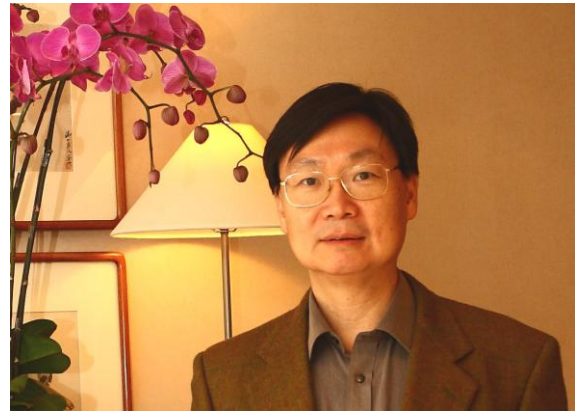




Greetings from the Director

Dear Friends,

At this joyful season, I have the pleasure to bring you a summary of our work in the past year and to introduce to you the future outlook of the Network.



We have a fruitful year in 2008 with our colleagues received RGC and a number of large-scale grants from the PolyU Block Grants. These grants will enable us to consolidate a good number of investigator-led research projects in the past decade to form a few theme-based research areas including community health promotion, intergenerational poverty, positive development & learning and social neuroscience. Apart from the fact that these grants will facilitate the building of data source from locales in Hong Kong and Beijing, a number of data platforms will be created to allow regular and longer-term sharing of findings and knowledge development in these thematic areas of government policy priorities.

Central to this new phase of our research activities are the continual focus on innovations in the design, data capturing approaches, and analytical models we have refined over the years. Taking an ecological perspective of all our subject matters, we have now made it a routine to use multilevel design, create relational measures, deploy person-oriented analyses and aim to study institutional or system change initiatives. This level of freedom in the selection and execution of research activities does not come without sacrifices, often in terms of additional time commitments to address certain paradigmatic challenges on the part of our researchers. In some cases, we have to forego reaping early fruition that was expedient. In this connection, I would like to thank all our research staff whose persistence in the course of our work defines for us the many qualities we as individuals treasure.

To end, I wish to quote from Galileo Galilei (1610) on measurement.

“We must measure what can be measured, and make measurable what cannot be measured.”

Happy New Year!

Charles C. Chan, PhD.



Consultancy Study on the Pioneer Projects of Child Development Fund

The Child Development Fund (CDF) Launching Ceremony was held on 23 November 2008. At the ceremony, Labor and Welfare Bureau announced six non-government organizations (NGOs) would operate the first batch of pioneer CDF projects (<http://www.cdf.gov.hk/>). Subsequently, the Network was awarded the tender for the Consultancy Study on the pioneer CDF projects with Dr.

Charles Chan as the Project Director of the Consulting Team. Other team members are: Dr. Chan Yuk Chung (families in poverty), Professor Tsui Ming Sum (supportive supervision for mentors), Dr. Fernando Cheung Chiu Hung (poverty and asset-based policies), Prof. Michael Sherraden (financial asset-building) and Dr. Jimmy C. T. Wong (youth career and vocational development).

Launched with immediate effect, the research work for the Consultancy Study will last for 42 months. It consists of a longitudinal study on all participating children, their mentors and parents, an overview of asset-based model outside Hong Kong, and a quasi-experimental study on the effectiveness of the projects. Aspects of participating children being evaluated include the accumulation of their financial and non-financial assets, personal development planning, their personal development, parent-child relationships and family solidarity. Upon the completion of the Study, the Consulting Team will recommend to the government viable and practical models for developing CDF into a longer-term model to promote child development in Hong Kong.

Child Development Matching Fund

Children's Development Matching Fund (CDMF) is a unique non-profit organization initiated by Dr Philemon Choi (Chairman of the Task Force on Children and Youth, Honorary General Secretary of the Breakthrough Ltd), with Dr. Charles Chan involved in the conceptualization and preparation. The CDMF Committee, chaired by Mr. Moses Mo Chi CHENG (L.L.B.(HK); GBS; OBE; JP; Notary Public of the China Appointed Attesting Officer; Founder, Honorary President and Chairman Emeritus of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors), comprises elite members from different sectors of the community who are committed to helping the disadvantaged children with a view to contribute towards inter-generational poverty alleviation in Hong Kong.



The main role of CDMF is to solicit the donations of corporate, philanthropists and private foundations and make available to the operating NGOs of the "Child Development Fund" (CDF) projects as a matching fund for the children's target savings in the Programme. By doing so, the disadvantaged children will be encouraged to cultivate an asset-building habit and make use of the assets to pursue their future. Looking ahead, CDMF would like to act as a "bridge" between the business sector and the CDF Mentorship Programme in order to integrate various community resources to help poverty alleviation in Hong Kong.

Training for the Beijing Intensive Community Mentoring programme

The Beijing Intensive Community Mentoring (BICM) programme is the first major component of a larger group of studies under the collaborative project: "Development of health-promoting schools and asset-accumulation for migrant worker children in Beijing" under the Griffith University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the Peking University. The first batch of training for the BICM programme was successfully held in November 2008 at the China Youth University for Political Sciences. Participants of the training included 180 mentors, 40 social workers and a number of community elites. Content of the training included the followings:



- November 15, **Dr. Philemon Y. W. Choi** : Introduction to Mentorship Programme;
Self-awareness and self-monitoring of volunteers
- Ms Hau Chi-ming** : Dealing with relationship between mentors and parents of mentees
- November 16, **Professor Shi Bai-nian** : General situation and needs for children of migrant workers
- November 22, **Mr. Yip Cho-yu** : Stepping into love and companionship
- Dr. Bill Tsang Yuk-piu** : Role of intergenerational relationship in promoting adolescent development; Introduction to career development planning
- November 23, **Dr. Charles Chan Ching-hai** : Can adolescent development be mentored?
Evidence-based research of mentorship



The training, which inspired all the participants, was conducted in the forms of lectures, discussion groups and interactive role playing. List of participated teams and institutes are as follows:

- **China Youth University for Political Sciences**

Teacher i/c: Hou Xin

Team members : Li Yan-Ping, Wang Wei-Wei,
Sun Jing-jing, Liu Xiao-Li, Jin Li Fei, Leng Qin

- **Chinese Women's College**

Teacher i/c : Qi Xiao-yu

Team members : Hu Yan-Hong, Yu Xin Rong, Zhu Kai

- **China Institute of Industrial Relations**

Teacher i/c : Zhang Mo

Team members : Liu Li-Hong, Wu Jian-ping, Liu Xi, Meng Xi-hung

- **Capital Normal University**

Teacher i/c : Fan Yan-ning

Team members : Zhou Jin-zhang, Zhou Juan-jun, Li Ke, Wu Hong-bing, Zhang
Shao-hong, Li Dong-hui

- **Capital University of Economics and Business**

Teacher i/c : Feng Hao

Team members : Liu Yu, Lu Xin-ping, Xu Jun, Xu Hong, Wang Yang



The BICM programme will be launched in the beginning of 2009. Participating Universities are now preparing the submission of research proposals to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University for consideration.