



Converging
PROFESSIONAL WISDOM
 FOR Family Well-Being

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Message From Mrs. Patricia CHU, Chairperson CIFA

During this quarter, CIFA is busily engaged in the preparation and implementation of two signature events, namely the Exchange Program on Wofoo 3A Project 2016 and the Charity

Concert For Family Harmony in June, with the presence of Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek from the Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations as the Guest of Honour. Thanks to the hard work and support from our strategic partners and supporters, both events were very successfully held.

All at CIFA were excited about Mrs. Kaczmarek's visit to Hong Kong to witness the work of CIFA in action and explore possibilities for future collaboration. We are most thankful to Ms. Elsie Leung, our Honorary Advisor to host a dinner in her honour at the Dynasty Club, preceded by a meeting with concerned stakeholders. It strengthened the dialogue between the United Nations and Hong Kong, especially with CIFA.

With the concerted efforts of member organizations in 7 countries/regions in Asia, the Exploratory Study on Family Happiness in the Asian Region was completed and the findings presented at the 5th Regional Symposium in Seoul in November 2016. Papers developed from the Study had been submitted to academic journals for publication.

In response to training needs of social workers from Mainland China, every opportunity is taken to provide training and exposure for them. Over 120 social workers and government officials have attended the Exchange Program and a training program tailored made for them, with very positive and encouraging response from the participants.

As CIFA is planning ahead to celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2018, we need your continuous encouragement, support and participation for further consolidation and development as a regional platform, and to receive growing recognition from the United Nations. Let's keep up with the momentum created thus far!



Focal Point on the Family, United Nations

The Focal Point on the Family is located in the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. It is responsible for assisting with the implementation of the mandates related to family issues.

Its major duties include providing substantive support to intergovernmental bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic & Social Council and the Commission for Social Development. It drafts reports on family issues, organizes expert group meetings related to family and family policy issues, coordinates technical cooperation activities on family policy issues and manages the Trust Fund on Family Activities. It also organizes the annual observances of the International Day of Families on 15 May and related anniversaries of the International Year of the Family, as well as other awareness raising events at national, regional and international levels.

CIFA is pleased to have established a link with the Focal Point on the Family and looks forward to its continuous support and advice.



Exchange Program on Wofoo 3A Project 2016



The Exchange Program on the Wofoo Asian Award for Advancing Family Well-Being Project (Wofoo 3A Project) 2016 was successfully conducted in Hong Kong on 16-17 June, 2017. The Opening Ceremony of the Exchange Program was officiated by Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek, Social Affairs Officer, The Focal Point on the Family, United Nations, together with Prof. Daniel Shek, Chairman of Family Council, and Dr. Joseph Lee, President of Wofoo Social Enterprises, the Title Sponsor.



The Exchange Program was co-organized with the Family Council of the HKSAR and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with sponsorship from the Family Council, covering a 2-day program, comprising a Sharing Session cum Project Exhibition at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Agency Visits to four innovative and interesting service units including the The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society, Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Centre on Family Development and Heep Hong Society Jockey Club STAR Resource Centre. This event attracted over 250 scholars, social workers, medical professionals, family practitioners and students from academic, government, NGO and private sectors to join the Session, generating much discussion. Their enthusiastic participation and support have reflected their commitment to advance family well-being which is fundamental to the sustainable development of societies particularly amidst the fast social changes. Mrs. Kaczmarek was deeply impressed of the efforts made in organizing the Wofoo 3A Project, with provided an excellent opportunity for sharing and exchange.

Apart from eight finalist teams in 2016, two award winning teams of 2014 also joined to share their progress made in the past two years and to explore the possibility of replication to benefit more families in the region. During agency visits, participants were able to benefit from on-site exposures to some dynamic services on the ground, and learn through sharing and exchange with the program staff and users. The overall feedback towards the Exchange Program was very encouraging and positive.

The 10 projects presented by teams from China, Hong Kong and Singapore cover a wide variety of topics, including youth outreach project through ICT, divorced men, parents of children with developmental disabilities, excessive gaming among youths, pregnant women and mothers with psychotropic substance abuse problems, victims of industrial accidents, cancer patients and their families, inter-generation engagement, poverty and parents with children with behaviour difficulties.

For details of their projects, please visit CIFA website.





Charity Concert For Family Harmony 2017

As one of the signature fund raising events of CIFA, the Charity Concert For Family Harmony, was co-organized with the Hong Kong SAR Philharmonic Orchestra for the fourth time since 2011. It was held on 18 June, 2017 at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsimshatsui with Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek as the officiating guest. It was attended by over 1,500 sponsors, government officials, Council members and supporters of CIFA. Apart from the SAR Philharmonic Orchestra, the audience had a chance to enjoy the wonderful performance by Dr. David Fang, Dr. Michelle Tsui and Ms. Colleen Lee, renowned vocalists and pianist.



CIFA is grateful to receive sponsorship from Cathay Pacific and Regal Hotels International for sponsoring the visit of Mrs. Kaczmarek to join the two CIFA events in Hong Kong and the generous support of other sponsors and donors. Over HK\$470,000 has been raised that evening and positive feedback had been received from the audience. The Publicity and Fund-raising Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank all donors, members and volunteers for their efforts and generous support in making this event a success.





Meeting and dinner with Mrs. Renata Kaczmaraska

During Mrs. Kaczmaraska's visit to Hong Kong, a meeting with CIFA's Council members and representatives of stakeholders including the Family Council, the Social Welfare Department, the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, was held on 17 June at the Dynasty Club to brief her about the work of Family Council by Prof. Daniel Shek, Chairman of the Family Council and the planning of the Asian Family Summit in 2018 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of CIFA by Mrs. Patricia Chu, CIFA's Chairperson, followed by a dinner hosted by Ms. Elsie Leung, Honorary Advisor of CIFA.



It provided an opportunity for Mrs. Kaczmaraska to have a better understanding of the family related issues, policies and services in Hong Kong. At the same time, she made observations on the work of CIFA and contributed useful advices on the planning of the Asian Family Summit, as well as pledged support to make it a success. The occasion also facilitated sharing and exchange among concerned parties, providing a solid foundation for future collaboration and support to the endeavours of CIFA in the coming years.



Exploratory Study on Family Happiness in the Asian Regions

Research Team:

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In the past decades, the world has undergone rapid social, economic and political changes. Global challenges, including natural disasters, financial tsunami, high divorce rate, low birth rate and ageing population, have driven thousands of families to many unforeseen hazards and miseries. As we trust that family happiness is vital to individual happiness, family harmony and subsequent impact on social development, family and welfare professionals are keen to develop a better understanding of families in our contemporary world, particularly the factors affecting family happiness.

This Exploratory Study on Family Happiness in the Asian Region has succeeded to build a united front in exploring the issue of family happiness in 7 Asian countries/regions, including Hong Kong, China (Shanghai & Guangdong), Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia. A total of 3,834 families were recruited from the 7 countries/regions. Given the time and resources constraints, a convenient sampling method and non-experimental research design has been adopted, aiming to provide preliminary understanding of family happiness in the region. Therefore, comparisons of results across 7 countries/ regions are provided just for reference.

Despite our limitations in this Study, we have identified some interesting patterns in the subject families. It is found that family happiness has demonstrated correlations with individual happiness, mental health, depression as well as physical health. Moreover, we note that marital status, education attainment and family income are also affecting family happiness. In regression analysis, the role of family happiness is further confirmed and the association between family happiness with individual happiness and depression are stronger than all demographic variables. The Study results are very inspiring, clearly indicating family happiness is an important area for development of family work. In the light of these, we recommend that family practitioners, researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders should commit to promote family happiness while striving for sustainable development in the Asian region. In conclusion, this Exploratory Study has succeeded to provide a platform for professional exchange and mark yet another milestone for regional cooperation and cross-cultural learning in Asia. The preliminary findings of the Exploratory Study had been presented at the 5th Regional Symposium in November 2016. Papers developed from the Study had been submitted to academic journals including Family Happiness and Hong Kong Journal of Social Work for publication.

In order to keep up the momentum in promotion of family happiness in the Asian region, a further study on family happiness is being planned to be conducted in the near future. The research team would welcome new members to participate in the coming study.



Training Program on Youth Outreaching Service 2017

In the past decades, the Chinese society has been changing rapidly with amazing economic growth and development, the families are facing drastic challenges and encountering tremendous pressure. In response to the imminent risk of the family disharmony and worsening family functioning, family professionals are striving to give timely intervention to help with the deteriorating situations. They are earnestly seeking to work with different target groups in the family, especially that of the younger generation, who are involved in family disputes, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and hidden youth issues.

In response to the training need on Youth Outreaching Service as expressed by the Mainland social workers, CIFA has offered a 4-day “Training Program for Mainland Social Workers on Youth Outreaching Services” on 14-17 June, 2017 in Hong Kong, with the support and assistance of the Guangdong Professional Social Workers’ Association (GPSWA) in the recruitment and promotion of the training program.

The trainers were senior social work practitioners from Hong Kong Young Women’s Christian Association (HKYWCA), a renowned local non-governmental organization which has offered a wide spectrum of youth and family wellness services in Hong Kong. The course aimed to develop a basic understanding of the characteristics of high risk youths; introduce basic theories and practice of outreaching youth services in Hong Kong; highlight the importance of professional integrity in social work practice and provide inspiration and support through professional exchange and field visits

As an integral part of the training program, the 19 trainees had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with the winning teams of the Wofoo 3A Project 2014 and 2016 during the Exchange Program on 16 June, 2017 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong followed by agency visits to innovative projects working with families. Indeed, the professional exchange was inspiring and fruitful to the trainees.

The trainees had very positive response towards the training program and were satisfied with the contents, length and logistic arrangements of the training course. They found it stimulating and giving them the energy and support to move forward with their youth service in Mainland China.

