



## ASIA-PACIFIC eNEWS Number 26 April 2006

### From the (Acting) Regional Vice President

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Dear National President,

When I sent off eNEWS Number 25 last December, I expected it would be the last letter I would write to you. But World President, Selma Simonstein asked me to continue in the position of Acting Regional Vice President until August. She was especially concerned that OMEP's post-tsunami projects be finalized and evaluated so that a report could be made to the members of the Assembly in Tromso in August. So here is another, unexpected, letter to give an update on OMEP happenings.

I have just returned from the World Executive meeting in Zurich Switzerland, the home of Ulla Grob-Menges, the Vice President for Europe. Ulla arranged for members to stay at the Paulus Akadamie, a comfortable Conference Centre, about 20 minutes tram ride from the Central Railway Station. From the windows in the meeting room we could see the first new green leaves on the birch trees in the garden, and the green spikes of daffodils and tulips appearing from the hard, cold ground.

The following are some of the items from our two-day agenda.

- **New members were welcomed.**

Madeleine Baillargeon has taken Leah Adam's place as Vice President for North America; Victoria Bilewu is Vice President for Africa, and Maggie Koong from Hong Kong replaces Nirmala Rao as World Treasurer.

- **Reports from the World President and the Vice Presidents were received.**

These will be printed, along with the reports of National Committees and presented at the World Assembly in August. This year, our Asia Pacific Region had almost 100% of its reports in on time. My thanks to you all!

- **World Assembly and Seminar.**

Liv Cranner, President of OMEP Norway attended part of our meeting to report on the progress of plans for the World Assembly in Tromso, August 8 and 9, and the Seminar, August 10 and 11. You already have the information about this wonderful venue at "the top of the world", where the hospitable

Mayor is already looking forward to welcoming delegates and participants. Abstracts have been accepted from presenters in our region from Korea, Nepal, New Zealand and Hong Kong. I would encourage you to give this meeting as much publicity as possible, so that there will be a wide range of views presented at the Assembly, and good cross-cultural discussion at the Seminar. The [www.omep.no](http://www.omep.no) website is being updated regularly. A preliminary program will be published at the beginning of May. It is expected that Regional Meetings will be held in the morning of the second day.

- **Applications from new Committees.**

The Committees of Thailand and Sri Lanka have applied for recognition as Preparatory Committees. Their documents were received and will be presented for approval at World Assembly

- **Constitution and Administrative Guide.**

Checking of these documents for translation into OMEP's official languages was finalised. Our thanks to OMEP Australia for suggestions for additions to the Guide.

- **Elections.**

Nominations for a Vice President for the Asia Pacific Region should be sent to the World President before May 31. The same deadline applies to nominations for Honorary Members. An Honorary Member is one who has made a sustained and significant contribution to OMEP and its activities. Nomination forms were distributed with the Regional Newsletter last year, but if you can't find a copy, please let me know and I will send them to you.

- **International Journal of Early Childhood.**

The editor, Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson from Sweden reported that she has received much positive feedback about recent Journals. They are available on the EBSCO Elite data base and indexed by ERIC Clearing House. The international group of editors and reviewers works well. Issue No.1 2006 will be distributed this month.

- **Reports on Projects**

1. International Study on Play and Learning.

Seven countries have finished their study and written a chapter: four from our Region – Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand. The introductory chapter with an overview of research on play and the theoretical perspective has been written by Marilyn Flear, Australia. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson will write the concluding chapter. A presentation on the study will be given in Tromsø.

2. Post-tsunami Project

On January 13, 2005, OMEP launched a world wide appeal for donations which would be specifically directed towards creative solutions to the rebuilding of early childhood programs in affected countries after the immediate crisis had passed. OMEP members responded generously; donations were sent to the World Treasurer and held in a special fund. UNICEF agreed to discuss a joint project. OMEP's efforts to run a joint project with UNICEF were not successful and it was agreed that money would be allocated from the OMEP Tsunami fund on application to the affected countries. In September the first grant of \$US9960.00 was made to the

OMEP Preparatory Committee, Sri Lanka for a rehabilitation program in the Matara District on the southern coast of the island. Progress reports from the monitoring and supervising sub committee show that to date 604 children have benefited from the program. The second grant, \$10,000 has been allocated to Indonesia for the project, 'ECEC Teacher Training Program for Children Age 0-3 years.' Allocation of the remainder of the Tsunami Fund was discussed and further action will be decided by the World Assembly.

3. Survey on Children from Birth to Three

Veronica Romeo from Chile is continuing this Project and will report on the results in Tromso.

• **Future Meetings**

1. Asia Pacific Regional meeting in Korea

October 20-22, 2006 organised by OMEP Korea in conjunction with the Korean Society for Early Childhood Education. You will receive details soon. Our World President will attend.

2. World Assembly and Congress, Mexico

The National Committee of OMEP Mexico, composed of representatives from 18 State committees met in Durango City last November to begin planning for the World Assembly and Congress. It will be held in July, 2007 in Mexico City. The Mexican President will give a presentation about the event during this year's Assembly.

Please share the information in this letter with your members.

My best wishes to you all,

Joan Waters