



Converging
PROFESSIONAL WISDOM
FOR Family Well-Being

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Message from Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson, CIFA



As we approach the end of the year, the whole world is still struggling with the continuing threat brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the ways in which we conduct our everyday life, posing restrictions on social interaction and travelling, deploying new technology to facilitate communication, and adopting innovative approaches in delivering services to meet the emerging needs of the families. It is really a time to test our resilience and persistence in continuing our efforts to actualise the vision of CIFA in midst of challenges!

The most exciting news to share is the granting of Special Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to CIFA, giving formal recognition to our efforts in advancing family well-being in the Asian Region. This is a most significant milestone in the development of CIFA, giving us the encouragement and impetus to strive for betterment and continue to contribute towards achieving the sustainable development goals as promulgated by the United Nations.

The CIFA Council and its various committees have continued their efforts e.g. in organising the event to share knowledge and good practice and launch the new round of competition of Wofoo 3A Project on 10 December with the full support from the Family Council and Wofoo Social Enterprises, and the preparatory work in organising the CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022. Everyone is very excited and looking forward to active participation from different parts of the region.

In this issue, we are thankful to Caritas Hong Kong to share their experience in adopting new approaches in serving their service recipients during the pandemic, and the Child Welfare League Foundation of Taiwan to reflect on the achievements of its project on "Change - Starts from Me" Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program which has won the Silver and the Most Innovative Awards at the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 competition.

May I wish you all a peaceful, safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled 2022!

Granting of Special Consultative Status to CIFA by the United Nations

Background & Development

During the visit by Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the Focal Point on Family, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DISD/DESA) of the United Nations to Hong Kong to officiate at the Exchange Programme of Wofoo 3A Project 2016 and Charity Concert For Family Harmony in July 2017, the idea of application for consultative status was first raised by Ms. Elsie Leung, Hon. Advisor of CIFA at the dinner hosted by her. The idea was supported by Renata.

After lengthy deliberation, CIFA Council endorsed the idea and application for Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations was eventually submitted on 30 June 2019, in response to a call for submission from the NGO Branch. Formal approval was given by ECOSOC on 21 July 2021, granting Special Consultative Status to CIFA.

Implications

Consultative status for CIFA enables it to engage in a number of ways with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under specific conditions, some meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat.

The letter dated 30 September 2021 from the NGO Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs sets out clearly the **Privileges and benefits** (including attendance at meetings and access to the United Nations, written submissions and oral presentations at ECOSOC, consultations with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, and use of United Nations facilities), **Responsibilities and obligations** (including the submission of Quadrennial reports, keeping of detailed records of participation in UN meetings and events, as well as cooperation with UN funds and agencies for inclusion in reports, suspension and withdrawal under conditions as stipulated by ECOSOC) and **Strict prohibitions against misrepresentation** (including misuse of UN name or logo for endorsement of an organisation's activities in any way, not entitled to any privileges such as tax exemption, diplomatic passports and travel privileges, forbidden to use the UN logo on stationery, business cards, websites etc) If organisation wishes to display consultative status on its letterhead, the statement of 'Organisation in (category of consultative status) with the ECOSOC since (year status granted) can be adopted.

The CIFA Council feels very much honoured and encouraged to have been granted the Special Consultative Status from the ECOSOC. It is a formal recognition of the vision/mission and work of CIFA in enhancing family well-being in the Asian Region. During the Council meeting on 17 December, 2021, it unanimously endorsed the motion to include 'Organisation in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2021' below the name of CIFA on its letterhead.

A copy of the letter dated 30 September 2021 has been uploaded onto the CIFA website at <http://cifa-net.org/content.aspx?urlkey=Kb1Nfi0/dCytfrQU>.

Wofoo 3A Project

Exchange Programme on Wofoo 3A Project 2020 & Launching of Wofoo 3A Project 2022

The event has been successfully held online on 10 December 2021 with Ms. Melissa Pang, the new Chairman of the Family Council and Dr. Joseph Lee, President of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the Title Sponsor of Wofoo 3A Project as the Guests of Honour at the Opening Ceremony.

The programme was attended by around 110 participants from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, India and the Philippines. The response from participants has been very positive, generating fruitful discussions on follow up action to build linkages and sharing of experience. The event has been recorded and can be viewed on <http://cifa-net.org/content.aspx?urlkey=FVnAikT17T1af8qR> by those who were unable to join the programme due to clashing of events.

Wofoo 3A Project 2022

During the Launching Ceremony, Mrs. Patricia Chu presented an overview and highlights of Wofoo 3A Project since 2010, and Dr. Agnes Ng, announced the details of the competition. Following that, invitation letters have been sent out to social service organisations, religious/professional groups, caring companies and academic institutes to appeal for their support and participation in this new round of competition. Announcement has also been made in the CIFA website at <http://www.cifa-net.org>.

To submit innovative project(s) that improve the quality of family life and enhance the well-being of families, please complete the Project Submission Form which can be downloaded from <http://cifa-net.org/content.aspx?urlkey=GCbwo9E9VXpStCv2> together with a brief description of your project(s) in 500 words in English, on or before **28 January 2022**. To encourage more teams to participate and feel more at ease to present themselves at the second round interview session in July 2022, we would allow someone from the team to do the translation from their national language to English if needed. ACT NOW! Join this exciting and meaningful endeavor!

The Final Round Adjudication and Award Presentation Ceremony of the Wofoo 3A Project 2022 will take place at the CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022, scheduled to be held in the week of 7-12 November, 2022 in Singapore. Subsidy will be given to members of the finalist teams to attend the Symposium.

Important Dates:

Deadline for Submission of Initial Application	28 January 2022
Announcement of First Round Result	25 March 2022
Deadline for Submission of Project for Second Round Adjudication	30 May 2022
Second Round Adjudication Interviews	14 - 15 July 2022
Announcement of Second Round Adjudication Result	1 August 2022
Final Round Adjudication (in Singapore)	In the week of 7-12 November, 2022
Award Presentation (in Singapore)	In the week of 7-12 November, 2022

Wofoo 3A Project 2020

Silver Award & Most Innovative Award

“Change - Starts from Me” Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program



Child Welfare League Foundation, Taiwan
Member Organisation of CIFA

Bullying on School Campus in Taiwan

Bullying has been a common phenomenon on school campus. When a child experiences a bullying event, the adults may worry that if they point up the situation, it may create negative impact on the child or exacerbate the hurt the child already got. They therefore may first downplay the incident or give the child some evasive advice. However, with this response, the child would not feel to be empathised, accepted or protected, which may worsen the situation and affect the child's physical and/or mental well-being. Apparently telling the child "Just ignore them" is as if saying "I don't think your hurt is important", which might serve as an invisible fist punching heavily on the heart of the bullied child.

Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program

When bullying takes place in schools, nobody should be an outsider. Be it the helpless child or the adults who do not know what to do, as long as there is "one person" who is willing to change and step up, there is a chance to reverse the adversity. With the Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program, the Child Welfare League Foundation (CWLF) from Taiwan believes that everyone can be that "one person" and should join hands in protecting our children in schools.

In 2004, CWLF first introduced the term "bullying" to Taiwan and became the first Non-Governmental Organisation(NGO) to study school bullying and conducted a series of surveys and researches on the issue. In 2010, CWLF was invited to participate in the drafting of Regulations Governing Prevention and Control of Bullying on Campuses¹. The regulation was promulgated in 2012 and has become the guideline for handling bullying events for all levels of schools.

With the increasing public attention, CWLF continued developing its Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program and collaborating with the private sector to launch various advocacy initiatives. During the advocacy process, CWLF also collected feedback from the school system and developed training courses and class counselling services based on cultivating "trauma-informed care" and "social-emotional skills." With the aim to create behavioral change and improve interpersonal relationships among students, CWLF designed various activities teaching emotions, respect and empathy for students, teachers and parents to help them understand the seriousness of bullying issues and learn ways to respond and handle the situations.

Objectives of the Anti-Bullying Education Promotion Program:

1. To continue conducting surveys and researches to monitor school bullying situations in Taiwan and other countries.
2. To monitor the law enforcement and call for amendment to address the obstacles of enforcement.
3. To teach children ways to manage emotions, face bullying incidents and uphold bystander justice.
4. To promote trauma-informed schools. Provide trauma-informed training for school personnel to help them create a school environment where children can feel physically and mentally safe.
5. To teach teachers and parents strategies to respond to bullying incidents. To enhance their teaching and parenting skills.
6. To promote anti-bullying and enable the public to have correct understanding about bullying and build positive and caring society.

Measures to promote Anti-Bullying Education:

• Social Advocacy

1. Conducting annual surveys on school bullying in Taiwan
2. Importing anti-bullying educational materials (film, picture books)
3. Operating anti-bullying website, Facebook page, anti-bullying LINE@ helpline
4. Collaborating with enterprises to organise innovative campaigns "I Have My Right against Bullying"

● Law Enactment

1. Participating in drafting Regulations Governing Prevention and Control of Bullying on Campuses which was promulgated in 2012
2. Participating in the amendment of the regulation for it to include measures pertaining to cyberbullying and confidentiality of the whistle-blowers in 2020
3. Serving as the member of School Bullying Prevention and Handling Committee to assist in the prevention, investigation, confirmation and counselling of school bullying incidents

● Friendly School Environment Services

1. Providing training courses for students, teachers and parents in utilising effective strategies to respond to bullying situations, and guide the bullies, victims and bystanders to adjust their response to bullying incidents
2. Providing class counselling to let the students see the incidents from the perspectives of the bullies, the victims and bystanders with the emphasis on importance of empathy, stress management and positive attitudes

● Publication

1. Development of various anti-bullying educational materials such as books, teacher's manual, board games in the hope of providing the public a direction and reference in coping and management of school bullying

Project Achievements

Increase of Public Awareness

Since the research on Taiwan school bullying began in 2004, CWLF has launched 18 bullying related surveys and proposed various substantial suggestions to the public. CWLF has led Taiwan people from being unfamiliar to fully aware of the concept and seriousness of school bullying, and the concept is widely used in interpersonal conflicts nowadays. In 2005 CWLF survey, only less than 40% victims of bullying were willing to seek help from their teachers. In 2018, more than 50% victims were willing to ask their teachers for help. Anti-bullying awareness has been raised.

Call for Policy Changes

CWLF's evidence-based anti-bullying program and practices have earned itself a significant role in anti-bullying policy making process. CWLF has succeeded to serve a consulting role to provide feedback and request government's timely response and adjustment on its anti-bullying measures and policies.

Enhancement of Bullying Literacy on School Campus

Since 2015, CWLF has cooperated with the Ministry of Education to provide training courses all around Taiwan. Until 2020, CWLF has conducted 598 courses to students, teachers and parents with 68,538 participants. Each year there were more than ten thousand people benefiting from the services and their feedback were 99% positive, indicating that the courses have helped them increase understanding on school bullying and know how to respond to bullying incidents.

Improvement of Interpersonal Interaction in Class

Class counselling services also showed remarkable achievement. It was reported that each student gained an average of 1.16 more friends after the counselling. The interpersonal interaction has increased for Class A, B and C, and the network groups that were not interacting with each other before began to connect (Figure 1).

Sustainability & Replicability of Project

The Taiwan Government's current enforcement of Regulations Governing Prevention and Control of Bullying on Campuses has focused on the investigation and overlooked the importance of counselling and restoring the relationship. As an NGO dedicated for promotion of child welfare, CWLF has established an anti-bullying LINE helpline to support children to express their emotions. In the future, CWLF will endeavour to include trauma-informed concept in the law so that when schools handle bullying incidents, communications and understanding can be prioritised, followed by strategies for restorative justice. In this light, the positive outcome of counselling school bullying incidents can be further reinforced.

Bullying is a common phenomenon on school campus in different parts of the Asian Region and it will not disappear automatically. The influence it sheds on children is tremendous. It is hoped that the sharing of the experience in this project by CWLF at the Wofoo 3A Project 2020 organised by CIFA will inspire family practitioners to reflect, replicate and develop more innovative and effective anti-bullying programs and create a more safe and friendly school environment with respect and justice for the young generation in future.

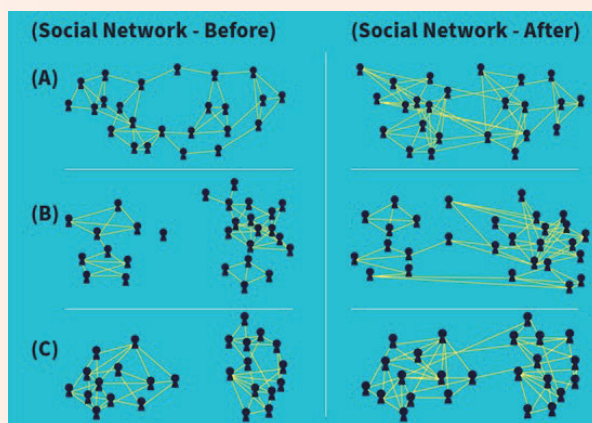


Figure 1: Social Network Analysis Before and After Class Counselling (UCINET6)

¹ <https://law.moj.gov.tw/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?PCode=H0020081> In July, 2012, Ministry of Education promulgated Regulations Governing Prevention and Control of Bullying on Campuses.



Caritas Hong Kong

Caritas-Hong Kong (Caritas), a renowned multi-service Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) deeply rooted in Hong Kong since 1953, strives to help the underprivileged and the vulnerable, to encourage people to actualise their potential, to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation, and to nurture a spirit of offering back to the community from which the people have benefited. It has served people from all walks of life. With Christian heritage, it is dedicated to meeting the needs and aspirations of the Last, the Least and the Lost in the community.

New Normal Family Services Under COVID-19 Challenge

The pandemic has casted a novel challenge and unprecedented changes for people around the world. To meet this challenge, Caritas Hong Kong Family Service has emphasised strengthening the competence and well-being of individuals and family members, especially in face of hardship. With concerted effort to strive for excellence and professionalism, it has actively acquired new knowledge and technology to deliver timely and tailor-made family services through various online means.

Parent-Child Bonding

Under the pandemic, parental stress was commonly found and inevitably would cause some tension in the parent-child relationships. With funding support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Caritas School Social Work Service - Kindergarten has joined hands with another NGO and created two “Interactive



Wonder Box” sets, which contained interactive games, successfully improving the parent-child bonding, promoting quality parent-child time, and facilitating toddlers’ learning and development at home. The Boxes were distributed to over 130,000 kindergarten families at the outbreak of the pandemic.

[#QualityFamilyTime](#) [#GrowthJourney](#)

Marriage Enrichment

Healthy marital relationship is usually built on constant positive experiences and growth stimulation. To achieve marriage enrichment, Caritas Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) has designed an “Online Escape Room” for couples, who have learned through experiential games to effectively communicate with their spouse and overcome different challenges together.

[#CoupleGoal](#) [#PositiveCommunication](#)



"Seamless · Reconnection"
All-rounded Care for Families in Hong Kong



Men's Service

During the pandemic, online interaction family service has been initiated to serve the needy families and individuals, such as men who are in need of family counselling. Caritas Personal Growth Centre for Men has successfully reached the unmotivated male clients and encouraged them to join the online programme. Many clients who have participated in this online programme have benefited from this innovative family services that they have developed stronger social support, better emotion management and improved parenting skills.

[#FatherSupport](#) [#WithoutBorder](#)



Single-Parent Family

With sharp increase in divorce rate, single-parent families are increasing and the related family issues are prevailing in Hong Kong. These families have been found more vulnerable and in need of social support and services. To facilitate their mutual support and resilience in face of adversity, Caritas had connected these single-parent families through organising online gatherings to encourage mutual concern and support during the pandemic. Warmth, care and support were conveyed to these families during the gatherings.

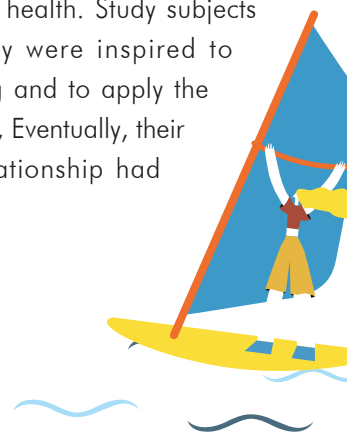
[#StayConnected](#) [#Companion](#)



Family Mental Well-Being

Together with the School of Public Health and the School of Nursing of The University of Hong Kong, Caritas has launched a Study on the mental health of Hong Kong families during the pandemic. The Study has recruited 65 subjects who had provided feedback through a survey after joining Caritas' 2-hour Online Program adopting Body-Mind-Spirit (BMS) Holistic Well-being Approach. The findings reported the effectiveness of (BMS) Holistic Well-being Approach in enhancing personal well-being, positive emotion and concern towards health. Study subjects shared that they were inspired to adopt slow-living and to apply the skills in parenting. Eventually, their parent-child relationship had been improved.

[#Mindful](#) [#BMS](#)



"Seamless • Reconnection"
All-rounded Care for Families in Hong Kong

Way Forward

During the COVID-19 pandemic challenge, the family professionals of Caritas Hong Kong have advanced the family services through creative technological applications. Face-to-face, online services and hybrid mode services have become the new norm in family service provision. To record its memorable journey sailing along the turbulence with Hong Kong people and to share its service advancement, Caritas has produced a new booklet entitled "Seamless • Reconnection - Opportunities, Challenges and Practice Wisdom of Online Service". To look forward, Caritas would strive to provide diversified, timely and innovative services to empower the Hong Kong families in meeting life challenges with love and hope.



(Fr. Dominique Mukonda with supervisors of Family Service)

Caritas Hong Kong
Family Service





CIFA Regional Symposium & MSF Asian Family Conference 2022

Co-organisers :

**Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA)
Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF) of Singapore
National University of Singapore (NUS)**

The Organising Committee would like to provide some recent updates on the Symposium 2022 as following:

Date : In the week of 7-12 November 2022 (TBC)

Theme : Empowering Asian Families: Embracing Challenges & Building a Better Future

Sub-themes:

- Innovations, Inspirations & Sustainability of Asian Family Services
- Changing Asian Families in the New Era
- Good Family Practices
- Globalization and Asian Families
- Family Research and Policy Impact

Proposed Programme: 3-day programme including:

- Opening & Closing Ceremony
- Keynote speeches
- Plenary Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- Poster Presentation & Exhibition
- Final Round Adjudication of Wofoo 3A Project 2022
- Roundtable meetings
- Gala Dinner cum Award Presentation Ceremony of Woo 3A Project 2022

Website: Will be launched in March 2022

Watch out for further details and make necessary plans to join this exciting event!