov. 3 ~ 5, 2016

Host : Korean Association of Family Relations
Organizers : CIFA & KAIFR

An announcement was made that to sustain the momentum and synergy created thus far in the 3A Project, an Exchange Program involving Sharing Session and Agency Visits would be held in June 2017 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Finalist teams of 2016 and Gold, Silver and Bronze awardees of 2014 will present their projects and share how they have furthered their work. This would provide an opportunity to explore possibilities for replication and adaptation to meet the cultural differences in different countries/regions, to actualize the theme of "Aspiration For Sustainability, Innovation & Applicability (ASIA)" of the Wofoo 3A Project.

Asian Family Summit to celebrate 10th Anniversary of CIFA in 2018

At the well attended closing ceremony, Mrs. Patricia Chu delivered her closing remarks, summarizing the deliberations and achievements of the Symposium and expressing deep appreciation to the unfailing efforts of all who made the Symposium a great success. She also made an announcement that CIFA will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2018 and the 6th Regional Symposium would be held in Hong Kong in the form of an Asian Family Summit. She also presented a very attractive video on Hong Kong and invited all to join the Asian Family Summit to commemorate an important milestone in the development of CIFA.

15TH ISSUE

OCT-DEC 2016

Newsletter of Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region

CifA-Net

Converging
PROFESSIONAL WISDOM
FOR Family Well-Being

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Message From Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson CIFA



The past quarter has been a most exciting and busy one in which all at CIFA were engaged in organizing the 5th Regional Symposium and the Final Round Adjudication of the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 to be held in early November at the National Museum of Korea, Seoul. In this issue, we will report on these two significant activities of CIFA in the quarter, while the sharing of keynote papers and Wofoo 3A Project 2016 will follow in subsequent issues.

Since this was the first ever CIFA event in which a representative from the United Nations was involved as the Guest of Honour, many logistics had to be arranged and protocols had to be followed. With the concerted efforts of the co-organizer, the Korean Association of Family Relations, all the detailed arrangements had been made with a view to make it a memorable one. We were most honoured to have Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations to join us, giving recognition and support to CIFA, witnessing it in action, and bringing CIFA to a new height in its endeavors as a regional platform.

As reported in following pages, the 5th Regional Symposium has been a great success, breaking records in terms of number of registrations and presentations. We have received very positive feedback from Ms. Bas, co-organizers, supporting organizations, speakers and participants as well as the many volunteers who provided efficient and timely support to ensure the smooth running of the Symposium.

We at CIFA are deeply appreciative of Ms. Bas for staying throughout the whole Symposium, not only as the Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony and the Award Presentation Ceremony of Wofoo 3A Project 2016, but joining most of the scientific programs and participating in discussions on various issues raised during the plenary sessions and concurrent sessions. All are deeply touched by her conviction on the importance of the family and its impact on sustainable development of society, not only as a United Nations Representative, but a person with dedication and vision to make the world a better place for all through collaborative efforts. She is a live example for all of us and we are privileged to have crossed with her and we shall look upon her advice and guidance in our endeavors in promoting well-being and happiness for all in the years to come.

To wrap up a memorable 2016 may I take this opportunity to thank all for their unfailing support to the work of CIFA, and wish all a Happier, Healthier and More Fulfilled 2017!

**We Wish You a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

**May the joy of the festive season bring
you happiness and fulfillment,
peace and harmony!!**

The 5th CIFA Regional Symposium & Wofoo 3A Project 2016

The 5th CIFA Regional Symposium on Asian Families: Change and Consistency was successfully held from 3rd to 5th November at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, with the Korean Association of Family Relations (KAFR) as a co-organizer, and the Family Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as a number of professional associations in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and Taiwan as supporting organizations. It attracted over 430 participants from 9 countries/regions, breaking the record of registration of all previous regional symposiums.

United Nations Presence

This was the first time in the history of CIFA since its inauguration in 2008 when full support and high level endorsement was received from the United Nations. CIFA was honoured by the presence of Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations to deliver an informative, stimulating and encouraging Opening Address at the Opening Ceremony. She was joined by Mr. Kwon Yong-hyun, Vice Minister of Gender Equality and Family from the Korean Government who delivered a Congratulatory Message at the Opening Ceremony.

Ms. Bas found the theme of the Symposium “Asian Families: Change and Consistency” most appropriate as it attests to the fact that despite changing families and societies, the family remains a consistent element of all societies, worthy of focus of public policy. She strongly acknowledged the work of CIFA which not only contributes to the well-being of families in Asia, but serves as a good example of collaboration among numerous stakeholders, including academics, researchers, public, private and the civil society to reflect on the myriad of issues surrounding families, identify challenges and think of solutions.

While giving full recognition to CIFA as a regional platform, Ms. Bas also shared the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promulgated by the United Nations, which is based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. She highlighted that many goals and targets are difficult to achieve without the support and engagement of families all around the world. She emphasized that in achieving some of the SDGs, we need family-oriented policies to assist households in fulfilling their numerous economic, care-giving and educational functions.

The Scientific Program

The Scientific Program was full and of high standard with two keynote speakers including Prof. HAN Gyoung-hae from Seoul National University (Korea) on the topic “Changing Families and Its Implications For the Quality of Life” and Prof. PENG Lin from Tsinghua University (China) on the topic “The Three Characteristics of Chinese Family Management Philosophy”.

Over 50 academics, researchers, government officials and practitioners presented papers on various topics, including those on The Future of Asian Families (changing values, structure and functions of families); Contemporary Issues on

Parenting (child abuse and discipline, co-parenting and step families as a result of divorce); Family Happiness (Innovative & public health approach to promote family holistic health, cross-country exploratory study on family happiness, and active aging) and Family Practice in Asia (family therapy for sexless couples with children, study on a family therapy training program for psychiatric nurses, and case study on factors influencing obsessive-compulsive disorder). Apart from the keynotes, 4 plenary sessions (with 14 presentations) and 3 concurrent sessions (with 47 presentations), there were altogether 65 poster presentations and exhibitions, pre-symposium agency visits and post-symposium workshops, all of which were well attended by participants. The scientific program had stimulated much discussion and sharing among participants, generating much energy for future exchange and collaboration.

Final Round Adjudication of Wofoo 3A Project 2016

One of the highlights of the Regional Symposium was the Final Round Adjudication of the “Wofoo Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being (3A Project) 2016” when 8 finalist teams attended the symposium to compete for the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, My Favorite Project Award and The Best Collaborative Award. These projects covered a wide variety of topics including parents of children with developmental disabilities, excessive gaming among youths, pregnant women and mothers with psychotropic substance abuse problems, victims of industrial accidents, cancer family support, elderly and inter-generation engagement, poverty, and parents with children with behavioral difficulties.

All the teams had put up a very good performance with carefully developed audio visual aids and powerpoint presentations and at the same time demonstrating close team work. After a very keen competition, the Adjudication Panel finally selected the project on ““Happy Parenting Program” - The First Local Evidence-based Parenting Program for Parents of Preschoolers with Developmental Disabilities” from Heep Hong Society (Hong Kong) to be the winner of the Gold Award. The project on “TOUCH Cyber Wellness Family Support Programme” from Touch Community Services Pte Ltd (Singapore) won the Silver Award and My Favourite Project and the project on “Pregnant Psychotropic Substance Abusers Family Supporting Scheme” from the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, LC-HKS - Rainbow Lutheran Centre (Hong Kong) won the Bronze Award and The Best Collaborative Award.

Social Program & Award Presentation of Wofoo 3A Project 2016

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 in the facilities and beautiful grounds of the National Museum of Korea. The climax of the Wofoo 3A Project 2016 was the Award Presentation Ceremony, with Ms. Bas and Dr. Joseph Lee of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the Title Sponsor as the Guests of Honour to present the awards to the winning teams. Their remarks were most encouraging, giving recognition to the dedication and continuous efforts made by the teams to serve the specific target groups, echoing the observations made by the Adjudication Panel on the strong team work and spirit among the members in the whole process of competition.

