



WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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ASIA-PACIFIC eNEWS
Number 33 August 2007

Warm Asia and Pacific Greetings to all
National Presidents and OMEP Members


2007 August 25



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In this eNews ...

 From the Vice
President OMEP
Asia Pacific Region

 OMEP World
Assembly Mexico
City July 2007

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Congress Mexico
City July 2007

 Asia Pacific Regional
Meeting and
Conference
Bangkok November
2007

Dear National Presidents, Secretaries, members, colleagues and friends in the OMEP Asia Pacific Region.

I cannot believe that 12 months of my Vice Presidency has passed already. Over the past 12 months I have particularly enjoyed reading your news, meeting many of you, enjoying your hospitality and company and attending your very interesting presentations at conferences. You are a fantastic bunch of people and it is a privilege to part of an organization to which you all belong.

The increasing international attention on early childhood education highlights the importance of all of our work in OMEP.

To emphasize this, it is interesting to note that the UNESCO Report "Education for All" (Dakar 2000 and beyond), sets out six goals the first of which is to:

Goal 1: Expand Early Childhood Care and Education.

The goal is wide ranging with immediate focus on raising the profile of early childhood education and increasing both access to and quality of early childhood education throughout the world.

Recognition of OMEP, as a knowledgeable contributor, with expertise in early childhood education, is increasing. For example the retiring World President Selma Simonstein presented on education from birth to 3 years at the May 2007 Organisation of American States forum

and will present at the Swedish Government's Goteborg University meeting in 2008. The next UNESCO Dakar meeting, March 2008, will reflect on and give further attention to the early childhood education goal. OMEP will have representation at this meeting.

My message is - do not underestimate the importance of the work you are doing. Each and every-one of you is making valued contribution to young children and families.



Asia Pacific Region Member Countries

There have been some changes to the names and email addresses in our region.

The 14 Asia Pacific National Presidents are:

Australia: sue.lancaster@dhs.vic.gov.au

Bangladesh: aroy@bangla.net

PR China: lijuanpang@163.com

Hong Kong: hlam@ied.edu.hk

Indonesia: rasfiati@yahoo.com

Japan: izumi@sw.osakafu-u.ac.jp

Korea: jihibae@freechal.com

Malaysia: ruthwah@yahoo.com

New Zealand: fiona.ellis@ou.ac.nz

Philippines: jay_azurin@yahoo.com

Pakistan: omep_pakistan@yahoo.com

Singapore: hling@singnet.com.sg

Sri Lanka: divakara_me@yahoo.com

Thailand: udomluck.k@chula.ac.th

India is exploring the possibility of reforming a committee, thanks to an

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expression of interest from Reeta Sonawat in Mumbai.

Please email me if there are any changes to the above list.



2007, July Monday 16th

The Assembly opened with addresses from:

World President, Selma Simonstein

Vice President from Latin America

Garciela Rodriguez

President of the Mexican National Organising Committee, Aide Davila

And representatives from:

UNICEF and UNESCO

This was followed by the **roll call of attendees** and confirmation of proxy vote allocations from countries unable to attend. In total 28 countries attended the Assembly and there were 14 proxy votes.

Participating countries:

African Region:

Liberia

Nigeria

Europe

Denmark

France
Germany
Lativa
Norway
Spain
Switzerland
Portugal
Sweden
United Kingdom
Czech Republic
North America and Haiti

Canada
United States
Latin America
Brazil
Chile
Columbia
Costa Rica
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Uruguay
Venezuela

Asia Pacific Region
Australia
China (Hong Kong)
Japan
Singapore
Korea
Aotearoa New Zealand

From the Asia Pacific Region we received an apology from the Yi Ze, PR of China, with regret. Unfortunately Yi Ze was unable to attend at the last minute. An apology was also received from Thailand. Thailand is busy preparing for the November Asia Pacific Regional Meeting and Conference.

The question of obtaining visas was raised by Africa and it was resolved

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that any country hosting the OMEP National Assemblies should quickly respond to individuals requests for Letters of Invitation for the purpose of obtaining visas. Participants applying for Visas need original, signed Letters of Invitation as early as possible as Visa applications take time to process. Individuals requesting a Letter of Invitation, for the purpose of obtaining a Visa, should send their particulars, Name, Passport Number and Email addresses to the Organizing Committee as early as possible.



Annual Reports

The 2006 annual reports from the five regions and the **2006 OMEP World Annual Report** were presented. A copy of the 2006 OMEP World Annual Report is being sent to each National Committee. Unfortunately the 2006 Annual Report went to print before all the 2006 reports from across the Asia Pacific Region were submitted and regretfully some reports from our region missed the deadline. More about Annual Reports later.



Financial Report

The World Treasurer, Maggie Koong presented the **Annual Financial Report**.

The World Treasurer reported that not everyone has paid their 2006 Fees. Fees for 2007 are still coming in. The Treasurer strongly urges all countries who have not paid their 2006 fees to pay as soon as possible and that the 2007 fees are now due.

Discussion on annual fees and the budget received comment from the floor. Particularly there was discussion on how the annual fees are calculated using the UNESCO formula and how countries with little money might be helped to pay their fees. The idea of Sister Countries where wealthier countries could help poorer countries is being considered.



Histories of OMEP

Joan Waters, Immediate Past Vice President, Asia Pacific Region, has recently published a history of OMEP in Australia, called:

“*Sowing seeds of Peace*”. More information about this publication is available on the website.

<www.omep-ong.net>

There is increasing interest and encouragement to countries to write up their OMEP histories. OMEP turns 60 in 2008 and there is a great deal to write about.



OMEP work programmes, 10 minute presentations:

1. Birth to 3 Years Research:

Four countries: Australia, China (Hong Kong), Japan and Aotearoa/New Zealand from the Asia Pacific Region participated in this research. In total nine countries participated in the research, the other five were: Norway,

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Sweden, United States of America, Turkey and Chile. Our region was well represented.

E. Veronica Romo, Chile, and Ingrid Pramling have each drawn different aspects of the research together.

Veronica has written a ‘policies research paper that documents the connection between children’s early experiences and brain development, the results of the survey and suggestions for policy directions for OMEP. I recommend everyone read the paper, see it on the OMEP website:

[www.omep-ong.net/policies_report_education_for_children_from_0 - 3 years](http://www.omep-ong.net/policies_report_education_for_children_from_0_-_3_years)

Ingrid is working on the research publication: *International Study on Play: birth to three years old* that is due out later in the year. Ingrid had hoped to have the publication to present at the Assembly, however the publishing process has taken longer than planned. The manuscript is with the printers now.

Ingrid reported some early findings show different philosophical underpinnings for different countries.

For example:

Australia: Social

China (HongKong): Knowledge and learning

New Zealand: Belonging and Relationships

Japan: Participation

Sweden: Democracy

USA: Independence.

2. OMEP E-Research Forum:

Fiona Ellis, National President Aotearoa/New Zealand presented on behalf of Jayne White who led this initiative.

Unfortunately a CD prepared by Jayne could not be played due to technical difficulties.

The research forum is not well used. Over the past year there have been 160 visitors to the Forum and 20 participants. In total there have been 45 postings. The E-Research Forum is a precious resource and one that OMEP will lose if participation in the forum does not increase. At the moment the Forum is in English only. If it is well used and successful it will be expanded to include Spanish and French.

OMEP E-Research Forum can be accessed through the OMEP website – www.omep-ong.net click on **E-Research Forum and register**. The forum is hosted by Victoria University of Wellington. The purpose is for OMEP members to dialogue with each other about their research interests and to progress ideas for future OMEP research projects.

Currently there are six topics of interest for discussion:

1. Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers;
2. Assessment;
3. Evaluating Quality/Quality in cultural contexts;
4. Ludic expression;
5. Mathematics;
6. Ethics

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Despite the low level of engagement with the E-Research Forum, Victoria University of Wellington has agreed to continue the trial for another 12 months.

The message is: **please visit the E-Research Forum and contribute comments to it. It really is a case of “use-it-or lose it”.**

Fiona handed out a survey for feedback on the E-Research Forum.

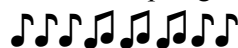
3. OMEP International Alliances:

Alejandro Acosta. Alejandro reported on the work of CINDE in the Latin American countries.

5. Tsunami Relief Programme:

Selma Simonstein presented the report from Joan Waters.

The two relief programmes, one in Sri Lanka and one in Indonesia’s Banda Aceh Province have made very good progress. A further allocation of funds from UNICEF is to be made after which the programmes will begin to enter a transition phase as the local communities increase their responsibility and funding comes to an end. Ways of supporting the transition are being explored. The projects have been very successful. Detailed information is available on the website www.omep-ong.net



Membership

Membership was discussed. The membership currently stands at 63 countries. Ghana has been reinstated and

Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Thailand may be ready to become full members. This will be discussed with each of the National Committees.



Journal:

Professor Ingrid Pramling talked about the future of the Journal. The use of guest editors was raised alongside discussion about the possibility of publishing special issues that focus on particular topics, e.g literacy. It was noted that there are few Spanish and French articles being sent to the Journal.

Two Journals are published each year. Please order your copies for 2007 and 2008.



Working Groups:

The Assembly broke into five working groups:

Professional Development:

Action Plan for birth to 3 research:

Funding:

Publications/Research:

Visibility:

Reports from the working groups are to be written up and will be available soon.

OMEP World Assembly day one closed at 5.30pm



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Day two July, Tuesday 17th

Regional Meetings:

The six countries representing the Asia Pacific Region met to share information and discuss future directions.

Three items were discussed.

Fact Sheets

Annual Reports

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in Bangkok 21 – 24 November.

Fact Sheets:

It was agreed at the Asia Pacific meeting held in Seoul, Korea in October 2006, that each of the Asia Pacific Region member countries develop “Fact Sheets”. Agreement on a framework and items to be included in the “Fact Sheets” will be discussed and finalized in Bangkok in November. In the meantime please send me your suggestions for the framework.

Annual Reports:

It's Annual Report time again for all 14 National Presidents.

If you are coming to the Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting please bring and present your report for the 2007 year. If you are unable to come to the meeting please email me your annual report by 10th November, 2007.

eNews 32 talked about a framework or headings for the annual reports. A framework for reporting was discussed further in Mexico. The proposed framework is:

1. Names and Numbers

The name of the National President

The Name of the National Secretary
The number of OMEP members in your country.

2. **Structure and the way OMEP works in your country.**
3. **The most relevant activities conducted by the National Committee in 2007.**
4. **The most relevant activity or activities conducted at the regional level in 2007.**
5. **The most urgent challenges and activities for OMEP in 2008.**
6. **Specifics that you would like included in the Asia Pacific Report.**
7. **Include photo/s.**

**Reports are to be presented at the:
Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting**

21 November 2007, Bangkok.

The meeting will begin at:

8.45 am on Wednesday 21 November.

Please tell me if you are coming to the meeting. I need an indication as to how many people will be attending so that I can ask Dr Undomluck to arrange a suitable room.

eNews 32 June 2007 included snippets from each report. I have had feedback from a number of people who found the snippets interesting. Please note item number 6 above and think about what you would like to share with the region. All reports are ultimately included in the OMEP World Report that comes out a year later.



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Elections

Election of the new World President and the Vice President for Latin America.

I am pleased to confirm that:

Professor Ingrid Pramling was elected OMEP World President.

And

Victoria Peralta Espinoza from Chile was elected Vice President for Latin America
Congratulations to both Ingrid and Victoria.



Future World Assemblies:

2008 August 6-8 Quebec City, Canada:

Theme:

"Nurturing Peace Together with Children"

Visit the website for more information:

www.omep-canada.org

2009 August, Nigeria, Africa

Suggestions to OMEP Nigerian National Committee.

Email <arebimbo@yahoo.com>

2010 1st week of August, Sweden

Early alert:

Hong Kong China's 7th OMEP International Conference will be held from 22 – 24 May 2008 in Hong Kong.

<http://www.omepconference.ied.edu.hk>

or

<http://www.ied.edu.hk/omep/>

Honorary Members

There were no nominations received for Honorary Members at the 2007 Assembly.

The World Assembly closed after many photographic sessions.



The Right of the Child to Education in the Beginning of the 2nd Millennium.

Close to 1000 people attended the Congress. There were many teachers and early childhood professionals from countries across South America and Mexico and nations across the world.

Participants enjoyed three days of lectures, Poster Presentations, Free Papers and Workshops.

Topics ranged across:
Issues of Quality in ECE;
Teacher education and training;
Curriculum and pedagogy;
The role of the family in ECE;

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Domain areas such as literacy, mathematics, socio-emotional learning etc; Sustainable development Education as a Right; and many more.

The Congress was a great opportunity for sharing and exchanging on a global basis. There was excellent opportunity to develop networks and shared directories.

The assembly dinner on Thursday 19th July was great fun. The prize for the best performance went to Japan in celebration of their fun-filled participatory performance. Thank you Japan. You set a high standard for the next Assembly.



And at last two very important items.

- 1. The Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting, Thailand and the**
- 2. OMEP International Conference, Bangkok, Thailand *Promoting Learning Potentiality for Young children.***

Asia Pacific Region Annual Meeting

21 November 2007.

8.45am – 4.00 pm

Please go to the Registration Desk at 8.45 am and we will all move to the allocated meeting room together.

I hope as many people as possible can come. Please send me items for the Agenda.

I look forward to seeing you there.

OMEP

**International Conference
Bangkok, Thailand**

*Promoting Learning
Potentiality for Young
Children*

22 – 24 November 2007.

Please go to the website:

http://web.mac.com/omep_thailand/

**for information on the
conference hosted by**

Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok

Thailand

I am very grateful to Thailand OMEP and particularly Dr Udomlunck Kulapichitr and Dr Sumlee Thongthew

for taking this initiative and gaining the support of the Chulalongkorn University for this event.

Udomluck has worked very hard to put bring this conference together.

I hope to see as many countries as possible represented at our regional annual meeting and the conference.



That's all for now. I will be back in touch before November. Please start making your plans for the November meeting and conference.

regards to all
Doreen Launder
Asia Pacific Regional Vice President
Aotearoa New Zealand

(PS I promise photos in the next eNews)