



WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ASIA-PACIFIC eNEWS Number 30 October 2006

Warm Asia and Pacific greetings to National Presidents:

Professor Pang Lijuan: PR China;

Dr Young-Ok Kim: Korea;

Ms Chise Izumi: Japan

Dr Hazel Lam: Hongkong

Dr Udomluck: Thailand

Dr Ling Hui: Singapore

Ms Ruth Liew: Malaysia

Mrs Rasfiati D. Iskarno: Indonesia

Dr Edna B. Azurin: Philippines

Mr Alfred Roy: Bangladesh

Prof Veena Minstry: India

Mr Noushad Ahmed Khan: Pakistan

C.A. Samaradivakara: Sri Lanka

Sue Harper: Australia

Fiona Ellis: Aotearoa/New Zealand

This *eNews* brings greetings every and especially the three new Preparatory Committees, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. It is pleasing to see the regional membership growing as new member countries join or rejoin OMEP.

Korean Society for Early Childhood Education (KSECE) 4th Biennial International Conference 20-22 October and OMEP Asia Pacific Region annual meeting 21 October 2006, Seoul.

I urge as many of you as possible to attend the KSECE conference and the Asia Pacific Region Annual meeting to be hosted by the Korean Society for Early Childhood Education alongside their 4th Biennial International Conference in Seoul 20 – 22 October. There are several excellent keynote speakers and a very interesting programme. Visit the Web site www.ksece.or.kr for more information.

The **OMEP Asia Pacific Region annual meeting** will be held at the conference on **21 October 1.00pm to 5.00/6.00pm.**

My **most pressing request** is for all Presidents, to send me their annual reports before the Seoul meeting. I would like your annual reports to tell the story of your 2006 year, the highlights and challenges for 2006 and your aspirations for 2007. The annual

report/story of your year is one of the most important Asia Pacific Region communications for the year. It is the time for everyone to share news from their country about early childhood education and the activities in their area. Please send your stories/reports to me at my home email address as it is easier for me to receive emails at home than through my work email address. <delauder@xtra.co.nz>

One more question. I would like to know who is going to the meeting in Seoul? This is important as the Korean Society of ECE has asked for numbers so that they can plan the food and hospitality for the meeting. It would also help me to know who is going as I must plan the agenda for the meeting.

A draft Agenda for the meeting in Seoul is included below. Please send me any suggestions or topics of interest that you would like included on the Agenda.

Draft Agenda:

Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting to be held in Seoul, Korea 21 October 2006.

1.00pm Meet and Greet. Welcome from Selma Simonstein, World President.

Update from the World Assembly, Tromso, Norway, August 2006.

1.30pm Minutes of the last meeting (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

1.45pm Asia Pacific Region, Vice President's Report. Doreen Launder

Asia Pacific Member Country Reports to be presented.

3.00pm Afternoon tea.

3,30pm Into the future, planning for regional projects.

4.30pm Feedback from groups and formulating plans for 2007.

5.00/6.00pm Close

If you have any items you would like included on the Agenda please email me at:

delauder@xtra.co.nz

Dates mark your diaries:

Asia Pacific Region Annual General Meeting 8 – 10 July 2007. The Preparatory Committee of OMEP Thailand has offered to host the 2007 Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting as part of the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University conference to be held from **8 – 10 July 2007**. This date coincides with Thailand's national celebrations for the 80th birthday of Thailand's King and the Faculty's 40th Birthday. OMEP Thailand hosted an excellent Asia Pacific Region Conference at the Chulalongkorn University in 1994.

World Assembly and International Conference 18 – 22 July 2007

Mexico City. omepmexico@hotmail.com

That's all for now. Please send me your annual reports as soon as possible along with any matters you would like included on the annual meeting agenda.

Very Best wishes to you all

Doreen Launder

Asia Pacific Region Vice President.

1 October 2006

Reflections on the World Assembly, Regional meetings and International Conference in Tromso, Norway, August 2006

- **Monday 7 Aug**
World Executive Meeting.
- **Tuesday 8 - Wed 9 Aug**
OMEP World Assembly and Regional Meetings.
- **Thus 10 - Friday 11 Aug**
International Conference
The Great Little Researcher.

Establishing and re-establishing friendships alongside international sharing was a significant feature of the Tromso meeting. Imagine early childhood professionals from 38 countries talking, sharing, exchanging name cards and perspectives on ece. The days were frenetic and far too short. The growing worldwide interest and appreciation of the importance of early childhood education appeared to be a factor contributing to the enthusiasm for networking and hunger for knowledge of early childhood in other countries.

Highlights from the Assembly and the Conference.

The Assembly: There were many highlights from the **Assembly** and I touch on some of the key highlights.

1. **The successful ece development work in Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh**, that was spear-headed by Joan Waters following the tsunami, has been praised by UNICEF. This excellent work could open the way for other similar initiatives in the future.

2. **The birth to three year old research**, that involves eight member countries is giving new purpose and strength to OMEP. The E-research forum concept was accepted by the World Assembly and there are now 4 moderators, one each from A/NZ, USA, Chile and Norway, who are willing to lead new research topics. These research activities will identify new focus areas to follow on, over time, from the birth to three year old research. OMEP website www.omep.org.net will post more information on the ongoing developments about the E-research forum later in the year. The E-research will be discussed further at the Asia Pacific Region Annual meeting in Seoul.

3. **The OMEP Early Childhood Journal**, Dr Ingrid Pramling is doing fantastic work with the Journal. I strongly recommend member countries subscribe to the Journal and encourage your institutions to subscribe.

The Conference: Three key note speakers (among others) provided an important backdrop and contextualization for the birth to 3 year old international research.

Dr Stein Braten (theory of mind – inter-subjective communication);

Prof Gunvor Lokken (social construction of the toddler);

Prof Andrew Meltzoff (Developmental science, Education and Neuroscience science).

The researchers can be ‘googled’ for more information.

The Conference was very well organized and congratulations go to OMEP Norway for all their hard work.

