



Converging
PROFESSIONAL WISDOM
FOR Family Well-Being

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Message from Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson, CIFA



This quarter has been a busy one with a lot of things happening and bearing fruit!

In preparation for the planning of the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium in Taiwan in November 2020, I led a team of seven Council / Committee members to pay a visit to Taipei to meet Prof. Joyce Feng and representatives of the co-organizers. With full preparation before the visit, it turned out to be a very fruitful one when we had the chance to visit the beautiful campus of the National Taiwan University, the Convention Hall and its ancillary facilities, the venue for the Gala Dinner, and we even had a chance to taste the delicious menu in the restaurant where the Welcome Dinner Reception will be held, just next to the hotel which will be the Headquarter

Hotel of the Symposium. Visits had been arranged for us to have an idea of the type of agency visits to be arranged for participants of the Symposium. All found the services provided innovative and interesting and a lot can be learnt.

The Preparatory Meeting held on 25 February was equally efficient when important issues such as the roles of co-organizers, supporting organizations and sponsors were clearly defined, the setting up of the Organizing Committee and related Committees, themes and programme of the Symposium, the budget, registration fees and the time line to roll out the whole thing had been thoroughly discussed. These were reported to and endorsed by the CIFA Council during its meeting on 8 March so that the website will be developed for the formal announcement and online registration in September. Mark your diary and watch out for the details!

During the quarter, the Publicity and Fund Raising Committee has been working hard to plan for the Charity Concert for Family Harmony to be held on 16 April, a signature fund raising event in collaboration with the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra. We look forward to an evening filled with wonderful musical performance and at the same time raising funds for CIFA.

In this issue, apart from reporting on the progress in the planning for the 6th CIFA Regional Symposium, and the Charity Concert, we have included the sharing by the Silver Award Winning team of Wofoo 3A Project 2018 from Hong Kong Christian Service on its Project on Talk Right-Speech Therapy Training Kit and Home Program which introduces the first speech therapy home training kit in Asia, not only bringing improvement to children and their families, but also influencing the industry as a whole.

We are also pleased to share the joy of the Guangzhou POAI Social Work Service, with its Warming your Hearts, an Outstanding Award Winner of Wofoo 3A Project 2018, in winning the Lam Woo Outstanding Service Project Award in China. This recognition is most encouraging and hopefully will inspire more projects to join the 3A Project in the future.

We are all excited about the progress made in different areas of work of CIFA, and we appeal to you for your continuous support so as to actualize our mission of a regional platform to advance family well-being!

6th CIFA Regional Symposium 2020 in Taiwan

Preparatory Meeting & Site Visit

24–27 February 2019 Taipei

Under the leadership of Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson of CIFA, a team comprising 7 Council/Committee members, including Dr. Agnes NG, Prof. KIM Yeong Hee, Mr. LAI Chi Tong, Dr. Margaret WONG, Mr. WONG Kwong Sing, Mr. Ivan TAM and Dr. Miranda CHUNG, had conducted a site visit to the National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei, Taiwan. With the very efficient and detailed arrangements made before the visit, and the warm hospitality of the Taiwan team headed by Prof. Joyce FENG, it turned out to be a very fruitful and memorable one.

The Preparatory Meeting held on 25 February at NTU was attended by representatives of potential co-organizers and supporting organizations, when it recommended the Symposium to be held between 23 and 27 November 2020 at NTU, with the main theme of “Family First: Supporting Asian Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth”. The Scientific Committee was tasked to work out the sub-themes for the consideration of the Organizing Committee. Thorough discussion was also made on other important issues, e.g. the Programme of the Symposium to be recommended to the CIFA Council for its endorsement.



Proposed Programme of 6th CIFA Regional Symposium:

23–25 November 2020

Three day conference including Opening Ceremony, Keynote speeches, Plenary Sessions, Final Round Adjudication of Wofoo 3A Project 2020, Concurrent Sessions, Gala Dinner cum Award Presentation Ceremony of Woo 3A Project 2020 and Closing Ceremony

26–27 November 2020

Post-symposium Agency Visits and Workshops

Visits to venues for Symposium activities, including the convention hall and ancillary facilities for the Symposium, banquet hall for the Gala Dinner etc had been arranged and all venues were found to be conveniently located and impressive.

It is trusted that through inspiring professional sharing and experience exchange by distinguished scholars and family-related professionals, participants will benefit tremendously from the Symposium. Moreover, 2-day Workshops and Agency Visits will provide valuable learning opportunities for the participants. Upon the endorsement of the CIFA Council and development of the Symposium website to facilitate online registration, the first announcement of the exciting 6th CIFA Regional Symposium is expected in coming September.

Agency Visits

During the site visit in Taiwan, the CIFA Team had the privilege to visit three successful social services in Taiwan serving a variety of target groups, ranging from persons with disability and parents/grandparents and their children/grandchildren. All service units are innovative, people-oriented and well operated by local NGOs. These are some examples of service units to be included in the Post-Symposium Agency Visits.



若水 Flow

Flow Inc. is a social enterprise which has broken the false dichotomy between "it is a business" or "it is a charity" by generating income from cloud computing while offering job opportunities to the individuals with disabilities. In 2012, Flow has built a team with professionals of engineering design and construction and developed the Building Information Modeling (BIM). It is the first social enterprise providing BIM professional services to construction and/or architectural design companies.

勝利廚房 Victory Kitchen

The Victory Kitchen, housed in Taipei Social Enterprise Building, is providing various foods of "health, safety, and deliciousness," not only to create a job opportunity for the disabled but provide them with an opportunity to reintegrate into the society and live on their own through innovative thinking. The new central kitchen has introduced the most professional dust-free food processing equipment. It not only passes the ISO22000, HACCP international quality certification, but the entire kitchen is also designed with the worker-friendly spirit for the disabled.

松山親子館 SongShan Parent-Child Center

The Songshan Parent-Child Center operated by the Child Welfare League Foundation (CWLFF) is one of the 13 Parent-Child Centers in Taipei City, with unique features, providing a safe and warm environment for parents to play, study, and read together with their children. The professional staff also teaches parenting and nursing skills and facilitate the exchange of information to relieve the pressure of caregivers. Moreover, nursing and parenting seminars, parent-child activities, child care consultation and community-oriented services are also offered at the Center.

Wofoo 3A Project 2018

Silver Award:

Talk Right – Speech Therapy Training Kit and Home Program Hong Kong Christian Service

Introduction

It is commonly known that age 0-6 is a prime period for child language development. Yet according to government statistics, children who are diagnosed with language impairment are required to wait for one year or more before receiving government-subsidized rehabilitation service! During such a long waiting time, parents might opt for private speech therapy. Nonetheless, for majority of families, private service is expensive, and speech therapy training materials in the market are not always suitable. This has greatly deterred low-income families from helping their children. In the above light, the Hong Kong Christian Service, striving to act as a pioneer to address this social issue, has launched a “Talk Right - Speech Therapy Training Kit and Home Program” (Talk Right) in facilitating quality parent-child interaction and teaching language stimulation skills, in turn alleviating the stress borne by the parents.

Program Objectives

Children with speech and language delay often encounter difficulties, frustrations and anxiety in many aspects of their development – academic and emotional development (Ward, 1999). In the long run, it might induce serious impacts on their psychological and social-communication development (Snowling et al., 2006). In the above light, the “Talk Right” Program has attempted to achieve the following objectives: -

1. To concretely support parents with training kit and systematic home practice program during children’s waiting period in order to effectuate early intervention.
2. To adhere to the “Train-the-trainer” principle in order to achieve the sustainability of program and facilitate a synergy among schools.
3. To “connect speech therapy service with the community” by encouraging more speech therapy training and scientific researches, in order to increase its benefits to the community.

6 Phases of the Program

Phase 1 – Preparation

A survey was conducted on parents of language-impaired children, aiming to study their emotional state, stress, problems faced, parent-child interaction and their needs.



Parents' seminars



Award Presentation Ceremony

Phase 2 – Production of Training Kit

Talk Right Training Kit was developed, composing the following:-

- Screening Tools of Language Impairment
- Introduction of Speech Therapy in picture book format
- 4 sets of Training Materials at different levels

To help parents master the training kit, a 6-month Systematic Home Training Program has been organized for them.

Phase 3 - Training Parents & Professionals

An one-off training session was developed for training parents, education and care professionals, and allied health professionals who wish to adopt Talk Right Program in helping children with language difficulties. A total of 15 seminars were organized for the interested professionals.

Phase 4 - Program Efficacy Study

A research study with pre-test and post-test measures as well as experimental and control groups has been launched to study the language differences of the children before and after participating in the Talk Right Program. Parents' emotions were also studied. Both parents and children have shown significant improvements after the Program.

	Experimental group			Control group		
	Pre-test score	Post-test score	% of improvement	Pre-test score	Post-test score	% of improvement
Expression ability	40.24	48.09	19.5%	33.00	35.20	6.7%
Comprehension ability	41.00	47.45	15.7%	30.24	31.64	4.6%
Total vocabulary size	35.42	53.70	51.6%	28.32	29.72	4.9%
Vocabulary diversity	22.12	28.52	28.9%	17.32	18.32	5.8%
Sentence length	2.70	3.99	47.8%	2.93	3.16	7.8%
Grammatical accuracy	79.48	88.70	11.6%	77.50	77.01	0.06%

Fig. 1. Children's language improvement after participating in 6-month Talk Right Program

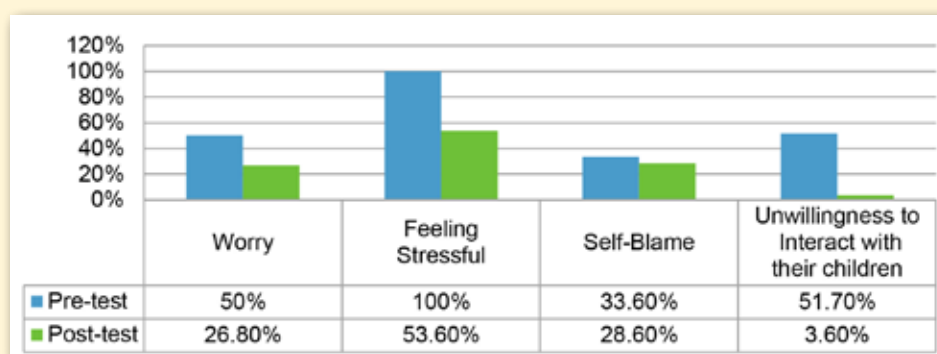


Fig. 2. Improvement of Parent' Emotions after the Talk Right Program

Phase 5 – Advocacy

Sharing sessions were held for all local institutes providing speech therapist training program. In particular, the positioning of a speech therapist in rehabilitation service was raised and discussed. Also, connecting professional service with the community is encouraged.

Phase 6 - Train-the-Trainer

Training sessions for school administrators and teachers from kindergartens were offered and the importance of Train-the-Trainer principle was transmitted to schools. The teachers were encouraged to train the parents as ambassadors. As a consequence, parents were empowered and the resources could be more tailor-made for different schools. The Talk Right Program, not just stressed the sustainability of the program, but has also enhanced parents' well-being through empowerment.

Program Achievements

Talk Right Program aspired to see that children with language impairment not to be deprived from training opportunity despite the long queue for public rehabilitation service and expensive private service. It has succeeded in developing the first speech therapy training kit with systematic home program in Hong Kong for parents and education and care professionals. The Program efficacy Study has confirmed that the Talk Right Program has enhanced the knowledge and skills of parents and education and care professionals in helping children with language impairment. The findings also reflected that the experimental group children have shown remarkable improvements in language performance after training. Indeed, the Program has successfully aroused public's concern for the children with language impairment and connected these families with professional speech rehabilitation programs.

Over the past few years, Talk Right Program has moved to a new phase and focused on training parents as trainers. In 2017, "Train-the-Trainers" sessions have been offered in more than 15 districts in Hong Kong, and over 245 pre-school education units and 5000 parents were trained. Last but not the least, the Program has helped to arouse the attention of public and professionals from different sectors to the needs of SEN children and their families in Hong Kong.



Charity Concert for Family Harmony

As this biennial fund-raising activity is to raise funds to cover the expenses of CIFA, the success of raising adequate fund is vital to the provision of quality services in future. We aim to raise some HK\$500,000. We appeal to your support to make this concert a success!

We are honored that Dr. C.K. Law, Secretary of Labour and Welfare has kindly accepted our invitation to be the Guest of Honour. We are also honoured and pleased that Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek of the Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations has kindly written a message to share her thoughts on the work of CIFA.

Ah Chung, Mr. Wong Ying Kit and Ms. Sui May, and Ven. Chang Lin, renowned artists and photographer, have contributed their art pieces, and CIFA member organizations will also contribute pieces involving clients on family well-being themes to the Programme Brochure.

For those interested to join, please register online:

<http://concert2019.cifa-net.org/>



Wofoo 3A Project 2018 Outstanding Project Has Won the Seventh Lam Woo Outstanding Service Project Award

The project—"Warming Your Hearts: Support for Families Who Lost the Only Child in Panyu, Guangzhou", after being granted the Outstanding Award of the Wofoo 3A Project 2018, has stood out from the fierce competition, winning The Seventh Lam Woo Outstanding Service Project Award in China recently, with the strong recommendation by Dr. Agnes Ng, Chairman of 3A Project Committee of CIFA.



Since 2015, the Guangzhou POAI Social Work Service, has helped 101 clients from 64 households in Panyu District to deal with problems associated with their health, emotional well-being and care in old age, and built and developed social support networks. Through nearly 4-year efforts of dedicated social workers, the service recipients have gained much support to transcend their difficulties and reintegrate into society. The project has also successfully alleviated a unique social problem in the distinctive cultural and institutional context of China in a humanistic way.

Jenny Wu, Director General of POAI shared her thoughts, saying that the experience of joining the two competitions has been most inspiring and they are greatly honoured and encouraged. She pledged to continue to devote and persevere in providing quality professional service to the clients and make contribution to social work development in Guangzhou and mainland China."

About Lam Woo Outstanding Service Award

Lam Woo Outstanding Service Award has been set up in 2009 by Hong Kong Lam Woo Foundation and executed by Department of Applied Social Sciences of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Department of Sociology of Peking University.

