



## ***Newsletter from the World President***

***May 2005  
No. 26***

***Santa Isabel 1278 – Santiago – CHILE  
E mail: [ssimonstein@ucentral.cl](mailto:ssimonstein@ucentral.cl)***

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- **Words from the OMEP World President**  
Dear friends,  
Since early March, we formally started our regular OMEP's year schedule in Latin America. In February, the organization remained active, focusing its attention on the topics that required our immediate action. Among them, we addressed the

implementation of the OMEP assistance proposal because of the tsunami through actions organized by different committees. Funds collected must be informed and transferred to Nirmala Rao, OMEP World Treasurer.

On the other hand, in April the Executive Committee met for the first time in Chile attached to the OMEP Chile Committee International Seminar. In this respect, you may see more detailed information (below) in this newsletter. While their staying down here, we organized various actions that we have been working on further to the gathering. That is partially why we have not issued our regular monthly newsletter so far this year.

➤ **Executive Meeting in Chile (April 2005)**

On March 31, field activities were carried out. The agenda considered a couple of visits in the Metropolitan Region. Firstly they went to a childhood center (in La Florida county) that has been the pilot for the early childhood education curricular reform to head on then to Concha y Toro Vineyard (in Pirque). Later on, the group moved to Guayacán, seat of the meeting, which is located on the way to Los Andes mountain range.

The meeting was held on 2 & 3 April. The agenda was revised and discussed thoroughly. During these two days, Ingrid Pramling, Editor-in-Chief for the International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC) visited us, and we also shared by means of organized gatherings with the Chilean National Executive Committee (NEC) members and other associates.

On 4 & 5 April, the EXCOM had the opportunity to participate in a seminar on the development of the early childhood educator held at the Universidad Central (in Santiago). This activity was supported by a group of Chilean universities, which regularly contribute with funds for having this bi-annual seminar. Once the seminar was over (on April 6) the group went to the V Region, where it joined some meetings at the Catholic University of Valparaíso. On Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, the last meetings were held in Santiago, and the working week came to its end.

➤ **2004 Annual Report**

We are in the process of elaborating the 2004 Annual Report based on the national committees' reports. It will be composed of the **48 reports** received as of May 4<sup>th</sup>:

**Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.**

These reports have been already reviewed by the corresponding Regional Vice-Presidents.

We will retain the trilingual version that was very well accepted last year. This time we will add the annual report by the OMEP representatives with international organizations, i.e., UNESCO and UNICEF.

Once again we have striven to have a representative annual report so that each and every OMEP committee may establish its presence (this year **71%** of them will), becoming thus a source of inspiration and ideas for the other committees.

➤ **New OMEP web page**

As every technological development, it must be renewed on a regular basis. Taking advantage of the EXCOM meeting in Chile, we revised the new site proposal. The site should be uploaded in the days to come. Some innovations will be included such as the delivery of our newsletter form the site.

We will add some OMEP publications, relevant lectures, and will inform regional meetings and national seminars, among others.

➤ **Deadline for nominating candidates to Regional Vice-President, World Treasurer and proposing Honorary Members is due (31 May)**

During our World Assembly (July, in Cuba), new Regional VPs for Africa and North America & the Caribbean will be elected as **Ebele Maduwesi** and **Leah Adams's** second 3-year consecutive term is coming to its end.

On the other hand, we will elect/ re-elect Regional VP for Asia Pacific and World Treasurer. **Joan Waters** and **Nirmala Rao** have been in office for their first 3-year period and may be reelected for a second term.

For Honorary Members proposals, those committees that are interested in presenting some nominees should do so before the annual meeting in Cuba through their Regional Vice-President.

➤ **Regional Conference in New Zealand**

To be held in December 2005. On our web page (under development), you will find more details on a regular basis. Contact Jayne White, President to the New Zealand National Committee: [Jayne.White@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:Jayne.White@minedu.govt.nz)

➤ **Seminar in China**

To be held on September 17-21, 2005. On our web page (under development), you will find more details on a regular basis. Contact Dr. Lijuan Pang, President of the OMEP Chinese Committee: [lijuanpang@163.com](mailto:lijuanpang@163.com)

➤ **Printing of the book by Lilian Katz**

As we noted in our World Council in Melbourne (Australia, 2004), we are issuing a book including some articles by Lilian Katz whose copy rights were transferred to OMEP titled **Perspectives on Preschool Education**. Sylvia Lavanchy (an OMEP Chile Committee member) and her team collaborated for the Spanish version. The launching will take place on July 11<sup>th</sup>, attached to our activities in Cuba.

Will be sold in a stand offered by the Cuban committee for the event. We request our committees to promote and support the distribution of this book as funds will be for OMEP.

➤ **International Seminar – OMEP Chile Committee** (Santiago, April 2005)

On 4 & 5 April, the Seminar “Training the Personnel servicing the early children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Are we adequately prepared? The purpose was depicting an appropriate and critic panorama on the training provided to the early childhood education professionals, focusing on the development that would be

needed to service in an educational and efficient manner the 0-3 year olds, both boys and girls.

A “big picture” was presented by the 5 OMEP Regional Vice-Presidents, the World Treasurer and Ingrid Pramling, Editor-in-Chief for the International Journal of Early Childhood, in addition to representatives from various universities nationwide.

For further information, please contact Verónica Romo, OMEP Chile Committee Vice-President: [eromo@ucentral.cl](mailto:eromo@ucentral.cl)

➤ **OMEP Argentina Committee’s Network**

The OMEP Argentina Committee is implementing an agreement with Fundación Telefónica by means of which they will participate in a new site “*Infancia en Red*” (Childhood in the Network). The agreement covers two projects: 1. Dilemmas (on early childhood 0-6 years), and 2. *Educrianza* or Educating and Raising (0-3 years) for building quality environments.

In the future, each project will be displayed in a separate web page. For additional information, please contact the committee by mail: [omep@omep.org.ar](mailto:omep@omep.org.ar)

➤ **OMEP World President Visit to Japan** (May 2005)

In response to an invitation by the OMEP Japan Committee, she will deliver some lectures on new challenges for early childhood education and current conditions for 0 – 3 year olds. The President will visit some nursery schools and participate in some lectures to educators joining a private association in Kamura city.

➤ **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OMEP Bulgaria** (May 2005)

The most renowned authorities at national level were invited. OMEP was represented by Ulla Grob, Regional Vice-President for Europe and Selma Simonstein, World President.

➤ **You may click on... (United Nations)**

- Report on the ECOSOC NGO **Millennium Development Goals: Our Commitments**

(10 March 2005), visit: [http:// www. un. org/webcast/2005.html](http://www.un.org/webcast/2005.html)

- UN-NGO-IRENE update and upcoming events, visit: [www.unpan.org/NGO-updates.asp](http://www.unpan.org/NGO-updates.asp)

In order to see their monthly bulletin, please e-mail: [un-ngo-irene@un.org](mailto:un-ngo-irene@un.org)

➤ **In our letter-box...**

- **UNESCO** Bulletin No. 12 (January-March 2005).

- First draft of the **UNICEF** Strategic Plan 2006-9: Investing in Children: UNICEF contribution to reduce poverty and the millennium agenda.

➤ **ECPAT** Newsletter, addressing topics such as ending child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

- Document on the round table organized by **UNESCO** "Literacy Campaign, source of Freedom" (*L'Alphabétisation, source de liberté*). If you are interested in some copies, please contact: [n.aksornkool@unesco.org](mailto:n.aksornkool@unesco.org).

- Hard copy of *Water – an everybody's affair* (*L'eau, l'affaire de tous*) by **UNESCO**. Was sent in January 2005 by Colette Durand.

- Hard copy of "Caring those we love" (*Prendre soin de ceux que l'on aime*), based in Namibia. From the series Literacy Campaign, gender equality, HIV/ AIDS (**UNESCO**, 2003).

- Mail from the **OMEP Argentina** committee, informing on the project "Counseling to teachers during their early professional years." For further information, contact: [omep concursos@hotmail.com](mailto:omep.concursos@hotmail.com).

There will be a monthly meeting to be held every second Wednesday (17:30 - 19:30 hours) ending in December 2005.

- Mail from **DESA** to inform their website on Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Development. They invite to become part of their website by submitting documents and events listings. Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/>.

- Greetings from **Gaston Mialaret** (OMEP Honorary Member), expressing his wishes of peace and health for 2005. Were received some months ago, but we wanted to convey them anyway.

➤ **Updating the OMEP directory of members (postal and/ or electronic address)**

- **Dr. Young-Ok Kim**, new President to the **Korean** Committee.

Mail: [yokim@chonnam.ac.kr](mailto:yokim@chonnam.ac.kr)

Dr. Ji-Hi Bae, new Secretary General to said committee. Mail: [jhibae@freechal.com](mailto:jhibae@freechal.com)

- **Mrs. Chise IZUMI**, new National President of **Japan**

Japanese National Committee of OMEP

Osaka Prefecture University

1-1, Gakuen-Cho, Sakai

Osaka, 599-8531, Japan

Tel & Fax + 81-72-254-9783

E-mail: [izumi@sw.osakafu-u.ac.jp](mailto:izumi@sw.osakafu-u.ac.jp)

- **Mrs. Eva-Hammes-Di Bernardo**

German National Committee for Early Childhood Education

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe (AGJ) - Child and Youth Welfare Association-

Mühlendamm 3

10178 Berlin, **Germany**

Phone: 0049 (0) 30 400 40 –200

Fax: 0049 (0) 30 400 40 232

E-mail: [agi@agi.de](mailto:agi@agi.de)

Website: [www.agi.de](http://www.agi.de)

- **Dr. Edna B. AZURIN**

National President of **Philippines**

E-mail: [jay\\_azurin@yahoo.com](mailto:jay_azurin@yahoo.com)

➤ **A Cuban delegation of organizers visited Chile – OMEP International Seminar (July 12-15)**

In end-April we welcomed Hilda Pérez (from CELEP) and Zósima López (from the International Conference Center) in Chile. Both visited this country in order to promote the event in Cuba and review the state of progress of the arrangements for the meeting.

Among the activities they are coordinating in Cuba, it s worthy to highlight the Opening Ceremony that will take place on July 12<sup>th</sup> in the evening. For the Seminar, we will have **SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION** services and the opportunity to attend various panels where topics will be treated from the perspective of various regions in the world. Participants will be: Lilia Menegazzo

(Argentina), Vital Didonet (Brazil), Madeleine Baillargeon (Canada), María Victoria Peralta (Chile), Alejandro Acosta (Colombia), Lilian Katz (United States) and, for sure, the hostess

- Ana María Siverio. Additionally, some UNESCO and UNICEF representatives will participate.

**OMEP World Assembly and International Seminar in Cuba (July 2005)  
“The Educational Process for the Early Childhood Development: quality and cultural relevance”**

*Dates to Remember:*

**Executive Committee Meeting: 10 July**

**World Assembly: 11 & 12 July**

**International Seminar: 12 - 15 July.**

*Other Meetings:*

**International Study on Play: July 12th (07:30 - 08:30am at Piano Bar)**

Attended by the researcher group that has been working in this project. Participant countries: Australia, Chile, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

**Research Forum: July 13  
(07:30 - 08:30am at the Meeting Room – Palco Hotel)**

*Relevant Activities:*

**July 11th.** The Presidents of the OMEP National Committees will meet Mr. Eusebio Leal, Historian and restorer of Havana city, due to the approval by the World Heritage Committee. Buses will be leaving from the Palco Hotel Lobby at 18:30 hours.

*Delivery:*

**For the World Assembly (July 11 & 12) to be held at the International Convention Center (by Palco Hotel)**

For this purpose, the corresponding documentation was already delivered. Firstly, the set was sent to the English-speaking committees, followed by French-speaking ones, and finally, the Spanish-speaking group.

For detailed info about this event, you may click on: [www.omep.org.uk](http://www.omep.org.uk)

Web site of the event: <http://www.loseventos.cu/omep2005>.

To be used for registration purposes.

**Contacts:**

**Zósima López**, International Conference Center. E-mail: [zosima@palco.cu](mailto:zosima@palco.cu)  
Sra. **Hilda Pérez**, Secretary to the National Organizing Committee. E-mail: [celep@rimed.cu](mailto:celep@rimed.cu)

See the next Newsletter for more information!

**Selma Simonstein**  
OMEP World President

**From March 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, the OMEP World Secretariat address is:  
Santa Isabel 1278, Santiago, CHILE.  
E mail: [ssimonstein@ucentral.cl](mailto:ssimonstein@ucentral.cl)**