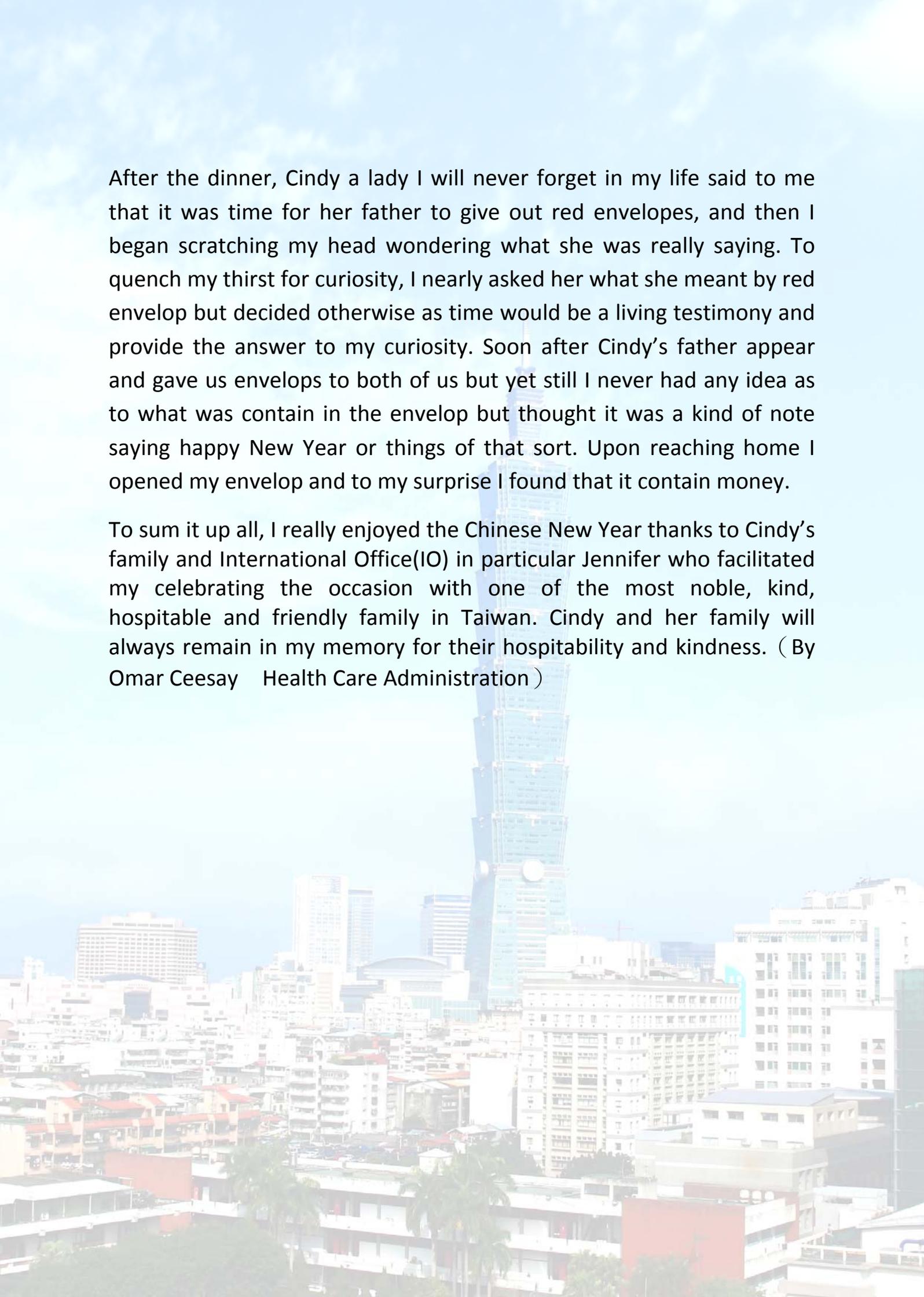


## **New Year dinner with Hsua-Ju Lin's (Cindy) family on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011**

This year and being the first in my life, I celebrated Chinese New Year in grand style with Hsuan-Ju Lin's (Cindy) family in Sanchong City. Accompanied by a friend Sheriff Badjie I followed the direction provided by Cindy and upon reaching our destination, I made a call and was received at the bus stop by Cindy a lady I would describe as kind hearted and friendly that beats my imaginations. On reaching the house of Cindy's family, we were received and welcome by her father, Grandmother and younger sister and later we were joined by her elder sister.

As the evening progresses, cooking of various kinds of traditional Chinese dishes continued under the supervision of Cindy's Grandmother who regardless of her old age was able to coordinate and do most of the cooking herself. This old woman, may she live to celebrate many more years to come is just so kind, friendly and open hearted. Not only did she spear head the cooking but at some point in time insisted on preparing rice noodles for us whilst we sat patiently and salivating when the scent of the food stroke our nostrils.

Once the cooking was done, some parts of the food were offered to the Chinese Gods and later on we all sat on the family's dining table and enjoy the delicious meals prepared for the festive occasion. During the dinner session, different kinds of dishes were served some of which I have never seen before like black chicken and many others. This kind of food was really delicious and well prepared. Since that day, whenever I think of eating my mind goes for black chicken and thus making me salivate and yearn for more of it.



After the dinner, Cindy a lady I will never forget in my life said to me that it was time for her father to give out red envelopes, and then I began scratching my head wondering what she was really saying. To quench my thirst for curiosity, I nearly asked her what she meant by red envelop but decided otherwise as time would be a living testimony and provide the answer to my curiosity. Soon after Cindy's father appear and gave us envelops to both of us but yet still I never had any idea as to what was contain in the envelop but thought it was a kind of note saying happy New Year or things of that sort. Upon reaching home I opened my envelop and to my surprise I found that it contain money.

To sum it up all, I really enjoyed the Chinese New Year thanks to Cindy's family and International Office(IO) in particular Jennifer who facilitated my celebrating the occasion with one of the most noble, kind, hospitable and friendly family in Taiwan. Cindy and her family will always remain in my memory for their hospitability and kindness. ( By Omar Ceesay Health Care Administration )