



***Newsletter from the World President***

**October 2005  
 No. 28**

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

**In this issue...**

- Words from the OMEP World President
- OMEP Constitution and Administrative Guide (state of progress)
- World Assembly Minutes (Cuba 2005)
- OMEP web page ([www.omep-ong.net](http://www.omep-ong.net))
- OMEP Seminar in China (September 2005)
- OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand Asia-Pacific 2005 Conference (2-4 December)
- OMEP Tsunami Fund
- Book “Perspectives on Preschool Education” (written by Lilian Katz)
- New issue of OMEP International Journal (IJEC)
- Consultative Group on Early Childhood (UNESCO) (Paris, 14-18 September)
- In our letter-box...
- You may click on...
- Updating the OMEP directory of members (postal and/or electronic address).

**OMEP World Assembly and International Conference in Norway (August 2006).**

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Words from the OMEP World President**  
 Dear Friends,  
 Before one year is past , once again nature has caused considerable damage in the Asian region. On Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, a strong earthquake (measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale) hit northern Pakistan, and Kashmir. It was the most powerful earthquake for 100 years, killing and injuring thousands of

people, and causing massive destruction and huge losses.

A few hours after, there was communication between OMEP and people in Pakistan. We were sent detailed information and Joan Waters, Regional Vice-President, sent a message expressing sorrow and sympathy to countrymen, women and children, indicating that she had already asked all the OMEP

countries in the Region to contact the Pakistani in support.

The Executive will arrange concrete actions to implement some aid jointly with the OMEP country members.

➤ **OMEP Constitution and Administrative Guide** (state of progress)

Further to the approval of the OMEP Constitution by the World Assembly held in Australia (July 2004), the Vice-Presidents were distributed the Administrative Guide for their review so that it is consistent with the new Constitution.

The Administrative Guide explains **What is OMEP; How to form a new committee; guidelines for hosting an international conference; how to submit nominations** and includes the **brochure** of the organization.

During the Executive Committee meeting attached to the World Assembly this year (in Cuba, July) the VPs submitted their comments. The editing work is being carried out by Ulla Grob-Menges, Regional Vice-President for Europe.

In Cuba, an amendment to the Constitution was introduced, relating to the conditions for Preparatory Committees.

The next step is polishing the final version of both documents. Afterwards, the Constitution will be registered in Paris by Colette Durand, and translated into the three OMEP working languages. Finally, it will be distributed to the national committees.

➤ **World Assembly Minutes** (Cuba 2005).

We are in the process of translating these minutes into English and French. They reveal an intense two-days of work, including the discussions and final conclusions.

Then the minutes will be distributed to the national committees. Finally, they will be submitted for the approval of the delegates attending the next World Assembly to be held in August 2006 in the city of Tromsø (Norway).

➤ **OMEP web page ([www.omep-ong.net](http://www.omep-ong.net))**

Information will be displayed in the three working languages as well as on the first page in the following sections: **Articles, Directory, News and Publications.**

We have also incorporated the distribution of the last OMEP Newsletter to most members of the organization, thus optimizing time and resources. Other interested parties will be allowed to register as subscribers to this newsletter through the web page.

Regions will be able to promote their events through this page. Additionally, it will be possible to access some of the presentations by the World President and Executive Committee in various events, thereby ensuring a more effective and efficient spread of information. There will also be information from the International Journal (IJEC) and from projects developed by OMEP.

During this “commissioning period”, we have found out that we may enrich this page. Thus we are considering to add a section specifically devoted to OMEP **Work Projects**, where the Survey lead by Verónica Romo will be included.

Feedback from the committees will make a significant contribution, providing a better and more up to date communication tool.

➤ **OMEP Seminar in China** (September 2005)

The seminar took place in the city of Hangzhou, China, and was a great success. Lilian Katz and Ingrid Pramling gave keynote addresses.

On the OMEP page, we want to include a picture of the event.

➤ **OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand Asia-Pacific 2005 Conference** (2-4 December)

The OMEP Aotearoa/ New Zealand committee is the organizer of this event that will be held during 2-4 December. They invite you to submit papers or workshops.

The theme is **The youngest citizen: community, culture, and curriculum.** This

theme presents a unique opportunity for those working with children 0-8 to exchange information and to celebrate the enriching of communities through the lives of young children. It is expected this theme will attract papers from such diverse fields as health, education, government and research.

In Cuba, Jayne White (President to the OMEP New Zealand Committee) said that the regional meeting will take place on Sunday of the same week.

Participation from a broad range of disciplines catering for the education, health, advocacy and welfare of infants, toddlers and young children is strongly encouraged.

Visit the event web page:  
[www.ruw.ac.nz/omep2005](http://www.ruw.ac.nz/omep2005)

#### ➤ **OMEP Tsunami Fund**

The First Grant from OMEP Tsunami Fund is ready and will be devoted to the rehabilitation of children from the Matari district, in **Sri Lanka**.

The OMEP–Sri Lanka group (applying to be a Preparatory committee) is cooperating with the Community Based Organizations (CBO), which will be able to continue the project with the guidance of the OMEP National Committee.

Pre-schools damaged by tsunami will be re-located and reorganized and equipped with educational material. The main objective is to rehabilitate tsunami-hit children through care & affection, providing nutrition, safety & psychological stability, ensuring healthy mental and physical growth.

#### **Expected outcomes:**

1. In the Matari district on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, twenty pre-schools will be relocated and reorganized in available premises, at least 500m away from the beach. Pre-schools will be equipped with new furniture and educational equipment and material including play material and stationery.

2. 20 pre-school teachers and 20 care-givers will have two months' in-service training, given during weekends.
3. Six hundred children at the pre-schools will be served with breakfast prepared by volunteers. Dry foodstuffs will be supplied to parents to be used for dinner.
4. Six mobile health clinics will be conducted by volunteer doctors and health records established and maintained.

**To begin:** 20 September 2005

**To finish:** 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006

#### **Local involvement**

Members of the National OMEP Committee (PREP), Community-Based Organizations and the Ruhunu UNESCO Association. This latter has agreed to provide the services of trainers.

Volunteer artists in the area will involve the children in music, dance and drama. Medical doctors, nurses and dentists who are OMEP members have volunteered along with non-member professionals. Local donors will provide dry foodstuffs to pre-schools, and bed sheets and mosquito nets to homes.

A Sub-Committee will monitor and supervise the implementation of the project and will provide a monthly evaluation report to Joan Waters, OMEP Vice President for the Asia Pacific Region.

#### ➤ **Book “Perspectives on Preschool Education”** (written by Lilian Katz).

This book contains a set of six influential papers written over the last 20 years. These ideas were developed in response to particular events, problems, and challenges

The author speaks of her own learning process in early childhood settings as well as her contact and interaction with various individuals and colleagues from different countries.

These topics have retained their validity over the years. In around 60 pages, she tells us about the right of the child to develop and learn in quality environments; the professional preschool teacher; the benefits of mixed age groupings, the developmental stages of

teachers; and helping other with their teaching. Also includes ideas from her travels.

Its valuable intellectual and educative content supports reflexion around the educational process during the earliest years of life as well as the role to be performed by the educating professionals during this sensitive period of human life.

Lilian Katz transferred the copyright to OMEP, contributing thus once again to increase the accrued knowledge and support the objectives of the organization.

All those persons interested in buying this book (Spanish version) may send their order to the World Secretariat address (see below). Cost: US\$10 plus the corresponding ordinary mailing expenses.

➤ **New issue of OMEP International Journal (IJEC)**

The second number of 2005 is in printing process. Theme: **“Child’s Rights”**.

All OMEP members are encouraged to participate in the journal of our organization by sending in articles. These must be submitted to Ingrid Pramling, Chief Editor.

Professor Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson  
Göteborgs universitet  
Institutionen för pedagogik och didaktik  
Enheten för Varn – och ungdoms vetenskap  
Box 300  
SE-405 30 GÖTEBORG  
**Sweden**  
Mail: [Ingrid.Pramling@ped.gu.se](mailto:Ingrid.Pramling@ped.gu.se)

All documents must be approved by the Editing Committee before being accepted for publication.

➤ **Consultative Group on Early Childhood (UNESCO)** (Paris, 14-18 September)

This year, OMEP was represented by Dr. Lynn Staley from Ball State University, Muncie Indiana (United States).

Hosted by UNESCO, the Consultative Group of Early Childhood Care and Development (CGECCD) conducted its Annual

Consultation. It is an international consortium dedicated to improving the condition of young children worldwide.

Approximately 52 scholars and other advocates were invited from nearly every region of the world.

Issues related to country profiles, developmental readiness, global indicators and the 2007 Global Monitoring Report for Education for All (EFA) were covered.

The Director of Basic Education Division, UNESCO, Ann Theresa Ndong Jatta, encouraged the participants to build both an “awareness and appreciation” for early childhood development (ECD) worldwide.

This year the theme was Costs (for programs) and Financing (from local, regional, national, and international sources) for ECD.

OMEP is now represented on the Cost and Finance Task Force.

Lynn wrote us saying that it was truly an honour for her to represent OMEP at this gathering of international advocates for young children.

➤ **In our letter-box...**

- Invitation to attend the **33<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNESCO General Conference (October 2005)** to be held in Paris on 3-21 October.

Education commission is Number 2. Among the special sessions, the round table for **Ministers of Education on Education for All** is highlighted.

This theme will take place in parallel with the debate on general politics (7-8 October).

OMEP will be represented by Françoise Matray-Goureau, Madeleine Goutard and Danièle Bosom.

- Pamphlet on the **II Physical Education International Congress, I Caribbean Congress on Physical Education, and I Ibero-American Congress on Physical Activities both and through the School**. Will be held in Havana (Cuba) from 11 to 13 April 2006. The theme is **Physical Activities**,

**Nutrition and Health.** Organizers are the Health Pan-American Organization, CARICOM, INDER CUBA and Cubadeportes S.A. For more detailed information, contact Dr. Gladys Bécquer, President to the Organizing Committee: [convencion@inder.co.cu](mailto:convencion@inder.co.cu) & [varadero@inder.co.cu](mailto:varadero@inder.co.cu).

- Aurora Salinas is now the former coordinator of the UNESCO **International Program for the Culture of Peace Decade**.

➤ **You may click on...**

- The **Fifth High-Level Group Meeting on Education for All (UNESCO)** to held in Beijing (China) on 28 & 30 November 2005. Contact: [abh.sing@unesco.org](mailto:abh.sing@unesco.org).

This time the progress of EFA with reference to the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 on the theme of literacy will be reviewed.

The Fourth Meeting took place last November in the city of Brasilia (Brazil). OMEP was represented by María Helena Lopes, Vice-President to OMEP Brazil.

Arrangements are being made for having a representative of our organization once again.

- Detailed information on the Children Color the World art exhibit **Visual Interpretation of “The World I Want to live in”**. Please contact Misook Kim: [misook@wango.org](mailto:misook@wango.org).

This exhibit is associated with the 2005 Annual Conference of WANGO (World Association of Early Childhood Educators (AMEI-WAECE), which will take place in Santo Domingo city (Dominican Republic), November 17-20. Theme: **The Role of NGOs in Creating a World Fit for Children**.

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

**HONORARY MEMBERS (2005)**

- **Dina Alarcón Quezada**  
Avda. Irarrázaval 4632-G  
Ñuñoa, Santiago - Chile

Tel.: (56 2) 2777050

- **Audrey Mary Curtis**  
Chantry Cottage  
Halls Lane  
Waltham St. Lawrence  
Berks RG10 OJD  
United Kingdom  
Email : [Wpcurtis@aol.com](mailto:Wpcurtis@aol.com)

- **Elka Petrova**  
Shipchanski Prohod Str. 69 A  
Sofia 1574  
Bulgaria

- **Mr. Alhaji Isaq Sa’i**  
N°1 Vida (Court) Road  
P.O. Box 213, Kaduna  
Nigeria

- **Elizabeth (Betty) Mavis Armstrong**  
38A Jefferson Street  
Brooklyn  
Wellington  
New Zealand

- **Mrs. Robin Houlker**  
P.O. Box 28 – 665  
Remuera, Auckland  
New Zealand  
Email: [robin.h@xtr.co.nz](mailto:robin.h@xtr.co.nz)

**NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 on)

- **Madeleine Baillargeon**  
Regional Vice-President for North America and the Caribbean  
Email: [mbaillargeon@videotron.ca](mailto:mbaillargeon@videotron.ca)
- **Victoria O. Bilewu**  
Regional Vice-President for Africa  
Email: [victyemi@yahoo.com](mailto:victyemi@yahoo.com)  
[bilex72@yahoo.com](mailto:bilex72@yahoo.com)

- **Maggie Koon**  
World Treasurer  
Email: [info@unicef.org.hk](mailto:info@unicef.org.hk)

**NEW PRESIDENTS to NATIONAL COMMITTEES**

- **Verónica Romo**

President to OMEP Chile  
Email: [eromo@ucentral.cl](mailto:eromo@ucentral.cl) &  
[vromol1@yahoo.es](mailto:vromol1@yahoo.es)

**OMEP World Assembly and International Conference in Tromso, Norway  
(7-11 August 2006)  
The Little Great Researcher  
New knowledge about children from birth to three years**

**Aim:**

Lead to an awareness of the importance of gaining scientific knowledge about the development of children from birth to three years.

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

Prof. Stein Bråten  
Prof. Eva Johansson  
Prof. Gunvor Løkken  
Prof. Jan-Erik Johansson  
Jon Roar Bjørkvold

***Dates to Remember:***

**Executive Committee Meeting: Monday 7 August  
World Assembly: Tuesday 8 & Wednesday 9 August  
International Conference: Thursday 10 & Friday 11 August**

**Contact: Liv Cranner**, President of National Committee in Norway: [liv@cranner.com](mailto:liv@cranner.com)  
This event is jointly planned by the National Committee, the University College of Tromso and the Municipality of Tromso.

**Send papers before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006** to Norwegian OMEP , Box 15, Roa , N 0701 Oslo  
or by e-mail to: [annehaag@broadpark.no](mailto:annehaag@broadpark.no)

**Deadline for registration is due by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.**

**Note:** A special price for hotels is offered until that date.

The precise program will be sent to all registered participants after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

**Web site:** [www.omep.no](http://www.omep.no)

If you need more information please contact **Anne Berte Haagensli** :[annehaag@broadpark.no](mailto:annehaag@broadpark.no)  
Updated information will be uploaded to our web site: [www.omep-ong.net](http://www.omep-ong.net)

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)**