



ORGANISATION MONDIALE POUR L'ÉDUCATION PRESOLAIRE
WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL PARA LA EDUCACIÓN PREESCOLAR

ANNUAL REPORT 2011





WORLD PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2011

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson
ingrid.pramling@ped.gu.se
www.omep.org.gu.se



Although we have not yet received reports from all member countries, it is clear that OMEP members are hard at work around the world. Our members work on Early Childhood Education and Development in many and varied ways. For instance, many countries report on productive collaborations between researchers, practitioners, administrators and decision-makers at institutional and governmental levels. Several national committees are focusing World OMEP's project, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), while other national committees are focusing on advocacy to achieve higher priority for Early Childhood. All of this work is essential to promote OMEP's visibility and influence as a voice for young children, their families, and the individuals and institutions who care for them and educate them.

At the beginning of the year OMEP was involved in a photo exhibition at the UN about climate change. The photographer and some OMEP members visited a school together and showed some of the photos. The teachers talked with the children about

the photos and asked them to tell about what they saw, like penguins, polar bears, ice blocks etc. Although no one had mentioned anything about climate change, there were 5 years old children who begun to talk about global warming. So also very young children observe, listen, create their ideas and develop their values. That's what OMEP's intention is all about – to contribute to the next generation's values, knowledge and skills for the benefit of a sustainable world that will benefit all of us. And whatever we can do to make this visible may be of importance for the future.

During 2011, under the leadership of Ingrid Engdahl and Milada Rabusicova, OMEP embarked on a second World project in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Its purpose is to promote thinking and actions relating to the 7 R's among children, their teachers, their parents and communities, and childhood researchers. The 7 R's are recycle, respect, reflect, rethink, reuse, reduce, redistribute.

During this year we have launched a third World OMEP project, called WASH from the Start. WASH stands for **W**ater, **S**anitation and **H**ygiene. The goals of WASH from the Start are to heighten global awareness of the importance of initiating good sanitation and hygiene practices during the early childhood years so children will be healthier and better able to benefit from school-based efforts, such as UNICEF's successful WASH in Schools program.



OMEP expects to collaborate with UNICEF on a joint publication, tentatively called *WASH from the Start: Soap Stories and Toilet Tales from Early Childhood Settings around the World*, featuring case studies of existing water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives in early childhood settings. Here, I want to thank Judith Wagner and John Siraj-Blatchford for their leadership on this promising new project.

I also want to thank Hong Kong OMEP for hosting the 2011 World Assembly and Conference and to express our great appreciation to SWEDESD and Frans Lenglet for supporting the annual competition in ESD and preschool practice. This competition and presentation of winners adds a great deal to our world meetings. In addition, I want to recognise regional conferences in Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe. These regional conferences provide additional opportunities to share ideas and work collaboratively and are especially helpful to National Committees and individual members who are not able to attend the annual World Assembly and Conference.

Sadly 2011 was also a year of disasters, including the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Many OMEP committees sent donations for a project with affected children. The money was mainly used to provide materials to childcare centres and kindergartens, since so much had been destroyed in the disaster. Funds were also used to support parent and teacher workshop about what can be done to mitigate the effects of radioactivity upon children's health, something people in the affected area have great anxiety about.

As a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status at the UN

and UNESCO, OMEP was recently invited to participate in an Internet dialogue in preparation for Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 20-22, 2012. Interestingly, the dialogue did not include a focus on children and or Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Our representative in these dialogues, John Siraj-Blatchford, was able to raise awareness about the importance of prioritizing young children's education and involvement. If John was not able to introduce the topic, then your next sentence might be: Obviously, we still have a lot of work to do to promote young children and their education as a priority on the world stage.

This is at the very heart of OMEP's purpose and intention – to contribute to the next generation's knowledge, skills, and values to create a sustainable world that will benefit all of us. Whatever we can do, individually and collectively, to make our mission more visible will be important today and into the future. All too often, children, especially young children, are forgotten or trivialized in spite of a growing body of research demonstrating how early experiences shape the later life course and how the societies benefit economically when they invest on the youngest generation.

As an organization, we must hold politicians and decision-makers to their speeches about how important children are to a society and to the world. This is the challenge for OMEP and our organization's contribution to a sustainable and peaceful future.

Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2012

Ingrid



WORDS FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA

Victoria O. Bilewu
vicoyebil@yahoo.com



At the end of my six year tenure (2006-2011), I am highly delighted to present my last report on activities performance wise of Africa Region. Indeed my six year tenure has been challenging in many ways but thank God it was a success for many reasons.

I am fully satisfied with what I have been able to achieve during my tenure in form of progress within the Africa Region. I was also able to play my part within the OMEP World at large. The period enabled me to build up good relationship with other OMEP Africa National Committees and together a lot was achieved through information and idea sharing. The principle of networking became alive while Inter Regional exchange visits took place.

Regional and national committees conferences

The Region was able to organize conferences at which member countries shared interests and planned improvements for the already established networking. Member countries were encouraged to fully collaborate on common issues related to Right of the Child in Africa. The theme of the last Regional Conference was “CHILDREN: CITIZENS IN A CHALLENGED WORLD -The African Experience” There were participants from all over the continent. Many of them presented papers and organized workshops. They all deserve my commendation in no little way. The host committee in fact did a

good job hence the big thank you to them for a job well done.

National committee conferences

National Committees of OMEP Africa Conferences offered avenues for local collaboration and sharing of ideas. The 22nd Nigerian National Committee Conference took place in Ado Ekiti from 1st to 5th November, 2011. It was hosted by the Ekiti State Chapter of OMEP. The theme of the conference was “MEETING THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG CITIZENS” . Other National and Preparatory Committees in the Region were encouraged to follow suits by hosting conferences in rotation within their countries because there would be a lot to achieve by so doing.

UNESCO-IICBA Workshop

This workshop was organized by UNESCO - IICBA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between 11th and 15th October, 2011. It was on Curriculum Development in ECCE for indigenous training for literate care givers / educators of children from birth to 8 years in Africa. The said Curriculum Development was intended to be supportive to ECCE as well as bridging the gap between ECCE and developing an indigenous training curriculum for literate care givers/educators. Countries that participated were; Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Cameroon, Senegal, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Lesotho. Altogether about twenty- three participants were there. The UNICEF and ADEA were in attendance.



The Draft Curriculum consists eight modules with topics like Child Development, Needs and Right of Children, Resources, Play and Learning etc.

The ultimate goal is to make it simple, readable and adaptable for the Caregivers even in the remotest village in Africa.

As a follow up a validation workshop and pilot test would be run by February, 2012.

Global Hand Washing Day

This was a successful program at least in some countries of Africa Region. It was indeed an awareness program in which OMEP children participated with wide newspapers coverage. One of Nigeria's dailies THE NATION of October, 28, 2011 adequately covered the event.

New Preparatory Committees

In 2012, the current Africa Regional Vice President, Mrs. Abimbola Are will present the new Preparatory Committees - MALI and NIGER during the World Assembly in Brazil.

Visits

Our proposal to visit Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire and Mali in December 2011 did not take place but had been rescheduled for February, 2012.

OMEP collaboration with the governments

Reports from some member OMEP National /Preparatory Committees indicate that their Governments are trying to establish Early Childhood Centres in their existing Public Schools. In fact, in Nigeria many Government public Schools at the urban and local Government areas already have Early Childhood Centers incorporated into their Primary Schools set up. Whenever OMEP organizes workshops some of these educators are invited to participate.

Social activities

OMEP Committees in some Africa Region organize OMEP Children's Day Activities on yearly basis to bring together all children of below ages eight for interaction - cultural dances, quiz competition, drama, songs, games etc. form part of the activities that take place during the period.



Day of the Africa Child is another event that is being marked by some OMEP Committees in the Region on the 16 of June. Various activities are usually slated with the children's participation to grace the occasion.

Toy Library Project in Africa

Million thanks to Madeleine Baillageon, my colleague the Vice President for North America and the Caribbean who assisted to get donation and support in kind and in cash from OMEP Canada, C.I.E.L.O., and UNESCO for the establishment of TOY





LIBRARY Project in Kinshasha, Democratic Republic of Congo, and in M'batto, Cote D'Ivoire. These Toy Libraries give opportunity to children to be engaged in meaningful activities while at the same time learning takes place. It is hoped that some other OMEP National Committees in the Region will in future replicate the same in their countries.

Main challenges in the year 2012

- Membership Drive in OMEP in the Region must be seriously looked into.
- Payments of OMEP International Annual Levy by member countries in the Region must be taken into consideration and effort must be made to settle this on yearly basis to avoid accumulation.
- We must intensify our effort in organizing activities in our various Committees and send reports of these activities on yearly basis to the Regional VP and the World Secretariat.
- Academicians in our various Universities and Colleges of Education must be encouraged to intensify their efforts in Research programs on Early Childhood Education Development and Welfare.
- Training and Re-Training Programs must be taking into consideration especially for our Nursery School Educators.
- Governments involvement in Early Childhood Education must drastically improve.



BENIN

Idenyi Endurance
endy2010@yahoo.fr
www.omep-benin.org

Main activities in 2011

- OMEP Benin was in contact with various actors of the education field such as the National Council of Education, UNICEF, PNUD, UNESCO and some NGOs focused on the early childhood education and care such as Plan-Bénin, Care-Bénin, Aide et Action, Right To Play, Africa Power-Bénin.
- A collaborative agreement with the Ministry of Early Childhood Education was executed.
- Visits to preschool establishments and homes for early childhood to become acquainted with their living and working conditions.
- 6th OMEP Regional Conference at the INFOSEC in Cotonou (28-30 April) on “Children: Citizens in a Challenged World – The African Experience”.
- Introduction of the 6th Regional Conference organized by OMEP Benin to the early childhood education actors.
- OMEP Benin participation in OMEP World Assembly held in Hong Kong (5-9 July).
- Participation in the Festival of Movies for Children held in Orlando (United States) from 2-6 November.
- Support to *Christmas for Deprived Children* event held at Aidjèdo IV on 24 December. Each year this event is organized by the Head of Aidjèdo IV Neighborhood in Cotonou and supported by the Head of the VI District.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- Elaboration of the *Integrated Program to Support the Early Childhood* (PIAPE, in French) in four (4) stages; the first one is the Toy Library Project. This program was elaborated and led by OMEP with the NGOs Right to Play and Aide et Action International.
- Elaboration of the juridical framework *Memorandum of Understanding* (Collaboration Agreement) to be executed between OMEP and the collaborating NGOs Aide et Action International-Bénin and Right To Play-Bénin.
- To operationalize the PROLUBE, exchange has started with the mayors of Cotonou, Ouidah, Kpomassé and Allada communes to get their opinion on the implementation of early childhood centers in such communes.
- Elaboration of a memorandum agreed by the three (3) collaborating NGOs and the mayors of the communes where these operate. Under this agreement, the majors commit to provide each one a space for the toy library creation.

Setbacks encountered

OMEP had to deal with many issues for the implementation of Early Childhood projects, such as:

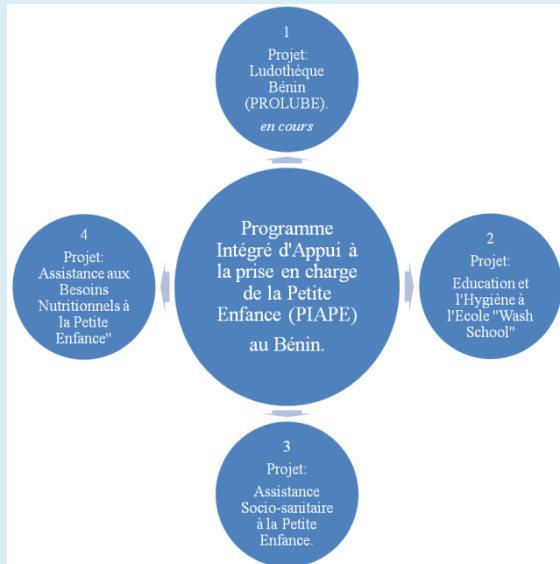
- The lack of transportation hinders our presence in the field and sensitization meetings;
- Problems to raise funds oriented to activities;



- Lack of IT and office equipment hinders the regular development of activities.

Most important task for 2012

Complete the **Integrated Program to Support the Early Childhood**



- 1 Toy Library in Benin (PROLUBE, in French) – on-going
- 2 WASH Project at School
- 3 Social Sanitation Project for the Early Childhood
- 4 Project: Meeting the Nutritional Needs of the Early Childhood at School
- 5 Integrated Program to Support the Early Childhood (PIAPE, in French), in Benin

Conclusion

In brief, the activities undertaken to date were developed in good conditions in spite of the lack of funds and the reduced funds available to OMEP Benin. In fact, OMEP Benin could not strengthen its collaboration and networking with the non-governmental and governmental structures for the allocation of resources within the framework of Early Childhood education. However, to achieve the targets set, OMEP should actually exist.



CAMEROON

Binyet Bi Mbog Alain Philippe
omepcpcameroon@gmail.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Action of the Cameroonian OMEP Preparatory Committee which has begun in 2009 continued during 2011. Among activities handle, we have the meeting with potentials partners like 50 primary and nursery schools to sensitize in different areas like Littoral, Center, North regions, We have encouraged parents to send their children to schools at Galim Tignère Subdivision, and we succeeded in helping parents to acquire 45 birth certificate for their children. This has also being consolidated by cooperation with parent Union like in Galim Tignère, Ngong, and with private school “Les Sapins”. Capacities building to school nursery and primary school personnel about attractive strategies to school and non violent teaching methods.

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Concerning Education and Sustainable Development project, the Research after the phase I handle in 2009-2010, we have continued with the phase II with the help of volunteers and schools. This has enabled us to publish a report. In the same vein, we have supported a research project: Education and Usual Play of children in partnership with the Sapin Primary School. Some results are already available. This was in link with OMEP project on how to learn with different cultures. On the same way the project of research about OMEP Africa region concerning relations between Teacher Behaving and their understanding of methods of quality very useful for the development of studies and development of

children and actual teaching methods that we have begun in May is still continuing.

We have associate 30 volunteers to help us in our research activities and 10 Volunteers to help teach in rural indigenous area like Galim-Tignère.

On November 2011 we launch the Wash project. We organized campaign against Cholera in Adamaoua and Center region in front of parents and children. We promoted also preventives and curatives measures, sensitization, support for a better access to health, and sensitization about hygiene at school and in family.

Most important task or plan for 2012

In 2012 our will is to continue:

ESD Education and Sustainable Development project research with additional schools. Our project Education by Quality will become a program and divided in many projects:

- Creation of Childhood Centers
- Culture and Education
- Education by play
- Green Education
- Documentation project with:
 - Online Library Program and help to documentation
 - International Volunteer For Education project

We will try to continue the project about OMEP Africa 2011.

Wash project with Campaign, building of latrines.



To achieve this, we will try to search for partner for collaboration and for funding.

We have submit the letter: a Decade for Early Childhood Education and Care to the Ministry of Early Childhood education; the response is still awaited.



IVORY COAST

Evariste Bosson Brou Kowoussa
assiven@yahoo.fr

Main activities

At national level:

- Toy library staff development (17-27 July).
- Creation and opening of a toy library in M'batto (August) with the support by the French NGO CIELO and OMEP Canada.
- Creation of the Sports Training Institute in M'batto (end-December) supported by CIELO NGO.
- Start-up of the first classroom construction at the Preschool Education Institute attached to the Childhood Protection Center in M'batto (end-December) with World OMEP support.

At international level:

- First gathering of African toy library staff in Grand-Bassam (17-21 October) in collaboration with CIELO French NGO and OMEP Canada.
- Celebration of the 22nd International Child's Rights Meeting.
- Arrangements for the Global Hand Washing Day (WASH) from 8-15 October jointly with Hygiene Control operations (OCH, in French) and anti-parasitic actions for children and their mothers. Five-thousand boys and girls from 2 to 5 years and 3,700 mothers in 24 towns throughout the country were benefited with these sensitization, information, communication and fight against cholera, malaria and intestinal parasites actions. Also, cleaning products were provided to different families.

Activities related to education for sustainable development

- Execution of the second phase of the World OMEP Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project at some schools.

Most relevant tasks for 2012

- From 9-16 April 2012: arrangements for the 7th OMEP Africa Regional Conference in Abiyán, Ivory Coast.
- From 15-20 October 2012: implementation of WASH Project for a 12-month period.
- From 13-20 November 2012: 23rd International Child's Rights Meeting.
- September 2012: development of pre-school educators supported by OMEP Canada.
- Continue the construction of the Child Protection Center outfitted with various social and educative facilities.

Letter sent on a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care, and reply

Letter sent

- Huge diffusion of UNESCO appeal on the Decade for Early Childhood Education and Care.
- All the authorities and different organizations have been contacted for this purpose.



Reply to letters sent

- Given the war situation prevailing in our country, the letters were sent quite late and their reply is still pending.

Miscellaneous

Activities related to solidarity

After the post-election crisis that hit the Ivory Coast, a national commission focused on the war victims and the search of peace was established. Its mission is strengthening solidarity links; register the problems experienced within the community and find solutions. To that end, a solidarity workshop was organized in December.

Activities related to health

In response to the call by the Ministry of Health and Fight against AIDS relative to the presence of a cholera outbreak in the city of Abiyán and Ivory Coast, a sensitization campaign against insalubrity, cholera and intestinal parasites started. It was implemented from 16-28 September at the commune and sub-prefecture of Anoumaba, M'batto Department.

There were Hygiene Control Operations, clean-up (“escobazos”) operations, sessions on anti-parasitic actions for boys and girls from 2 to 5 years and IEC (Information, Education, Communication) at this time.

Activities related to education

After a successful participation in the first phase of the World OMEP Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project, efforts were deployed in the second phase at elementary schools of the Abobo commune.

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Program implemented by our committee and to be executed from now to 2016 is in its effective phase with the following projects:

- Education on hygiene and environment
- Preschool education
- Toy library
- Education through sport

Out of all the projects stemming from ESD, the toy library was just inaugurated with an experimental phase in M'batto (July) after the development of the toy library staff. The purpose is the middle-term creation of a toy library network throughout the county.

Collaboration

The projects were formalized thanks to the collaboration of:

- CIELO (International Cooperation for Local Balance), a French NGO supported by Mazars Foundation.
- OMEP Canada
- World OMEP
- Ministry of Public Health and Hygiene



NIGERIA

Lady Pat.O. Okeke (J.P)
obyapat207@yahoo.com
www.omep-nigeria.org

Main activities in the country

International activities:

OMEP Nigeria was at the OMEP World Assembly/Conference in Hongkong July 2011. Nigerian participants were about 18 in number and about 8 members delivered papers at the conference.

Nigeria has contact with Springer and is always updated on all publications. The Materials are of use to us in developing OMEP and the Nigerian Child.

OMEP NIGERIA attended the Africa Regional Conference in Benin Republic in April 2011. Nigeria had the highest attendance as paper presenters, workshop organizers and as participants.

Activities in Nigeria

In 2011, OMEP NIGERIA held three (3) Executive and Council Meetings. State Chapters held their different meetings, arranged seminars and workshops for caregivers, teachers, parents, women and other stakeholders. Rallies, funfares and different programs like quiz competition were organized for the children which increased their knowledge and social interaction.

Excursions were embarked upon by children to sister schools, recreation clubs, TV stations e.t.c

Follow up visits were made to USAID, Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commissions, Ministry of Women Affair to strengthen OMEP working relationship with

them, Private Companies including Cadbury, Promasador, Indomine, Coca-Cola and Charity Homes, were equally visited to solicit for donation. Donations received were given to the orphans and disabled children. OMEP children usually interact with themselves and also the handicapped children during any social programs.

OMEP annual national conference

2011 Annual National Conference was hosted by the Ekiti State OMEP Chapter, The theme was “Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of our Young Citizens”. Members had opportunity to rub minds together enriching ourselves on meeting the Children’s needs. The meeting in Ekiti State brought PEACE in OMEP Nigeria as we were able to resolve some issues. Letters were written to State Governors and Companies to create more awareness of OMEP activities and for their collaboration.

All the State Chapters organized and observed the Children’s Day celebration on May 25th 2011 and organized various activities.

OMEP Nigeria was involved in IEDCC meetings in Abuja, Lagos and Minna which was organized by UNICEF. We were also involved in monitoring of ECE centers in Ekiti State which was organized by UNICEF and the Federal Ministry of Education.

Several Awareness Programmes were held in Benue, Adamawa and Delta States of Nigeria. Preparatory chapters are expected to start there.



Junior OMEP/Young OMEP Ambassadors have started in Ekiti State and other states are advised to follow suit.

We launched a two in one OMEP Journal during our last National Conference.

ESD Projects:

ESD Project in Nigeria is now being co-ordinated by Dr. Nsikak Abasi Udofia, the new Project leader.

The WASH PROJECT is on.

The Global Hand Washing Day was observed on the 15th of October 2011. Families, Hospitals and Schools took part in the programme.

Training of OMEP officers

Seminars were held and duties of different offices explained.

Plan for 2012

- Creating awareness on the existing ECCED curriculum.
- Publishing of OMEP Journal.
- Making the ESD project to get to the grassroots.
- The Toy/Mobile library projects to be in all OMEP State Chapters.
- Aggressive Membership and Collaboration Drive.

Our membership is growing and we pray that OMEP Nigeria will work more in unity for the betterment of the Nigerian Child.

Letters to the House of Assembly and the Minister for Education on the decade for ECCE were sent but no response or action from them yet.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Doreen Launder
delaunder@xtra.co.nz

Main Activities in the region at an International level

Workshops and symposia with teachers and parents continue to be a major area of activity across all reporting countries. These activities relate to the aims and goals of each of the countries, often in accordance with the government policy. For example Governments in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, PR China have recently developed, or are developing policies, to support early childhood education (ECE) and underpinned workshop activities support these developments.

OMEP Indonesia is supporting the Government's 2010 *ECE Regulations and Programmes* with activities in small rural centres for children of low income families. OMEP Thailand is supporting implementation of *National Child Development Standard's*, a new quality assurance tool. Guidelines for ECE, based on the principles of ESD, have been adopted by the Sri Lankan Government and implementation activities by OMEP Sri Lanka are in progress.

Korea and Japan have held and attended major teacher and parent conferences on a range of topics. OMEP Japan hosted a conference, in Tokyo, with the Japan Society of Research on ECCE to consider High Quality ECEC asking the question *What is Knowledge?* A symposium at Nagoya University provided teacher training opportunity for teachers from China and Japan. 54 Koreans contributed to the 2011 International OMEP World Conference in Hong Kong.

Singapore attended a major international ESD conference in Brisbane and hosted 20 Korean ECE Educators to Singapore as part of an exchange visit. Korea also published a book "ECE in a diverse society".

Malaysia is contributing to their Government's 2012 report to the United Nations Committee on Convention on the Rights of the Child.

New Zealand has lobbied their government to support Pacific Nations languages in schools and to advocate against policy changes and funding cutbacks that threaten quality in ECE.

Pakistan concentrates activities on recovery activities for children of child abuse, malnutrition and poverty.

India Preparatory Committee is giving significant attention to the "I Care", prevention of child abuse and neglect, programme. India celebrated World Literacy Day by disseminating material and the promoting the "Educate a child" message.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in ECE

ESD is an area of growing interest and activity. All nine countries reported ESD activities. These range from Workshops for teachers and parents and participation in international conferences. Several countries, including New Zealand and Korea are involved in Phase 2 of the OMEP ESD research programme.

Korea held their 9th Annual Workshop for parents and teachers focused on the theme "National and Human Ecology for ESD".



Congratulations to Eun-Hae Park who was awarded a prize for her ESD presentation at the World Assembly of Conference in Hong Kong.

Japan Kodomo programme will include ESD in response to damage caused by the Great Eastern Japan earthquake.

Thailand and Singapore plan selective and national surveys to determine what is happening in regard ESD. Singapore is collaborating with Early Childhood for Sustainability (ECEfS) network in Brisbane.

Malaysia and Sri Lanka are collaborating with other NGOs to determine guidelines, strategies and funding for capacity building in the area of ESD. Sustainable training programmes are the focus of this work in Malaysia.

Indonesia is coordinating ESD workshops and seminars following the Ministry of Education's ECE development policy.

India Preparatory committee "My Earth My Duty" initiative is focusing on planting trees in 10 schools and 550 preschools across India.

Korea will plan its 10th Annual workshop and is working towards launching its OMEP Website.

New Zealand is exploring support for Christchurch following many devastating earthquakes that impacted on friends, colleagues, families and early childhood centres in the region.

The Regional Pedagogical Research project is close to completion. I have been in communication with the IJEC editors and it is likely the four research reports will be included in a dedicated Journal in 2013.

Letter asking governments and official to support a UN Decade for Early Childhood Education

Two countries reported sending a letter to Government officials asking them to support a United Nations Decade for Early Childhood Education. One country reported that it plans to do this in 2012.

Full reports from each of the 11 countries are published in the 2011 OMEP World Report.

The Most important task for 2012

All countries are continuing their work from 2011.

Japan has a huge task ahead as it implements the OMEP Japan Kodomo programme. Japan will celebrate 40 years with a History of OMEP Japan and a picture book on Children's Rights.



AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

Hilary Alach
hilarya@ihug.co.nz

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

OMEP Aotearoa/New Zealand follows the Aims of OMEP. We supported a petition to Parliament regarding the teaching of Pacific Island languages in schools – Article 29 of UNCROC influenced this action. My thanks to Nola Harvey for leading this.

All 5 Aotearoa/NZ chapters received the General Assembly initiative *Wash from the Start* and asked them to participate and send reports directly to Lisbetth Soderberg.

Some time ago, we received a request from OMEP Nepal to visit New Zealand and, although we responded and asked for details, nothing came of this.

I sent a message of sympathy to OMEP Norway when I saw the news on TV about the horrible massacre there. Our thoughts are with those who lost loved ones.

We also sent messages to OMEP Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami. We are trying to raise funds to support the Japan Kodomo Fund and will forward this as we receive monies from the chapters throughout our country. This money is being sent with the complete support of our OMEP colleagues in Christchurch, which has also suffered after earthquakes, although not so much.

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

A small but very passionate and active group have continued to work on the ESD programme in liaison with the international study. Thanks to Glynne, Diti, Fiona, and

Lyn for their commitment to the task. Aotearoa/NZ Chapters have asked for information on this research and we are hopeful that this will happen in 2012. We are now nearly completely sold out of the ESD booklets Glynne brought back from World Assembly.

Most important task or plan for 2012

National Exec is very aware of the need to support our colleagues, friends and families in Canterbury.

In February 2012, we sent in a submission to the *Government Green Paper on Vulnerable Children*. All chapters were invited to comment on this important document which was compiled by Hilary and Margaret and sent in by the due date (28th February, 2012).

Executive members, continue to lobby Government where we see social injustice and/or where we can support legislation before parliament. We continue to liaise with other early childhood organisations and the Office of the Children's Commissioner in this endeavour.

DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

Letters were sent to the Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Social Welfare as well as to the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister of Education. (Appendix A)

We received no reply from the Prime Minister or the Minister of Social Welfare and only a very non committal reply from Minister of Education. However, the Leader of the Opposition passed our letter on to the



Labour Party's Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson and we did receive a reply from Maryan Street, (dated 29 Sept, 2011) who stated that if Labour won the upcoming election, they would take up the suggestion of a UNESCO decade for Early Childhood and Care. Unfortunately, Labour did not win the election.



CHINA

Professor Lijuan Pang
lijuanpang@163.com

Main activities in 2011

In 2011, the Chinese government attached great importance to and actively promoted the development of early childhood education. On August 31, Premier Wen Jiabao chaired a State Council Executive Meeting and approved central government investment of RMB 50 billion towards priority support of the development of early childhood education in the central and western regions and poor eastern areas in the “12th Five-Year Plan” (2011-2015). At the general request and deployment of the State Council, in 2012 all parts of the country drafted their own “Three-Year Plan of Action” on preschool education. According to as yet incomplete statistics, China will build and reconstruct more than 90,000 kindergartens over the next three years, which will be able to accommodate at least 5 million young children. Meanwhile, the Chinese government pushed aggressively for legislation on preschool education in order to promote standardized management and development.

Against the background of national promotion of the development of early childhood education, Chinese National Committee of OMEP responded positively to the national call. On the one hand, Chinese National Committee participated actively in national-level related work and made significant contributions to early childhood education. On the other, according to the national work plan and China’s actual situation, Chinese National Committee of OMEP completed the following key tasks:

Developed and released the research subject guidelines of the “12th Five Year Plan”, and completed its review and training

In order to further promote research on important practical problems, Chinese National Committee completed the development of the research subject guidelines of the “12th Five Year Plan” before the 2012 Spring Festival, and it released these guidelines in early April. The deadline for research project applications was late July, and applications were reviewed in August and its results were published in September. At present, there are three significant research projects and 413 research projects. In December 2011, we organized “12th Five Year Plan” research project seminars in Tianjing and Wuhan respectively towards the purpose of improving academic levels as well as strengthening research organization and management processes .

Prepared and held academic research conferences, and reinforced academic communication and discussion

In 2011, Chinese National Committee organized a series of academic activities with a focus on the 10th anniversary of implementation of the “Outline of Kindergarten Education and Guidance (for Trial Implementation)” as well as other important topics in the development of early childhood education.

In June, Chinese National Committee and Nanjing Normal University held the international conference “Children’s Lives, Study and Happiness in Social Transition”. Several world-renowned experts from Harvard University, Cornell University,



Russian and German universities attended this conference as the keynote speakers.

Between October 20th and 22nd, the China National Society of Early Childhood Education held the “8th National Preschool Children’s Health Education Academic Seminar” in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

Between November 26th and 28th, the “5th National Conference on Kindergarten Curriculum and the 10th Anniversary of implementing the Outline of Kindergarten Education and Guidance Experience Exchange Meeting” were held at Shenzhen University.

On December 1, “Play Happily, Learn Effectively: The 2011 Annual National Conference of Children Games” was hosted in Nanjing by the China National Society of Early Childhood Education.

Took full advantage of various resources towards developing preschool education in the western regions and rural China

In 2011, Chinese National Committee took full, active advantage of various resources towards developing preschool education in the western regions and rural China, and organized many activities.

Between July 3rd and 12th, with the support of the Luo Yingshi philanthropic foundation and Hong Kong committee of OMEP, Chinese National Committee of OEMP continued to promote the exchange plan of kindergarten teachers from north-west China, selecting 32 kindergarten teachers from the north-west to share experiences and study in Hong Kong. This exchange, including activities such as visits, seminars and planned interaction, was a fantastic experience for the teachers involved.

The China National Society of Early Childhood Education conducted a training for the first group of rural kindergarten

teachers, drafted the follow-up study guide supporting the training of rural kindergarten teachers, and organized Nanjing’s key teachers to systematically train rural teachers from the provinces of Guizhou and Guangxi.

In addition, all branches and committee members supported the comprehensive reform and development of preschool education reform in poor areas. For instance, Beijing conducted professional training for teachers from Hetian of Xinjiang in July. Meanwhile, the China Welfare Institute and the Shanghai S.C.L. Foundation sent six volunteers to teach in Ningxia. They also conducted a five-day training activity for more than 150 kindergarten administrators and teachers. Nanjing Normal University and Guangxi Normal University organized similar activities in order to further the development of preschool education in poor areas of China.

Took an active part in the OMEP coordinated research programme

In 2011, Chinese National Committee took an active part in the OMEP “Sustainable Development of Education” research programme. In order to participate in this programme more effectively, Chinese National Committee held an on-site discussion session in Suzhou in May. All kindergartens from the provinces of Jiangsu and Shanghai were invited to attend this research programme. Chinese National Committee submitted a research report to the Headquarters in late June and selected six researchers to conduct an “Implementing Sustainable Development of Education Workshop” on the conference held at Hong Kong in July. Wang Guangheng’s report, which came from the Changning Institute of Education (Shanghai), was highly praised by all the experts involved.

In 2011, Chinese National Committee attended the OMEP Asia-Pacific coordina-



ted research programme “the Relationship between the Education Philosophy of Kindergarten Teachers and Education Practice”. Chinese National Committee has completed its data collection, data inputting and analysis, and is currently preparing its final report.

Continued to enhance co-operation with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and reinforced international communication

- Chinese National Committee participated energetically in activities relating to international communication. Between July 6th and 9th, our vice president Zhou Xin and other members attended the 63rd OMEP World Conference “Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens” in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, OMEP committee members participated actively in international academic activities. For example, it organized visiting groups to investigate the development of early childhood education in England, Turkey, Greece and America, and it was also represented at the Second China-Japan-South Korea Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education.
- Chinese National Committee continued to strengthen its cooperation with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, organizing

teachers from western China to visit these three areas. Further, China National Committee also actively created conditions for teachers from Hong Kong and Macao to visit the mainland on teaching exchanges. It also promoted interaction between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao, building up more extensive contacts.

- Chinese National Committee communicated actively with the public and promoted educational concepts. For example, “OMEP Chinese National Committee column” in the Journal of Early Childhood Education publicized the activities of the committee and provided information on the development of international early childhood education. OMEP China also provided various services for local governments.
- Information about international academic conferences and seminars was also provided in order to support members of Chinese National Committee and early childhood educators to develop international exchanges and cooperation.
- Chinese National Committee kept in close contact with OMEP Headquarters and its Asia Branch, fulfilling work requirements from Headquarters.



HONG KONG

Dr. Maggie Koong May Kay
mkoong@victoria.edu.hk

Throughout 2011 OMEP-HK has continued to inspire early childhood advocates, practitioners and researchers, changing and touching many children's lives both locally and globally.

With the generous support and involvement from partnering institutions and committed members, OMEP-HK remained active in its role to enhance professionalism in the Early Childhood Education sector. School visits and seminars with local and international speakers, as well as international conferences held worldwide and in Hong Kong were well-received by our growing number of members. OMEP-HK also continued to forge strong relationships with other branches of OMEP around the world, providing assistance and enabling close collaboration and global exchange in the areas of research and development.

The events and activities reported below took place between December 2010 and December 2011.

Major Activities

OMEP-Hong Kong hosted the 2011 OMEP World Conference, which is the 63rd of its kind and took place on July 8-9, 2011. The World Assembly took place before the Conference and extended hospitality to 35 national committees.

The theme of the Conference is entitled "Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens". The World Conference is co-organized with the Department of Early Childhood Education and the Centre for Childhood Research and Innovation (CCRI) of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), and is supported by the Education Bureau. The

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and by the Hong Kong Committee of Unicef.

A highlight of the event was the presidential forum, chaired by our world President and presented by regional presidents for sharing prominent pedagogical approaches. Altogether 3 keynote Speech, 5 Parallel Sessions, 147 Paper Presentations, 20 Symposiums, 25 Workshops, 40 Poster Presentations have been conducted in our conference addressing the issues on

- early childhood development in varying contexts
- curricula and pedagogies for the changing childhood
- teacher quality and professionalism in a challenging world
- collaborating with parents and other adults for young citizen's well being
- the use of multi-media and ICTs in early childhood teaching and learning
- changing policies and changing schools
- early childhood special and inclusive education

The conference attracted close to 900 delegates with 500 of them from Mainland China and 20 countries, 300 from Hong Kong, we have arranged 19 Kindergartens and child care centres for delegates to visit. Conference banquet at Jumbo Seafood Restaurant was well attended by 500 guests. The conference was a great success with substantial contribution from all experts and advocates.



OMEP-HK 19th Annual General Meeting

The 19th AGM took place on January 7, 2011. Prof. Hirokazu Yoshikawa was the speaker of our annual meeting. He is the Professor of Education and the Academic Dean at Harvard Graduate School of Education. He presented his study of 2-year intervention research of Chile, as well as the quality indicators to improve classroom learning and teaching. The meeting was co-organized with University of Hong Kong and as well attended with over 200 members and guests.

Exchange Programme with OMEP China

Between July 3rd and 12th 2011, March 19th and 29th 2012 and May 13th and 22th 2012, with the support of .Lo Ying Shek Chi Wai Foundation, we are able to increase the number of delegates from western regions and rural China. Altogether we have arranged over 80 teachers in three visits this year. 40 of them attended our 63rd World Conference whilst the other participants attended lectures and seminars at the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Education and Baptist University, visited schools, conducted cultural activities as well as a cultural workshop ideas were shared on the promotion of Chinese culture with Hong Kong teachers.

OMEP Hong Kong was invited by Sichuan Government to organize another group of 70 outstanding teachers from Sichuan province, earthquake affected area, for one week programme in Kong with seminar and school visits.

Sustainable Development

OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has launched phase two. ESD in practice. Its aims to promote the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) relating to sustainability, an area where OMEP has taken the lead by exploring how to educate our young to care for the environment.¹⁵ Hong Kong schools have joined in.

ESD in practice is inspired by the 7Rs: respect, reflect, rethink, reuse, recycle and redistribute. Participants will be asked to work with children around the 7Rs in early childhood settings and to collect information to better understanding of young children's ideas and actions. Dr. Hazel Lam is the project leader and the contact person.

Challenges in 2012

Early childhood education is facing new challenges and important milestone with the change of chief executive and team policy makers, pressing issues such as government's initiative to full support early childhood education, changing from the existing voucher scheme to 15 years of free and universal education. We join part of ECE alliance and endorse the joint statement fully support the fully subsidised early childhood education and professional development pathway for ECE teachers. OMEP as an international interdisciplinary organization, we will contribute to the continuous refinement of research in order to advocate the policy makers for the sustainable and strategic development of quality early childhood education in Hong Kong.



INDIA

Reeta Sonawat

reeta.sonawat@gmail.com

Nitya5558@gmail.com (secre.)

Main activities in our country in 2011

World Literacy Day – is commemorated on 8th September for disseminating literacy awareness. 500 preschools held the campaign of “Educate a child”. Under this campaign, the centre funded the education of one underprivileged child, “each one teach one” and donating story books to orphanages.

Icare – The goal of “I care” for Prevention campaign is to promote the prevention of Child abuse and neglect through a better understanding of child development positive parenting practices and community action. The program included workshops on awareness about child abuse for school authorities, teachers, and parents. Through this program, 6000 school staff including principals and teachers were trained along with 20800 parents from June 2011- Dec 2011. As phase 2, Icare will reach out to teachers and train them to train children on personal safety.

Sparsb – is a NGO initiative to reach the underprivileged and provide quality early learning experiences. Through this NGO, 8 toy libraries were donated to schools for the underprivileged.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Based on the inputs received from OMEP Conference, 2010 in Gothenburg, following are the initiatives undertaken by KIDZEE in the academic year 2010-11 and 2011-12.

- *My Earth My Duty* – My Earth, My Duty was a social initiative aimed at engaging various members of society to sensitize and encourage them to take concrete action towards mitigating the effects of Climate Change. The biggest focus was on planting trees. This event was launched on 25th August 2010 at 550 preschools and 10 schools across India.
- *World Animals Day* – The objective of this event was to spread awareness about animals and sensitize children and parents about our relationship with animals who share the planet with us. This event was conducted in 500 preschools across India on 10th October 2010 with more than 5,000 children and their parents. Parents and children participated in range of activities making bird houses, using recycle material to make animal puppets and making paper bags with newspaper.

Most important task or plan for 2012

Personal safety education – Under the banner of Icare, the next year’s plan focuses on training 50,000 children and empowering them with personal safety skills.



INDONESIA

Rasfiati D. Iskarno
rasisk@bdg.centrin.net.id
rasfiati@yahoo.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Implementation of the Governments 2010 Regulation and Programs of the National Early Childhood Education. This work follows on from the 2011 OMEP Indonesia Annual Report.

Since 2011 the Ministry of Education has officially declared the Directorate of ECE. As OMEP members we are participating by volunteering in preparing, and activating small centers of ECE at rural areas for children of low income families. We are not yet finished and are still processing this activities.

Our country's activities on education for sustainable development in ECE

Volunteering in preparation and co-ordinating activities for workshops and seminars due to the development of ECE which was started by the Ministry of Education, in coordination with other institution and organizations.

Our country's most important task or plan for 2012

- To continue the process of preparing and starting the activities of ECE at rural areas.
- Continue our program for young mothers of low income families by organizing trainings and facilitate them to increase the family income.
- Continue our program to collect donation of children books and books for their mothers to make them aware of the importance of ECE.
- Organize training for school drop out students to produce educational toys for the ECE classes in their villages.



JAPAN

Toshiko Kaneda

ririe@kyoritsu-wu.ac.jp (correspondent)

kaneda123@hotmail.co.jp (president)

www.soc.nii.ac.jp/omepjpn/

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Events: Meeting, Lecture, and Symposium

- National Annual General Meeting and an Open Lecture, March 2011

Guest speaker Mr. Masaki Nakayama, President of AKAMI Kindergarten, spoke about the practices relating to ESD in his kindergarten, “Education for Sustainable Development for Young Children – Efforts toward ESD in AKAMI Kindergarten—”

- International Symposium jointly sponsored by the Japan Society of Research on Early Childhood Care and Education, at the 64th JSREC Conference in Tokyo, May 2011

“Consideration for high quality Early Childhood Education and Care (1)-What is “Knowledge” in ECE?”

Discussion papers by:

- LIU Xiangying (Fukuyama City University, Japan)
- Noriko Porter (Washington State University, USA)
- Kiyomi Akita (President of the JSREC, The University of Tokyo, Japan)

- Information Exchanging Meeting for members, December 2011

Participating in “China-Japan Nursery and Kindergarten Teachers Training International Symposium – Child developing and improvement of quality of ECE” sponsored by East Asia Nursery and Kindergarten

Teachers Training Seminar and having Information exchanging Meeting for members after the symposium on December 23, 2011 at Nagoya University of Arts/Sawamura.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration of OMEP Japan projects

- Editing of a memorial book tracing the history of OMEP Japan and a picture book about Children’s Right

“OMEP JAPAN KODOMO Fund” for relieving the victims of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake

- Establish and operate “OMEP JAPAN KODOMO Fund” for relieving the victims of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake
- Fund raising of OMEP JAPAN KODOMO FUND to OMEP Japan Committee and the other countries OMEP Committee at World Assembly
- A Brief Report on Conditions of Kindergartens and Day Nurseries by Eastern Japan Great Earthquake on March 11, 2011” was established and reported at World Assembly

Public Relations

- Periodical News Letter (May 2011, November 2011)
- Home Page on Web site

International Activities

- Attendance and presentation at World Assembly and Seminar in Hong Kong, July 2011



- Appeal for OMEP JAPAN KODOMO Fund” for relieving the victims of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- The most important issue for ECE in Japan is to restore from damage caused by the Eastern Japan Earthquake and consider how to forward ECE in radiation polluted area. OMEP Japan Committee has to investigate the issue taking into consideration ESD.
- Since ESD is more important for us and we have to approach it more seriously after March 11, 2011, we will reconsider ESD in ECE.

Most important task or plan for 2012

- The 40th Anniversary Celebration of OMEP Japan projects
 - a memorial publication tracing the history of OMEP Japan, a picture book about Children’s Right
 - the 40th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony of OMEP Japan

“OMEP JAPAN KODOMO Fund” for relieving the victims of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake

- The physical, visible support for children and nursery and kindergarten teachers; the donation of materials to child centers and kindergartens, such as good-quality wood blocks
- • Invisible Support; holding workshops for nursery and kindergarten teachers in Fukushima Prefecture suffering from radioactivity caused by the power plant

Letter sent about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care, and answer back

- None.



KOREA

Dr. Soon-Lye Lee

leesl@kangnam.ac.kr and omepkorea2803@hanmail.net

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

The 9th Annual Workshop for Parents and Teachers by OMEP Korean National Committee: June 18, 2011

The OMEP Korean National Committee held its 9th annual workshop for parents and teachers on June 18, 2011. The theme of the workshop was “National Ecology and Human Ecology for Education for Sustainable Development,” which focused on theory and practice of Education for Sustainable Development in ECE.

In session I, the speakers were Eun-Hae Park (Vice-president of OMEP Korea, Professor in Ewha Woman University, Director in Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and Care), early childhood teachers (Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and Care), Jung-Sun Park (professor in Myong-Ji University & Director in Myong-Ji Kindergarten), and early childhood teachers (Myong-Ji Kindergarten).

In session II, Noridan, public culture and art enterprise which designs the vitality of society and sustainable enjoyment, had a lecture “design of communication” and a nonverbal performance.

About 250 teachers, professors and parents from all over Korea participated in the workshop.

Participation in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Hong Kong: July 6-9, 2011

Including Dr. Soon-Rye Lee (national president) and Eun-Hae Park (national vice-president), 7 Korean researchers for oral

presentation and 47 researchers for poster presentation from 20 universities and 2 research institutes participated in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Hong Kong, which totalled 54 participants.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

The ESD project in Korea with the title of “Education for Sustainable Development in Practice” was conducted under the supervision of Eun-Hae Park (national vice-president) and Jung-Sun Park (director of research in OMEP Korea) separately. Finally, the two OMEP project leaders and teachers showed good examples of ESD project in kindergartens in the “2011 9th annual workshop for parents and teachers” in Korea.

Specially, one of the projects, titled as “the project for protecting blue stars,” was progressed by the project approach curriculum in the Kindergarten. Through the project activities, children could enhance the awareness of ESD and find ideas and actions within ESD.

The project leader, Eun-Hae Park, presented the result of the project and was awarded a prize for ESD in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Hong Kong.

Most important task or plan for 2012

The 10th Annual Workshop for Parents and Teachers by OMEP Korean National Committee:

The OMEP Korean National Committee will hold its 10th workshop for parents and teachers on spring 2012 in Ewha Women University.



Opening the Web-page of OMEP Korea

In order to provide and share information with all present OMEP members in the world, OMEP Korean National Committee is preparing for opening the Korean OMEP web-site. Specially, the website will support the Korean members to involve and contribute for all children's right to play and learn.

.



MALAYSIA

Ruth Liew
ruthwah@yahoo.com

Main activities in Malaysia and at an international level in 2011

OMEP Malaysia is working a coalition of child-based NGOs led by Malaysia Children Resource Institute on projects related to the convention of the Rights of the Childs (CRC) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). These projects are supported by UNICEF though project funding and referrals of resource experts.

Background to Activities

Malaysia ratified the CRC in 1995 and has submitted one country report in December 2006, since ratification, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child through the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The next report is due by 19 March 2012.

Following Malaysia's submission of the first report, the Committee responded with its Concluding Observations in February 2007. This document included specific recommendations about how Malaysia can fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

In conjunction with country reports, the Committee accepts supplementary, or "shadow" reports from civil society bodies that provide an additional perspective on the implementation of the Convention. Supplementary reports would include an independent analysis of children's rights in the country and an analysis of the country report. The form of the report should follow the government's report and also, should address issues raised in the Concluding Observations.

There has been no NGO shadow report on the CRC from Malaysia in the past. In 2011, OMEP Malaysia members who were

governors of Malaysian Child Resource Institute (MCRI) set about the task and UNICEF funding was obtained to focus on preparing Malaysia's first NGOs' CRC shadow Report.

Activities actually began in early April 2010 with core team comprising 3 NGOs. Later this developed to become the first child-based NGO coalition whose task was to inform other similar NGOs in Malaysia about the NGOs' CRC Shadow Report and the UN drafting work in Geneva. This is scheduled for completion by the end of 2012.

In September 2010, a Steering Committee was set up and from the on research work began dividing the activity into 10 clusters (each cluster dealing with matters discussed in the Concluding Observation Report and including other pertinent concerns from the experiences of NGOs.)

- January to July 2011- NGO Data Collection (First Round) - The collection of necessary data to feed into the CRC Report preliminary draft due in October 2011.
- 29 August 2011- Preliminary progress report the various research teams was submitted to UNICEF.
- 31 October 2011- Preliminary first draft of the Alternative Report was completed and forward to all participating NGOs.
- 21 November to 30 November 2011- Consultations with NGOs. A series of 1-day consultations were held with NGOs that participated in the preparation/contribution of the materials and data for the CRC Preliminary Draft. Other NGOs



not involved in the first stage were also invited to contribute to the report.

- In December 2011 - NGO Data Collection (Extension of the First Round of Data Collection.)

Malaysia's activities on education for sustainable development in ECE

The capacity building program for children-based NGOs

Background

The series of NGO trainings and consultation revealed a great need among child-based NGOs for capacity building. A large majority has been struggling to develop their own regular and sustainable training program, but they simply could not direct the time or money to meaningful staff development efforts. Most of them organize capacity building efforts in silos. Constraints include cost and access to resource people.

The long-term solution to this problem lies in a National Coalition of child-based NGOs to support and develop ongoing training and getting local resource experts.

Member will work together to develop affordable capacity building programs for their staff using a convenient delivery format. In April 2011 an expert meeting was held for the purpose of mapping the capacity building needs of NGOs and series of training on basic governance and funding. This culminated in November with a Capacity Building Program. Mid year saw the completion of the Training Needs Analysis Template and 4 training workshops that culminated in the Corporate Social Responsibility Funding Fair attended by 20 NGOs and 12 CRC and Sustainability corporate executives.

Malaysia's most important task or plan for 2012

The plan will be for National Coalition of Child-based NGOs to develop its own funding support mechanisms to enable it to sustain capacity-building programs on a regular basis without the need for resource people from regional and international organizations. Malaysia is confident that the goal to create a local pool of trainers and resource experts can be realized. Together we can achieve which none of us can afford to do alone.



PAKISTAN

Noushad Ahmed Khan
Omeopakistan@yahoo.com

The National Committee of OMEP Pakistan congratulate OMEP President, *Professor Ingrid Pramling* and Vice President of Asia- Pacific *Doreen Launder* for their leadership, support and guidance. The National Committee of OMEP Pakistan continues to promote and encourage professionalism in Early Childhood Education (ECE), *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)*, *The Rights of the Child and Children's Right to Play* for young children and students majoring in ECE.

Throughout 2011 OMEP-Pakistan has continued to inspire early childhood practitioners and researchers by changing and touching many children's lives both locally and globally. With the generous support and involvement from partnering educational organizations and committed members OMEP-Pakistan remained active in its role to enhance professionalism in ECE. OMEP Pakistan wishes to continue to maintain and forge strong relationship with OMEP World, and all member countries around the world.

The OMEP Pakistan plans to establish 100 to 120 Early Childhood Education Schools and Teacher Training Centers in Pakistan with support of local organizations, OMEP member Countries and international organizations. This is very important to OMEP Pakistan. This activity will create scope and opportunity for about 16,000 to 17,000 poor children the majority or whom are girls. We offer any international organization and member countries to establish schools and teacher centers in Pakistan.

Government policy, primary education is compulsory for all children's in Pakistan but most of parents from the poor and ethnic

communities cannot send their children to primary school due to poverty. Some parents are very reluctant to send their children to school.

The National committee of OMEP Pakistan aims to motivate parents and inspire them to send their children to education.

Main Activates

At the regional and provincial level OMEP Pakistan concentrates its activities on recovery programs for children who are victims of child abuse, malnutrition and poverty. This work is made possible with the support of local and international organizations.

OMEP Pakistan continues to conduct in service training at pre-school in collaboration with local organizations. Local affiliated bodies organize their ECE and care activities according to the needs in their own areas and their own way of life.

A nutrition project has been implemented in all districts in the Pakistan

The OMEP Pakistan has made arrangement to organize and conduct workshops and seminars in pre-schools.

An Art, folk song and traditional activities program has been modified to suit the 3-6 age groups.

Parent workshops were held in the Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad Quetta and Manshera to raise their awareness in early childhood education and parenting for children.



The National Committee issued certificates to the Institution for the Teaching of Early Childhood Education in Pakistan.

Most Important Plans for 2012

We have prepared a draft plan for the year 2012. Major activities are.

- Training, Workshop and Seminar programs;
- To promote ECE and Children Right to Play in collaboration with the United Nation's Convention for the Rights of the Child;
- To enhance ECE, ESD and children's Right to Play;
- Exploration of Partnerships to initiate and strengthen ECE programs;
- Technical supports;
- National Committee and local committees meeting;
- Participation in the World Congress, Regional Meetings, and World & regional programs;
- To establish Schools and teachers training centers with the support of OMEP members countries and any organization;
- To organize and international Children's Art Competition 2012 for 3-6 year old children;
- OMEP Pakistan wishes to host either 2013, 2014, 2015 World and Asian Congress / Conference / meeting in Pakistan.



SINGAPORE

Ms Hui-Ling Chua
hlingc@singnet.com.sg
<http://www.omep-sgp.org>

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Book Launch

In August 2011, the Committee published the book “Early Childhood Education in a Diverse Society: an ethnographic study of preschools in Singapore” by Dr Lynne Ang. A book launch was held at the Temasek Polytechnic where the OMEP student chapter convenes. Accompanying the book launch was also the commissioning of the incoming student committee at Temasek Polytechnic, the second committee since its inception in 2010.

Exchange Programme

The Committee played host to 20 Korean Early Childhood Educators in February 2012. School visits were organised over three days. A group of members and friends from Singapore will be travelling to Korea in March for the exchange visit.

School Visits

School visits continued to be organised for members with the latest one to a Japanese Preschool in February 2012. Members extend their learning about ECE programmes in Singapore on these visits and they remain popular with them.

Research

The research study on Preschool Teachers’ Beliefs and Attitudes on Quality ECE in Singapore continued under the leadership of Dr Audrey Lim. The project was completed in part and reported on in July 2011 at the World Assembly and is now near completion.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Network of EC Educators in ECEfS

The President participated in the meetings of the Network of Early Childhood Education for Sustainability in July 2011 in Brisbane, Australia, and also attended the World Environmental Education Conference after the meetings.

Most important task or plan for 2012-2013

ECEfS National Survey

The Committee intends to organise the National survey of Early Childhood Educators on Early Childhood Education for Sustainability. This is a joint project with a few other countries as a result of collaborations at the network meetings of ECEfS in Brisbane, Australia.



SRI LANKA

C. A. Samaradivakara
divakara_me@yahoo.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

During the first quarter of 2011 OMEP Sri Lanka conducted a series of workshops for teachers and parents of kindergarten children. 128 teachers, 256 assistants and 626 parents participated. Master teachers who are members of the academic staff of the Open University of Sri Lanka involved in the programme. The four workshops were conducted on the theme: Methodology of using folk songs, folk dance, and folk games, which is a part of the indigenous culture of Sri Lanka.

During the second term another series of workshops were conducted with emphasis on handicrafts and their application.

The cooperation of the corporate sector was enlisted to implement the nutrition programme.

Health clinics were conducted supported by the voluntary service of state medical personnel who examined children and prescribed supplementary vitamins. Meanwhile indigenous medical practitioners too served at preschools from time to time. They prescribed herbal medicine and helped prepare herbal drinks.

During national festivals; New Year, Vesak, and Poson and Esala celebrations were held with the active participation of children which contributed to their socialization process to be one with culture.

OMEP Sri Lanka sent a delegate to the world congress held in Hong Kong in July 2011.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Guidelines for early childhood education based on the principles of education for sustainable education were formulated by the president and submitted to the Ministry of education, Ministry of child welfare provincial ministries of education, who were impressed and have sought the assistance of OMEP Sri Lanka in its implementation. Meanwhile steps are being taken to publish guidelines in the form of a handbook.

OMEP Sri Lanka has planned to train preschool teachers, island wide, on the techniques introduced in the guidelines for education for sustainable development in ECE in collaboration with relevant ministries. The guidelines will be enriched with the feedback of teachers and parents.



THAILAND

Udomluck Kulapichitr
udomluck.k@chula.ac.th

Main activities in the country and at an international level in 2011'

National Activities

- The National Child Development Standard developed between 2008-2011 has been approved by the Thai government cabinet and announced as standard to be implemented as internal quality assurance by all responsible Ministries.
- The Office for National Educational Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization) has announced the external quality assessment system to implement on assessing early childhood institutions providing services for young children from birth to six years old.
- Seminars and workshops had been implemented throughout the country to inform and alert early childhood professionals working in early childhood institutions for starting of the external quality assessment next year (2012) by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment.

International Activities

- Attending the 2011 OMEP World Assembly in Hong Kong

- Attending the 2011 OMEP World Conference in Hong Kong
- Organizing a workshop on “Dealing With Bullying” by the Thai OMEP with an US. OMEP member as invited speaker

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- A national survey has been conducting to study on state and problems of operation on environmental education in the preschool level of schools participating in the ECO-School
- Two research projects are conducting as an experimental studies to teach preschool teachers on organizing classroom activities using ESD as an approval to teach young children to think

Most important task for 2012

- To advocate OMEP announcement of a “DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care” to gain public awareness.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE

Milada Rabusicova
milada@phil.muni.cz

Activities of member countries



The wide range of activities at the national and international levels across Europe is usually covered by annual reports of the individual national boards. We have collected all but one of these for 2011. Annual reports seem to be the best way to let others know what has been going on in each country in early childhood education and care and which activities the national OMEP organizations offer.

Like in the previous years, the information provided by the countries is of varying quality. It is nevertheless clear that the member countries do organize a number of interesting and useful events and activities benefiting care for and education of very young children. The national boards often focus on organizing conferences and workshops for the wide public and teachers but they also offer specific activities (such as contests, entertainment events, or celebrations) targeting children themselves.

A number of European countries have joined the Education for Sustainable Development project announced at the World Assembly in Gothenburg. The results of this second phase of the project were collected, processed and presented at the World Assembly and Congress in Hong Kong in 2011 and also at the European Meeting and Congress in Nicosia, Cyprus, in May 2011.

2011 also saw the continuation of the European project How to learn about different cultures at preschool age, proposed

by the Czech OMEP committee and managed by Marek Kadlec. The aim of the project is that of sharing good practices in familiarizing children of preschool age with other cultures and nations. More information can be found at the OMEP website.

The number of member countries in Europe remains the same as one year ago – there are 23 member countries which pursue OMEP activities more or less actively. Preparatory boards have been established in Ukraine and Croatia and full membership of both countries will be proposed to the nearest World Assembly, in Campo Grande, Brazil, in June 2012.

Our organization has an important tradition of expressing acknowledgment of work of its long-term members who have benefited OMEP significantly by awarding them honorary membership. The 2011 World Assembly honoured in this way the member of the Finnish OMEP Board, Ms. Pirjo Honkavaara. I want to congratulate her on this occasion and thank her for all she has done for OMEP.

Events in Europe

It is the European Regional Meeting and European Conference that is the most important joint event for European member countries. Attended by participants representing 17 European countries, it was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in May 2011.

The conference was the 8th Pan-Hellenic Conference and the 1st conference of OMEP Cyprus Board. The topic was Perspectives on Creativity and Learning in Early Childhood. I can say the many



international participants will agree with me that this first important activity of the new OMEP Board in Cyprus was very well organized and offered interesting content. In any case, the event gave an exceptionally promising impetus to further activities of the Board which became a part of OMEP only recently: at the World Assembly in Gothenburg in 2010.

The Greek OMEP Board also contributed towards the organization of the conference to a great extent, evidencing the good long-term cooperation of both countries. The conference was held at University of Cyprus, supported by volunteer work of many students of the university. My thanks belong to all people who helped to create the excellent environment the conference provided. They are, in the first place, Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani, President of OMEP Cyprus; and then Loizos Symeou, Head of the Department of Education at the European University, Cyprus; Christina Aggelaki, President of OMEP Greece; and Nektarios Stellakis, Chair of Scientific Program Committee, from University Patra, Greece. They were, of course, assisted by other colleagues whose input I also want to acknowledge.

The World Assembly in Hong Kong held in May provided another opportunity to meet people representing European OMEP member countries. There were participants from 8 European countries. On the occasion of the World Assembly, our European meeting was held, the minutes of which were published in the Autumn issue of the European Newsletter.

Activities of Vice-President

The European Newsletter came out in 2011 again. Member countries representatives received, as usual, two issues, Spring and Autumn ones, with information on the World Assembly and other announcements such as conference calls, the minutes of the European Regional Meeting, alerts to new

books on preschool education, reviews of important OMEP events etc. The Newsletter can be also accessed from the OMEP website (www.omep-ong.net).

Ingrid Engdahl, President of OMEP Sweden, and I have both contributed towards the organization of the ESD World Project. We have prepared reports for the World Assembly and Hong Kong conference summarizing the results of its second phase, whose focus was on implementing specific projects into the activities of institutions of preschool education.

In February 2011, I attended the European Regional Conference in Budapest, organized by OMEP Hungary within its six-month presidency period. The title of the conference was Excellence and Equity in Early Childhood Education and Care and the aim was to stimulate European governments to take more initiative in developing early childhood education and care and to draft steps supporting coordination of and investments into this area of education within the EU.

In September 2011, Bonn, Germany, hosted The 64th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information / Non-Governmental Organizations Conference called Sustainable Societies – Responsive Citizens. There were four of us who attended the conference as OMEP representatives. OMEP was selected by the organizers as one of the 26 non-governmental organizations to present an exhibition documenting their activities. Presenting OMEP, we focused mainly on our activities in connection with the Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Development project we have been involved with for several years. The exhibition attracted true interest among the other non-governmental organizations.

Like in the previous years, I did my best to actively communicate with all national boards throughout the year. It has been my



permanent concern that everyone has enough information and stimuli to work with at the level of their respective countries.



BULGARIA

Prof. Dr. Elena Roussinova- Baboudaila
eroussinova@yahoo.com
roussinova@fnpp.uni-sofia.bg

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Key activities conducted by the National Committee in 2011:

- Participation in the OMEP project “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD). The studies are conducted in Kindergartens and in primary school classes with teachers and students of the Sofia University Saint Kliment Ohridski, Faculty of Primary and Preschool Education.
- European Conference – in Nicosia-Cyprus. The participation of the President of BG OMEP as a guest lecturer on the topic: “Educational Strategies for Learning and Creativity in Preschool Childhood.
- National Round Table, in Sofia City, June 2011 “Interactivity between the institutions and Nongovernmental Organizations: Cultural – Educational Practices in support for childhood”, with the participation of all Regional Committees.
- National Conference of The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science with the participation of Regional Committees OMEP – “Leading Future hand in hand” (200 papers presented in the working sessions).
- National Round Table “The Problems of integrated education in the Kindergartens”, organized by Sofia University with the participation representatives of The National Committee OMEP.

Main Activities of the Regional Committees OMEP in 2011

Conferences and Round Tables:

- National Conference in Preschool Education “Leading the future hand in hand”, organized by Ministry of Education, Youth and Science with partners, region Stara Zagora.
- Regional Conference with International Participation: “Kindergarten & Family - Tradition, Values & Innovation”, region Burgas.
- Regional Conference: “Kindergarten - Wonderful World of Children”, region Pleven.
- Round Tables “Strategies for developing of Kindergartens 2011-2014”, regions Pleven, Stara Zagora, Russe, Sliven, Sofia, and Pernik.
- Round Table “Education Marketing and Advertisement - Innovative Management”, regions Burgas, and Sliven.

Pedagogical seminars:

- Investigation of European Educational Systems and Models of “learning for creativity”
 - Ecological Education of Children in Kindergarten and Family.
 - Kindergarten and school - one educational system unit.
 - Diagnosis of Child Development and Readiness for School.
 - Different and not so different children
 - Integral Teaching - Investigation, Training, Discussion



Pedagogical practice and competitions:

- Competition of teaching material: “In the world of nature”, region Pleven;
- Open doors for centers in relation to Nongovernmental organizations: “The Role of OMEP”, regions Burgas, Sozopol, Pomorie, Karnobat, Sredetz;
- Interactive technology of the pedagogical interrelations, region Pleven;
- Open practices on the occasion of European Day “Small stars of Europe”- Sport, region Sliven;
- Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs, region Sofia;
- Virtual Exhibition online for talented teachers, region Sliven;
- Promoting the Qualification of Teachers in Kindergartens, all regional committees;
- Traditional charity exhibitions – Bazaar with drawings, region Sliven;
- Exhibitions – Bazaar with Martenitzi in Kindergartens with charity motives for children at home: Mother and Child, and with children of different ethnical communities, Regions Russe and Kardjali;
- Celebrations devoted to Children’s Day 1st of June on the subject “For children with Love and Care”, regions Kardjaly, Pleven, Sofia, Bourgas;
- Exchange of good pedagogical practice between OMEP Kindergartens, all regional committees.

The Most Significant Activities of Bulgarian OMEP during 2011:

Participation of President of BG OMEP at the European Meeting and Conference of OMEP in Cyprus, as a guest - key lecturer.

Different Round Tables with participation of all regional committees:

Educational strategies of learning for creativity, Learning through play and creativity, The play – center of educational interactivity, Creative development of children in kindergarten, Applying of interactive methods for developing learning process, The Games in kindergartens with the help of parents.

Discussion on new project of a LAW for Preschool & School Education in Bulgaria applied by Ministry of Education, Youth & Science

Participation of OMEP Bulgaria in World Washing Day – different programs and activities

Discussing results of the project “Education for Sustainable Development” and acceptance of proposals for applying the concept in the Educational Standard in Preschool Education.

Most important task or plan for 2012

- Organizing a national Forum of OMEP Bulgaria with partners on the topic “The Decade of the Preschool Education, and care for children since Birth day till 8 Years of Age”;
- National Round Table “Educational Projects – the way for promoting competence of teachers in Kindergarten”;
- National celebration of 130 years of Preschool education in Bulgaria.



CYPRUS

Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani
C.Papademetri@euc.ac.cy
www.omep.com.cy

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Within six months of its election, OMEP Cyprus Committee successfully organised and hosted the 2011 OMEP European Conference, with support from OMEP Greece as co-organisers. In May 2011 more than 400 participants, from 21 countries arrived in Nicosia. The European Conference saw over 180 papers, workshops and symposia presented over the 3 day conference, focusing on the overarching theme of 'Perspectives on Creativity and Learning in Early Childhood Education'. Internationally recognised experts in their field served as keynote speakers and workshop leaders. The 8th Pan-Hellenic Conference and 1st Cyprus Committee Conference also ran concurrently. Bearing in mind that the conference was organised so soon after the OMEP Cyprus founding and registration, the positive feedback from participants and increase in membership served to illustrate the impact of the conference on the Early Years community in Cyprus and laid sound foundations for the future work of the Committee.

Bill Ayers (<http://billayers.org/>) presented a workshop for OMEP members in March 2011 at Frederick University. The speaker has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, and the cultural contexts of schooling. The workshop focused on Early Years Teaching and the Cyprus context and encouraged participants to reflect on their teaching 'stories' with a view to using these as a basis for improving their practice. The feedback from the participants was very encouraging with requests for a follow-up workshop to be organised.

Dr. Nikoletta Christodoulou, board member of the Cyprus Committee, represented OMEP Cyprus at the 63rd OMEP World Conference in Hong Kong, in July 2011 where she presented her research paper.



CROATIA

Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić
avisnjic.jevtic@gmail.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

In the last year, National Committee OMEP Croatia was established. Most important activities of NC OMEP Croatia were to announce existence of OMEP to public and ECE professionals and present facts about OMEP to them. We worked on collecting members and promoting OMEP activities. For that, we published articles in newspapers and magazines for education in Croatia.

We also informed all Teachers Faculties in Croatia about existing OMEP, and two of them became members. We informed all kindergartens in Croatia about the same fact. Croatia also took a part in the project “We are Europe” with 6 other OMEP National Committees – Norway, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Greece and Poland.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Croatia was implemented OMEP plans and programs for Education for Sustainable Development. We have our own project “Children save the tree” – where children collect used papers, sale it, and buy new tree, which they plant in the kindergarten backyards.

Most important task or plan for 2012

At the beginning of the 2012 we will organize a Symposium “Changed childhood – effects on child, family and teachers”.

We will start to prepare European Regional meeting and Conference in 2013.

In the spring we will organize educational activities for ECE professionals.

In the autumn we plan to organize discussion on pluralism in education.

For all over the year of 2012 we will work with kindergartens on ESD World Project.

Letter about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

NC OMEP Croatia has sent letters to Government of Republic Croatia; Ministry of Education, Sport and Science; Ministry of Health and Welfare; Ministry of Families, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity.

Only Ministry of Health and Welfare answered on the letter, and they mentioned that this plan is already integrated in their programs.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Jarmila Kotrbová
j.kotrbova@volny.cz
www.omep.cz

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

The Czech OMEP committee is working to develop international cooperation with the other OMEP organizations in Europe and take part in the international activities of OMEP. It has also close cooperation with other organizations working in the area of early childhood education in the Czech Republic. It is represented in the advisory committee of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. These activities overlap each other.

Members of the Czech OMEP committee met several times with all the professional organizations of early childhood education in CR for the further review of laws and ordinances having to do with early childhood education which are proposed by the Ministry of Education. It had to do with lowering the number of children in classes of kindergartens and with lowering the number of hours of direct engagement with children of the director's of kindergartens. Furthermore, we followed up on the placing of kindergartens teachers into new pay grades.

Representatives of the Czech Republic took part in the European conference which took place in Cyprus.

The Czech Republic took part in the worldwide OMEP project Education for Sustainable Development. All in all, 44 kindergartens and 519 children took part in the project. A creativity competition was announced for this theme, in which 18 kindergartens took part. Children's drawings were selected and were then prepared for a

travelling exhibition. Exhibitions took place during the year in Prague 4, Prague 2, and at the secondary and college-level pedagogical schools in Znojmo. In November, there was an exhibition in Prague 8. Currently, negotiations are taking place with the representatives of the Czech Top 100 companies, regarding help during the realization of an art exhibition.

A big event for OMEP was the realization of the conference Education for sustainable development in practice – along with the Association for kindergartens in the forest for the theme of „Nature and the Culture of kindergartens“. The conference took place in November in Prague, Toulcův dvůr. 100 teachers and other participants took part. Besides Czech speakers, representatives from Germany took active part in the conference.

Czech OMEP is also trying to present itself in the media. An interview on issues regarding pre-school child rearing was published in the “Učitelské noviny” (Teacher's Newspapers) and in the magazine named “Informatorium”, regarding the remuneration of personnel in the field of pre-school education and their classification, with chairwoman of OMEP Jarmila Kotrbova. Members of the OMEP committee also express themselves on the radio, regarding current issues in pre-school education in the Czech Republic.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Kindergartens worked on the project of Education for Sustainable Development even after the end of the first phase of the



project and the World OMEP conference (2010) logo continued to be used for further work with children. Continuation of the project was thematically aimed to the artistic competition. The Czech Republic also participated in the second round of the project.

Most important task or plan for 2012

The plan of activity for the year 2012 concentrates on these areas:

- Efforts to expand the membership base.
- Help in developing pre-school education by calling for the review of laws and ordinances in cooperation with other professional organizations of pre-school education in the Czech Republic.
- New elections for the president of the board and other members of the board.
- Continuation in projects announced by OMEP within the framework of Europe, and also internationally.
- Further cooperation with AWO Dortmund

Letter sent about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

The president of the Czech OMEP took part in a follow-up session in the Czech Senate on ensuring the rights of children in the Czech Republic. OMEP has been cooperating long-term with other non-governmental agencies concerned with the rights of children. It is important to add that regarding the right of a child to play, this issue is addressed in the framework of the educational program for pre-school education, which has been in effect since 2007. In this framework, play is considered to be a basic right of children and likewise a means for their learning and development.



DENMARK

Stig Lund
sgl@bupl.dk
www.omep.dk

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

OMEP Denmark held the annual general assembly April 27 2011. The then president of OMEP Denmark Mrs Henny Hammershøj presented the report of activities for 2010-2011 – in short participation in meetings of OMEP International, the collection and transport of toys to Ghana and the transfer of the Danish OMEP archives to the Danish National Archive.

The toys to Ghana arrived safe and after some troubles with getting the container onto the country the toys are now distributed to childcare centres around Ghana in cooperation with OMEP Ghana.

The annual assembly decided to work in favour of an ombudsman that we still miss in Denmark and to follow up on initiatives for high quality services for 0-3 years old children. Half of the services for this age group is still offered through public, but private family day care – i.e. run by non-professional staff.

The current administration of the finances of OMEP Denmark were asked by the member “Frie Børnehaver” (an association that runs kindergartens in Denmark) to be transferred to another body.

On the finances we unfortunately had a deficit of 3.500 DKR (approx 465 €) on the pre-tours OMEP Denmark offered in connection with the Gothenburg OMEP World Conference 2010.

The committee was decimated as Henny Hammershøj retired after many years of dedicated work to OMEP nationally and

internationally. This presented a great loss to OMEP Denmark. And this was made easier by two other colleagues who decided as well to retire.

So if OMEP Denmark was to continue we needed someone to accept to be elected as president. So Stig Lund – who had former been Vice-President of OMEP but retired some years ago – accepted to be elected as new President and return into duty again together with Jørgen Boelskov as Vice-President.

The most important task at this moment was to look for new committee member until the next assembly that will take place May 2, 2012.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

During spring 2011 OMEP Denmark established the first part of the OMEP ESD project with interviews with children about the picture of the children cleaning the globe and a report was sent for the Hong Kong meeting.

Later in 2011 OMEP Denmark was invited to join a European project on ESD initiated by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson and John Siraj-Blatchford. We are right now looking forward to having answer on the application for funding of the project from the European Union Comenius programme. The project will in Denmark include a University, a college for education of pedagogues (pre-school teachers), kindergartens, a research institute and OMEP.



Most important task or plan for 2012

The most important issue is to get more people involved in the National Committee.

We hope to succeed through raising interest in OMEP by the above mentioned ESD project and a conference we are preparing on how to improve the situation of children and families at risk.

The conference will be held during the Autumn this year and up till now there's a great interest and support from the Minister of Social Affairs, several politicians in the Parliament and researchers. The idea is also that the conference shall mark the work of OMEP to the public.

Letter sent about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

Sorry – we still miss to mail the letter translated into Danish. We postponed to do so as we was awaiting the general election to the Danish Parliament. The political parties who was in power lost the election and we now have a Socialdemocrat-Center coalition in power who are much more favorable to the issue of improving early childhood education and care.

So it's obviously we have to inform the new Government on the need for a Decade for ECEC.



FINLAND

Lasse Lipponen
lasse.lipponen@helsinki.fi

Main activities in 2011

OMEP Finland was re-organized in 2011. Earlier it had been in Central Union for Child Welfare a working -group on early childhood education and care & preventive child welfare. The group size has been 30 members. But in 2011 CUCW named a smaller board only for the Finnish OMEP Committee and called 5 ECCE experts to the board and 2 persons from the CUCW office. The main task was to develop the whole work.

The board has had 3 meetings. Broader networking and delivering more information about OMEP generally to the Finnish ECCE field and Finnish ECCE news to the international OMEP field has been the main issues in discussions.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

In the Finnish ECE there are many activities on education for sustainable development, but The Finnish OMEP Committee has not started any. However, the Committee has decided to gather information from these activities and projects and convey this information to OMEP.

Most important national tasks for 2012

The Finnish Government Programme (June 2011) promises that “high quality and easily accessible early childhood and preschool education will be secured for all in this age group. *An early childhood education act will be introduced.* The possibility of making early childhood education compulsory will be explored with an aim to securing the participation of whole age cohort in early

childhood education. Preschool education and basic education will be developed and provided to the entire age group, guaranteeing equal opportunities for everyone. – *Law-drafting, administration and steering concerning early childhood education and day care services will be transferred to the Ministry of Education and Culture.* Cooperation between early childhood education and social welfare and health care services will be enhanced.” (<http://www.vn.fi/hallitus/hallitusohjelma/pdf332889/en334743.pdf>)

The Finnish OMEP Committee will follow that these promises will be carried out – and we try to do ombudswork that the best interest of the child and quality in early childhood education will be the basic ideas behind the early childhood education act.

Dissemination of the information on the Finnish early childhood education and care to the European and also to the international OMEP field is significant – and also vice versa: international OMEP information to the Finnish area is necessary.

However, campaigning for membership in OMEP is the most important task in 2012.



FRANCE

Mme Marlène Brissard
Marlene.bris@laposte.net
omep-france.blogspot.com

National Commitment Activities

Improved visibility actions

- Web site upgrading
- Elaboration of presentations related to ESD for UNESCO (Mr. Brissard; Mrs. Perruchon)
- Development of ESD instructors for Paris Academy
- Creation of discussion groups for professionals working in education in collaboration with a friend association
- Animations for preschool teachers, *Learning to speak, a bet?* (Mr. Brissard)

Participation in childhood-related gathering and meetings:

- In France: participation in the Association of Early Childhood Educators (AGEEM, in French)
- Participation in the ESD survey and presentations
- In Europe and at international level : participation in seminars held in Cyprus and Hong Kong

Organization of national gathering jointly with Paris Section and the General Assembly

- On ESD matters
- Presentation of book authored by Mrs. Madeleine Goutard – The early childhood establishment, a promise for the future

Activities of Sections

Collaboration with institutions

- Links between initial education establishment and early childhood schools
- At the day care center Les petits lecteurs (Small Readers), actions around the book and the early childhood within the educative achievements project framework
- Animations (see below)
- Shelter to parents and toddlers: financial support and counseling
- Participation and animation at local radio programs
- Collaborations with CIDE Lyons Club Connétable, Lego House

Actions – Towards teachers

- Coordination of actions to support parenthood
- Participation in UNESCO actions on ESD
- Animation during the international solidarity week on the child's rights : Right to education, the real sustainable development
- Professional-development oriented conferences to staff related to childhood and early childhood
- Teach the ESD at school
- Young child assessment “between prevention and prediction”
- Ethics at school
- The contribution of play



Towards children

- 500 children were given the rights of the child brochure
- 23 boxes with new books delivered in addition to the 7000 books already received in N'Diaganiao

Towards parents

- Animation of parents meeting – Being parents today
- Animation of a play on incarcerated parents – The time of parents
- Toys collect and recycling
- Animation at the Jeunes Pousses shelter for parents and children

Towards foreign countries

- Senegal: in N'Diaganiao, construction of a shelter for children and a reading center
- Armenia: financial support
- Support to an orphanage at Goa

OMEP France challenges for 2012

- Strengthen the visibility of OMEP France actions and diversify adhesions
- Reinforce the coherence of the national project targets with the world project actions:
- Disclose OMEP ESD actions with education officers (Ministry)
- Elaboration of videos oriented to professionals

Specifics of your Committee to be included in the World Report

- Elaboration of animated movies and PowerPoint presentations on ESD matters at day care centers and early childhood establishments to teach the children in their early stages how to be a future *eco-citizen* ;
- OMEP France interventions at UNESCO (PowerPoint presentation)
- On Water, source of life and common good of humanity matters
- Presentation (posters) on Reading with your Child matters.



GERMANY

Norbert Struck

Representative: Mrs. Doris Beneke

beneke@diakonie.de

www.agj.de

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

The Child and Youth Welfare Association (AGJ) is the German National Committee for Early Childhood Education (DNK). On behalf of the AGJ Board, the AGJ “Childhood and Family” expert committee looks after the DNK tasks and is thus also the DNK spokesperson. The DNK is a member of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP). Unlike in other countries, the DNK does not only comprise individual members but also mainly includes representatives from the structures in child and youth welfare.

In 2011, the DNK focused intensively on the connections between care and education, as well as family policy issues. This year’s discussion spotlighted qualitative and quantitative aspects in child care and the question of the family’s time sovereignty and resources. A further focus was on the work, family and economic situation of early years educators and nursery staff in the context of extending day care services and the increasing demands on quality and education. The DNK supported the process of the National Action Plan “For a Child-Friendly Germany 2005-2010” and critically reviewed the Concluding Report and the perspectives for young people it contains.

In 2011, the AGJ organised the 14th German Child and Youth Welfare Congress (DJHT) under the banner of “Children. Youth. Future: Developing perspectives – Fostering potentials!” At the Congress, members of German child and youth welfare services exchanged experience and

presented their work. The Congress was designed to promote the joint implementation of improved social conditions for children, young people and their families.

A DNK symposium organised during this process explored and debated the expert and social skills required by professional child care staff. Starting from the educators’ real working situation and perspectives, the discussion also turned on how, against a background of changing demands and the changing situation for job applicants, young people can be encouraged to make a career in this important sector. Representatives from the training sector, employment bodies, employee organisations and the political sphere participated in joint discussions on such issues as identifying children’s needs for growing up successfully, meeting the increasing need for professional staff, and making the work in this sector more attractive.

The AGJ held regular joint consultations with the School Conference of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK). In reference to the cooperation between day care facilities and primary schools, for instance, the discussions in 2011 highlighted the importance of cooperation with parents. Here, both sides believe that there is a need for a different access to parents in the spirit of an educational partnership. In considering the various projects on language proficiency testing and -support, the discussion focused on the question of the effectiveness of the different models.



Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

The DNK is not directly involved in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Nonetheless, early years education and cooperation with schools, as well as non-formal and informal learning are all key substantive areas in the DNK's work. In addition, a new section has been created on the AGJ project “Portal for Specialists in Child and Youth Welfare Services” where a compilation of current information on the UN Decade can be presented.

Most important task or plan for 2012

In the area of early years education, the DNK will be especially concerned with extending day care and the cooperation between day care services / childcare provision and other measures to support families. In this process, research will also be carried out into the sustainability of plans for educational provision. What is envisaged is combining practical and scholarly experience, and bringing this together with the resulting need for further development.

There are also plans to place more emphasis on gender-sensitive education, training and care, and discuss the requisite basis and requirements.

In addition, the DNK is to carry out an analysis into the needs of families in the early years phase, in particular their infrastructural and monetary needs.

The discussions and debate on “Time for Responsibility in the Family” is to be continued. This will be relating issues in the Eighth ‘Family Report’ of the German Federal Government to the current situation.

As well as considering inclusive factors in this sector, the specialist debate will similarly be spotlighting the possible effects of the new Child Protection Act (BKSG) on child care provision.

Letter sent on a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care, and reply

In a letter to the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the DNK requested that the Ministry actively call on the United Nations to establish a UN Decade for Early Childhood Education and Care.

In its letter, the DNK emphasised that declaring such an UN Decade was intended to heighten global awareness of the significance of the early years phase in the further development of children and young people’s personal, social and societal behaviour and their later educational success.

The DNK will inform the OMEP as soon as an answer has been received.



GREECE

Angelaki Christine

omep@mail.gr; c_angelaki@yahoo.com

www.omep.gr

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

On May 6th to 8th in Nicosia, Cyprus, the Greek National OMEP Committee in collaboration with the Cypriot National OMEP Committee and the European University Cyprus organized the 8th Pan-Hellenic Congress of Greek National OMEP Committee and the 1st Congress of Cyprus OMEP Committee, focused on “Perspectives of Creativity and Learning in Early Childhood”.

Also, parallel to the above, the OMEP 2011 European Regional Meeting was held, with the participation of representatives from most of the European OMEP Committees.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

We present you our national activities for 2011, which took place through our local committees all over Greece, in a diary form:

On January 2011, 15th and 22nd:

- “Experiential lab of Music Expression for teachers”.
- “The role of internet in psychosocial development of child in preschool and primary childhood, dangers in the internet, protections measures by the parents” - “SafeLine: Greek Open Line of Denunciations for illegal contents in internet”.

On February 2011, 5th - 12th – 16th (up to May 2011, 22nd) and 25th:

- Puppet theatre performance “Colours in Greysneezestan” by Pook puppet theatre group.
- “Communication in Kindergarten”.
- Thematic, 4 months duration, seminars about “Fibonacci project” concerning on:
a) Self-education kindergarten teachers group on “Fibonacci project”: “Natural Sciences” experiential lab with the participations of kindergarten teachers, b) Self-education kindergarten teachers group on “Fibonacci project”: “Mathematics and New Technologies” experiential lab with the participations of kindergarten teachers, c) re-provision meeting on “Fibonacci project” and d) “meeting – Celebration of Positive Sciences”, dedicated to Scratch day: Presentation of educational programs about research, teaching and learning Physical Sciences and Mathematics throughout technology. The programs have been implemented in kindergartens of Western Greece, by kindergarten teachers - members of local “Fibonacci Project” net.
- “Children’s Halloween Event”.

On March 2011, 19th:

- “Leadership and Kindergarten”.



On April 2011, 16th:

- Puppet theatre performance “The little duck who didn’t like his little legs” authored by Eugenius Trivizas (Greek author).

On May 2011, 12th:

- “Working in groups in the classroom”.

On October 2011, 15th and 22nd:

- “Social-emotional Learning & Development of Individual and Social Skills in Kindergarten: Theory and Application”.
- “Mathematics concepts and data analysis in Kindergarten”.

On November 2011, 5th – 11th – 12th – 19th (2 actions) and 20th:

- “Organization and Administration in Kindergarten: From Theory to Act”.
- “Working on groups: clarifications, meaning, practices.
- Lab “Working on groups with children in kindergarten.
- Museum education and Christmas Event.
- “Communication, dynamic of relationships and conflict solving into family and preschool frame” and experiential lab: “The ‘symptom’ of the child as ‘message’”.

- “Acting educators to group management: Roles, emotions, and values of life to educational act” and Experiential lab: “The multiple visions and voices of ourselves: internal dialogue and personal responsibility”.

On December 2011, 3rd and 7th:

- Plays, songs and dances... for an alternative Christmas Event.
- Museum Education and the International Children’s Day.

Most important task or plan for 2012

We have already started the preparation meetings for the 9th Pan - Hellenic Congress of the Greek National OMEP Committee, which will be substantiated in November 2013, at Ioannina, Epirus – Greece. For the congress, the Greek National OMEP Committee will have the collaboration of the University of Ioannina and in particular of the Department of Pre-School Education.

The members of the Greek National OMEP Committee support all the actions of the local committees and therefore we will carry on in 2012, sustaining persistently, the development of activities for educators and children.



ICELAND

Sigríður K. Stefánsdóttir
siggak@hi.is

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Conference about children and parents – beginning at Playschool. Start of education for live.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

A lot of organizations in Iceland participated in collection of money for digging waterhole children in the third world.

UNICEF in Iceland governs this action; and it was very successful action.

Most important task or plan for 2012

Do something good for children in our country and in the world.



IRELAND

Patricia O'Connor
Pat.oconnor@ucc.ie
www.omepireland.ie

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

OMEP Ireland has had a very busy year. The OMEP Committee met regularly to discuss issues and developments relating to Early Childhood both in Ireland and worldwide, to organise our Annual Conference and review articles submitted for *An Leanbh Og*, {Translation “The Young Child”} our peer reviewed Journal.

Outreach

We also make contact each year with colleges and universities who deliver courses in Early Year's & Childhood Studies and advise them of the work and ethos of OMEP Ireland.

Extraordinary General Meeting

In January, 2011 we held an Extraordinary General Meeting. Proposal that ‘The OMEP Ireland Financial year shall begin on 1st April and end on 31st March each year beginning on 1st April, 2012. The motion was passed.

European Meeting

OMEP Ireland sent a representative to the European Regional Conference in Cyprus. Our congratulations to the Cyprus Committee on the very high quality of the presentations at this conference and to the wonderful organisation of the event.

Most Important Task/Plan for 2012

OMEP Ireland does not have committee meetings during the months of July and August. Beginning in September planning commences for the annual Research Conference which is held at the end of April each year. The theme of the conference planned for April, 2012 is “Seeds of Quality” ‘The Journey Forward for the Early Years’ Papers will be divided into two strands:

1. Engaging with Aistear (the new Irish curriculum for the early years) and Siolta (the new Irish quality framework for the early years).
2. Challenges for practice in Special Needs Education and Care.

As part of the conference two workshops will be held, one on the implementation of the new curriculum ‘Aistear and the other is a Drama with young children work.

A peer reviewed Journal is published containing the papers presented at the conference and a considerable amount of time is spent in preparation for publication each year.



ISRAEL

Tuca (Goldi) Yalin-Mor
tucayalinmor@yahoo.com
<http://www.israelforkids.org.il>

Main Activities 2011

Promoting Legislation to protect Children's Rights

The following legislative issues remained our main focus:

- The need for full implementation of the Free Compulsory Education Law for Children over the age of three, giving priority to cities with a high percentage of low-income families and Arab cities.
- The need to finalize the legislation for the Licensing and Supervision for Early Childhood Care and Education. This law is a major step in promising better care and education for all young children from the age of three months to 3 years in Day Care Centers, and to ensure equal quality standards of services in all Day Care Centers, public and private.

Members of our Association participated regularly in discussions on Early Childhood issues at Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, particularly those of the Committee for Children's Rights. Many of this year's meetings were devoted to the final formulation of the Law for Licensing and Supervision of Day Care Centers.

As we reported last year, Ms. Samaia Hag Yahia, a committee member of our Association, initiated a forum of mayors and other local authorities from Arab municipalities. After years of struggle, and as a result of a multi-year guided campaign with the consulting services and coalition building assistance of "Shatil organization", the Knesset demanded from the Ministry of Education to increase the implementation of

the Mandatory Free Education Law for preschool children in Arab towns.

A wide social protest for "social justice" that developed in Israel, summer 2011, brought to public awareness the high cost of raising young children in Israel and the increased economical difficulties of young parents. Our members took part in demonstrations and in round table discussions. We were also involved in the formulation of recommendations for national policy changes in the area of early childhood.

A consensus among professionals, the Government-appointed Committee and social activists, on the significant advantages of free education for children over the age of three brought the government to the decision of fully implementing the existing law. Many difficulties are still on the way, but a major step was taken to increase quality and equality in early age children's education.

Increasing awareness of local governments to the needs of young children and their parents

We expanded our work with local authorities.

In Or Yehuda city, a survey of all children under the age of three is being done, with the encouragement of our members Prof. Dorit Aram and Mrs. Hanna Strasberg. Community Services are involved in the process. A local committee nominated by the Mayor, with our participation, is expected to elaborate the city's policy to early age children and parents, with special attention to the needs identified through the survey. A better coordination and integration of services on a local level, is



another expected result from this continuous process.

Coalition building to advance a National Program for Young Children's Parents

The lack of universal services to attend parent's needs, at different levels of intervention, is a major concern for our association.

Dr. Tamar Erez and Ms. Nomi Arbel, members of OMEP Association Committee, with the collaboration of the National Public Parents Association, representatives of public health services and other relevant associations, concluded to edit a comprehensive proposal for a National Program focusing on parents needs. This proposal has been propagated to other organizations and associations, many of them joining our initiative to bring change on a national level on this issue.

The development of a Website was completed during 2011 and is active.

Important National Tasks and Activities for 2012

Children's rights and legislation

- To further promote legislation for the Licensing and Supervision of Early Childhood Programs for the very young.
- To be involved in a follow up of the implementation of the Free Compulsory Education Law for children over the age of 3; to intervene when encountering particular problems and failures in operating the services.

Active Advocacy and Marshalling Public Opinion

- To raise the awareness of all people to the importance of early age needs in the lives of individuals, the Israeli society and the national economy.
- To increase our activities with Local Governments and Municipalities, under the guidance of Executive Committee Member, Prof. Dorit Aram, of Tel Aviv University.
- To continue our work on a National level, on different areas of activity of the Government, to ensure a higher priority to the needs of young children and their parents.
- To strengthen the collaboration among organizations providing services to young children and parents, to bring a change in the government's policy to young children's parents.
- To expand the use of the Association's Website with the purpose of having more influence on public opinion and getting more people involved in our activities.



LITHUANIA

Elena Markevičienė
eevrol@gmail.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Activities of Lithuanian National Committee of OMEP were planned with an intention to continue the implementation of the concept of child welfare, with particular emphasis on the developing of creative environment and a curriculum renewal:

- A conference was organized “Childrens educational environment and qualitative changes in the curriculum: Possibilities and Realities”;
- In collaboration with Vilnius College specialists and experts the workshops for kindergarten teachers about a new approach to the readiness of children to go to school;
- “Preparation of field trips to nature aiming at developing children’s communication skills and cognitive enrichment”;
- Unlocking children’s creativity and artistic self expression in the game;
- “Children’s art exhibition was organized on the topic The World through the eyes of a child”.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Participation in the preparation of proposals and recommendations for children pre-school education program and developing teaching tools.

Participation in the research and investigation, “How pre-school education is valuable and important to us”.

Continuation dissemination activities of educational innovations to Lithuanian kindergartens such as “Application of Reggio Emilia educational system in children’s activities”, “Environment – the third teacher”.

Most important task or plan for 2012

We are planning to organize a round table discussion with primary school teachers on the readiness of children to go to school.

Together with Vilnius University and College teachers We are planning to hold a conference on “Kindergarten, parents and school opportunities for cooperation towards quality education for your child”.



NORWAY

Elin Eriksen Ødegaard

eeo@hib.no

<http://omepnorway.wordpress.com/>

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Participating in the project How to Learn about Different Countries in the EU. OMEP member and preschool teacher Anne E. Teigland from Øvsttun barnehage and OMEP Board member Sidsel Hadler-Olsen met for preparatory meetings on Skype and prepared for preparatory meetings in Prague 2012.

Participating in OMEP European Conference in Cyprus: OMEP board member Sidsel Hadler-Olsen.

Participating in OMEP world conference in Hong Kong (paper by OMEP national President Elin Eriksen Ødegaard and OMEP member/PhD student Ida Marie Lyså).

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

We held a national Conference on Education for Sustainable development October 31 and November 1 in Bergen. Target groups were teachers, teachers' educators and researchers, school administrators. Our cooperating partners were: The County of Hordaland (Grant of 100 000 NKR), The Municipality of Bergen, The National Centre of Natural Science in Education (University of Oslo) and Bergen University College. The conference was a great success with international key Note speakers (Ingrid Engdahl from OMEP, Paul Clarke from UK) and a range of paper presentations from Norway.

We participated in the development of an applicant on ESD (led by John Siraj-Blatchford) for EU Comenius programme. National persons are OMEP President Elin Eriksen Ødegaard and OMEP member Dr. Scient Marianne Presthus Heggen, kindergartens from The Municipality of Bergen and VILVITE Science Centre.

We participated in Ingrid Engdahls and Milada Rabusicovas project on ESD and sent material to project (OMEP board member Erik Duncan and kindergartens).

Most important task or plan for 2012

Offer a prize on Play related to children; named Lekeprisen [The Play price] on the following terms:

- A person or organization that, during the past three years, has
 - Made children's play conditions develop
 - Educational and political efforts that increase awareness of children's play in today's society
 - Cultural and creative work that enrich children's play
 - Development of play materials
 - Development of improved play environment
 - Information campaign about child's play
- Follow up on ESD project
- Follow up on The How to learn about Different Cultures – project
- Hosting a meeting with the Working Forum on Children's Rights June 2 2012 OMEP - USA/Norway member Lita Haddal).



Letter about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

Sent a letter about a DECADE for Early
Childhood Education and Care (1402 2011).
Posted a reminder later, but have not
received any answers yet.



POLAND

Anna Wróbel

wrobel.a@wp.pl and zarzad@omep.pl

www.omep.org.pl

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Project for the execution of public administration service of the Ministry of Education within the framework of projects to support students from minority/ethnic groups and foreign students entitled *Let's Meet – Let's Respect Each Other* was developed and implemented. The project comprised two contests: an International Art Gallery for children Me-You-Us and an International Contest for Teachers *The Presentation of Good Practice in the Field of Multicultural Education*. The project was promoted by Poland during the Regional OMEP Committees Meeting in Nicosia. The total number of 79 institutions participated in the project including 40 institutions from Poland and 39 representing foreign countries. The number of participating children was 364 and 155 teachers. The result of the project is the Internet website with an international platform for discussion and the place where teachers can exchange their experience. The official conclusion of the project will take place during the Regional Meeting of Committees and the European OMEP Conference from 17 to 20 April 2012 in Warsaw. A collection of methodology texts entitled *The Presentation of Good Practice in the Field of Multicultural Education* (editors: Jaszczyszyn, E., Uszyńska-Jarmoc, J.) and a calendar for the year 2012 presenting the selected works from the International Art Gallery for children Me-You-Us were published within the framework of the project.

In response to the open competition of the capital city of Warsaw to realize a public task in

the field of education and upbringing a programme of family education activities “Mamo, Tato baw się ze mną” (“Mother, Father play with me”) was realised from 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011. The aim of the activities was to provide the children of the age from 2 and a half to 5 years old with the opportunity to participate in the professionally designed developmental educative activities.

A National Rally of the OMEP Members was organised in order to integrate the community.

The following articles on the activities of the Polish OMEP Committee in the field of young learners education were written and published:

- *Konferencja OMEP na Cyprze*, Narożnik, M., (in:) *Wychowanie w Przedszkolu* no. 9/2011;
- *Z wizytą na Ukrainie*, Stępniewska, E., (in:) *Wychowanie w Przedszkolu* no. 10/2011.

A tour of methodology conferences in four cities in Poland devoted to the Dalton Plan were organised from 4 to 11 April 2011. The key note speakers were guests from Holland: Roel Rohner – the President of Dalton International and Hans Wencke – the Dalton education international consultant.

The publication of the following books was supported:

- *Pedagogika planu daltońskiego*, Rohner, R., Wencke, H., Wydawnictwo SOR-MAN 2011.
- *Wielki podręcznik dla nauczycieli żłobków i przedszkoli* (Manual de la Maestra de Preescolar) Aquilar, M., Fernandez, M., G., Pacheco, L., Gonzalez, A., Sabanes, I.,



Salomone M., G., Wydawnictwo JEDNOŚĆ, Kielce: 2011.

From 23 to 28 June 2011 a study trip of the kindergarten headmasters and teachers to Ukraine was organised. Its aim was the mutual exchange of experience and the integration of the National OMEP Committees of Poland and Ukraine.

The workshops of the English language for the kindergarten teachers were organised.

The Polish-Ukrainian scientific research on the topic *Culturalisation and socialization of kindergarten children* was conducted.

The Representatives of the Polish OMEP Committee took part in the Regional Meeting of the National Committees Representatives and the European OMEP Conference in Nicosia from 5 to 8 May 2011.

A study visit of 20 Ukrainian teachers to kindergartens in Warsaw was organised.

A study visit of the teachers from all over Poland to a few kindergartens in Katowice was organised. The aim of this visit was to show the innovative programmes and organization solutions in kindergartens.

The Polish Committee cooperated with the Czech, Croatian and Norwegian Committees within the application to the common project within the European Comenius Project the Partnership Projects of Schools.

The Polish Committee cooperated with the National OMEP Committees in Sweden and Great Britain within the preparation for the development of the European project *A Carbon Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood (CP-ESDEC)*.

On 29 September 2011 a Polish Day of Kindergarten Education was organised. The aim of the project was to draw attention to the necessity of the kindergarten education and to increase the importance of the education at the lowest level.

The following Polish conferences were under the patronage of the Polish OMEP Committee:

- The Centre for Teacher Development in Kielce, Świętokrzyskie Province (Świętokrzyskie Centrum Doskonalenia Nauczycieli w Kielcach) – the patronage over The 2nd Kindergarten and Early Education Forum;
- The 6th International Academic Conference in Częstochowa organised by the College of Foreign Languages devoted to kindergarten and early-school foreign language education of children;
- The 3rd Polish Conference of the Kindergarten Headmasters organised in Warsaw by Instytut RAABE and Dom Wiedzy.

The Regional Meeting of the National Committees and the European OMEP Conference from 17 to 20 of April 2012 in Warsaw entitled *Respect for a Child* was organised.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

The Polish OMEP Committee took part in the 2nd part of the World OMEP Project on Education for Sustainable Development. Three projects from the Public Kindergarten no. 16 in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski were presented. The project activates 150 children, their parents and the people living in the nearby housing estate.

Most important task or plan for 2012

To organise in Warsaw the Regional Meeting of the European OMEP Committees Representatives and the European OMEP Conference *Respect for a Child* from 17 to 20 April 2012.

To continue the realisation of the World OMEP Project on the Sustainable Development.



To realise the Project *A Carbon Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood (CP-ESDEC)*.

To realise the European OMEP project within the Comenius Programme (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Norway, Poland).

Letter about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

Upon the motion of the Ministry of the National Education to give opinion on the strategic document *The Perspective of Learning Throughout Life*.

Upon the motion of the community connected with the kindergarten education from the whole country the Polish OMEP Committee, acting upon the Article 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, has filed a petition with the Marshal of the Sejm to start the legislative initiative to constitute the day of 29 September as the *Polish Day of the Kindergarten Education*. This day is to celebrate the certain idea of the people connected with the kindergarten education and it is to solemnly visualise the importance of the kindergarten education in the society.



PORTUGAL

António Ponces de Carvalho

associacao@escolasjoaodeus.pt or ese@escolasjoaodeus.pt

<http://omep.pt.vu>

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

In 2011 the OMEP Portuguese Committee (OMEP Pt) developed and participated in several activities on our institutional main objectives. We continued our projects “A Rodar” (Rolling) and “Ajudar as Crianças a Crescerem Saudáveis e Felizes” (Helping Children to be Healthier and Happier).

Next some highlights of Portuguese 2011 activities.

National General Assembly on January

Elected the new board members for triennium 2011 to 2013.

Children and Younger Rights Forum

This forum main purpose is to struggle and defend children's and younger's social, cultural, economical and civilian rights. It's a debate group for exchanging ideas and points of view. 20 institutions have a sit on the forum and among them there is Portuguese Red Cross and UNICEF. During 2011 several meetings were held for designing common strategies for children and younger benefits. To formalize this forum on world's children day a Compromising Document was signed by the 20 institutions. Portuguese President, António Ponces de Carvalho, signed for OMEP Portuguese Committee. Afterwards was presented the award for journalism works on “News about Children's Rights” to award national journalism works. After these ceremonies there was a party for children held on 98th World Expo site in Lisbon – June 1st.

On 1st September the National Commission for Children and Youth at Risk held a seminary to present a manual on Communication Skills and some guides to mediation on the Promotion and Protection of Children and Youth. These guides are highly interesting for boards of Social Care, Education, Health and Safe/Security professionals. Our president represented the OMEP Portuguese committee.

On the 21st November this Forum organized, as well, the commemorative ceremony of the 22nd anniversary of the Children's Rights Convention with a massive the participation of children and youth. This event took place on the beautiful Assembly of the Republic Senate room. The OMEP Pt was represented by its president of the general assembly, and by the board president and treasurer.



Assembly of the Republic Senate room

Further highlights

- Solidary Golf Tournament, held on Quinta do Peru Golf & Country Club (Sesimbra) – initiative of a group of students from Restelo Secondary School, co-ordinated by our associate Maria Paula Branco. 52 golfers and 21 enterprises



supported this event. A cocktail and dinner followed the tournament in the club house restaurant. The funds were offered to the OMEP Pt – 2nd April.

- During July the OMEP Pt activities and works were exhibit on the show window of the Portuguese Ministry of Education.
- From 2 to 18th July our president was present on the 63rd World Assembly, followed by the World Conference “*Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*”, held in Hong Kong. During this period and after the conference several schools of Hong Kong and Japan were visited.
- As usual, in December toys and games were distributed to children who live in the quarters where our projects are running.

Running Projects

“A Rodar” Project

This project funded by the Portuguese government supported and involved about 700 children, youth and their families. Due to the efforts of collaborators and voluntaries we implemented:

- PIEF measures (scholar dropout) for 6th and 9th grade compulsive school certification groups of young people;
- Alphabetization courses for adults to qualify project children’s and youth’s families – we had 22 learners aged between 33 and 66;
- Compulsive School 4th grade course for adults already alphabetized;
- Collaborative ICT work with elder people from Quinta de São Miguel (Amadora City).

For children we develop the following activities: ‘*Roda Viva*’ (acquiring scholar, social, personal and artistic skills); *Little Creators* (diversified thematic workshops); *School of Arts* (Developing personal and

artistic skills in 1st grade pupils; *Football Little School* (Aiming to scholar assiduity and success) *Scholar Mediation* (playground and classroom mediation for a better behaviour in a local primary school).

For youth the activities are: *School for Everyone* (Scholar guidance for better integration in a learning system; *PIEF* (Courses for 12 to 16 year-old youth aimed to finish compulsive school 6th grade; *Merit Scholarship* (award fund for best conclusion of 6th, 9th and secondary grades pupils;

Individual Attendance Office (support and empowerment for learning and job creation); *Youth Night* (Empowerment for youth interests and studies).



SkiSkate Amadora park

For adults the project has: *ICT Learning Courses* (for adults of children’s families); *Family Attendance* (home visits and forming sessions for parents); *Awareness Information Campaigns* (awareness campaigns for preventing healthcare and hygiene risks).

Concerning ICT the activities are: *Free Net* (promoting autonomy); *Youclub – Temathic subjects* (organizing groups for specific activities); *Learning* (beginners ICT courses for youth); *Virtual School* (reinforce scholar skills using “virtual school”).

On scholar holidays several ludic and leisure activities were held (ex.: museums, cultural events, travels to beach and Serra da Estrela (highest continental Portuguese mountain).



“Ajudar as Crianças a Crescerem Saudáveis e Felizes” project

The main objective is helping children and families with social needs on scholar capabilities and skills in Lumiar (Lisbon). Along the year 60 children used this project place with a daily attendance of more or less 15.

Beyond the regular activities of scholar guidance and attendance we developed:

- Workshops on dance and arts;
- Football and basketball sport activities;

- Visits to the Municipal Maria Keil Library and City Museum;
- Visits to the green Conchas Park and swimming pool.

The OMEP Portuguese Committee participates regularly in working groups of Fórum dos Direitos das Crianças e Jovens (Children's and Youth Rights Forum), Comissões Locais de Ação Social – CLAS (Social Action Local Task Force) for Amadora and Lisbon cities districts, Children's Care Task Force (Lisbon CLAS) and Alta de Lisboa Community working group.



RUSSIA

Dr. Larissa A. Paramonova
cddz@mail.ru
cddz.educom.ru

Most relevant activities conducted by the National Committee

2011 has been held in Russia under the theme “The Year in Space” because of the anniversary of the first manned space flight. All preschool educational settings organized the thematic program activities as seminars and workshops, round tables, children’s drawing and craft works exhibitions, presenting kids and family projects “The Mystery of the Third Planet”, “Space launching base”.

In the last few years the role of public non-governmental organizations has become more significant. Thus, in 2011 the Department of Education in Moscow in cooperation with public organizations started the new educational projects in pre-school education. The main purpose of such projects is the use of educational opportunities provided by the socio-cultural space in the city of Moscow in the development, upbringing and education of preschool children. There are three main directions of this work: “*Classical Music in Kindergartens*” (Vice-President OMEP Russia K.V. Tarasova), “*Children in Museum*” (OMEP Russia members the Panteleevs), “*Kindergarten and Sports*” (N. Kondratyeva).

In 2011 the following main activities were taken:

- The project “Moscow Education: from Infancy to School” continued.
- A new Moscow public organization “Association of Preschool Education Teachers” was founded in August, 2011. The association consists of 9 sections each being supervised by OMEP Russia

members. The association provides free Internet professional discussions and supports creative plans and projects of the preschool teachers.

- Preparation of the contest “Teacher – 2012”. OMEP Russia members took active part in organization of the preliminary stages of the competition.

All the materials are distributed among regional members of OMEP Russia.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- The report “*Education for Sustainable Development*” was made (OMEP project in Russia, OMEP Russia member N. Ryzhova);
- OMEP Russia members and kindergarten teachers are making a new film on the project “*Education for Sustainable Development*”.

Most urgent challenges to be faced in 2012

The current year has been proclaimed in Russia Federation to be the Year of Russian History. The Year of Russian History will be held in 2012 to promote public interest in Russian history and its role in global historical processes. In the context of this cultural event the educational institutions will organize children's drawing works exhibitions that reflect the child’s view of historical events.

Great attention is being paid to experience exchange between the pre-school teachers. For this purpose it is planned to throw a



contest for the best web-site of a preschool institution.

In 2012 a lot of time will be devoted to inclusive education and social adaptation of disabled children. Efficient activities are being continued to work out the mechanisms of involving a large number of teachers to the work on development of inclusive education.



SLOVAKIA

PaedDr. Monika Miňová
monika.minova@gmail.com
www.omep.sk

Main activities in our country and at a international level in 2011

Conferences:

Management and marketing of sustainable development in terms of pre-primary education

In June 2011, conducted scientific and practical conference under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport SR. Participants – teachers from kindergartens were involved in the ESD project. This conference was to highlight the issue of sustainable development and its place in pre-primary education through activities and projects involving the public.

The training and orientation seminar “Safe movement = Healthy child” was to acquire new knowledge to achieve the objective and mission of movement and relaxation exercise: healthy growth and psychosomatic development of preschool children as well as the overall development of psychomotor skills with regard to their developmental stage. The seminar, held in October 2011 was attended by 160 people from Slovakia and also by some from the Czech Republic.

Playing in pre-primary education

In December 2011 under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport SR was organized international scientific and practical conference with the aim to discuss positive aspects, problems, suggestions and recommendations on all aspects of education through the application of play and games in kindergarten. The conference was attended by 180 participants from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Bulgaria. There were seven main presenta-

tions and 53 other subscriptions. The conference clearly demonstrated the relevance of the chosen theme and drew attention to important topics concerning play and games in preschool age.

Conceptual and professional activities:

- Commenting policy documents and legislative proposals.
- Examination of the readiness of children, kindergarten teachers and material conditions for the implementation of the game in kindergarten.

International Activities:

- Participation in the study – sightseeing tours in the Czech Republic (Prague), Hungary (Budapest) and Serbia.
- Participation at the European OMEP Meeting and Conference in Cyprus.
- We welcomed guests from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland.

National and regional activities:

- Professional seminars for teachers and kindergarten directors.
- Shows of creativity of preschool children.
- Children in public performances.
- Open days in kindergartens.
- Participation in the second part of the *Project on Sustainable Development*.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

OMEP Slovakia decided to participate in the ongoing ESD project. All together 21 enrolled kindergartens with great number of teachers and parents (46/326), with 82



projects and 184 activities. During the school year kindergartens will implement more activities and projects on the issue.

Most important task or plan for 2012

We plan to organize:

- Study - sightseeing trip for kindergarten teachers and members of OMEP to Ceske Budejovice (Czech Republic), Budapest (Hungary).
- Conference on the 420th anniversary of the birth of J. A. Comenius.
- A conference on sustainable development (participation in the global evaluation of the project).
- Annual membership meeting with election of the new president.

We will participate and seek to:

- Create and comment policy documents and legislative proposals.
- Participation in different national projects.
- Cooperation with universities and other institutions for research in pre-primary education.
- Continuation of the World ESD project.



SPAIN

Amalia Bayón Álvarez
amaliabayon.al@gmail.com
www.omep-spain.es

Development report 2011 as the main activities in our country and at a international level in 2011

Doña María Paz Lebrero, Vice President of OMEP Spain, has led, along with Dona Maria Dolores Fernández Pérez, the second phase of the research “Quality indicators in education Child” for the academic year 2011/2012, in which Amalia Bayón Álvarez, President of OMEP-SPAIN, has served as Chief of Field.

This research was coordinated by the Department of School Organization and Special Didactics of UNED (National University of Distance Education).

- It is maintained and updated our website and blog, which allows contact with members and teaching professionals.
- Work continued on the Training School for Fathers, guiding them on the education of children from 0 to 7 years, maintaining these courses and an emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development and the importance of play and creativity in education.
- Training of teachers who begin their experience with children aged 1 to 2 years.
- Various contacts OMEP / CICAIE (Association of Private and Independent Schools) for activities related to teacher training.
- Support of several members of the Spanish Committee and Partners to European OMEP Seminar, held in Nicosia from 6 to 8 May 2011 and submission of a paper on “Creativity in the game.”

- Presentation at Nicosia's work in Spain on Sustainable Development with students in five years.
- Attendance at the European meeting and conference, held in Nicosia on the same dates.

Activities for sustainable development in preschool education in our country

- Doña María Jesus Perez Marcos and her team are working on the Sustainable Development Project, whose findings will be presented at future meetings of OMEP.
- Wash Program Participation from the start and the World Day Hand-washing.

Most important task or plan for 2012

- Continue with the research on "Indicators of Quality in Early Childhood Education" in cooperation with UNED.
- Complete work on sustainable development and present results at the World Congress in Brazil 2012.
- Maintain cooperation agreement with UNICEF.
- Disseminate the Charter for DECADE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD and respond to it.
- Maintain and update our website.
- Conduct a joint seminar OMEP / CICAIE (open to possible sponsors) on issues of child education. Proposed date, October 2012.



SWEDEN

Ingrid Engdahl
ingrid.engdahl@buv.su.se
www.omep.org.se

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

In 2011 OMEP Sweden has worked with

- Seminars on research and on recent issues in ECEC in Sweden, including e.g. a new Education Act, a revised National Curriculum for the Preschool and new Teacher Education Programmes at the universities, and implementing processes linked to these issues.
- Projects on ECE for sustainability, with preschools, and on Health and ESD.
- Presentations during the European OMEP Conference on Cyprus, in May 2011, and at the World Assembly and World Conference in Hong Kong in July.
- Communication and information development through our website www.omep.org.se and our journal OMEP-News, three numbers yearly.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

OMEP Sweden has collected and edited reports from Swedish OMEP preschools which have been actively working with ESD in their everyday life. The experiences have resulted in a booklet in Swedish on *ESD – is that something for early childhood education?* We have arranged local seminars on this. Attached to the annual meeting of OMEP Sweden, together with UNESCO Sweden, we have organised a conference with around 320 delegates who could listen to key-note speeches and choose between ten optional seminars on ESD.

OMEP Sweden has together with SWEDESD at Gotland University (Swedish International Centre for Education for Sustainable Development) organised a Travel Grant project enabling some delegates to present ESD projects at the OMEP World Conference in Hong Kong, 2011.

OMEP Sweden has also joined a project on Health and ESD. It is linked to a collaborative project between China and Sweden, which aims at raising the awareness on AntiBiotic Resistance and to reduce the prescribing and over usage of antibiotics.

Most important task or plan for 2012

OMEP Sweden will continue to work with questions linked to ESD, the AB-ESD project and also to the relevant issues for young children, among which implementing the new Education Act and National Curricula are given priority.

OMEP Sweden continues the Travel Grant project together with SWEDESD for delegates to present ESD projects at the OMEP World Conference in Brazil, 2012.

Linked to our Annual meeting in February, OMEP, UNESCO and Malmö University will arrange a seminar on Education for Sustainable Development in the South of Sweden. Teachers, health care professionals, politicians and local officers in 40 municipalities are invited as well as students and university lecturers.



Letter about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

OMEP Sweden has sent the letter about a Decade for Early Childhood Education and Care to three ministers, the Minister for children, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Early Childhood Education. We have got a letter back thanking us for our dedication, but also informing us that the Swedish government will not actively ask for such a decade.



SWITZERLAND

Yvonne Cook

cookyvonne@sunrise.ch

Activities implemented by the OMEP-Switzerland National Committee at national and international levels

During the year 2011, the activities of OMEP Switzerland have been enough reduced. In the German speaking part of Switzerland, Mrs Ulla Grob has looked for different persons who could engage themselves in the Committee and conduct activities on behalf of OMEP. Mrs Yvonne Cook, took part, as representative of OMEP-Switzerland to different congresses about the subject of early childhood and young children status. She wrote some articles which have been published in local

Journals concerning, the status of the young child in the 20th century. Mrs Grob and Mrs Cook have met to design an orientation able to secure the survival of their section of OMEP, a section which has to face real difficulties for its survival.

Mrs Grob took part to the Regional Assembly of Europe and to the world assembly of OMEP. The scientific commission met only one time to establish a balance and to formulate the different actions realized by each member of the committee, on behalf of OMEP.

Activities on Education for a sustainable Development, in Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Sustainable development is a theme which is dealt with in the majority of institutions involved in early childhood education. OMEP- Swiss has followed some of the activities on this topic but without being specifically involved.

The most pressing challenges and tasks to face in 2011

To follow closely the evolution of the different ways of taking charge of young children. Presently, in the year 2012, schooling in Switzerland has been made compulsory since one is 4 years old. This constitutes a real problem for the assessment of school knowledge of young pupils. Mrs Stauffer-Brown, Dr in Psychology, is presently working for OMEP-Switzerland and preparing an article for the magazine. She is also committed in the team of those persons who have to intervene in crisis situations (road accidents, sudden death, etc) and traumatism.

Letter sent in the framework of a Decade for Early Childhood Education and Care and possible answer.

We have only sent this letter to Mr Pierre Maudet, Mayor of Geneva, member of the Swiss Parliament and responsible of the National Commission for Youth and Childhood. He positively received this letter and assured us of his support.



TURKEY

Prof. Dr. Gelengiül Haktanir
haktanir@education.ankara.edu.tr
<http://www.tooged.org>

Main activities in your country and at an international level in 2011

Meetings

In 2011, 11 board meetings were held and 4 news bulletins were issued and delivered to all members both in printed and electronic version. Also, round table meetings and supportive discussions with other NGOs and governmental institutions were organized in order to improve the quality of early childhood education.

Conference & Seminars

Parent education conferences across Turkey were held by our members in various cities, and towns. Also, 4 preschool classes in disadvantaged areas of Turkey were furnished with books from OMEP Turkey budget.

With Ankara Ministry of Education authorities, a series of seminars to support teachers working in Ankara province were held as a part of 2010-2011 Preschool Education Festival. Through April and May 8 seminars in various topics were executed by OMEP Turkey members.

A workshop, titled “Quality in Early Childhood Education”, on the improvement of the quality of early childhood education in Ankara was held between June, 27-28 2011. Ministry of Education authorities, academicians, NGO’s, municipality authorities, publishers, and teachers were among the participants. Factors affecting the quality of early childhood education were discussed by the partners and the stakeholders of the field. The workshop book and declaration

was published and posted to all the participants.

In September 2011, UNICEF and Ankara Governance started a project titled “Children-friendly Cities” OMEP Turkey was invited to the launch of the project and OMEP TURKEY will be organizing committee member throughout the project.

The last event OMEP Turkey took part in was a workshop titled “Basic Standards, Expectations and Suggestion for Early Childhood Education”. The workshop was held in Istanbul in December 2011 and OMEP Turkey president was the moderator of the workshop.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Regarding education for sustainable development in early childhood education as a committee, we participated in OMEP’s ESD World Project Part 2. In that context, a partnership was established with four schools and “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” titles were chosen to explore. One committee member attended 27th OMEP World Congress to share the findings.

Most important task or plan for 2011

OMEP Turkey completed the IPA project (Regional Competitiveness Operational Program – RCOP)” co-financed by the European Union and by the Turkish Government under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance – IPA) in 2011. Through project two preschool classrooms were furnished and 45 children and their families were benefited from the childcare



and education services in these classrooms. Also, 30 pre-service teachers involved in the project where they had chances to implement their theoretical knowledge into practice.

Another ongoing project, Minik 'TEMA' (Kid's 'TEMA) in collaboration with the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA), continued this year and the educational package to raise awareness in environmental issues was created. The package will be used in state preschools throughout Turkey.

In 2011, Turkey launched a national curriculum development project for early childhood education under UNICEF and Ministry of National Education of Turkey (MONE) supervision.

The curriculum development project is a part of IPA project (Regional Competitiveness Operational Program – RCOP)” co-financed by the European Union and by the Turkish Government under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance –IPA). OMEP Turkey President Prof. Dr. Gelengül Haktanır, is one of the three coordinators and she is responsible for the 3-6 age group. The project will continue through 2012 and several members of OMEP Turkey will be taking responsibilities in various levels.



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (UK)

Janet Morris

janet.morris@ntlworld.com

omepuk.org.uk

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Membership: Currently wide, including practitioners, University and College lecturers, Local Authority advisers, inspectors and retired education professionals. We would like to recruit more members from other agencies, eg: Health and Social Services.

Membership was declining but is now increasing. We have given membership this year to thirty Canterbury Christchurch University students doing the New Leaders in Early Childhood course. This offer will be extended to other students.

Developments in the UK concerning young children

England: EYFS Review: consultation took place and the completed document will be implemented in 2012. Owing to Local Authority spending cuts, many facilities for young children have ceased, including closure or reduction of facilities in Children's Centres. The government is committed to keeping them open for the most 'deprived' children.

OMEP continues its scrutiny of all Bills which are of major concern to young children.

Wales: There is a 'Framework for Children's Learning for 3-7 year olds' gradually introduced, following the Education Act of 2002. It incorporates: Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity, together with six crucial areas of

learning, skills and knowledge through a play approach within a lively, prepared play environment. The whole process of learning is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is carefully monitored by world renowned academics from London and Oxford.

New Leaders in Early Childhood: We gave funding to two students attending the World Conference in Hong Kong, alongside other OMEP Representatives. They were very inspired and returned full of enthusiasm. This fulfilled one of our aims and our pledge to bring young people to the Conference and Assembly.

Advocacy: Questions were sent to the Ministers of Education and Children and Families about the removal of ring fencing from Local Authority spending, which has been damaging to child support services and Children's Centres.

Representation on the Early Childhood Forum (ECF), a non-statutory group of organisations concerned with the education and welfare of young children. Representatives of government departments attend by invitation.

Website: Throughout the year we have tried to keep up to date with information, news and photos. Wider use is being considered.

Children's Fund: Fulfills OMEP's aim: To support children and their education with financial help. £200 was granted towards the construction of a new extension for an early years section of a school in Ethiopia.



OMEPUK responded immediately after the earthquake in Eastern Japan in March 2011, and contributed £260.

£300 contribution to the Play Team Project in West Sussex for play therapy sessions.

Updates: Larger than usual edition published on miscellaneous themes, mainly research-based.

Newsletter: Two published, giving news of members from home and abroad.

OMEPUK “Moving Forward” Action Plan of identified priorities for the future was drawn up. Some things have already begun. The situation brings up new challenges all the time, and will be an ongoing piece of work. Many early years organisations, including OMEP, have declined in membership and attendance at events. As we face recession, we will renew our efforts in supporting children and parents and the practitioners who support them.

Representation on other organisations

Hospital Play Specialists Education Trust (HPSET)

Lady Allen of Hurtwood Trustees: giving grants to people visiting projects abroad which are making a difference to young children.

European and World Links: The President and several members attended the European meeting and Conference in Cyprus and the World Assembly and Conference in Hong Kong.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

World Project on Education for Sustainable Development: Participants in Stages 1 and 2 found the children responsive and keen to talk. Contributions received from Devon, Chester, Newham, Manchester, Suffolk and Wales. Participation will continue.

AGM Seminar: John Siraj- Blatchford spoke inspiring on the “Handwashing” Project.

Most important task or plan for 2012

Challenges for the coming year:

- Stimulate recruitment.
- Continue and extend supporting students.
- Extend use of Website and utilise its facilities fully.
- Continue our advocacy role, which will be even more important in the future.
- Stimulate and extend training role.
- Continue work started in “OMEPUK Moving Forward” exercise and carry out Action Plan.
- Support Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson, World Executive Committee and European Vice-President, Milada Rabusicova, in their work for Europe and Worldwide.

Letter about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care

UN Rights of the Child: The Goteborg 2010 Declaration on Children’s Right to Play: Vigilance has been important in discussions or submitting responses on Consultations, including the Tickell Report on the Early Years Foundation Stage. There is scant reference to ‘play,’ and even less on the UN Rights of the Child. We have drawn attention to this at every opportunity.

We signed up to ROCK (The Rights of the Child UK), a campaign for the recognition of the UN Convention.

All OMEP members working or training to work with young children promote these aims and advocate for young children and their rights, especially to play.



UKRAINE

Inessa Filippowa
filipinessl@gmail.com
omepuk.org.uk

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Volyn - OMEP (Ukraine) held in 2011 series of interesting activities and events:

- OMEP in the Volyn region organized a cross-cultural study on the Ukrainian-Polish important aspects of adaptation and socialization of preschool children. The topic was “Influence of playing environment for sustainable development of children and the formation of their identity”.
- Held a meeting on “The family reads to children” (February 2011) and “The Future of children without genetically modified products” (May 2011).
- Continued to work on “School of Tolerance” in order to promote a skilled psycho-pedagogical knowledge among parents of preschoolers and teachers (November 2011)
- Conducted a seminar on “Culture of Neighborhood: The reality of the Ukrainian-Polish cooperation in the field of education” (June, 2011, Lutsk – Rivne – Kiev).
- Holiday Teddy Bear organized in preschools of Lutsk.
- Activities for the protection of the environment of preschoolers.
- Ukrainian organization has worked closely throughout the year with the Polish Committee of OMEP. Members of the Volyn and Polish OMEP met with teachers and educators to share experiences on early development, upbringing and education of children.

Ukraine has been submitted by materials and practical instructions on the State program "I am in the world."

- Continued to work with the International School Project (USA) in a program of moral and spiritual education of children.
- In occasion of the International Children's Day was organized a festival “We are your children - Ukraine!”

Most important task or plan for 2012

- To continue with the “School of Tolerance” for educational purposes and promotion of qualified psychological and educational knowledge among parents of preschool children (April, October, November).
- To conduct seminar “Formation of successful Parenthood” (February).
- To organize the University for Mothers and continue with the cooperation with the International School Project (USA) in a program of moral and spiritual education.
- Ecological upbringing and education of preschool children: preparation of teaching materials and activities with preschool children, playgrounds and landscape area of preschools, creating rock gardens (2012-2014).
- In order to help with professional development of teachers and psychologists organize “International School of the dialogue of cultures” (October).
- Conduct scientific and practical conference “How to respect the child:



Janusz Korczak concept of life”
(September).

- Participation in Ukrainian–Polish competition for educators in the area of good practice “Integration should not be difficult” (October).
- To introduce dog-therapy in preschools and the Holland introduce Dalton system in pre-school education (October, November).
- To introduce Dalton system in pre-school education and establish Dalton school in Ukraine.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR LATIN AMERICA

Maria Aparecida Salmaze
omep.brasil@omep.org.br
www.omep.org.br



I wish to share with you some of the moments I have lived with OMEP.

Latin America became an active member even when Education was still unspoken of. We have united forces with experts from the field of Education and many other professions, we have studied present day realities in order to actively change policies and fight for the rights of our children. Our actions have been unceasing and continuous, we have been active in the creation and appropriation of public policies and pedagogical practices, we have raised awareness in our communities and reached out directly to those in need.

In the 2010 OMEP World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. Additionally to the great experiences I acquired in this event, I had the honour of being elected Vice-President of the Latin American Chapter of OMEP. It is the first time that this post is awarded to a Brazilian citizen and this is motive for great honour and happiness. This election was proposed by Chile and Uruguay, with the objective of strengthening relationships between the chapters by using technology, such as websites, email, Skype, and others, therefore contributing to the mutual cooperation between chapters.

Since then I have interacted with OMEP chapters from all over the world, especially with my dear and esteemed colleagues in Latin America. Today we have the optimum conditions for promoting an interchange of

communication and research in order to aid the development of the Omeopian bonds. This work will definitely benefit all of the educators who interact with OMEP.

OMEP has grown exponentially in its actions and representation. At this moment in time, the institution is a point of reference within further education courses, in producing congresses, seminars and meetings, in the development of projects and social actions and has realised important partnerships with society and the public power, having as its primary objective human and social development, especially within Early Childhood Education.

The Headquarters for the OMEP World Symposium was confirmed in the last day, 10th August 2010. Brazil was chosen as the stage for a meeting that will reunite representatives from all around the world in Campo Grande, State of Mato Grosso do Sul in 2012. The official announcement was made during the World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. This meeting will promote an exchange between active professionals all over the world. This is an extremely relevant event of ultimate importance.

The choice for OMEP/BRAZIL as the host for the next World Congress shows the importance of Latin America and highlights the actions of the Organization that relies upon an excellent organisational and professional infrastructure.

During the Fourth International Meeting for Early Childhood Education within the Latin-American OMEP Congress, organised by



Argentina and Uruguay with the theme “Other spaces, Other times for education in early childhood”, carried out in May of 2011, in conjunction with the First Latin American OMEP Assembly, with the following countries participating: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, and Colombia. The following topics were addressed in the meeting:

- Annual world bread for 2011;
- The responsibilities of the presidents (reports, establishing links with institutions and organising events);
- Electing the theme, date and logo for the organization of the 2012 World Congress.

The theme of the symposium was discussed and developed through various ideas, phrases, words, until we reach the central theme. “Early Childhood in the XXI Century: Children’s right to live, play, explore and experience the world”, which aims to: Provide the exchange of OMEP / Brazil between countries, to relevant discussions in favor of children having rights and reflect on the challenges of education of children and their demands relating to training and performance of professionals in different areas where is the child's education.

General Objective I:

- To inform the international OMEP in your country or region;
- Food exchange between the regional networks;
- Recruit new members;
- To collect funds for the operation of the World Executive;
- Educate the community;
- Outline some matters of national / or regional and / or internationally and generate publicity around them.

Specifics:

- Address issues concerning the construction and implementation of policies for children;
- Discuss and debate about the responsibility of institutions for early childhood education, especially since the curriculum until the family;
- Reconstruction of a high quality environment;
- Broaden the debate and partnership with bodies educating teachers for early childhood education in a context of high quality;
- Emphasize the debate on cultural diversity provided by an international event.

The event program was built using a methodology that will provide great benefit to the participants of the 28th Symposium of the World OMEP, considering the wealth of all the topics listed:

- Valuing the time of being a child, the right to play and multiple languages;
- Training of teachers of children; Trajectory and challenges;
- Children, culture, diversity and human rights;
- Childhood Education: a pedagogical practice and its relationship with the theory;
- Professor and Public Policy for Children;
- The child's education for a sustainable world.

Guest speakers are renowned scholars and researchers who, through competent teaching, socializarão knowledge enabled the participants to the fundamentals necessary for excellence in benefit of the rights of child’s play.

The World Organization for Preschool Education (OMEPE), the Federal University of MatoGrosso do Sul (UFMS) and the



Training Institute of OMEP (IFOMEP), notably institutions committed to the production of knowledge about early childhood education and teacher training to work in education and child in elementary school, unite for the accomplishment of this Symposium.

The activities will take place in Glauce Rock Theatre and other facilities of UFMS in OMEP official languages, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, whose space shows visitors a beautiful landscape composed of biodiversity, where nature has “everything to do” with Theme of the World Project on Education for Sustainable Development in Practice “Education, Development and Sustainability” and “7 R’s: Respect, Reflect, Rethink, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle and Redistribute” beyond a structure facilitating research and study .

On September 29, 2011, we held our first meeting via Skype, participated in this meeting the OMEPS Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Mexico and Peru.

The topics discussed were:

- Report of them reports them in three languages in Campo Grande, in 2012;
- 28 • El La OMEP World Symposium 2012 in El Brazil;
- 17 y 18 de Julio 64 ° Asamblea World;
- 18-21 Julio World Symposium in La Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul;
- El theme del 28 ° La OMEP World Symposium - Primera childhood in El siglo XXI:Derecho de los niños to live, jugar, explore El y conocer world.

It is necessary first of all, that early childhood is respected as one that still needs to be as much as the proper food, activities that enable the development of their curiosity and imagination coupled with their privileged way of knowing the world through the play, making use of multiple languages: gestures, body, plastic, oral, written, musical, because the child and the child reside in the now.



ARGENTINA

Nora Rut KUITCA
rutykuitca@yahoo.com.ar
www.omep.org.ar

Main Activities of OMEP, national and international levels

Activities Training and meetings between educators

- 4° International meeting of Childhood Educational: with the presence of Europe and Latin America specialists and an audience of 1200 participants 40% scholarships (Francisco Tonucci, Maria Victoria Peralta, Alicia Milán, Beatriz Zapata Ospina, Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, Elvira Pastorino, Miguel Roldán, Elena Santa Cruz, Lea Waldman, Claudia Soto, Rosa Violante, Hilda Weissman, Ruy Kuitca, Karin Richter Cecilia Maneiro,
- Cycle: “Talking with the authors of childhood Education” – Presenting the book of “ Initial Education: Practices and Studies” –volum2 with the presence of National Specialists
- Cycle: “Debates of childhood Education” - Two Perspectives on the meanings and strategies of Educators facine problem in childhood development (Gabriela Dueñas, Forum ADD – Argentina and Ruth Fuentes Arends, OMEP/Norway).
- Attendance journeys – “And if we play? Let’s Go!” cycle of three workshops (Prof. Patricia Goicochea) “Working with families in kindergarten (Gabriela Fairstein)

Actions of investigation and production

- Cátedra “Lic. Lidia P.de Bosch” – Development of actions in the OMEP Project ESD – Education to Sustainability development.

- Scholarship “Hebe San Martin de Duprat” – Incentive for researchers in childhood education.
- Expansion and catalogine of the Library.
- Preparation of Public Policy Manifesto for Children.

Publications

- Publication of the book “Initial Education: Studies and Practices, volum II”. In agreement with (12 ntes Organization).
- DVD Edition: Conferences and round table of the 4° International meeing of childhood Education of OMEP/Argentina(2011) with the POPcorn TV collaboration.

Cooperation’s with the state Agencies

- National Ministry of Education/Unicef: Participation at the first meeting of awareness and Knqn/edge of the instrument of monitoring the development Based on Population in Argentina.
- Presidency of the Nation/UNICEF – Participation in the regional meeting of comprehensive Policies: “Growing up together in early childhood.
- Government of the city of Buenos Aires, Secretary of Education: Training of supervisors to early childhood institutions. – Participation in II sessions of Innovative Experiences.
- National Museum of Five Arts: Agreement for the organization and development for “Program for the Formation of Educators.



Actions for the institutional strengthening

- Reorganization of the Administrative Management: Documentation of new process for handling administrative actualized of software and hardware. Reorganization of the association process and management of member's information.
- Evolution: Creation of OMEP at Santiago del Estero and actions by the provinces of Rio Negro, Chaco, Corrientes, Misiones y La Pampa.
- Diffusion: Presence at the social networks (Face book and Twitter with 4600 followers and friends); Renovation and expansion of web page (8800 visits and 225.000 monthly exits); Renovation of the electronic newsletter weekly free(13.700 – subscribers).
- Creation of OMEP blog.
- Development of the new institutional leaflet.
- New media management.

Actions with others Committee

- OMEP Latin American Congress (with OMEP/Uruguay): Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Argentina.
- Actions of collaboration with OMEP/Norway.
- Diffusion of OMEP Word Events and other National Committers.
- Facilitation of contact between members of OMEP.

Cooperation with National Universities

- Santiago del Estero University: Teaching courses in specialization in High Maternal Education.
- Lujan University: Convention for cooperation in the process.
- San Martin University participation in forum on public police, observatory of gender and poverty in Argentina.

- University networks of children Education Participative in annual conference.

Cooperation with Foundations

- Telephone Foundation: Completion of virtual capacitation projects Dilemas, Educianza and Pesacndo Ideas, developed through Portal Educated.
- Consulting for Educational Projects for early childhood with the following:
 - Foundation Bunge y Born
 - Foundation leer
 - Foundation Navarro Viola

Strengthening of partnerships with Ong's and state and state private organizations

- Forum ADD
- Instituted of Teachers Formation
- Di Tella University
- Foundation Luminis
- ASAPMI
- IPA (International Association of Play)
- Editorial 12 ntes
- Argentina Association of Childhood
- AMI (Montessori International Association)
- FAMM (Foundation Argentina Maria Montessori)

Actions for external organizations

- Network and School Support Center Hive – Gonzalez Catan, Province of Buenos Aires . Day training seminar for managers.
- Friends Club Advice

Activities in Education for Sustainable Development in ECE (Preschool)

As part of the Chair “Mr. Lydia P. Bosch”, was completed OMEP Project World Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with a team in which members of the



board, teachers and volunteers 40 children were interviewed individually, in various places (home, the square, the beach, the home of the interviewer)

Most important task or plan for 2012

- 5th International Meeting on Early Childhood Education OMEP “Identity teaching of early childhood education (0-6): Pillars and projections”: (11 to 13 May 2012).
- Conducted the seminar “Nursery, political and social problems” in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Buenos Aires – UBA (May).
- Management Research Program early Childhood Education OMEP.
- Management of the Public Policy Committee.

- Publication of the third volume of “Studies and Practices”.
- Management training for governmental and/or educational.
- Teacher Training Program with the National Museum of Fine Art.
- Management of Website, Newsletter, Blog and Social Networking.

Letter sent on a Decade of Education and Early Childhood Care and response (if any)

The letter was not sent because it was in preparation the “Manifesto on Public Policies for Children Argentina” to be sent to national government.



BOLIVIA

Ana María Ampuero
mampuero@entelnet.bo

Main activities of the OMEP / Bolivia in the period 2010-2011

The proposed management plan in 2011, met with the following activities:

- Visit the World Food Program NNUU to reissue the book: “Children and Toys” disposables, creativity and skill. Which was edited and published by PMA. We proposed as OMEP / Bolivia considers the revision and expansion of the text. Should be based on the theme with the new 2012 management representative for the publication of both organizations.
 - Visit the premises of the NGO Cultural Creative, to coordinate some training as a whole, revealing the playful creative methodology in early childhood education, as well as the installation of toy libraries in public spaces. Channel able to train staff in methodology playful creative.
 - Before the emergency due to landslides and land with farms in the city of La Paz, partake of the Committee to support the Government’s Children’s Center form the design of follow-up of children and delivery of educational material on behalf of OMEP / Bolivia.
 - Without a doubt the most important activity we conduct training workshops were staff workers from kindergarten. The topic was: “Relationship quality with children, educators and family,” taught by Ms. Calvo Iby. The event was attended a total of 24 people. The follow-up training and application to the centers were also considered. There was the delivery of certificates of attendance and demand has grown to continue with this activity.
 - Once the activities were monitored in the workshop, with exercises designed by Ms. Calvo and implemented by Paz Camina
- An activity in kindergarten “El Vegel” with the participation of six educators. The second was the Children's Centre Outreach San Miguel, with seven teachers.
- Coordination with government institutions was weaker due to lack of documents, we were not to formalize our activities, such as approving the tramite and other legal entity.
 - Assistance in the world forum of care and early childhood education in Hawaii, which had contact with representatives of different OMEPS Latin America and the place to dispose of possible activities on the network.
 - According to the information by Lisbetth Soderberg, Bolivia is not formalized by a note, its incorporation during the OMEP World Assembly in Hong Kong. However, during the event, was presented and included in the annual report 2010 as the Preparatory Committee.
 - It is part of this report, the letter of request for admission of OMEP.
 - On several occasions consulted the value and bank account to deposit the corresponding entry.
 - The preparatory committee is also seeking strategic partnerships with organizations that have developed the theme of the game and recognized the playful essence of the child to plan activities together. We made contact with Santa Cruz de la Sierra, where they could organize a branch.



Most important task or plan for 2012

- Complete the legal entity;
- Report and submission of documentation of OMEP;
- Establish level meetings of the Ministry of Education;
- Visit to WFP to reissue the book “Children and toys” with the participation of OMEP Committee / Bolivia;
- Strengthen our relationship with the ECC for further successes in the training in topics related to play;
- Relate to the municipalities to start coordination, training and support to different sectors;
- To promote toy libraries in coordination with the NGO creative cultural space, which works with a network of socio cultural implementation of the methodology, creative play;
- Continuation of community training workshops on urban and rural area to radiate the culture in different areas: games, education, sustainable development, promoting a culture of protection and healthy relationship in institutes, universities, educational institutions, prisons;
- Expand our calls to new members, both individual and institutional, to strengthen the national organization;
- Coordinate with people who have interest in creating regional or municipal committees in other areas of the country.



BRAZIL

Maria Aparecida Salmaze
omep.brasil@omep.org.br
www.omep.org.br

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education – OMEP/Brazil reported actions of 2011 that focused on institutional strengthening and effective implementation of the statutory charitable purposes, aimed at promoting a social and political culture that enables and contributes to the integral development of the child in respect of their rights.

The OMEP/Brazil has developed research, fostered the continuing education of professionals working with children, held meetings, congresses, symposium, advised the government and civil society through participation in networks, forums, advices and movements for the promotion and right of defence, worked with the media and in partnership with professionals from governmental and non governmental organizations, contributing effectively through generation and promotion of social, educational and direct service technology to a positive context benefiting Brazilian children in the family, in social life and institutions who attend them.



Among the events, the OMEP/Brazil detach the 22th State Meeting Of Early Childhood Education and Early Years OF Elementary Education, with the theme: “Childhood: 7r’s and the quality of education” and “8º

International Development Seminar 0-3: a reflective approach”, conducted in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, the Fourth Meeting of State Early Childhood Education, with the theme The National Education Policy

“Children, held in the state of Maranhão. XVIII Brazilian Congress of Early childhood Education, with the theme “Childhood Education: practices that excite this routine”, held in São Paulo.



At the inauguration event f the institute the book, “Development and sustainability: revealing looks and valuing the voices of childhood education” By OMEP/Brazil the book promotes education focused on sustainability, beyond the theories. Alerting the importance o f preservation of nature and environment, leading them to understanding that as we live in the world, we must define and defend what we want for ourselves and for the future generations the direct care of children was done by the institute of childhood education maintained by OMEP/BR/MS in the municipality of Campo Grande, with serves 180 children from 0 to 4 years old.

OMEP Took from February 2009 to march 2011 the executive secretariat of the national early childhood, which brings together over



100 government organizations, private and non governmental organizations and the full rights of a Brazilian child. On 07/12/2010 was released in Brasília “The national plan in the voice of the children: let me speak!” Officialized by the federal government in 2011 such as public policy guide for the Brazilian children. To celebrate OMEP work in Brazil, the national president of the institution, professor Maria Aparecida Salmaze established “the national Day of OMEP, the right to be a child” every last Saturday in September each year. The commemoration takes place through mobilizations to assert the right children’s right to give play, learn and explore the world in 2011 OMEP’s actions performed in is states in which the institution is present.

The OMEP/Brazil articulated internationally, through action and representation in various activities of the institution by its national president.

These events will highlight the participation of the OMEP (world weekly play) an event held in over 30 countries in order to enhance the play in children’s lives and the participation in phase II of the project world OMEP project “the education for sustainable development” in order to provide experiences of success in education.

In the year 2012, Will be developed the following actions:

- 23º Meeting of state OMEP/MS with the theme: the time and place for especial education: “unveiling looks, voices and the way” and the 9º international seminar OMEP/BR/MS.
- 28º OMEP World Symposium with the theme: “Children’s right to live, play, learn and explore”.



CHILE

Verónica Aedo

vromol1@yahoo.es, veronica_aedo@hotmail.com

www.omepchile.cl

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

National

- Development of bi monthly meetings of the board
- Seminars:
 - “Aprendizajes en Sala Cuna: Potenciación de Estrategias Lúdica (28 May 2011) “Learning in babies care center: encouraging ludic strategies”
 - “Abuso Sexual ,como Prevenirlo” (08 October) “Sexual abuse: how to prevent it”
 - “ Prevención de la Obesidad Infantil “(12 November.) “Prevention of infant obesity”
 - “Ciencias” Rancagua (22 Nov.) “Sciences”
 - CAPES
 - “Abuso Sexual ,como Prevenirlo (09 Sept. 2011) “Sexual abuse: how to prevent it”
 - “Abuso Sexual ,como Prevenirlo (30 Sept. 2011) “Sexual abuse: how to prevent it”
- FODEP (Teachers of early childhood education programs Forum): The research “Relevant learning for children under 4 years old, according to the opinion of several actors in 2 Latin American countries”, it is finished and now is in the correction of the final Inform.
- CAPES (Student chapter of OMEP Chile). During 2011 some of the students of Central University have participated in the research about EDS. Many students

from different universities have participated in workshop and talks.

- During this year we have made contacts with the Regional committees for OMEP Chile (Other provinces such as Concepción, Arica, Curicó)

International

Latin american seminar and meeting on May, 2011, Argentina. Represent Chile, Solange Antoine.

Sustainable Development Education activities for ECE

- Three bulletins are published in the Web Site about the theme.
- We are working in a research project about the theme, together with OMEP Colombia.

Some ideas for National Plan, 2012

On December 20, 2011, OMEP Chile had its election period and the new members of the board for dec. 2011 to dec. 2014 are:

Dina Alarcón, Victoria Peralta, Ofelia Reveco, Berta Espinoza, Selma Simonstein, Marcela Fontecilla, Loredana Ayala, Eliana Corsi, y Mónica Manhey

This new board will propose a National Plan for 2012.

Letter about the Decade of Education and care of the little infancy

The letter was socialized in different places related to early childhood education. At the same time it was multi copied and it was into the Carpets of the different seminars and workshops.



COLOMBIA

Blanca Vilma Parra Duran
acdepcolombiaomep@hotmail.com

Activities in 2011

Activities undertaken in the workshops:

Seminar-workshop “as a strategy game in development of the child” speakers chaired by Elsa Rodríguez and Graciela Gonzales, on March 26, 2011 at the University Iberoamericana the administrative headquarters of the College convened and coordinated by Dr. Jhon Alexander Velazquez. Dean of the Faculty of Education with an audience of 60, invited by ACDEP mostly principals and teachers for kindergarten and elementary school-teachers with more than 120 students.

Workshop Management and Food Handling, saying at the Association headquarters on March 5, the food engineer LuzmIriam Cuervo and Dr. Alfredo Sosa Galeano, coordinated by Dr. Natasha Cortes with an attendance of 21 people.

Meeting of Deans, on April 14, 2011, at the headquarters of the Association met the Board of Directors, with the deans of the Universidad Iberoamericana Dr. Alexander Vazquez, Monserrate University Dr Silvia Quintero, a spokeswoman for the children of the Subdirectory Dr. Gloria R. Carrasco, and with representatives of the Secretariat of Social Integration Dr. Martha Amaya convened by the Vice-President, Dr. Graciela Rodriguez.

The Doctors María Eugenia Doris Cancino and represented the Association at various meetings convened by the Ministry of Education, Department of Education, Association of Private Education, Conaced, where debatemas proposals on the development plan, sector plan, Plan Professor of equipment, reinforcement

facilities alignments curriculum for early childhood education (called Early Childhood Education from birth to age 7) and agrees with the teamwork.

At a meeting of CONACED (National Confederation of Catholic Education), held jointly with the presidents of the various Associations Private Education, which is part of the ACDEP, advising the Secretary of Education, Dr. Jose Herrera and Representative of the Secretary of Planning District where treated subject on sedo professor Equipment Plan. It has been established at this meeting a permanent work table with the entities and the presidents to advance the success of agreements to implement this decree.

The ACDEP joined together with the District Secretariat of Social Integration in the development of their goals for the attention of the child in its infancy.

On May 28 was held where the General Assembly elected a new board of directors whose composition is as follows:

Chair: Maria Eugenia Cancino Lorza

Vice President: Doris Myriam Leon Silva

Secretariat: Natacha Claudia Cortes

Substitute Secretary: Leon Cyrus Brown

Treasurer: Luz Stella Espinosa

Alternate Treasurer: Livia Gutiérrez Ávila

1 vowel: Myriam Pardo

2 Member: King Enrique Garcés

3rd vowel: Graciela Rodriguez Poveda

Workshops:

- Training on Quality of Pre-school, taught by the Oxford International Consulting



Organization for Latin America,
[HTTP://www.oxfordcenuk.com/](http://www.oxfordcenuk.com/), on
Thursday August 4th, 2011 at 17:00

- Formation of the Early Childhood Environmental Thought, taught by the Secretary of Education, [HTTP://www.sedbogota.edu.co](http://www.sedbogota.edu.co) on Tuesday August 9, 2011, at 17:00.
- Socialization of Alignments teaching, given by the Minister of Social Integration, on Wednesday August 10, 2011, at 17:00.
- Socialization of teaching projects, presented by ACDEP, psychopedagogical Studies Center and the University Iberoamericana, on Saturday September 10, 2011, at 8:0.
- Learn first aid, administered by the Educational Virtual Network on 10-11 October 201, At 08:00 until 18:00.
- How to address sexuality in the age of pre-school, taught by Dr. Alfredo Naranjo-psychologist at the University of Antioquia Naranjo-training, on Wednesday October 26, 2011 at 17:00.
- Improvement of Institutional Planning, taught by Dr. Manuel Torres of Colombia geniuses, on Tuesday November 17.

We are conducting a voluntary covenant to support the management of the Association with the company TALENT-FLEX-HC, an organization that deals with all aspects of administrative, human resources and accounting institutions, this entity will help us to capture themes agreed, which will be developed by teams of professionals TALENT-FLEX-HC, in addition to affiliate to the institution as an entity interested in supporting the process of attention to early childhood. Also all the logistical management of the association in different activities, which programaremos. Likewise, a percentage cost to the Association in accordance with the activities that achieve hiring through us. In turn, the ACDEP, undertakes to convene kindergartens and pre-school that contains a larger number of employees 5.

He graduated from the table permanent work with the Secretary of Social Integration of Health, aiming to strengthen the academic structure that meets the professional early childhood. This with the objective of the ACEDP participate in every aspect that affects the attention of the child, leading these aspects from the different spheres.

It is important to note that the objectives achieved in 2011 included the active participation of members of the current executive committee in strengthening actions that are currently in the Association aims to overcome, is a union of members of the Board to achieve the plans that we have.



ECUADOR

Elba Domaccin A
elbadom@hotmail.com

Main activities in our country and at international level of the 2011

In the country:

- to Promote the OMEP through the written press and television for the Winning Project: “Guardians of the Atmosphere with environmental conscience”, presented by Ecuador in the competition favored by OMEP in the 26° World Congress of the OMEP.
- to Carry out in the city of Blanket, County of Manabí, activities of sustainable development, with wide diffusion in the press.
- Investigation referred to the hospital Ludotecas.
- Participation in the Project of the OMEP: interviewing the children about the logo of the OMEP 2010, where they have participated 220 investigators, university students of preschool education of diverse cantons of the county of Manabí, The Gold, Guayas, Morona Santiago. Enviar the results to WORLD OMEP. Delivery of Diplomas to the investigators and presentation of the results before the community in a special Ceremony.

At international level:

- to Participate in the Conference of authors of the book: “Revealing Olhares, valorizing vozes na Educacao gives Childhood”. Campo Grande.OMEP Brasil. March of the 2011
- Presentation of Report: “Ludoteca in Center of Health. Instrument of the infantile patients’ of the Center of health motivation”. In IV International

Encounter of Educación Infantil. OMEP Argentina, of the 6 at May 2011 8.

- The Guardian Project of the atmosphere with environmental conscience received diploma of the Prize School Peace and Cooperation 2010: he/she Takes care of your planet, all against the climatic change. February of the 2011. Spain. And in the Mundialito of Guardian Clubs of the Atmosphere, it wins Mention of Honor. Foundation Peace and Cooperation. June 2011, Spain.

Activities for Children’s rights

- Respect to the gender justness
- Respect to the cultural diversity
- to complete the previous points was given chats to parents and educational so that in the school life and in the daily life he/she is reflected the gender justness and the respect to the cultural diversity.

Sustainable Development Education activities for ECE

Application of the Program: “Guardians of the Atmosphere with environmental conscience”, in 10 educational institutions: district attorneys, matters and centers of care newspaper, with children and girls of up to 8 years.

The objective that thinks about is: To create environmental conscience in directive, professors(as), family parents and children and girls of educational Centers and community of the city of Blanket, and near cities of the County of Manabí.

The topics tried with educational, family parents and children and girls were: Let us save the water, the family Orchard, let us



Save the energy, let us Save the Forest, let us Save the air, To plant trees and Recycle, it implements another Phase directed to the community, with the following activities: Advertising campaign promoting actions to save the planet, to plant trees Campaign, Video - Forum with the citizenship in that actions are promoted to save the planet, actors' caravan to dramatize mistaken actions that are being carried out and as remedying them to save the planet, to put posters in the roads with sentences that motive the care of the planet.

Was coordinated with the Municipality of the city of Blanket, and they donated trees and payment and they participated actively in the activity.

The School of Educación Parvularia of the Lay University Eloy Alfaro of Manabí and the Ability of Social Work, through the Department of Linking with the Collective, they facilitated that the students collaborate in the execution of this Project in the diverse educational institutions.

The educational institutions accepted with pleasure the execution of this Project and they gave the facilities to develop the activities.

In each institution educational participant was carried out actively and with a great motivation: Exhibitions, Competition of drawings, Parade of Fashions with suits elaborated with recycle material. They were projected allusive Videos to the topic. Books of Ecology were used to explain from a better way to the children and girls the diverse topics treaties.

For the plants trees collaborated educational, family parents and children and girls.

Most important task or plan for 2012

- to Reactivate the OMEP in the country.
- to Strengthen the organization with the adhesion of new members linked especially to the Initial Education.
- to Be linked with the OMEP of other countries to carry out a cash exchange.



MEXICO

Maria Aide Davila Olvera

omepmexico@hotmail.com, omepnacional@yahoo.com.mx

www.omep.org.mx

The actions that appear in this report are the product of social responsibility that the members of OMEP in Mexico have with children in the country, where social aggression is significantly impacting the rights of children, we are certain that the agency now has. These days, more responsibility around the world, as the training of children to promote their thought processes and achieve self-confidence, be done within a framework of harmony and support, they must find not only their homes but also and solidarity required in schools. We are therefore joining forces to gain the support they deserve and in fact gave rise to the formation of the OMEP, at the end of World War II.

Based on the foregoing, the Mexican National Committee held two technical events to which they invited educators, and parents especially. The first was a conference workshop in March, with the theme "Stress management" with the speaker Ma Luz Ibarra, attended by 150 people, mostly from Mexico City, the capital and its suburbs.

In the month of July was held again the Annual Congress of OMEP, Mexico, with the theme "The manifestations of aggression in the preschool area," held on 14 and July 15, 2011, in Mexico City, with attended by 350 people from around the country, which analyzes what these events, their origin, the responsibility of parents and educators, giving guidelines for actions to be taken with children in schools. This conference was very successful because of the quality of the speakers, which led to important achievements in the audience.

A meeting was held via Skype with Latin American national committees chaired by the Vice President Ma Aparecida Zalmase, where agreements were made and there were proposals for the next executive meeting to be held in Asia in November

One of the states most affected by the rains and flooding, has been the state of Tabasco, which is still in a state of emergency.

In February, the Committee Delegacional of Tabasco, was one of the areas experiencing could come to support preschool children who were in kindergarten "Brave New World", bringing toys, and toys that they had lost in the flood, the people on the committee played with the children while Ms. Edilma Maldonado Jarquin Tabasco Committee member, gave a talk to parents and educators to stress the fact to help children playing, it was important to lower the stress level of all, in fact the talk was called "The importance of play and communication between parents and children."

Also underwent the same process of bringing toys, play with children and give a talk to parents, in the month of March in kindergarten "Josefina Ramos del Rio". The talk was given by the companion of OMEP, Mr. Anabelli Perez Morales, with the theme "Learning to be parents." Finally with some donations collected, painting was purchased for this school because the building was badly damaged in the flood.

In the same State held a conference workshop to raise funds for these contingencies, with the theme "Inter-personal relations", attended by 70 people,



given the emergency, was a significant turnout.

In the State of Querétaro also conducted free workshops with children from deprived areas, supported by the Editorial Hand in the month of September and in December, will hold a workshop to support parents, called “Workshop of good deal” with Mr. Francisco Cervantes.

In Sinaloa began the work of OMEP with an ecological project in which they urged the people of the colony Valle Bonito with cleaning of the streets, showing them how to separate waste, an activity conducted on 5 June, International Day of environment.

As the work of OMEP sponsored playgrounds of Mexico, features the work of more than 15 years of the toy library located in the village of Las Huertas, municipality of Naucalpan, State of Mexico.

It also is in place of the State of Queretaro, with support from the Rotary Club of Corregidor, has been equipping and with the help of the community is finished painting the building that houses this toy library.

Also donated clothes to the girls of the community living in very precarious conditions.

In Sinaloa, the process continues to give opening the toy library in the town of ecological Huamuchil, in coordination with the University of the State of Jalisco, expecting the project to fruition.

Meetings were held to reorganize the work of OMEP in Guanajuato, Oaxaca, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Chiapas and Toluca, who supported with publicity events in Mexico City, attending several people of those States, along with representatives of these committees.

All these actions give pattern to stress our solidarity with the effort that our members have in the country, attesting to the responsibility each has for the children of Mexico.



NICARAGUA

Loli Estrada Urroz
lolidenicaragua@gmail.com

Main activities of OMEP in Nicaragua and on an international level in 2011

Capacity

We conducted three trainings aimed at teachers and coordinators approximately 90 level of pre-school and primary school for four schools (one private and three public). These activities were carried out diligently by professional OMEP, which enabled voluntarily. The themes were:

- The good treatment, the effect and art as a means of learning (cine forum);
- Methodology and strategies for learning in early childhood education (experiential workshop-methodology);
- Expression body, play and story telling (workshop practice)

The evaluation of the participants were given the following results:

Respect the thematic pertinence:

- It is a current theme that helps to reflect on the rigidity of complying with programs and lose sight of the search for solutions.
- Creativity helps to renew u8ma strategies for quality education and that as teachers we value the potential of children in education based on love, respect, freedom and desire for learning.

On the methodology:

- Exemplification of concepts in order to facilitate opening of the appropriation resolution of doubts;
- Excellent use of audiovisual;

- Positive feedback (rather than focuses on the methodological problems of teachers);

Learning to teach:

- The motivation to let students experience their creativity both within and outside the classroom;
- Learn more students and take care of the socio-emotional side of each, so they can express themselves;
- Be more open to students, more creative and give more freedom;
- Provide opportunities to be more independent and responsible, as a teacher guide;
- Be more flexible in regard to certain activities;
- Reflect on learning methods, let them explore, be curious, free planning activities;
- Take more initiative and accept the changes, which develop their skills and obtain a meaningful learning;
- Respecting the creativity, spontaneity and participation of my students. Help them achieve their goals by observing their needs. A much more involved in gaming activities in their daily lives.

Incidence

- It focused on the governmental and international cooperation for the design of a strategy for the agents Training Early childhood sector of education, health and social protection. It was proposed ideas about the basic features of this strategy and on national and international teachers that finally conform the academic group (Chile and Nicaragua), with which it has



already initiated the first phase of training, which consists of an intensive course for professionals dedicated to teaching and technical ministries involved.

- Supported with formalities with an agency in cooperation together with the state efforts, have enabled an international team of teaching quality that can drive updated paradigms of early childhood education.
- During the course of cooperation in the planning of activities that allow for continuity and follow-up component of the quality of early childhood programs in the country.

The Rights of the Child

The activities associated with this point are inserted above - Training.

Most important task for the year 2012

Continue with the training activities on a voluntary basis with the four schools mentioned in the report, emphasizing methodological issues related to the play and art.



PANAMA

Judith Flores Bernal
Jbernal15@hotmail.com

The main activities on National and international levels

OMEP/PANAMA, carried out a number of activities with children on pre-school levels, first and second grade in different schools at the Capira's district. The activities were focused on the topic agreed at the Sweden congress, Sustainable Development

The emphasis on the theme "The importance of play". In this aspect it was developed the activities of recycling plastics of all kinds and forms, children collected them, and with the help of their teachers they made beautiful toys, which they used to play.

Emphasis on play with puppets also made by students with reused materials, the attraction was the interactions of children and their experiences with the different role of the characters, this was extremely fun for all.

The promotion of competitions of costumes made with recycled materials is motivating and fun for all, various schools are making events of this nature.

Another important moment was the environment protection and that is a part of the Sustainable Development project. There are paintings made by the children that later will be used in exhibitions and also used to decorate their classrooms.

Students, teachers, parents and families of various schools participated in all activities.



PERU

Maria Graciela Dupont

gracieladupont@yahoo.com, omepperu@yahoo.com

Importants activities in 2011

Pedagogical journey with participation of members and professor visiting, in order to analyze the approaches of current jobs with relation at the children's education and the methodological strategies planned to work.

Teacher's training at national level, by ours members, under the program of development of education quality in our country.

Participation at the National Forum of Education for all. This organization constitute with the mission Multisectorial Education Departament, integrated by governmental institutions and society organizations, in order to integrate public and private efforts to achieve the commitments made by Peru at the World Forum about Education in Dakar-Senegal, organized by UNESCO.

Meeting with the director of early childhood education ministry of education. The reason of that meeting was receive information about lineaments of political and main actions that Direction is taking and what way that OMP can support this actions.

Activities that promote the sustainable development of children

Pedagogical journey "Analysis of the national curriculum framework of the regular basic education".

This journey have being organized observing that main normative document for teacher's use. Was invinting for this event Experts os Ministry of Education, in order to receive information directly to the responsible for the formulation of that document.

At the first date of the event treated the theoretical and doctrinal framework that supports the national curriculum, at the second day, was analyzed the first cycle that corresponds children under 3 years and at the third day was revised corresponding to the second cycle (children with 3 until 5 years old).

Teacher's training

Members of our Institute are participating in the National Program of education and training performing advisory actions both the modality and the distance at the level of initial and primary education. This program development at the framework of improvement at educational quality program suggested by Ministry

Realized actions in favor of children education

Teaching actions in favor of the children education

Members of our Institute are developing actions: teaching training and monitoring school, non-formal programs aimed at children and work orientation and parental involvement in educational activities, at south zone in our country.

Gains in respect of the United Nations Convention for Children's rights

OMEP's members participated at children's attention through non-formal education programs.

Is contributing to the improvement of educational quality through the development of actions of teacher training.



Some challenges (projects)that we proposed for 2012

- Organizer events to teaching training coordinate with Regional and local Government
- create space for debate and reflection on behalf of children's rights
- Spread the global arrangements of our institution through the organization of events and reflection

- View the OMEP of Peru as a worldwide organization committed to working with children from pre-school education through discussions of reflection permanent at national level

Letter sent about one decade for education and early childhood care

The letter was sent to the Ministry of Education, Health, Education Committee belonging to the Congress of the Republic and Office of the First Lady of the nation.



URUGUAY

Alicia Milán López
ali1000an@yahoo.com
www.omep.org.uy

Major activities of 2011

Year activities were opened in March with a Conference - Workshop Alvaro Pallamares Chilean psychologist.

Monthly in the city of Montevideo were developed activities for teachers and educators. They were aimed at updating the professionals working with young children. The topics were varied: Neuroscience. Emotions and care in the classroom, Starting in Kindergarten: experiences of educators, Reflections on environmental education practices, Stimulation of reading in the initial level, etc.

These activities were conducted by leading professionals from various government and private academic.

At the headquarters of the interior were undertaken in coordination with other local institutions.

In partnership with UNESCO, there were two courses for teachers in the departments of San Jose and Colonia. They counted a high number of participants and took place on Saturday of the months of May-June, October-November.

Members of Board of Directors participate in several conferences, performing different papers which had the theme "The Game" as a way to start preparing the meeting in Brazil: Early Care Forum Municipality of Montevideo (May), Book Fair San Jose (October).

Board of Directors and various partners involved in the Latin American Congress of OMEP held in May in Buenos Aires,

Argentina and was visited by Maria Aparecida Salmaze and Victoria Peralta. In the same discussed the agenda of the meeting central Brazil 2012.

Promotion and dissemination of research by the National Education Inspector Initial Public Administration Elizabeth Ivaldi "Early Education in Uruguay. History and identity".

In the month of September participation in the national debate on "Care System" organized by the Ministry of Social Development. Presentation of a document as a contribution to the discussion.

Updated the website giving it a functional format and renewed.

Activities in Education for Sustainable Development

The topic of sustainable development is working with its central social sustainability through the training of educators as a way of raising the educational quality of primary education centers.

We performed a Lecture by Professor Laura Barcia "Finding ways to build sustainability. Reflections on environmental education practices." Broadcast content of the conference on national website.

At international level, a member of the Board Gabriela Etchebehere participates in a meeting in Colombia and around the world meeting in Hong Kong.



Progress on the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)

Are continuing to strengthen links with UNESCO / Education to work for the Rights of the Child, teacher training in the Meeting Point. We worked on two projects face that were developed in the departments of San Jose and Colonia. Were intensive seminars of 48 contact hours, which are addressed educational agents, health and civil society with regard to education and care of young children. In November, the teams worked with teachers in developing teaching materials to be distributed to educators.

In the month of October, we participate in the Book Fair in San Jose, promoted by the government organized a stand departmental. Se conjunction with UNESCO, and OMEP. The event lasted for seven days. Provided information, books, brochures, posters. The stand was visited by many people.

It is involved in REDSOLARE Uruguay, and dissemination of educational ideas of Reggio Emilia. At the congress held by the Network presented a paper on "Teacher Documentation".

Task or major national plan for 2012

Continue the process of decentralization, strengthening of the sites that work on the inside. Priority will be given in training educators.

Participation at the annual meeting by the Argentine Committee and organizing a large delegation as possible to the global meeting in Brazil.

Participation in national events organized by public and private agencies. UNESCO (Meeting Point), UNICEF (The Children's Capital), Days of School of Psychology, Early Childhood Coordinating Council of the Ministry of Education and Culture, etc.

Planning of an agenda for teacher training / and educators to be held on a monthly basis with the participation of technicians and professionals of outstanding national and international academic standards.

Bi annually, our committee calls an election among its active members to choose their own officers. This is a tradition highly valued for its high content and high democratic participation and commitment of the partners. Be held in October 2012.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Madeleine Balliargeon
mbaillargeon@videotron.ca

Situation in the region



This year again, the three OMEP National Committees belonging to our vast region, Canada, United States of America and Haiti, presented their annual report. The large diversity of the geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts influences the situation of young children and their families in each country. At the same time, we can see in our region that public policies have important impacts for early childhood. For instance, even if Canada and the US are among the richest countries in the world, and very good initiatives are taken there, year after year, they stand at the lowest rank of industrialised countries for services provided for young children and families. In the Caribbean, the situation remains very hard, and our members' task is huge. Therefore, OMEP's work is always very relevant from North to South of our region. You will see in the three following reports that our committees are deeply and steadily involved.

Main activities in the region

According to their reports, our three committees are highly involved in establishing or maintaining relationships with other national and international organisations dedicated to education and young children. This is deemed an excellent way to be known, expand their action and enhance its impact. This strategy is mainly

effective in expanding the defence of young children vis-à-vis our governments and decision makers, as shown by the activities to promote the CRC in the US, and the quality of ECE in Haiti, as well as the involvement of OMEP-Canada in the issue questioning the orientations of ECE in Quebec.

The question of membership also remains a challenge facing each committee. Recently, OMEP-USA has developed several initiatives to attract new members, with special focus on young members, including university students and young professionals.

Our National Committees have also kept their involvement at the international level, not only within the region, but also elsewhere in the world. The dedication of OMEP-Canada in the toy library project in Africa, and the generosity of OMEP-USA towards the Japanese committee are two outstanding examples. Note the majority of the funds were raised by children and college students for OMEP-USA.

Activities in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Our committees were also involved in education for sustainable development, mainly by sharing information with their members and ECE professionals about the pedagogical issues in early childhood. OMEP-Canada offered a workshop on the relationships between ESD and the government curriculum, and examples of pedagogical practices, including some presented during the OMEP World



Congress in Gothenburg. OMEP-USA members also focused on practical ESD experiences for young children, photos on the website, and presentations at conferences.

Other activities of the Vice-Presidency

African toy library project

After much efforts since spring 2009, 2011 was a year of achievement for the African toy library project, in which the Vice-President acted as coordinator and liaison with the OMEP world executive committee.

The first part of the project consisted of establishing a toy library in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, thanks to the funds raised by OMEP-Canada and its partner, the French NGO C.I.E.L.O. It took place in January 2011 during a training mission directed by Rolande Filion, from OMEP-Canada, and Patrick Bernard, from C.I.E.L.O. The mission was hosted by Association for the Family (AFA), a local partner. Ms. Filion went back to Kinshasa in April for a follow-up.

The goal of the second part of the project was to put into a network the toy libraries formerly created in some African countries, as a way to ensure their sustainability. OMEP obtained a grant from the participation programme of NGOs with an official status in UNESCO to continue the toy librarians' training by emphasizing autonomous problem solving and mutual support. In October 2011, Rolande Filion and Patrick Bernard offered an intensive continued training session, hosted by OMEP-Ivory Coast, in Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast. Seven toy librarians from six African countries gathered. They all started a personal project aimed at sustaining their toy library. They spontaneously established the foundations of the Association of African toy libraries. The toy librarians from Kinshasa and from the new toy library created by C.I.E.L.O and OMEP-Ivory

Coast, in M'Batto, Ivory Coast, in July 2011, were among them.

The project was presented three times by the Vice-President: at the African regional meeting, Cotonou, Benin, in April; at the World Assembly and World Conference, Hong Kong, in July, and OMEP-USA, Florida, in November.

Meetings and communications

- World Executive: participation in Skype phone conferences, meetings, and World Assembly and Conference, Hong Kong, China.
- Preparation and chairing the regional meeting, Hong Kong.
- Participation in the fall activities hosted by OMEP-Canada, Montreal, Quebec and OMEP-USA, Orlando, Florida.
- Writing of "Words from the Vice-President" in national Newsletters.

Most important tasks for 2012

- Follow-up of the support project to the Library of the Port-au-Prince Normal School of ECE teachers, as submitted to the 2010 World Assembly.
- Disseminating the information about the African toy library project: publication, reports and presentations to UNESCO, and to the OMEP World Symposium in Brazil.
- Support WASH from the Start project in Haiti.
- Investigate interest in and feasibility of preparatory committees in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.



CANADA

Ginette Beauséjour
beausejourg@videotron.ca
www.omep-canada.org

Main activities of OMEP-Canada in 2011

In Canada

In the spring, OMEP-Canada participated to a conference of the Centre de transfert pour la réussite éducative du Québec – CTREQ (Quebec Transfer Centre for successful education). Three members have represented it at this meeting, as we consider important that the OMEP's viewpoint should be exposed to research and practice environments that discuss different visions of early childhood education.

OMEP-Canada was present at the activity of one of its partners: the Association des services de garde en milieu scolaire – ASGEMSQ (Association of day care services within schools).

In April, Joyce Waddell-Townsend, a member of OMEP-Canada and an honorary member of OMEP, received the Taylor award presented annually by the Correctional Service Canada and the National Volunteer Association. Over the past 15 years Joyce Waddell-Townsend worked to sensitize the judges and the public to the fact that, according to the Convention regarding the children's rights, children should have the right to visit an imprisoned parent provided it is in their best interest. She was the co-founder of Children Visiting Prison, a dedicated voluntary group that participated to the development of playgrounds in the prisoner visiting areas of Kingston.

In the fall, the Roger-Lemelin library in Québec presented an exhibit on l'Abécédaire de la paix (The alphabet book of peace):

Voyage au pays des mots-cadeaux (Voyage to the country of gift-words) (OMEP-Canada, 2004).

In November, OMEP-Canada had an information booth and two of our members presented a workshop on education for sustainable development (ESD) at the 31st Congress of the Association d'éducation préscolaire du Québec – AÉPQ (Quebec Preschool Association). They presented some of the views and certain projects on the subject carried out by the national committees of OMEP. Another member contributed to this workshop by showing a video presentation about ESD's links with the Quebec early childhood education program.

The AÉPQ is a member of OMEP-Canada and reserves a page of its magazine to it. We talked about raising funds for Japan and opening the toy library in Kinshasa.

Internationally

OMEP-Canada fulfilled its commitments to help set-up a toy library in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and our member responsible for it, Rolande Filion, has led successfully the follow-up mission that ended the first phase of the project in April. Then, thanks to the funds received by OMEP from UNESCO, Filion with Patrick Bernard from the partner ONG, C.I.E.L.O, organized a meeting at Abidjan in October with the 8 African toy librarians on the theme Promotion et pérennité de ma ludothèque (Progress and longevity of my toy library).

The project was presented at Cotonou, Benin, during the African regional meeting



and conference, at the world conference in Hong Kong and at an OMEP-USA workshop in Orlando. The project is currently presented on the web site of OMEP.

The Canadian Committee collected funds to aid Japan following the earthquake that hit this country.

Activities regarding Education for Sustainable Development

OMEP-Canada was present at the 31st Congress of the Association d'éducation préscolaire du Québec – AÉPQ (Quebec Preschool Association), in November 2011. OMEP-Canada presented a workshop “Pour vivre ensemble sur notre planète, l'éducation au développement durable” (To live together on our planet, education for sustainable development). OMEP's orientations were presented as well as certain projects carried out by the national committees of OMEP. A video on ESD's links with the Quebec early childhood education program has also been presented at this workshop.

Plan for 2012

We adopted a four point action plan for 2011 - 2012 at our General Meeting:

- Contribute to preschool education for sustainable development by organizing workshops on the subject and participate in the 2011 project of OMEP.
- Increase the number of OMEP-Canada members
- Help Haiti and continue the toy library project in Africa.
- Explore the possibility of putting forward the rights of children within the convention for the rights of the indigenous people.



HAITI

Ghyslaine JL ROCHELIN
gilrochelin@yahoo.com

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

- Participation in the World Assembly held in Hong Kong July, 2011.
- Follow-up of the support project to the library of the Ecole Normale de Jardinières d'Enfants (Normal School of ECE teachers) damaged by the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the special fund raised by OMEP will be dedicated to.
- Election of a new Board, August, 2011.

Activities related to children's rights

Workshops with COSPE (Private Sector Consortium for Education) on the National ECE Policy Framework document, April 2011.

Always with COSPE, promoting quality and equity in education.

Participation in UNICEF seminars on child protection.

Participation in a one week workshop, held at UNICEF New York headquarters, to prepare trainers to make necessary decisions to support and protect children in emergency situations, and present the kit developed by UNICEF to be used in emergency contexts.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Organization of one day information session for teachers and directors of ECE institutions, in la Plaine du Cul de Sac (suburb of Port-au-Prince).

Most important task or plan for 2012

Expand OMEP through information meetings and training seminars.

Be better known in the field through radio or TV appearances.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Judith Wagner
jwagner@whittier.edu
www.omep-usa.org

Main activities in our country and at an international level in 2011

Activities in the US to increase OMEP's visibility and membership:

- Convened fall and spring National Board meetings during other national organizations' conferences (Association for Childhood Education International, ACEI; and National Association for the Education of Young Children, NAEYC)
- Sponsored several events during these conferences designed to (a) promote OMEP priorities and projects and (b) attract new members and energize current members
 - Seminars and workshops on global children's issues, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), peace-building, and education for sustainable development. Featured presentations by prominent keynote speakers, including Dr. Nurper Ulkuer, Chief, Early Childhood Development, UNICEF; Dr. Lilian Katz; and Dr. Diane Levin
 - OMEP-USA Annual Film Festival featuring videos for and about children, including films created by OMEP members from many different countries
 - OMEP-USA Volunteer Service Day held the day before our spring meetings (a new annual event)
 - OMEP Poster Session: Strengthening Families: Promoting Children's Social and Emotional Development
 - Action for Children Projects to create journal books for children in Belize, Jamaica, Haiti and Japan.
- Sponsored activities throughout the year to emphasis global children's issues and OMEP's connections with UN/UNICEF
 - International Day of Peace (September)
 - Global Handwashing Day (October)
 - Universal Children's Day (November)
- Strengthened partnerships with other organizations, including the Campaign for the Ratification of the CRC, the World Forum, International Child Art Foundation.
- Ratified by-law changes to (a) allow second 3-year term (total of six years) for the OMEP-USA president, with approval from Board, beginning with next president's term and (b) allow vote by proxy
- Created a list of responsibilities for all members of the Board
- Continued to strengthen Board by appointing committee chairs and liaisons
- Supported the five calls to action from the 2011 OMEP World Assembly:
 - Omnibus Bill on the CRC (Letter to UNICEF)
 - OMEP's WASH from the Start Initiative.
 - Collection of program quality assessment instruments, criteria, and documents
 - Global Handwashing Day on website and in newsletter
 - UN Declaration of a Decade for Early Childhood



- Continued to develop the website: www.OMEP-USA and to link with other organizations/events
- Participated in two events in Washington, D.C.: an International Child Art Festival on the National Mall and WASH activities during Step Up for Kids event at the District of Columbia building.
- Initiated gift membership process and plan to offer one year's free membership for graduating college students who have been part of campus chapters
- Continued efforts to organize informal groups and student chapters. We now have two active college chapters and one chapter each at a high school, a middle school, and an elementary school. We also have about 10 small groups, mostly composed of preschool teachers who received gift memberships.
- Continued efforts to engage children, youth, and young adults in OMEP
 - Encouraged the creation of college, high school, middle school, and elementary school chapters. Feature these groups on the website. Organized a working group to promote the development of chapters for children, youth, and young adults
 - Jog-a-thon for Children of Japan after the Earthquake and Tsunami (Sponsored by OMEP- Whittier College)
 - Accepted a documentary by middle school students for the OMEP-USA Film Festival
- OMEP-USA president represented World OMEP at UNICEF's WASH in Schools Conference (December).
- Through her home institution, Whittier College, which also hosts the website, the OMEP-USA president helped with funding proposals to three private foundations (Luce, Mellon, and Marisla) to support the WASH from the Start initiative.
- Immediate Past President represented OMEP at the 2011 World Forum on Early Care and Education and participated in the Children's Rights panels. She is a member of the Working Forum on Children's Rights.

Activities on Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- Sustainability-related activities for members and for children and youth are featured on the website
- Members regularly make ESD-related presentations at local, national, and international conferences
- Participated in design and data-gathering for a study entitled, Children's Ideas about Arctic and Antarctic with researchers from Gothenburg University

Most important task or plan for 2012

- Attract new and renewing members and increase their level of commitment and activity, especially for World OMEP's and OMEP-USA's priorities and projects. Plans include:
 - Develop a coordinated plan to promote individual memberships for members of small group and chapter
 - Develop projects/activities to promote involvement among members and to attract new members from target audiences

Activities on the international level

- Approximately 12 members attended the World Assembly and conference in Hong Kong.
- OMEP-USA president assisted with proposals for OMEP's WASH from the Start Initiative.



- Continue to develop the website to as a vehicle for (1) introducing non-members to the organization, (2) recruiting new and renewing members, (3) informing the public about important global issues, and (4) promoting upcoming meetings
- Facebook page to promote communication, especially among younger members

- Continue to attract well-known and prestigious presenters for OMEP-USA sponsored events at national conferences

Letter sent about a DECADE for Early Childhood Education and Care sent in November 2011 and resent in January 2012. No response yet.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to those who have contributed:

All OMEP committees for their reports

Translation:

Cecile Menez

Delphine Yribarren

Flavia Livacic

Madeleine Baillargeon

Renata Kamenicka

Alena Simbartlova

Doreen O'Connor-Gomez

Gabriella Vitos

Maria Esteban

Joana Rodrigues

Joana Stanko

Domitilia Marques

Jacqueline Oliveira

Layout:

Lisbetth Söderberg