

CIF World NEWS



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Netherlands Conference - Full Reports



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Dear World News Reader,

Each CIF Conference has its special flavour. Netherlands was another exceptional event, with old friendships renewed and new faces welcomed, continuing a tradition that has endured now for almost fifty years. But the conference also dealt with contemporary issues of worldwide importance, and demonstrated once more that CIF remains relevant to today's issues and challenges. Whether we were there or not, we can all take from the success of the conference that CIF is alive and well on the eve of the twenty-first century!

So thanks to the organising committee who worked so well as a team. They now hand the baton on to CIF Italia.

Rome in 2001! It is difficult to think of a more appropriate location for CIF's first conference in the new millennium. Two participants in the Noordwijkerhooft Conference, Irmgard and Piet Nimmervoll-Ruttner, cycled from Linz, Austria, to the conference centre, a distance of 1400 km. What innovative methods of transport will participants in the 2001 conference find to get themselves to Rome?

Best Wishes to you all in the New Year!

David Middleton,
Editor



It is my pleasure to share some thoughts with you in the last issue of this millennium of CIF World News. It has been an eventful century in many ways but it has demonstrated that organisations such as CIF International are relevant to keep us striving towards world peace and understanding.

I was honoured that CIF members re-elected me at the Netherlands CIF Conference, and I thank you for your confidence and support. I hope to be able to provide the kind of leadership needed to take us fully energised into this new millennium. On behalf of the new Executive Committee, may I add that we would appreciate knowing your thoughts and ideas on how to move CIF into the next century so that it remains vibrant, maintains the traditions that make it special to us and evolves with the needs of the times.

I am going to use this opportunity to summarise the report I presented to the General Assembly in the Netherlands of CIF's activities over 1997-1999, and give you some insights into the focus of the new Executive Committee (EC) for the coming two years. But before I do that, let me, on behalf of all of us, wish Martha Ollendorff who turned 90 in November 1999 a healthy and happy life. It was a pleasure to see her in the Netherlands, just as energetic and enthusiastic about CIF/CIP as ever, and participating in all activities including the General Assembly. We

thank Martha and the Ollendorff family for their support and guidance.

The CIF Netherlands Conference was superbly organised, as you will see from some of the articles in this issue. Let me thank CIF Netherlands for the enthusiasm and professionalism with which it organised this Conference. The theme 'Challenges for Social Work due to Demographic Changes' was apt for the turn of the century, and the programme - both professional and cultural - was a treat. The next CIF Conference will be in Rome, Italy in 2001 and I look forward to seeing you there.

If I have to characterise the last term of the Executive Committee by one word it would be connectivity. All the EC members are now electronically connected via email which has meant better communication and consultation, more participation of all members in decision-making, swift problem resolution, and a spirit of sharing and closeness without the expenses of face to face meetings - In short, a cost-effective modern way of management. We will continue to work in this way over the coming two years.

A similar connectivity has been achieved with our National Branches. More than 10 of our National Branches can be reached through Email, and CIF Italia and CIP USA through their web sites. The success of the CIF International web site is yet another important achievement. Our Webmaster and the mastermind behind this project, David Middleton, reports that we have had peaks of over 1000 per month reached recently in terms of hits on cifinternational.com.

Many individual members and branches also contact the Executive Committee members through the email addresses given on the Web site, which has enhanced our accessibility to the CIF community. As your Executive Committee, we have tried to stay as responsive as possible to your requests and queries. The Executive Committee invites you to continue to stay involved and in touch.

To ensure that we do not lose the personal connections that have characterised the CIF spirit, and to have the possibility of detailed discussions needed for taking critical decisions,

the EC met twice during 1997-1999. The first meeting was in March 1998 in Eerbeek, Netherlands, thanks to the hospitality of CIF Netherlands and Hans Haffmans in particular, and in March 1999 in Casapulla, Italy, thanks to the hospitality of CIF Italia and our then-Vice President, Mimmo Merola. The agendas of both meetings were packed as will be evident from the minutes, which were sent to the Board of Directors, who are expected to keep CIF members informed of the major events. The next Executive Committee meeting will be in Rome in March 2000 hosted by CIF Italia, so that we can focus on the contents and organisation of the next Conference. At this meeting in March, we will also be planning for the next Board of Directors' meeting scheduled in Istanbul for October 2000, to be hosted by CIF Turkey.

The overall co-ordination between CIF's policy-making body namely the Board of Directors and its implementing and executive arm, the Executive Committee has also increased substantially, and we expect to work at strengthening this relationship even further over the coming two years. A Board of Directors meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, in 1998 hosted by CIF Czech Republic under the leadership of Marketa Scalicka was a remarkable success. It resolved many issues, most importantly in relation to the revision of the CIF International statutes, which were placed in front of the General Assembly in 1999. Let me tell you that much work has gone behind this proposed revision and we were appreciative of the support given by the General Assembly to the revisions suggested, which bring CIF International into the new millennium by making it more professional in its approach.

What is new about these statutes? They define clearly the issue of the relationship between CIF and CIP. This relationship will continue to be strong in areas related to social work, special education, youth leadership and closely related professions. CIF is born out of CIP in its original shape and is proud of that association. CIP has also been undergoing its own transition over the last few years but remains in close touch in its new form, with CIF's Executive Committee and involved in its Board of Directors. We hope for this relationship to grow stronger over the years. In addition, the role of the Board of Directors as the policy making arm

of CIF International is defined more strongly in the new statutes.

I would like to acknowledge the immense effort taken by Mimmo Merola and the Statutes Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee included Paul Unger of CIP and representatives of the national branches of Finland, Hungary, Israel, and Sweden, assisted by the members of the EC. This Committee communicated by mail and met once in the Board in Prague to come up with the revised statutes which were presented to the Board at the Prague BD meeting, and met with the Board's approval.

Before I report on the different regular activities, which the CIF Executive Committee has conducted under the advice of its Board of Directors, let me report briefly on the National Branches. In 1997, when the last EC took over, there were 24 National Branches along with CIP USA. Today we continue to have 24 branches having lost the national branch of Peru due to non-activity (but there is good news of some resurgence) and having gained one in Kenya, but we are working on reactivating earlier national branches that are now dormant. It was wonderful to see the representative of CIF Kenya, Cameroon and Tanzania present at the Netherlands Conference. Cameroon has recently organised itself towards developing a branch and there is much interest in other African countries like Nigeria and South Africa, as well as in the Middle East. The number of contact persons has risen rapidly in countries with no national branches while earlier branches like Denmark keep up the spirit of CIF through an active contact group. Some branches like Russia and Japan do not stay in touch as often as we would like but we recognise that for some, economic and political instability make such contact difficult whereas for others, getting their paying members together for meetings and activities is a problem.

The CIF World News as the newsletter is now known, edited by David Middleton, has been very successful in keeping CIF members informed of one another's activities. David took the newsletter to new heights over the last two year and fortunately for me, will continue as its editor for the next two years. He is working hard towards a special millennium issue, the proposal for which was introduced in the August issue

of World News, and needs your ideas and contributions.

Agneta Bjorklund, exchange programme co-ordinator for 1997-1999 who has continued for 1999-2001 in this position, has ably kept in touch with national branches which are trying to develop exchange programmes or strengthen them. We particularly acknowledge the joint programmes of Austria with the Czech Republic and Hungary, of Italy and Slovenia, the exchange programme that CIF Israel has been working on, and of course of the more experienced national branches that have been running such programmes for many years. I know there continue to be difficulties in terms of working together across national branches, as well as internal problems in keeping a successful exchange programme together. However, we hope that you will use all possible opportunities such as the exchange programme co-ordinators' meeting planned during CIF conferences, as well as direct contact with Agneta and other national branches, to resolve some of them or at least to share thoughts on how they can be resolved. CIF without strong exchange programmes cannot grow, and growth is what we need to aim for, in order to reach newer generations and keep CIF thriving in the new millennium.

Munira Merchant our former treasurer has handed over the reins to Mieke Weede of the Netherlands for the coming two years. We are happy that Munira has now moved to the position of Vice President, and I hope to work closely and in synergy with her. We welcome Mieke for allowing us to persuade her to take on this onerous task and look forward to working with her. I also thank Munira for her Herculean efforts in keeping us financially viable. As treasurer, she strove to keep costs related to administration to the minimum and enhance our investments for better gains. Munira argues convincingly that while CIF has been in the fortunate position of being able to provide more financial support to enable better participation at CIF conferences over the years, it is important for us to consolidate our gains and place CIF International on solid financial footings.

We have not been able to avail of many international fund raising mechanisms but in the next two years, we will be working on several possibilities including how we can work together to access the funds of the European Union, if

there is enough interest. CIF national branches and CIP colleagues have also come forward to enhance grants for conferences. We are particularly appreciative of the efforts of CIF Netherlands in raising government funds for participant grants for the 1999 Conference. It is critical to ensure regular payments of membership fees to keep us in a strong financial position, which is so vital for a solid organisation.

During 1997-1999, Mimmo Merola as Vice President, Ursula Schmitz as Secretary and I as President worked closely together to co-ordinate our activities and keep you involved to the extent possible. I thank all the Committee members for the time and efforts put in by them, and for their excellent teamwork. I am indeed blessed to have such a competent Secretary like Ursula who fortunately will continue in this position for another two years, and will continue to do a fantastic job of supporting me in CIF's management and communications.

A special word of thanks to Mimmo who has stepped down but will continue to be as involved with CIF as ever. It was a pleasure working with him and with such a fine team, and I look forward with enthusiasm to working with the new one. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I also would like to thank the Board of Directors for their full involvement and for the guidance and encouragement, and the General Assembly for their support and participation. A special thanks to our election committee consisting of Jane Ollendorff and Brigitte Muller for conducting the EC elections in the Netherlands smoothly and fairly.

I invite you to consider standing for election to the Executive Committee - it is always healthy to have new blood and when I step down in 2001 after having served a long tenure of eight years on the Committee, I look forward to passing on the mantle to an equally strong Committee.

In my pre-election speech to the General Assembly in the Netherlands, I mentioned three areas on which I would focus as President. Let me reiterate them here. The first was to get CIF to focus on bringing in more recent and younger participants into the CIF fold, as active members. As Roland Matisson, our earlier Vice President says, we run the risk of becoming 'an

ageing organisation' and need to find innovative pathways of attracting newer generations.

Another area will be to focus on enhancing CIF's management efficiency without losing the human touch that signifies CIF. We need to work on strengthening our financial base and bringing in more participation from our general membership, and on managing our organisational activities with cost efficiency. Lastly, with the EC and the Board members, I will focus on some hard thinking on where we can improve as an organisation, and the directions we need to take in the coming millenniums to continue to be relevant - a task that I can only initiate at best, and hope will be taken on by the next President.

We hope that as the new Committee we will come up to your expectations. Let me wish you the best for the year 2000 and I hope to see you all in Roma in 2001. You will hear more about the Conference through the CIF World News, so watch these pages!



Four Dimensions of Experience.

Albert Kalle Massango Cameroon

With no formal introductions anywhere, participants discovered each other through flashing smiles in the conference hall at the meal tables, workshops, coffee breaks, and other informal settings. This gave me an opportunity to meet personally members of the Executive Committee, the CIF Board, and of course, the Ollendorffs, all of whom I have longed to meet

As a trainer, involved workshops back home, the Kolb approach to learning was the first item to be filed in my brief-case.

As important, the diverse cultural activities at Noordwijk did not only ventilate the whole program, but afforded an opportunity for participants to forget their status, age,

colour, sex or religion, which of course fulfils the mission and vision of CIF.

This to me was a good example of "respect for others without necessarily becoming others." Each new day was as exciting as the one which had gone before.

One of my deep-seated experiences is the exemplary display of leadership skills among the organisers, the home branch. Their sharing of responsibilities, tireless sacrifices, sense of dedication further pepped me up, and motivated me to a point of no return. I was very happy to be part of the democratic process of electing our six members of the executive committee for the first time.

Netherlands99 has not only helped one to sharpen my professional skills but has also revamped my adherence to the CIF/CIP. This will help me put an extra mile in forming the CIF branch in Cameroon, and in recruiting members.

As a beneficiary of the five day post conference tour, I found the Dutch particularly very open and warm people in the host families. This is my second time in Holland and I experienced the Netherlands as a small but stable and self-confident country which has conquered water as Israel has defeated the desert.

The fact that I could see people whom I have been corresponding with over the years, the fact that could be part of the democratic process of the electing members of the CIF Executive Committee, the opportunity to participate in fund raising, for an organisation I am so proud of, makes me conclude that the "C IF is the place to be".

Once more thanks for the grants which made it possible to have this experience. "I was there".

NB Cameroon is now in the
process of starting a National Branch.
Editor

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Cif Kenya convened a two day conference on 6th November, when, with the help of Doroth Faller we received Mrs Hellen Ajode, a CIP Allumni into our Executive Committee.

We have closed receiving applications for our pilot programme. So far we have received 5 applications, all social workers, from the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and USA. All have been accepted. Unfortunately, a Danish applicant could not get leave of absence. Our programme will now continue as planned, and we are in the process of looking for host organisations and host families. Any CIP/CIF Allumni in Kenya who wish to help should contact the Branch. I received the name of one Kenyan participant from her host family in Netherlands and I am glad to say that Deborah will join CIF Kenya.

We are also glad to report that the Kenya Government has now officially registered us as an NGO.

Best Wishes

Ronald Miller Mbehele, National Coordinator <ruki@net2000ke.com>

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending information about CIF in the Newsletter. It helps me keep in touch with my experience in the CIP Programme in 1985. I now work in a beautiful programme which gives support to 25 adolescent mothers from the poorest areas of Santiago. Greetings from this beautiful and very far away country.

Viviana Godoy Alwin
<vgodoy@netline.cl>

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PROGRAMME NEWS AND UPDATES

CIF Germany is in the process of executing a four week programme starting September 3rd to 30th 2000. It is open to participants who don't need a visa for Germany and the language will be German and English. The fee is USD 300, and accommodation and internal transport is included. Deadline for applications is 1st March 2000. Interested persons should contact their national branch for more information.

CIF Netherlands will hold their programme from 6th May until 3rd June 2000. The fee is USD 75, Sadly, the deadline for applications will have passed by the time you read this, But anyone wanting more information about the programme in general could E mail Jacqueline van Veen at: <gompie@concepts.nl>

CIF Hellas will hold it's biennial CIF Programme from 6th May until 3rd June 2000. This information updates the information given in the last *World News*, but the application date remained unchanged at December 1st 1999. Applications should be through national branches, or CIF Hellas, PO Box 4071, Athens 10210, Hellas.

CIF FRANCE'S programme will take place from 7th May to July 1st 2000. Detailed information is with National Branches and country contact persons.

Best Wishes to past vice president and former editor of the CIF Newsletter, Roland Mattisson, who together with Jorun, has recently crossed the Atlantic to start a new rural development job in Ecuador

Summary of the CIF Conference

Challenges for Social Work Due To Demographic Change

Noordwijkerhout,

The Netherlands,

9-14 August 1999.



Hans Haffmans. President, CIF Netherlands, and colleagues, welcomes delegates to the conference

The conference dealt with the demographic changes and the challenges for social work. It focussed on the changes due to migration and the increase of life expectancy of people. In addition, the conference discussed the effects of Aids.

The theoretical base for the conference was the Kolb learning model. The Netherlands Branch followed these principles when organising the conference. Kolb states that ***Learning is a four stage cycle*** that includes concrete experience, goes on to reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation, after which the cycle starts again.

In the keynote speeches, there was an emphasis on reflective observation and also conceptualisation of this knowledge. Agency visits provided the concrete experience and the following discussion about the agency or

project, gave an opportunity for personal reflective observation, on the possible meaning of this experience. The same reflective observation took place in the workshops where views were shared on the topics of the conference. It was hoped that conference participants learned through these three methods, and that they will be an inspiration when they return to their homes and jobs again.

Thanks are due those members who made an extra contribution to this conference, like Bob Parsons who presented a keynote paper, Mieke Weeda, Aurea Ferreira, Birgitta Holm, Ernestine Rombouts, Janet and Herb Farr, May Weatherly, Carla Keijgen and Hetty Senkeldam who prepared and chaired a workshop. Their willingness to participate in this way in some cases at very short notice - and the excellent way they performed their tasks was very valuable. It shows the wealth of knowledge and

experiences that is found in the CIF/CIP membership. Maybe the next conference could use purely contributions by CIF members!

Thanks are also due to the conference participants who made the reports for the wallpaper and who took care of the honours during the agency visits.

David Scheele said at the start of this conference that a conference cannot be made by the organisers alone. The success of this conference depended very much on the willingness of the participants to become fully involved and the contribution by members on this occasion was exceptional.

The conference was opened by the representative of the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, M.J.J.M. Malmberg. He pointed out that an international conference like this one is important because national borders do not limit the problems and issues, and that many countries

experience the same problems. He raised the question of what social work can do in the present, complicated and rapidly changing world. His answer is that if social workers can do their job within a framework of social policy stated by national or local government and backed by other participants in the society their work can become more effective. In his view, a policy of social cohesion, designed to increase participation, empowerment, self-help, building of networks and intercultural and intergenerational communication is necessary. This is because about 10 % of the population in the Netherlands -and in some countries even a higher percentage - do not participate in the society. He mentioned the young school drop-outs, migrants, marginalised groups and frail, dependant elderly persons as examples of non-participating members of society.

Professor Arjan Klamer did not deny this statement. He did, however, tell us that he thought that social work can have only a marginal effects. The best way to integrate marginal groups, especially migrants, is to let them participate in the market. That gives them a sense of belonging, identity and achievement. He also stressed the importance of finding a balance between respect for the other and his or her culture, without trying to become like him or her. Keeping certain boundaries is important in the process of integration.

On Tuesday, morning the conference, Figuratively speaking, in Arjan Klamers words, took the elevator back up to the 18th floor, or in terms of Kolb, to reflective observation, Following Maarten Alder's overview of migration patterns, the conference mostly stayed up on the 18th floor with him and the other keynote speakers. Maarten Alders showed us that migration is directly linked to the political and economical situations in the country from where people migrate. He also showed us that many people return home, when the situation in their land improves.

He described the motives for migration: employment, flight from war and oppression, hope for better opportunities, family reunion and formation, retirement and return to the home country. Both Walter Palm and Dr Bob Parsons, confirmed Maarten Alders conclusions about migration. Dr Walter Palm for Western Europe, including The Netherlands and Bob Parsons for the Southern Hemisphere. Walter Palm explained that the Dutch government had recognised that The Netherlands is an immigration country. The present migrant policy is based on the Constitution. It has three goals: to create conditions that enable the migrants to participate in society; to prevent discrimination, and to make laws to enforce these conditions. Walter Palm

illustrated the effects of this policy by an example in the field of education at school. Bob Parsons described the daily situation of refugees in Rwanda in 1994. From there on he went into the reasons for migrating. Quite often migration is the result of a disaster, and due to lack of planning, often leads to a secondary disaster. He viewed migration as a normal part of life in the "South" due to man-made disasters, natural disasters or economic reasons. Migration can occur within the country, or between neighbouring countries. A major problem here is that the most vulnerable, women, children and the disabled stay behind. This imbalance has a big influence on the remaining society.

Like Maarten Alders, Bob Parsons said that many migrants return home, in spite of the all difficulties they know they will find. This view resonated with Arjan Warner's: that bonds are strong and the feeling of belonging overcomes many problems. The observation that many refugees who do not return to their own country, often suffer from loss of identity, reflected the observations of Professor Klamer on the same issue.

Bob Parsons further stressed that the world is divided in rich and poor, causing differences in life expectancy, economic structure, social conditions and political stability.

The Northern countries do take some limited responsibility by sending aid to the poorer countries, but it is only a fraction of the money they use - for instance- for military purposes. At this moment, he thinks, that there is hope that the division between the North and the South will change. There are examples of countries that manage to overcome their problems. Like the oil producing countries. They attract now many outside industries and migrant workers. In the vision of Bob Parsons there is some hope for the future.

After the three speakers, the pantomime group, The Brotherhood, demonstrated from its own experiences a number of situations migrants are confronted with. They illustrated several points brought up by the keynote speakers. The importance of belonging, and that helping themselves gives a feeling of identity and of achievement. They showed their strength and the conference learned from them.

Marijke Schoenmaker, the last keynote speaker on Tuesday, gave a very clear insight in the situation of persons with HIV /Aids. She described the changes brought about by the progress made in the treatment of Aids.

She went into the kind of social help an Aids patient gets from a social counsellor. She stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, inside and outside the hospital and the need for social workers to work together with the hospital staff.

The importance of being part of the working population - for the migrants and for the elderly - was very much underlined by the speakers on elderly issues on Thursday. Professor Knipscheer said that in the Netherlands, in his view persons who are less than 50 years old, if they worked 150 % could do all the work. A good division of work however would make it possible for handicapped people, women and the elderly to partake in the labour force. Currently only 11% of the elderly are employed. The structure of the market needs to be changed to make space for the elderly. Kees Knipscheer gave the example of Theater Three, the experimental group of dancers from the Nederlands Danstheater. This group consists of dancers who are to old to perform 100%, but at the same time are very skilled and have a vast experience. The way choreographers learned how to structure the work for these dancers proved to be highly successful.

In a comparable way the labour market has to be restructured to make place for, amongst others, the elderly. This is even more important as the age structure is changing, and the number of older people increasing.

Mrs. Andela-Baur agreed with Professor Knipscheer. She pointed out some best practices, which prove that the elderly are capable and inventive people. She mentioned the senior web; the translator-tasks performed by a volunteer organisation for persons over 55; the project in which older persons teach other older persons how to deal with the new European currency. And by doing so, proved the point that Kees Knipscheer made that the problem of the elderly is a problem of image. He stated that 80 % of the elderly are healthy and active, in the media however and in the politics only the weaknesses of the elderly appear, not their strengths.

Mr Verrijt went deeper into the strengths and weaknesses of the elderly. As a director of an organisation that helps people to find jobs and to advise them, he has a good view on the strengths. He mentioned as strengths: worldly wisdom, working experience, conflict solving skills, being a continuous factor in and caring about the company, and being healthy. Weaknesses are that the skills are older, illnesses take longer, ambition is less and, physically the elderly are weaker and tire quickly.

All three speakers on Thursday shared the opinion that the market, especially in The Netherlands, should adapt more to the elderly. They doubted if this would happen. The culture and the attitude of the Dutch policy and of the people are set against this change.

Both Professor Knipscheer and Mrs. Andela-Baur stressed that the elderly themselves should work on their image. Mrs Andela-Baur

further mentioned age discrimination and the fact that women suffered more from discrimination than men. For instance, older women are almost invisible on TV, while older men are there of right. Social work, in her view, can help to prevent and eliminate restrictions put to the elderly.

The contributions of the keynote speakers were used as background information during the workshops. In the workshops, participants came - in Arjan Warner's words - "back to earth" and discussed the practical challenges and problems facing social workers in their daily work. Like the discussions in the workshops, the agency visits were an illustration and a practical example of social work practice and of ways developed to solve problems that face the migrants and the elderly. One thing was clear however: the best course for migrants and the elderly is to work together and to make their needs known.

To conclude, participants learned about the background, the extent, and the effect of the changes in society due to changes in the demographic structure of the world and especially about the growth of the number of elderly people and migrants. Best practice was considered and participants discussed the professional challenges these changes present.

Because CIF is an international organisation, participants could compare their own practices with that of colleagues in other countries and thus broaden their professional perspectives.

I hope the conference provided some new ideas, and inspired participants to experiment with some of the things experienced on their return back home. The conference certainly inspired me!

Trudy de Wit September 1999



CIF Sweden 1999 Participants dine alfresco

Netherlands Conference - a Workshop Experience

Mae O'Shea, USA

Recently in the United States it has become mandatory for social workers to receive training on multicultural issues. Little has been offered which directly addressed the relationship between the mental health therapist and the minority or immigrant client who each have their own ethnic background. Both have feelings, perspectives, prejudices, basic values, expectations, relationships to friends and families, and above all their ethnic feelings. Dutch mental health professionals have come to realise that developing cross-cultural skills is more important than finding new methods or gathering more knowledge about the "other".

Nel Jessurun's workshop "Psychosocial Care for Refugees" provided some valuable suggestions for developing these skills. Starting points in developing such skills include the feminist perceptions concerning mental health.

The use of genograms and the anthropological model of human relations of Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck, and Spiegel are helpful in making clear the ethnic value systems and standards of the client as well as those of the therapist. From that base one can start searching for a reality that is acceptable for both, which respects and maintains the credibility of both.

Every human being, everywhere in the world has a relationship with nature, the other, time and oneself. Although these four elements are common to all human beings, every culture, every family, and every human being has their own interpretation.

By exploring together, the therapist and the client can find the strengths in the client system that can be utilised for effective problem solving. At the same time the use of the genogram allows the client to understand and reconnect with their primary knowledge base and support system, thereby gaining pride of belonging and hope for the future.

Memories of Noordwijk

by Gunilla Bergstrom, Sundvall, Sweden



Poppies in Netherlands Photo Aafje Punter

This edition of CIF World News has covered many of the professional issues raised at the Netherlands conference. Gunilla's contribution adds a spiritual dimension to this experience.

On the beach in Noordwijk, the endless waves break and flying white clouds veer and wheel free in the open air. The sun glimmers and glints on the wet sand. I stand silent listening to Aafje Punter, my CIF friend from the Netherlands. Watching the horizon's line. I am full of thoughts. These I touch, and feel the solemn thrill of them.

I think, the words are like a river, breaking a new course.as it changes its way to the ocean. Moving through valleys. And from nation to nation. Crossing borders and mixing. Words wrapped and broken to shape of thoughts. I do not hear anymore.

The monotone of the waves is beautiful. Their ebb an flow is the song of the multitudinous ocean.

In Professor Klamer's words, back to earth or back up to the 18th floor, or in terms of Kolb,

to reflective observation with him or the other keynote speakers. The keynote speakers from the Netherlands have contributed to a local perspective within an international one. We have much to reflect on the structural, semantic and practical level after the lectures from the Noordwijk -CIF conference.

We have learned about the background, the extent of the effects in society due to changes in the demographic structure of the world We have also gained information about the progress made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. And an insight in the situation of persons with HIV/AIDS. We have discussed the professional challenges this present to us.

We are looking at each other, face to face. Talking to each other. Words give an opportunity for abstraction and description, of the directly understandable. But words are also limited. It is a limitation in communicating the very quality of the quantity.

I watch a ship, that heaves and plunges into the water. Foam and sun. All day long is wind. The waves have their beauty and rhythm. I choose what clouds I like. And I listen to you as the veering winds unfolds me.

Visions go on.
Social work and social management go on.
Under the sun.
One day back home.
Voices echo.
Silence holds.
And I pile high the memories from the CIF conference and the CIF tour of the Netherlands.

I found this conference a very important contribution to the ongoing international process of mutual inspiration and encouragement. Thank you Netherlands !

Please send contributions to the next edition of CIF World News to arrive no later than 1st May 2000.

Text can be set by e. mail to:
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**13* August 1999
Noordwijkerhout**

The Netherlands

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Last General Assembly in Dundee:

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Carla Teigen of the USA and seconded by Nuket Atalay of Turkey. Correction of the last minutes: Hilde Zamorsky whose death was mourned at the General Assembly in Dundee was not the first CIF president, but the second in office.

2. President's Report: Purnima Mane read a message from Mimmo Merola, Italy, outgoing vice-president who was not able to come to the conference. She also recited the words of the song on CIF which Mimmo had written 18 years ago and presented a tape with this song, sung by Mimmo. In her report the president thanked CIF The Netherlands for organising the conference and gave a brief resume of the main activities of CIF International since the Dundee Conference. EC meetings were held in Eerbeek / The Netherlands in March 1998 and in Casapulla / Italy in March 1999. The BD and EC meetings in August 1998 in Prague were hosted by CIF Czech Republic. Purnima explained the immense efforts made to revise the 'CIF International statutes. Much work had been invested by the Statutes Committee and by Mimmo Merola, in particular to make the statutes and thereby CIF International more professional in their approach. The revision of the statutes now clearly defines the issue of the relationship between CIF and CIP and, in addition, the role of the BD as the policy making arm of CIF International is defined more strongly. Purnima reported briefly on the National Branches and welcomed the representatives of Kenya and Tanzania to the meeting. The number of NB had not changed during the past two years, viz. 24, but changes occurred, due to having lost the NB of Peru and having gained a new branch in Kenya. Efforts are being made to reactivate former NB in Spain and Peru. On the issue of exchange programmes the president stressed the point that the NB should work on further developing and strengthening these programmes, in order to keep CIF thriving in the new millennium. The different activities of the EC members were explained. Future tasks will include the

project for a special millennium edition and fundraising activities, like accessing EU funds. The president thanked the committee members for their full involvement and teamwork and on behalf of the EC she extended her thanks to the BD for their support, guidance and encouragement

3. Report from the Board of Directors Meeting:

CIF The Netherlands informed the president that 219 participants from 31 countries had come to the conference. The BD met on 8th and 9th August and again on 11th August for elections. Purnima Mane briefed the assembly on major issues and on decisions made at the BD meetings. The president's report on activities of the NB in 1998 will be sent to the BD. A major decision to draw up the budget for two years from now onwards was taken. It was not possible to receive the auditors' report on time. Therefore the BD voted for a preliminary approval of the treasurer's report until the report of the auditors will arrive. At the next BD meeting new auditors have to be appointed. The special occasion of the millennium will be reflected with a special edition of CIF World News. The BD decided to approve the new modernised CIF logo and have it registered. Reg. the revised statutes, further changes had been suggested and the BD voted to change article 5 and article 11. As a result of voting on the venue of the next conference, Italy was chosen as the next conference site in 2001. It was also decided that India be supported in principle as the potential site for the conference in 2003. The NB within the EU will look more closely into the possibilities of EU funding. The BD appointed Jane Ollendorff, Gunvor Brettschneider and Ulla Diling as members of the next Nominating Committee.

4. Report from CIP: Dorothy Faller, Executive Director, announced the organisation's change of name, viz. CIPUSA. The national office will stay in Cleveland. For nearly 40 years the national office and the Cleveland Programme have shared one office, now the Council's office has moved within the same building. A nationwide network of 9 affiliate offices has broadened the fields of operation, but the social work area will remain the core programme. Dorothy introduced Lisa Purdy, International Programme Director, to the assembly. The directory of participants has been lost over the transition period, but is in the process of being updated. CIPUSA has a new web site 'www: cipusa.org' and is linked to CIF International. The United States Information Agency (USIA) which will come

under the State Department in October 1999 has newly designated CIPUSA. Dorothy stressed the point that CIF had co-operated excellently with CIPUSA.

5. Report of Treasurer: Munira Merchant presented the financial statement of CIF in 1998 with the income being US\$ 9,873,76 and expenses US\$ 10,425,10. The budget for 2000-2001 showed US\$ 26,000 as income and as expenses. Seven participants had received conference grants, part of two travel grants had also been awarded. An initiation grant for starting a new NB had been given to CIF Kenya. The auction, the sale of pins and the lottery tickets had amounted to US\$ 3,397. The collection from the silent auction reflected an initial amount which may fluctuate if there are outstanding expenses or further sale of remaining items. Several countries paid their annual membership dues from the auction sale, therefore the net amount reflected in fund raising may be different from the actual amount. The balance sheet showed total assets of US\$ 52,470,08 (reserves and total capital).

6. Report of the Editor of CIF World News: The title of the newsletter has been changed to CIF World News and the logo originally designed for the cover has now been approved by the BD as being the unique logo for CIF International. David Middleton explained that rationalisation has led to 1300 copies per distribution. The expenses amount to approximately US\$ 1000 per edition, the average cost of publishing the newsletter over the previous two years. In accordance with the decision of the BD, only paying members will receive CIF World News. The special millennium edition which should reflect the future for CIF, as seen by the members, will be published in the middle of next year. Reg. new web sites, David suggested to inform the NB what kind of software is needed to set up a web site and recommended a workshop on this topic at the conference in Italy.

7. Voting on Revised Statutes: Edna Bar-On gave an introduction on the history of the modification of the statutes. Major changes have resulted in a new preamble and have affected article 5 and 11. In all other paragraphs the principles have stayed the same, only the language has changed. Bob Parsons proposed the election of a third member-at-large (co-option member) to the EC which will affect article 11, second paragraph of the statutes. This proposal has to be taken to the BD meeting next year. The General

Assembly decided to approve the new statutes with 138 votes in favour (5 did not approve, one abstained).

8. Next Conference: Maria Stefani, President CIF Italy, introduced the audience to the next conference site near Rome and gave some particulars about the conference in late July 2001.

9. Results of Elections: Jane Ollendorff announced the results of the election for the new EC. Purnima Mane of India was elected president, Munira Merchant of the USA was vice-president, Ursula Schmitz of Austria was secretary, Mieke Weeda of the Netherlands was treasurer and Agnetta Bjorklund of Sweden and David Middleton of UK/Scotland were members-at-large. She welcomed the new committee.

10. Any other Business: Gloria Wrigitt-Simmonds of Jamaica proposed to look at practical ways to promote peace and understanding, in view of the persecution and ethnic conflict in former Yugoslavia. The president of CIF International, Purnima Mane, declared that the audience was extremely happy to have Martha Ollendorff amongst its members. Once again she thanked CIF The Netherlands for the successful conference.

Ursula Schmitz CIF Secretary September 1999

CIF is like a tree -one of god's most beautiful creations

The trunk of the tree represents CIF. The branches of the tree are individual CIF countries, each different, yet firmly attached to the trunk. The leaves on the branches are the individual members, taking in oxygen, and giving the tree a large part of its nourishment. The roots of the tree go deep into the soil, representing our history- our heritage from which we draw inspiration.

The sap, which runs throughout the tree, through the leaves, branches, trunk and roots, is our love, our dedication and our faith. The more our dedication, the richer the sap, and the richer the vitality supplied to the tree, the CIF movement. Each leaf is wonderful, but altogether, the tree is more beautiful to behold, and more useful.

Contributed by Usa Shah, India

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Please help to keep this section up to date by advising Agneta Bjorkland of any corrections, changes, new e.mail addresses etc.

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Above Conference delegates bid farewell, after an exceptional conference

Below The Conference Organising Team





Executive Committee elected August 1999. From left to right, Munira Merchant, Vice President; Agneta Bjorklund, Member at Large; Purnima Mane, President; Ursula Schmitz, Secretary; David Middleton, Member at Large; and Mieke Weeda, Treasurer

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