



Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region Ltd. 亞洲區家庭研究聯盟

Quote of the Day:

If we want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.
-- Mother Teresa

What's New at CIFA:

The first CIFA Annual General Meeting will be held on 9th February 2009. Please save that date in your diary. Details of the Meeting will be announced in due course.

Highlight of events:

Forum on “Trans-Disciplinary Perspective on Maintenance”

On 17th of December 2008, a forum on “Trans-Disciplinary Perspective on Maintenance” was co-organized by the HKUFI and Conflict Resolution Centre (CRC) and funded by the Home Affairs Bureau, HKSAR government. The full day Forum was the first of its kind, where different professionals including family lawyers, social workers, school personnel etc. attended the event, with keynote and panel presentations by experienced speakers covering topics from legal, psychological and social perspective on maintenance.

Her Hon. J. Bebe Chu, the keynote speaker set the context with the family court statistics, compared how maintenance was handled in various jurisdictions and encouraged educational efforts on the topic of divorce.

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In the afternoon, two single parents shared their stories, followed by a case presentation by Dr. Lee Lai Yung showing the impact of the divorce on the children. The Forum was closed by Ms. Elsie Leung who summarized the highlight of the event and shared her views and experience as a veteran family lawyer and the former Secretary of Justice of the SAR government.



Speakers and the organizers of the Forum

With the excellent presentation of the speakers and the participation of over 150 professionals, the forum was a huge success. The participants raised stimulating questions and suggested room for improvement in practice including the urgency for legal reform and future government and sector collaboration. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive with requests for follow-up or discussion on the topic.

The organizers will produce a DVD to capture the presentations and discussion made at the Forum, with the powerpoints. The summary of the forum will also be produced as a publication for public education. This is just the beginning of a continuous platform to facilitate public dialogue among professionals and their clients for the well-being of divorce families especially the children.

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Current Research:

The role of positive emotion in the therapeutic process of family therapy.

Thomas L. Sexton and Rachael A. Schuster

Journal of Psychotherapy Integration. Vol 18(2), Jun 2008, 233-247.

Historically, the role of positive emotions has been somewhat obscured in family therapy by focus on relational processes, behavioral sequences, and interactional patterns. Despite increasing interest in the role of positive emotions in the field of psychology, little attention has been given to these issues in family therapy. As a result, the specific role of positive emotions is neither theoretically nor clinically well understood. The authors analyze the role of positive emotions in Functional Family Therapy, a model in which positive emotions serve as a key element in the proximal and distal outcomes of the phase-based systematic change process. The authors suggest that the important question is not if but how positive emotions are important. It is apparent that positive emotions play a vital role in family therapy. However, the authors are only beginning to uncover the abundant complexities tied to the therapeutic role of positive emotions within the relational patterns of families.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/6ygaew>

Suggest and Share!

If you have recently attended a conference/workshop and would like to share your experience, please email ekakanksha@gmail.com with information. To make suggestions, email: info@cifa-net.org Attention: Mr. Dominic Ling, Membership Committee Chairman, CIFA Council.

Happy New Year!
Wishing you all the best in 2009!