

**3<sup>rd</sup> Caring for the Future Foundation (CFF)  
International Convention in Tokyo 2015**

**June 25-28, 2015**

**28 June 2015 - ALLIANCE ASSESSMENT AND CLOSING PROGRAM**

**1. OPENING**

The second day of the International Convention was opened at 9:15 A.M. with a morning devotion led by Ps. Chin Chi Kong of CFF Malaysia at the Tokyo Volunteer Action Center, Iidabashi, followed by the Conference proper at 9:30 A.M.

**2. PRESENTATION FROM CFF MEMBER NATIONS ON THE CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS**

a) CFF Malaysia by Mitsuhiko Abe

He stressed the need for CFF Malaysia to immediately come up with a complete operation manual for child development in order to address each possible issue and problem that may arise from the operation of the Center and custody of children. The function of CFF Malaysia as a family is to make the children feel that they are loved. As its social function, CFF Malaysia must make the children feel that they are useful. This leads to character-building of the children – care for one's self, care for others, care for the challenged, care for the environment, care for the community, care for the future.

He also presented the land use plan of CFF Malaysia for sustainable development.

He likewise discussed the plans to attain financial independence for CFF Malaysia through the attainment of target increase in local Malaysian support to 22% by 2018, 35% in camp profit, 8% from Japan support, and 35% from Center's livelihood revenues and profit. At present, the majority of the Center's finance is sourced from livelihood profit.

He also mentioned of the current organizational structure of CFF Malaysia – Management down to and which trains the Staff, which on the other hand train to the children. CFF Malaysia envisions having bottom-up

management – the management at the bottom, supported by the staff on its top, and the staff supported by the children, who are supposed to be the priority.

### **Discussion.**

IPP Joseph Lo of CFF Philippines proposed that there must be a template/format for the reporting and assessment which each member-nation may follow and simply fill in the blanks, and furnished each member-nation quarterly. Abe considered the adoption of a uniform format that may be adopted by the other member-nations.

Yuki asked about the process how CFF Malaysia would actually determine what character to impart the children. Abe responded while that the process itself might not be clear-cut, the teachings of the bible will be the core guide in the character-formation of the children.

#### b) CFF Philippines by Pres. Ma. Cristina Dalope - Mamaril

She cited the plan of CFF Philippines to maintain the age of admission of clients 4 to 12 years old in order to conform to its mandate and the law.

She mentioned of intention of CFF Philippines to update the existing manual operations of the Center. While the length of stay of the children will only be up to junior high school, CFF Philippines will push for the reintegration of the clients to their families and relatives.

She also discussed the plans of CFF Philippines to improve and upgrade the Center facilities, particularly the children and camp dormitories, and the provision of more opportunities for Staff Training and Development of the personnel administering the Center.

She emphasized the initiative of CFF Philippines of a new program addressing the case for autism in the Philippines, and the strengthening of partnership and collaboration with existing support group and institutions. In the process, CFF Philippines may be able to identify and obtain more scholarship benefactors and possible job placement.

She reiterated that the change in the school calendar in the Philippines would allow Filipino youth to join Japanese campers in latter's stay in the Philippines.

## **Discussion.**

IPP Joseph Lo added that with the current shift in Philippine educational system to meet international standards, CFF Japan should also consider Filipino University students and not just out-of-school youth as co-participants to the camps, as well as adjust the schedule of Japanese camps sent to the Philippines, preferably late July, as cultural exchange is a sell-out to Filipino students.

Takeshi, however, mentioned of the difficulty in sending camps by late July because the classes in Japan had just ended by then and there might be difficulty pooling the students, although they can prepare for such eventuality.

Abe expressed his delight on the proposal to include Filipino University students in the camps, as the concept is in conformity with the basic notion that the Filipino youth is the foundation of Philippine society.

Dir. Reynaldo Jimenez stressed that CFF Philippines may schedule camps at a very close interval in order to accommodate adjustment on the side of CFF Japan in the schedule of the different camps.

Akira proposed that Filipino students may be sent to Japan and learn Nihonggo in order to augment efforts in finding Nihonggo-speaking camp directors, which proposal will be considered by CFF Philippines.

IPP Joseph Lo mentioned that in CFF Philippines, parents are involved, especially in the autism program, because the parents end up being the primary supporters of the CFF movement.

Abe expressed his appreciation that CFF Philippines are taking a step further in its autism program

Akira also expressed the growth of CFF as a movement, especially the fact that when he started CFF he was the only interpreter and is always exhausted during meetings and camps, but at present, almost everybody can speak English. Furthermore, he cited that CFF is now reaping its vision and efforts for the previous years. Its own previous campers are now helping CFF itself. Thus, the visions set in this alliance convention are truly important as these will determine the direction of CFF in the future.

c) CFF Japan by Teruo Yoshino

He mentioned of the partnership project with high schools and universities. Currently, CFF Japan is cooperating with Obirin University for Malaysia work camp, and the Junten High School for Philippine Field Study. The target in the coming years is to obtain cooperation with more Japanese schools. This effort is intended to expand the efforts of CFF Japan in meeting the needs of the society.

He next discussed the drafting of a white (manual) book on youth in order to improve the program and address its weak points. Currently, studies are being conducted to evaluate the past CFF Japan programs and experience.

He then mentioned of improving the fund-raising system of CFF Japan. While the fund of CFF Japan is increasing, it prepares for the possibility that may encounter deficit in the future.

### **Discussion.**

IPP Joseph Lo proposed sending her daughter to work and train in Japan, and in the process learn the language and serve as camp director for CFF Japan for free. He challenged Akira in addressing the challenge of obtaining working visa in Japan.

Takeshi cautioned that a camp director is not just about bridging the language barrier, but that he will also be a counselor and a leader. IPP Joseph Lo countered that if ever his daughter agrees to volunteer for CFF Japan she will learn not just the language but also Japanese culture. Abe added that it is this kind of perspective and concept that CFF may need for its future, and that it should be given a chance.

Pres. Ma. Cristina Dalope – Mamaril asked about the length of training mentioned in the presentation. Keiko responded that – for the youth training, twice a week; for the directors, every other month. Resource persons are also invited. It is not a one-day seminar but a continuous process. Aoki also mentioned that the support group also plays a part in the training.

Yuki asked about the process of drafting the white book. Akira mentioned about the assistance extended by a Psychology professor in the determining and addressing issues faced by Japanese youth as the book itself does not merely concern CFF Japan but the questions and dilemma confronted by Japanese youth, the hope of Japan. The color white was taken to symbolize hope.

### 3. COOPERATION FOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

CFF Japan proposes an internship program with the member-nations. Its purpose –

- a) To orient interns of CFF activities and improve them in return
- b) To address social issues with the interns
- c) To train the youth to accomplish set objectives

Thus, the following terms are proposed –

- a) To enter into internship agreement with CFF Japan
- b) To orient the interns about rules and facilities when the intern starts reporting for the program
- c) To have final report meeting with all the staff and the members if the Board as well as individual meeting with the intern for evaluation

**Clarification:** How many and how often would interns be sent?

It would depend on the number and will of the youth to join the internship, thus, the member-nations accepting interns should be flexible in accommodating schedule. There is likewise a need to iron out the objective of each scheduled internship should the agreement push through.

Had the previous interns rendered report and feedback of the program?

Yes. The foremost problem is that the interns have difficulty speaking English.

**Proposal:** There must be a survey/ evaluation form in order to assess the programs to determine areas to be improved.

### 4. RESOLUTIONS

- 1) The Alliance resolved to adopt a uniform template/ format in updating each member-nation's situation, and delegating Mitsuhiro Abe to immediately draft the template subject to the member-nations' approval on or before the end of the year

**Action: Unanimously approved**

- 2) The Alliance resolved to review Philippine camp programs considering the change in academic calendar of Philippines schools by adjusting schedules, contents and director trainings, and delegating Ma. Cristina Dalope – Mamaril to determine the schedule changes and affected schools in the Philippines

**Action: Unanimously approved**

- 3) The Alliance resolved to approve and adopt the internship program as initiated by CFF Japan, and delegating Takeshi Iishi to oversee the internship program

**Action: Unanimously approved**

- 4) The Alliance resolved to hold its next International Convention in 2017 in Malaysia, and delegating Ps. Chin Chi Kong the preparation for the next convention

**Action: Unanimously approved**

- 5) The Alliance resolved to adopt feedback mechanisms on all joint programs, and delegating Takeshi Iishi and Fumiko Maihara to formalize the process

**Action: Unanimously approved**

## **5. CLOSING MESSAGE**

Mitushiko Abe gave the closing message, noting that the understanding and cooperation among the member-nations deepened and had been strengthened. He thanked the International Convention Committee for a job well done, and asking Keiko and Yoshino to respond.

He reminded the attendees what they work for, what their mission is. Together, they will care for the children... they will care for the future.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CFF Alliance International Convention session was adjourned at 11:50 A.M. by Mitsuhiro Abe for the host country, ending with a prayer led by Ps. Chin Chi Kong.