Family best practices – East Asia

- Chinese Taipei is the first Program who started up family support network in East Asia a decade ago, at that time families never thought they gradually became to the most committed fans and one of important impetus of Special Olympics movement. The initial family program spread to the new counties one by one with the effort of Program staff and families who welcomed the new families through sharing the stories of how Special Olympics changed the athlete and family’s life. Thus more families were ignited to unite and voluntarily serve for the organization. Chinese Taipei currently holds 19 sub-Program offices. Each year 4 to 5 sub-Programs rotate to host Family Day/family leader training/Young Athletes workshop with the involvement of the new families from the neighbor counties. In addition, since 2009 Chinese Taipei hosted the national family forum each year with the participation of families across Taiwan and the topics run extensively on family outreach in building community, Young Athletes expansion, health as well as social welfare policies.

Family Health Forum

Global Family Leader sharing global family strategy regarding community builder

2011 EKS Day – Family Forum

Young Athletes program workshop

- Hong Kong Family Support Network Committee was established in 2005 that is co-managed by Special Olympics Hong Kong and family leaders appointed by the Board. The committee provides the regular family activities such as family
forum/seminars, family gathering, family volunteer day, family Fitness day and Young Athletes promotional demonstration for fostering culture of welcoming new families, building cohesiveness and encouraging family leadership.

Family as volunteer coach

Family Fitness Day

2011 EKS Day Family Forum

Family leader introduces Young Athletes Program

Train-at-Home practices

2012 Family Health Forum

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- Special Olympics Macau Family Support Network set up in 2004 and it provides various family activities every week to encourage the involvement of families. FSN team mainly works around three core areas – family supportive affairs, emotional support class and Rights and interests for families with intellectual disabilities. Each team led by the
experienced family leaders, coaches or volunteer professionals. Family supportive team hosts the regular family seminar/gathering, organizing family volunteering in the local SO events. Moreover, the team visits the elders with intellectual disabilities and needy families periodically for encouraging them stepping out from isolated life. Emotional support class provides families a communicational channel in an equal and eased atmosphere to release and unload the pressure and negative emotions from raising children thus they regain belief and confidence. The Rights and Interests Team is formed of families who appeal to the public attention and concern about rights and welfare for people with intellectual disabilities in form of talking with media, visiting with government officials and being present at policy-related consultancy meetings. In 2010, there are totally 72 family activities was led by FSN of Special Olympics Macau with participation of about 1500 families.

- Since 2002, Family Support Network were introduced and gradually formed in over 50 locations which cover most of provinces, municipalities and autonomous region in China. Family were trained in the various events therefrom a number of dedicated family leaders took an active and leading role in helping carrying out family program and Young Athletes program locally. Between 2009 and 2011, 12 new sites in China launched Young Athletes program alongside family workshop for recruiting new families in virtue of the effort of family leader who helped build partnership with early childhood centers and community centers. In 2010, initiated by a family leader who works as police officer, FSN
team in Xi’an collaborated with 10 universities and kicked off “SO Family & University Project” from which recruited 200 volunteers who committed to serve for SO family activities.