



Converging
PROFESSIONAL WISDOM
 FOR Family Well-Being

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Message from Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson, CIFA



During the quarter, the work of CIFA continued, mainly on working out the details of the activities to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to explore sponsorship for these activities. A lot of preparatory work in putting together the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Ageing of Population in Asia, with much input from Renata of UN, Puk from NUS, Vivian from HKU and myself, with full support from the Secretariat. An announcement on the EGM is included in this issue and we look forward to a very fruitful and inspiring two-day program at HKU.

Other activities include the first meeting of the Organising Committee on the Asian Family Summit, involving representatives from 4 co-organisers namely the Family Council, Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Council of Social Services and Faculty of Social Sciences of HKU, setting up committees for various aspects of the AFS, as well as confirming the programs and other related matters. Preparatory work on the Regional Campaign on Family Well-Being continued with full support from the Child Welfare League Foundation of Taiwan, working closely with the Hong Kong team to develop the website and details with the view to launch the campaign in the last quarter of this year.

Another exciting development was the finalisation of the User Acceptance Test on the revamping of the CIFA website. I would like to show my deepest appreciation to the WEP Development Committee under the leadership of Mr. Kwok to complete this tedious and time-consuming assignment. When the data migration exercise is completed, it is expected that the website with new look and functions will be launched in the last quarter of this year.

In this issue, an article on the Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box Project, the winner of the Bronze and the Best Collaborative Awards of the Wofoo 3A Project 2022, is presented by Caritas, Hong Kong and Hong Kong Christian Service, to share an innovative and interesting approach in helping parents and their children to spend quality time together in a home bound situation due to the pandemic.

Last but not the least, I am most thankful to Prof. Kim, Vice-chairperson to make arrangements and spend time with me during my visit to Korea, providing opportunity for me to meet her Dean at the SolBridge International School of Business (where she is the Endowed Chair Professor) and her students to share our work at CIFA, joining the dinner organised by her students of the Chungbuk National University to welcome me and celebrate her birthday, as well as a short and yet exciting visit to Busan!



Wofoo 3A Project 2022

Bronze Award and Best Collaborative Award

Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box

Caritas Hong Kong and Hong Kong Christian Service

Project background

As Covid-19 prevails, many changes have occurred in young children's learning. Many parents were worried about its impact on children's learning progress. Parents' anxiety during the pandemic has also caused tension in parent-child relationship.

Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box was a project funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and jointly organised by Caritas Hong Kong and Hong Kong Christian Service. The Wonder Boxes contain several games on child development, providing families with young children with a set of brand-new interactive set of learning resources. The games promote quality parent-child interaction and the children learn at home through games during pandemic. More than 80% of kindergartens in Hong Kong participated in this project, benefiting nearly 130,000 kindergarten students.

Design Concept of Wonder Box

The games of the Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box 1 and 2 are co-designed by our multi-disciplinary expert team comprising educational psychologists, early childhood educators, social workers, artists, speech therapists and fitness instructors. They provide new and fun learning materials as well as support for young children to learn and grow through playing games at home. These also help improve parent-child relationships and promote family harmony by encouraging quality interaction between parents and children during pandemic.

The distribution of Box 1 was launched in January 2021. Themes of the games include cognitive, language, physical, aesthetic, affective and social (emotions and feelings, social skills and interpersonal relationship) as well as moral development.

Building on the concepts of positive psychology and character strengths, the Box 2 develops creative stories and game activities around the themes of 'hope', 'gratitude' and 'joy', with the aim to cultivate good character traits, positive emotions and a sense of happiness in young children. The 18 small boxes inside the box set come with 18 respective sets of game materials.

The Box 2 applied augmented reality (AR) technology to transform graphic design into three-dimensional (3D) animation. Three of the small boxes can be assembled into a train and combine with the big box of AR tracks to become a game, enhancing the infinite imagination and creativity of this parent-child activity. We hope the Box 2 to bring joyful moments to parents and their children during pandemic.



Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box 1



Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box 2



Teaching Kit and Wonder Box

Project objectives:

1. To facilitate a better all-rounded development of children in this home-bound situation.
2. To engage parents in maintaining positive and quality interaction with children.
3. To inspire the kindergarten teachers with multidisciplinary professions through play-based context.
4. To strengthen family-school collaboration in utilising the interactive kits.



Teaching Kit with toys and tools for teachers

Impacts and effectiveness of Wonder Box

Production of three boxes:

The project delivered 130,000 wonder Box 1 and 133,000 Box 2 for kindergarten students and 1,500 Teaching Kits for 606 Kindergartens in Hong Kong.

Incorporate Wonder Box in Kindergartens curriculum:

Around 9,372 teachers attended 21 sessions of the zoom training and 33 teachers joined the focus groups. The Wonder Box was received with great enthusiasm, many teachers expressed that the content could be turned into classroom activities. Based on the content of Box 1 and Box 2, the team designed the third set of teaching kit. The third kit consisted of a total of 42 teaching plans for teachers to integrate with their curriculum in kindergartens.

Strengthen a harmonious relationship between parents and children:

Approximately 2,614 parents attended 13 sessions of zoom talks and 34 parents joined the focus group. Parents were unsure about how to interact with their children. After attending the sessions, they felt the Wonder Box was an ideal tool to spend quality time with children. Box 2 was designed as a challenge game. There were 18 small game boxes which the entire family can enjoy on a daily basis. Parents appreciated the three picture books, 'hope', 'gratitude' and 'joy'. They were able to cultivate good character traits with the children during reading time. Their children were able to display more positive emotions and showed happiness as a result.

Shopping Mall train exhibition:

'Power Train' design campaign was conducted in July 2021. Participants designed their unique train under the theme of 'hope', 'gratitude' or 'joy'. They submitted their masterpieces via the app and viewed the exhibition of all participants online. Their works were full of creativity and well in conveying positive messages. The campaign effectively encouraged parents and children to make good use of Wonder Box resources and enhancing parent-child relationship.

A total of 13 'Power Train' design exhibitions were held in July respectively at four venues, including D•Park, MEGA BOX, Olympian City and Hoi Fu Shopping Center. A total of 8,500 attendances were recorded visiting the exhibitions.



Families enjoyed AR Power Train Exhibition in shopping mall 1



Families enjoyed AR Power Train Exhibition in shopping mall 2



Families enjoyed AR Power Train Exhibition in shopping mall 3

Supporting cultural diversity:

Not only was there a parent's manual in Chinese and English, but it had also been translated into nine languages, such as Urdu, Thai, Indonesia, Nepali and Punjabi to support families of different cultural diversity, making it easy for parents to start the game.

Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Ageing of Population in Asia

The EGM is organised as part of the preparation for 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+30) building upon the recommendations to focus on several megatrends as reflected in the Reports of the Secretary General (2020-2021) and endorsed by the General Assembly resolution in 2021, namely New Technologies, Urbanization & Migration, Climate Change and Demographic Changes. In accordance with the United Nations mandates, the EGM will bring together experts in Asia to share, discuss and explore the issue on Ageing of Population and how it relates and impacts on the well-being of families in achieving specific Sustainable Development Goals.

Co-organisers:

 **NUS** National University of Singapore
Centre for Family and Population Research
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

 **CIFA** Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region

 **CUHK** 香港大學
香港大學耆老研究中心
Soo Po Centre on Ageing
The University of Hong Kong

 UNITED NATIONS
Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
DIVISION FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Expert Group Meeting on
Demographic Changes & Ageing of
Population in Asia**

Social Sciences Chamber, 11/F The Jockey Club Tower
Centennial Campus
University of Hong Kong
30 November - 1 December 2023

Opening Session:
9:30 am, 30 November 2023
Guest of Honour: Mr. Chris Sun
Secretary for Labour & Welfare, HKSAR

Sponsored by:

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 **Research Hub on Population Studies**

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For those who are interested to listen to the presentation and deliberation during the EGM, you may register to join the EGM online at <https://forms.gle/kvDmTUDfb2VaV8m6>.