

(6) Hesitation Before The Direction Of Society Became Clarified

As the Society was entirely committed to the completion of the Croydon Elderly Hostel project, its own development had effectively stopped between 1989 and 1993. The ambiguity of the Society's direction led to divergence of views within the Society's rank. In 1991, several personnel issues emerged during the staging of "Malanhua" performance to raise fund for the elderly hostel project. By mid-1993, the Cultural Group's children drama class went into decline because of disturbances arising repeatedly.

Meanwhile, some of the leaders of our Society realised that the Croydon Elderly Hostel project would be completed satisfactorily by the end of 1993. It would be necessary to plan for future developments of our Society, especially with the number of Chinese-speaking migrants soaring rapidly, there was increasing demand of community services. Our Society should promptly seize the opportunity and develop services to meet the community needs accordingly. The critical issue in the whole consideration was that our Society had only limited resources, and it would not be able to take care of the development of both our Society and EACH separately at the same time, unless there was a properly aligned and unified approach. In late 1993, when our Society started to explore this issue internally, conflicts began to surface. Separation of our Society and EACH, going different ways, became unavoidable. However, no matter how EACH might become in the future, the significant contributions made by our Society, building a solid financial foundation for EACH through vigorous fundraising efforts during the period of establishing the elderly hostel, cannot be concealed or denied by anyone.

Although the Society went through several regrettable episodes in 1993, its dedicated backbone personnel, including Mr. Henry Pan, Mr. Kim Lee, Dr. Donald Cheah, Mr. Warris Suen and Mr. Peng Bai were working diligently as usual, standing firm and cultivating silently.

May 1993

The Society's Hua-An Elderly Group started their activities at the Campsie Activity Centre on Wednesdays.

June 1993

The Board of Directors resolved to gradually establish a management framework staffed with paid professional personnel to be responsible for the day-to-day operations. On the basis of the limited resources, a part-time manager's position to oversee the daily affairs of the Society. The then Co-ordinator of FDCDS, Mrs. Bee Koh was appointed to this position.

August 1993

Having overcome the depressed state of children's drama class and other personnel problems, key volunteers and leaders of the Society formally established the CASS Academy of Arts. Apart from the existing drama class, other classes including folk dance, ballet, and electronic keyboard etc. were added. From then on, at the end of each year, a performance was organised to present to parents their children's achievements. The running of those classes gradually became systematic and formalised.

Middle to late 1993

Due to strong demand from the community. Voluntary workers increased the provision of various settlement services and training classes, including adult migrant English classes.