

**Minutes of the World Assembly held on Monday August 9 to Tuesday August 10, 2010,  
Margareta Huitfeldts Auditorium, Gothenburg University, Sweden**

**1. Opening session**

**A) Opening Remarks - World President**

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson welcomes members from 44 countries to the meeting, and to the city of Gothenburg! She reminds us that there is a multitude of mother tongue languages present among the delegates - all presenters should be aware of this and speak slowly! Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson is very thankful for all the hard work that has been carried out throughout the world by OMEP members during the last year. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is gaining attention around the world, and she is very pleased to note that UNESCO has approached OMEP regarding the importance of ESD. The upcoming UNESCO World Conference (WCECCE) in Moscow later this year will follow up on major milestones towards Goal 1 of the Education for All goals.

**B) Opening Remarks - National Organizing Committee President**

A warm welcome to all delegates from Ingrid Engdahl, National President, OMEP Sweden. She assures that the OMEP National Organizing Committee, as well as the Gothenburg Chapter will try its best to make the 2010 Congress a good one! On the conference (11 - 13 August) another 30 countries will be present, in total 75 will be represented by one or more delegates.

Ingrid Engdahl is pleased to note that the work performed in Sweden within the frame of ESD and Early Childhood Education is well acknowledged. She invites delegates to participate in fruitful discussions during the meeting, and hopes that these discussions will result in a statement on Early Childhood Education. This statement will later be handed over to stakeholders/politicians.

As a link to the past, Ingrid Engdahl presents and welcomes the honorary member Kaj Fölster.

Her mother, Alva Myrdal, organized the start for a discussion with focus on the young child, and was one of the OMEP founders. After the Second World War she and her friends declared the motto *Never again* to be what they had to work for. Kaj Fölster believes that there will never be true peace if we do not change the education system. This was true when OMEP was founded in 1948, and it still is. She also emphasizes the necessity to bond, this is especially important for the youngest children.

Kaj Fölster was 12 years old, and still remembers the very first meeting that was held in her home. Here the first plans for a new organisation started, and 17 countries were engaged. They managed to get help from UNESCO. Alva Myrdahl was president at the first World Council in Prague in 1948.

**2. Roll Call and Appointment of Scrutineers**

World Treasurer Maggie Koong informs about the voting system and checks the presence of representatives. In total 42 countries are represented at the World Assembly.



# OMEP

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

<b>List of attendance</b> Delegates, Aug. 8 (35) (proxies 3), Delegates, Aug 9, (39) (proxies 3) Observers, 41			
Nom/Name/Appellido Nombre	Pays/Country/Pais + proxy	Date/Fecha	
		9/08/10	10/08/10
Endurance Idenyi Ikem Ugochikwue (O)	Benin	x	x
Evariste Bosson Brou Kowoussa Anastasie Zio (O)	Ivory Coast	x	x
Malia Harris	Liberia	x	x
Abimbola Are Remi Alade (O) Patricia O. Okeke (O) F. Chinwe Olikeze (O) Victoria E. Mologe (O) Timi Benaible (O) Ango Adame (O) Wale Yakubu (O)	Nigeria	x	x
Joan Waters	Australia	x	x
Jahanara Parvin	Bangladesh		x
Zhou Xin Yinian Ma (O)	China	x	x
Susanna Lai	Hong Kong	x	x
Nitya Ramaswami	India (Prep)	x	x
Toshiko Kaneda Mari Mori (O)	Japan	x	x
Glynne Mackey	New Zealand	x	x
Eun-Hae Park	Republic of Korea	x	x
Hui Ling Chua Lily Wong (O)	Singapore	x	x
Chrystalla Papademetri Marianna Efsthadiadou (O)	Cyprus (Prep)	x	x
Marek Kadlec Michaela Pavlátová (O)	Czech Republic	x	x
Henny Hammershøj Jorgen Boelskov	Denmark	x	x
Juha Säkkinen Pirjo Honkavaara (O) Kaisu Muuronen (O)	Finland	x	x
Marlene Brissard Daniele Perruchon (O)	France	x	x
Claudia Linsel	Germany	x	x
Nektarios Stellakis	Greece	x	x
Sigridur K. Stefánsdóttir	Iceland	x	x
Denice Cunningham Patricia Radley	Ireland	x	x
Ruta Kanepeja Martins Kanepejs (O)	Latvia	x	x



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Elin Eriksen Ödegaard Anna Greve (O)	Norway	x	x
Anna Wróbel Malgorzata Naroznik	Poland	x	x
Antonio Ponces de Carvalho	Portugal		x
Amalia Bayon Alvarez	Spain	x	x
Ingrid Engdahl/ Bibi Karlsson Sonja Sheridan (O) Eva Ärlemalm-Hagsér	Sweden (Bulgaria)	x	x
Yvonne Cook Léo Barblan (O)	Switzerland	x	x
Gelengül Haktanir Mehmet Toran (O) Arif Yilmer (O)	Turkey	x	x
Janet Morris Hugh Morris (O) Dorothy Selleck (O)	United Kingdom (Russia)	x	x
Mercedes Mayol Lassalle Jorge Eduardo Carames (O)	Argentina	x	x
Maria Aparecida Salmaze	Brazil	x	x
Laura Del Carmen Mendez Gutierrez Rossana Guzmán Del Valle (O)	Mexico	x	x
Judith Flores Bernal	Panama	x	x
Alicia Milán López Gabriela Etchebehere (O) Maria Rosa Ternande (O)	Uruguay (Chile)	x	x
Jean-Yves Lewesque Francine Boily (O)	Canada	x	x
Karine Dejoie Charlier Marie-Evelyne Saint Louis (O)	Haiti	x	x
Judith T. Wagner Edna Ranck (O) Ronda Hawkins (O) B. Kay Stanley (O) Lita Haddal (O) Erik Landgren (O) Blythe Hinitz (O) Peggy Johnson (O) Karen J. Sheaffer (O)	Unites States of America	x	x
Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson	World President	x	x
Maggie Koong	World Treasurer	x	x
Victoria O. Bilewu	Africa Vice President	x	x
Doreen Launder	Asia Pacific Vice President	x	x
Milada Rabusicová	Europe Vice President	x	x
María Victoria Espinosa Peralta	Latin America Vice President	x	x
Madeleine Baillargeon	North America & the Caribbean Vice President	x	x
Carol Darcy (O) USA	Representative to UNICEF	x	x

Other observers from countries without OMEP National Committees: Michela Schenetti, Italy; Rosslyne Kiragu, Kenya.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted by a majority vote, although Nigeria pointed out a missing name in the list.

### **4. Minutes - Lagos 2009 World Assembly**

Africa, Victoria O. Bilewu: recommends to remove "attended with 12 participants" from the first sentence in the first paragraph of "Regional Vice Presidents 2009 Reports Update"; a. Africa (page 3). With this change the minutes are adopted.

### **5. Presentation and Adoption of Reports**

#### **A) World President's Report and Update**

The following OMEP key questions are highlighted by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson:

- Working with net-working
- Working with ESD
- Policy making
- Plans for the autumn

She presents a newly released book, "Education for Sustainable Development in Early Years" written by J. Siraj-Blatchford, K. G. Smith and I. Pramling Samuelsson. The book will be available for delegates during the World Assembly. One copy/country will be distributed for free; extra copies are available for a small fee. The book focuses on good practices, based on the three pillars of sustainable development.

Other activities:

-The World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): Building the Wealth of Nations (Moscow, 2010). The conference will discuss if the global and regional networks can drive the early childhood agenda, in policy and practice? The objective is to:

1. Inform and affirm the role of the networks in nurturing the movement for early childhood, in the regions and globally. In order to address the second objective:
2. Set parameters and priorities for a concerted approach in order to make progress on Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

-Planning for a World Summit Millennium Development Goal in New York.

Objective: Advancing MDG2: The Benefits of Investing in Early Education for Later School Success and Life-long Learning. So far very interesting people from OMEP, UNESCO, Yale University, Chile and Norway have been confirmed for the panel list.

-Planned visits and speeches by the World President include the recent trip to OMEP Australia in June 2010, and during the autumn visits to OMEP Turkey and OMEP USA/NAEYC.

Report accepted.

*Mexico:* Forward some comments regarding organisation and visibility (on website, in Annual Report) of the work done in various regions. Informs about how the work is arranged in Mexico, and other countries, on the website. When we question for help and support, it is important with high visibility to be able to get funds from national governments and other NGOs. Lots of information exists that is not included in the website.

## **B) World Treasurer's Report**

Maggie Koong reports a surplus in the budget for 2009.

The income for the period was 39,141.42 USD and the expenditure was 26,752.39 USD. This represents a surplus of 12,389.03 USD, mainly due to the good performance of membership fees collection and incomes greater than expected from the International Journal of Early Childhood. This is due to partnership with a new publisher, Springer. On December 31, 2009, we had the following foreign currencies in our Hong Kong account:

22,716 USD,  
 16,960 EUR,  
 912 CAD  
 13,980 CHF

*Membership fees* - In 2009 the income from membership fees was \$US 24,858.00, which is \$US 2,948.00 more than the dues collected in 2008.

*China Earthquake Fund* - To date, donations for the victims of the earthquake were received from New Zealand (183.84 USD), Hong Kong (1,000 USD), UK (2,925.30 USD, in 2008), and Japan (2,203 USD), for a total of 6,312.14 USD. The money was paid out in full.

*Haiti Relief Fund* - Donations for Haiti were received from Iceland (569.51 EUR), Ireland (500 EUR), China (4,385 USD), Korea (1,912 USD), USA (3,125 USD), New Zealand (180 USD), Poland (290 USD), Ivory Coast (154 USD), Hong Kong (500 USD), and Canada (2,067.94 CAD + 3,823 CAD for psychological support), for a total of 17,374 USD.

*International Congress & Book Sales* - The income from the World Seminar held in Nigeria was 760 USD. An additional 550.87 USD came from the sales of our infant play book.

*International Journal* - We received 12,107.00 USD from the International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC) including \$10,000 from Springer as one-off payment and we are pleased that this has become a growing source of income for OMEP.

There have been some unidentified transfers recently, and she would like to know who made these transfers. Deadline for 2010 membership is December 31.

The budget for 2009 was approved.

Japan: Initiates a discussion about fees. In the latest report it seems that some fees have been paid, but is recorded as not, for some countries. *Treasurer* will check it up. Question is raised about the fee for each country? *Treasurer*: The membership rate is based on UNESCO list of dues for different countries quite some time ago, but we have revised due to the change of the economic situation and comparing with other countries in the same region. Gives the different categories for all countries to Japan committee on Tuesday.

## **C) Reports from 2010, Regional Vice Presidents**

### **-Africa, Victoria O. Bilewu**

It is hard to get response from member countries, and much effort has been put into establishing good communication between members. The following countries are regularly being communicated with through E-mail: Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali,



Mauritius, Nigeria, and South Africa. (Some of them respond while a few do not. OMEP Benin Republic has now received their Government's Official recognition.)

The Africa Regional meeting was held in Ghana, April 6 - 10, 2010. It was attended by five National Committees: Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana. Some of the points that were discussed include:

- Retention of Membership in OMEP.
- Structure and Financial Support for the Office of the Regional VP.
- The Post of the Regional V.P for the year 2012.
- Networking

Projects in Africa:

- The Toy Library Project for OMEP Democratic Republic of Congo has not taken off yet due to lack of adequate response from Congo, despite the great effort made by Madeleine Baillargeon, VP North America & Caribbean.
- Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which was introduced in Lagos, Nigeria, during the World Assembly was carried out by the National Committee of Nigeria and Ghana. The report has since been forwarded to the Organizers of this Congress.

Report approved.

#### **-Asia Pacific, Doreen Launder**

The region covers a large and diverse area with highly dense populated regions with varying culture. We have 15 member committees, and 8 are represented at WA today!

The goals for 2008-2009-2010 can be summarized as:

- Developing Fact Sheets: ongoing ([www.omep\\_sgp.org](http://www.omep_sgp.org)).
- A research project to examine the pedagogical values and beliefs and how they translate into teaching practices for young children.
- Library Project in Gansu PR China.
- Encouraging exchanges and networking.
- Newsletters and AP Assembly minutes.
- Writing a short history of OMEP in the Asia Pacific region for archival purposes.

Report approved.

#### **-Europe, Milada Rabusicova**

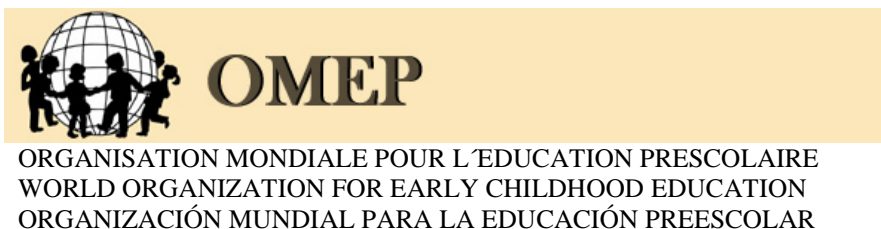
A wide range of activities have been undertaken in the European member countries at both the national and the international level:

- conferences
- workshops
- activities (courses) for teachers, social workers, and wide public
- activities for children (e.g. artistic competitions)
- consultancy and advisory on ECE policy
- research

We have received 24 annual reports from member countries, including reports from the preparatory committees in Cyprus and Ukraine.

European Regional Meetings and Conferences:





- Syros, Greece, 28 April to 2 May 2009, *Current Issues in Preschool Education in Europe: Shaping the future*. 40 participants representing 14 European member countries + members of the Executive Committee
- Chester and Manchester, UK, April 2010. *Enjoying and Achieving*

Janet Morris, President of UK Committee, informs that the international part including Regional Meeting was cancelled due to volcano eruption in Iceland, but the UK members had a fruitful meeting.

Report approved.

#### **-Latin America, Victoria Peralta**

Victoria Peralta gives a view of the latest work of the countries and regional VP. This is her final year of the mandate and a new colleague will take over the responsibility shortly. The region has 18 member countries, including the new member country El Salvador. Delegates from 6 countries are present during the 2010 OMEP World Assembly and Congress.

Work, studies and Conferences in the different countries have focused on topics such as: Sustainable development, Play, 0 to 3 years.

-OMEP Regional Latino-American Conference, Santiago, Chile, October 2009

Important issues and discussions in the region involve strategies to make OMEP more visible, on national and regional levels. Closer contact and cooperation with other NGOs and authorities are important for OMEP's survival. We need to define target and resources. Sustainable Development is a common objective in many of the ongoing projects. Playing is also important in early childhood education.

Report approved.

#### **-North America & Caribbean, Madeleine Baillargeon**

The Haiti tragedy has been the big issue keeping everyone in OMEP busy since January 12. Many contacts have been taken. We have also been involved in organizing the support and stay of Ms. Claire Foch in Haiti. She is a specialist in mourning for children and adults, and was able to provide psychological help during the crisis.

The African Toy Library Project is another project OMEP Canada has worked with. We are also approaching possible new member countries: Jamaica, Guadalupe.

Other main activities have included:

- Spring meetings (USA)
- Networking (USA, Canada)
- Fundraising (USA, Canada)

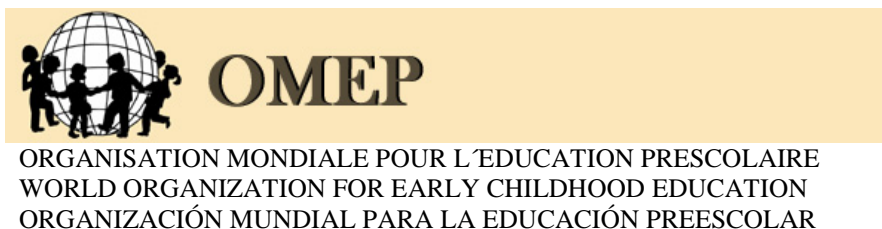
Two papers were presented at UNESCO with the hope to get funding and visibility (-Toy Library Project in French speaking Africa 2<sup>nd</sup> part; -Houphouët-Boigny Award)

Report approved.

#### **D) Representatives with International Organizations**

##### **-United Nations, Carol Darcy**

Carol Darcy emphasizes the importance of recognizing common questions within different national programmes. Identify your national UN representative and establish ongoing contact



with these officials. “Universal Primary Education” is an ongoing UN programme. Initiate and maintain contacts/networks, also on national level with UN, not only in crisis situations.

### **-UNESCO, Madeleine Baillargeon (on behalf of Micheline d'Agostino)**

Activities of the last semester took place in four main areas: UNESCO General Conference, International Conference of NGOs/UNESCO, Education Commission, and many meetings and working groups. It is important to coordinate our work with the itinerary of UNESCO, especially regarding priorities of UNESCO for education. Essential projects to work with include two sector-related priorities of the plan of action for the Education programme: 1) Assist in the achievement of Education for All (EFA); 2) Assume the role of world leader and regional education.

Four areas of action have been identified:

- The foundations of the EFA: literacy, teachers, skills for professional life (strengthening of national capacity).
- Develop effective education systems, from early childhood education and protection to higher education, and promote life-long learning.
- Helping governments plan and manage the education sector.
- Conducting the international agenda of Education, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and monitor developments.

With emphasis on

- needs of Africa
- gender equality
- youth
- least developed countries
- small island developing states
- most vulnerable social groups

Recommendation: to create an advisory group of experts to find ways to convert the debt of poorer countries to fund education, and to find innovative ways to fund education.

Also of interest for OMEP: World Conference on Early Childhood Education and Protection, Moscow, September 22-24, 2010; motion to create a Regional Centre on Early Childhood Development in the Syrian Arab Republic (Damas), under the aegis of UNESCO.

### **6. Presentation of 2009 OMEP Annual Report, Doreen Launder**

Doreen Launder summarizes the report and emphasizes the good work done by many countries. Some regional committees have been able to report for all their national members. Unfortunately not all were that successful. Main activities for 2009:

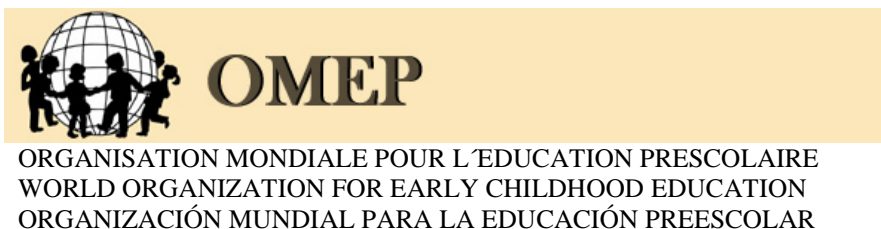
- Report on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Report on Achievements in relation to United Nations Convention for the rights of the Child on 20th Anniversary of UNCROC
- Your countries most important task or plan for 2010.

The high cost for translating information (3 languages) is the main reason for this type of restrictions.

The most important themes on the global level include:

- Curriculum & Quality programs.





- Push down of the formal school curriculum.
- Teacher training and professional development.
- Networking, conferences, workshops, teacher exchanges, website development, Newsletters.
- Advocacy. Seeking recognition of ECE and Government Policy to support ECE.
- Membership.

Some statistics on reports and membership:

- **Europe:** All 22 National Presidents reported (+ 2 prep com, Cyprus & Ukraine).
- **Asia Pacific:** 8 of 14 National Presidents reported.
- **Latin America:** 11 of 15 National Presidents reported.
- **Nth America & Caribbean:** All 3 National Presidents reported.
- **Africa:** 4 of 7 National Presidents reported.

Membership:

• Europe: 24 countries,	5,752
• Africa: 7 countries	535
• Asia Pacific: 15 countries	716
• (Affiliated members	10,000)
• Nth America/Caribbean 3 countries	255
• Latin America 15 countries	965
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,223 OMEP members</b>

(Korea has 6 organizations as members and therefore shows a high count. Other countries report only individual members.)

Approximately half of the members have participated in the ESD World Project (see point 8, below) by interviewing children, thus making it a collaborative research!

Many countries report on conferences, workshops, etc, with a focus on ESD. Some countries, such as Congo, are embedding ESD in their curricula. It is clear that the understanding of ESD is growing. The Annual Report can be found on the OMEP website.

Report is approved.

#### 7. A) Web page, Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson

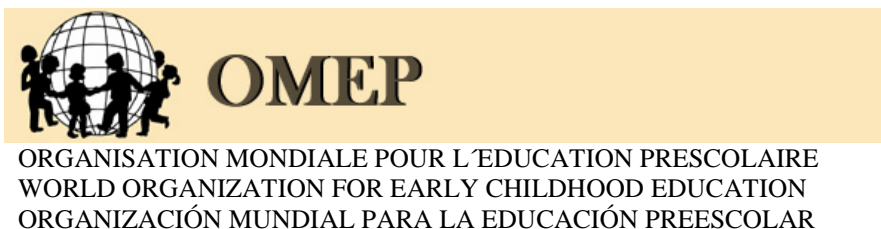
The website will never be better than the information given there. Delegates are encouraged to provide up-to-date information. As for now, only information of regional or international interest will be posted. It was emphasized the importance that the website consists of:

- List of main activities, national, regional and international
- Report on education for sustainable development and what this means for us
- Report on achievements in relation to the UN convention for the rights of the child in 20th anniversary of UNCROC
- Your country's most important task or plan for 2010 and networking

#### B) *The International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC)*, Eva Johansson, editor

The aim of the journal is to be an important contributor in reporting research within the field, but also to be a voice for children's rights and their education. Goals include:

1. Higher scientific quality
2. Extend editorial board



3. Broader international contribution
4. Prepare for collaboration with the new publisher, Springer

**Publications:**

- Two issues 2009, in total 11 articles:
  - open issue, 41:1
  - special issue, 41:2 - Sustainable development).
- Two issues 2010:
  - open issue 42:1
  - special issue, 42:2 - Focus on Early childhood education children under three
- Three issues 2011:
  - open issue
  - special issue: The OMEP conference
  - special issue: Learning cultures in early education

**Future goals:**

- Increase submissions from all over the world:
- Improve the quality and maintain the ideas of OMEP
- Inclusion in the ISI Social Sciences Citation Index (R)
- Increase the spreading of IJEC

Members have been complaining about problems to subscribe. This is an issue for every national committee to solve.

**8. Information about:**

**-The Toy Library Project, Madeleine Baillargeon**

Three partners involved:

- OMEP-Canada
- C.I.E.LO (Coopération Internationale pour les Équilibres Locaux)
- Dem. Rep. Congo: OMEP-RDC + other Congo partner

A two steps project:

1. Establishing a toy library in Congo
2. Establishing an African toy libraries network

These steps include training of the personal working with the libraries, mutual support, professional growth and creation of networks for future independent work.

Fundraising of the 1<sup>st</sup> step is completed, but realisation is on standby due to problems in Congo. It is ongoing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> step, including by presenting a grant proposal to UNESCO

**-Haiti Donations, Madeleine Baillargeon**

Haiti is a country in dire straits. The first days were chaotic and we were occupied with what has happened with our OMEP members. The Haiti Committee expressed two priorities to dedicate the donations to:

1. Psychological support for the teachers and children
2. Support schools to start again.

We managed to have the first funds so we could send an expert in mourning, Ms Claire Foch, to Haiti. One goal was to train Haitians to work themselves and in that way multiply the efforts. The Haitian Committee recently presented a proposal to the OMEP Executive Committee related to the other goal. It is aimed at specifically supporting the Normal School for early childhood teachers, completely destroyed and now under tents, to get its library back in operation. The residual sum mentioned in the Treasurer's report will help equip and renew the library.

### **-ESD World Project, Ingrid Engdahl and Milada Rabusicova**

Results from the project "Children's voices on ESD", an OMEP World Project 2009-2010 are presented. The aim of the project was to collect information about young children's thoughts, comments and understanding of the OMEP 2010 Congress logo and to enhance the awareness of ESD among OMEP members.

The idea behind the project was to introduce and invite children and professionals to discuss ESD, by informal interviews with children.

- 28 national reports have been delivered from different parts of the world
- 9 142 children at the age of two to eight have participated in the interviews
- interviews were carried out by 641 interviewers (mainly females)
- in 385 preschools, schools and other settings for small children
- in 241 cities and regions around the world

The results will be presented during Ingrid Endahl's opening speech at the OMEP conference and also in a seminar at the conference. The report is available in Annex 4.

### **9. Members' Announcements and Questions**

Sweden: Proposes a continuation on the ESD project, expand the interviews with children, hang on to the six R s, emanating from Brundtland's "our common future":

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Rethink
- Redistribute
- Restructure

World assembly is asked to take a stand on this.

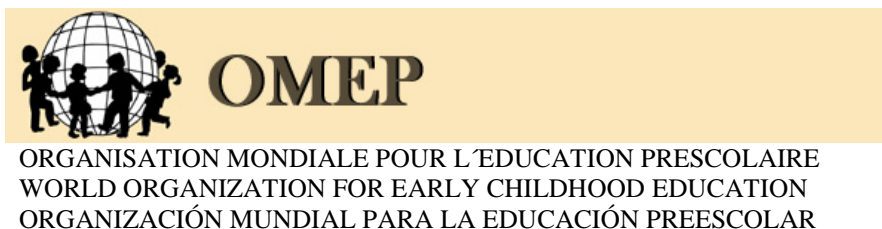
Norway, Elin Eriksen ødegaard: Reports from a conference. Info can be found on website: Suggests the use of the OMEP website to publish and read free material.

Nigeria, Abimbola Are: Introduced the new OMEP Executive in Nigeria and the new president is Patricia Obiageli Okeke.

Benin: Announces that the Government have accepted OMEP in Benin, inauguration during August 2011.

Switzerland, Yvonne Cook: The wooden pen box given to the World Assembly members has been given to all children in a Swiss Canton at school start since 1910 to emphasize the idea of SD.

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson WP: Reply to statements from Mexico from the morning. She agrees on the importance of the OMEP visibility. The OMEP website must be structured; individual, countries can provide further and national information on their own websites. Annual Reports: must be restricted to provide meta description of activities, mostly due to the problem with translation of texts which is very expensive.



USA: Conference in Anaheim, CA, November 2010. Info available at: [www.omep.usa.com](http://www.omep.usa.com)

Liberia: Malia Harris expresses her gratitude for toys given to them and for the four tickets from Sweden making it possible for delegates from Africa to attend the Gothenburg meeting.

## **10. Membership**

Cyprus: Chrystalla Papademetri declares that Cyprus now can be a full member of OMEP. Will host the 2011 OMEP European conference and invites all to this meeting.  
Approved membership.

Ivory Coast: Victoria O Bilewu presents Ivory Coast and their activities. Proposes that assembly approve Ivory Coast as a new national member. Evariste Bosson Brou Kowoussa sends thanks for the support on the way to membership.  
Approved membership.

New Preparatory member

Bolivia: Presented by Maria Victoria Peralta Espinosa and suggests assembly to vote in favour.  
Approved.

Remaining preparatory members  
Ukraine, India and Burundi

According to the constitution for OMEP membership, member countries will be revoked after three years without payment and/or annual report.  
Egypt, South Africa, and Malaysia are therefore to be excluded.  
Discussion aroused about this issue. One observer proposed to let Malaysia stay on as member another year in order for them to find a new president.  
Approved.

## **11. Budget 2010, Maggie Koong**

A summary of the budget and suggestions for the future are given by treasurer. A surplus of approximately 8,000 USD is expected. Donations are welcomed.  
Approved by the assembly.

A summary of donations for Haiti and for China is also given. Xiou Xin, China informed that donations have been used for help with children's library; distributing books free of charge and printing material. See also note 5 B.

Enhanced Sisterhood Scheme proposal presented by Maggie Koong.  
Active national committees should be able to get funding in order to remain in the organization during periods of hardship. Suggested criteria for eligibility:

- Developing country
- Ability to produce report
- Actively advocate for ECE and ESD in their country

Argentina: Such help to seek forms of finance for work and membership in OMEP will help the survival of some committees.

Regional conference fee collection proposal by Maggie Koong: 5 USD per participants will be collected if (1) the conference is well attended and with surplus, (2) 50% of these 5% fees will be contributed to the Children's Fund. Regional conference hosts will sponsor the VP of the region by paying her travel allowance and accommodation.

Cyprus suggests postponing until 2012, as fees for the next conference has already been decided. This question is to be further discussed at the regional workshops on Tuesday.

Maggie Koong also proposes to set up The Special Children's fund. This fund will be intended for some special meaningful projects.

## **12. Reports from the Regional meetings, Vice presidents** (See annexes)

## **13 Working groups**

### **14 Reports: Working groups and discussion**

#### **Working group B, Development projects, Madeleine Baillargeon and Maria Victoria Peralta**

We started by looking at the projects we have already discussed and decided not to engage ourselves in the same discussions again. The toy library project is already going on, instead of starting new projects we should develop the projects we already have started. Members would also like to continue on the ESD project. Issues around children's rights to play were discussed. Special focus must be on how this is presented to governments. We need to make sure that OMEP's voice is heard. Another important issue concern how we can educate and assist ourselves to be able to speak in a language that decision makers do use and understand. *Comments by Maria Victoria Peralta Espinosa:* Decision makers are often holding very traditional views. They have misinterpreted the OMEP concept – we need to change the wrong idea of Early Education among political leaders. Many have a too narrow view. Idea: launch a small statement on “the right of young children to play”.

*Comments by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson:* There is a movement on the right for children to play.

#### **Working group C, Training session, Doreen Launder and Victoria O. Bilewu**

We continued our discussion on how to share structures in different member countries, since committees work differently. Both office and leader roles are important. Training is needed for a constructive way of working. Leader skills need training and this is something we have to implement in every national committee. The idea of “Officer Training Seminars” OTS is to be inspirational seminars with the purpose to motivate and educate incoming officials. Every member is a potential leader, even as the president of OMEP. We have a responsibility to put forward new delegates for our national and regional committees. It is very important to find new active persons for OMEP.

### **Working group A, Research in ESD, Milada Rabusicová**

We have full support for the ESD project regarding children's views. We discussed the Swedish proposal that we supported but also other suggestions. We put forward suggestions to:

- widen our perspectives
- incorporate other R:s: Respect, Responsibility (social aspects of SD).
- broaden the project to also involve adults around children (teachers, parents)
- We have to work on the ESD concept in every national committee because we do not have the same idea about the concept.
- Ask ExCo and world assembly to recognize the project as an OMEP world project

### **Discussion**

Panama, Korea: would like that OMEP documents could be translated to national languages in order for ordinary teachers to read them.

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson: The international knowledge about OMEP is important to really understand what OMEP is all about.

Maria Victoria Peralta Espinosa: Suggest to draft and write a short declaration from the OMEP. Is there a will to do so? *Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: Ingrid Engdahl is working on this together with a group. *Yvonne Cook*: There is a difference between a declaration from OMEP Worlds Assembly and a declaration from the conference. *Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: It is better to make a good statement from the conference, not from the Assembly. *Ingrid Engdahl*: We will do it on the last conference day, Friday. All delegates are invited to participate in writing the statement. Suggestion is approved.

Argentina, Mercedes Mayol Lassalle: Regarding the issue of strengthening OMEP. We have to work harder to invite younger members in the work. But attending the meeting is expensive and might exclude the young.

Singapore, Hui Ling Chua: If we are talking about sustainability we have to put forward the recognition of basic needs. In some countries basic needs are not fulfilled and children do not come to school. *Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: The work about ESD means totally different things in different countries. It is very important we are aware of this.

Liberia, Malia Harris: We have no trained preschool teachers. If we want to work with OMEP we have to appeal that OMEP will work for basic needs of all children, especially in developing countries. *Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: We are not a charity organisation but rather an organisation working with political issues. OMEP can do the advocacy for the governments and run important questions.

Maggie Koong: A possible way is to exchange teachers programs, and put up student exchange programs. We could support the students by "adopting" students.



Portugal, Antonio Ponces de Carvalho: We have different fees for professionals and students. We broadcast activities, conferences so that students can take part in what we are doing.  
*Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: We should really start to do this in our meetings.

Nigeria, Abimbola Are: Developing countries need collaboration and advocacy. Our government is starting to listen to OMEP in Nigeria and getting to recognise our input in the Early Childhood Sector.

### **15. Presentation of the Swedish preschool, Sonja Sheridan**

Sonja Sheridan opened her speech by concluding that Swedish preschools are well acknowledged, and were also ranked first by the benchmarking systems found in 25 OECD countries by UNICEF in 2008. So why is this so? The reason is mostly due to long traditions of recognizing preschools to be important for the whole society. The preschool is considered to be the first step in the education system and therefore an important aspect of the welfare system. A new education act has recently been adopted (June, 2010). Now the preschool becomes a school form of its own within the Swedish school system. She summarized and explained the system.

### **16. Elections**

Maggie Koong performs a roll call for present and absent delegates. In total 39 countries and additionally 3 proxies; 42 votes, were present. The Assembly agreed on majority vote – thus, a support  $\geq 50\%$  of votes. Voting will take place without the presence of the nominees.

#### **A) Regional Vice President for Latin America**

Nominated Maria Aparecida Salmaze

Proposed by Chile and Uruguay: Maria Aparecida Salmaze presents herself and describes how the committee in Latin America will strengthen relations with other OMEP regions by using sustainable systems/technologies, for example Skype, and thereby give a new momentum to the region.

The Assembly voted in her favour with 41 votes.

#### **B) World President**

Nominated Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson

Proposed by several countries; USA, Sweden, etc. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson declared that she will continue to work for children's rights, ESD and for networking.

The Assembly voted in her favour with 42 votes.

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson says her thanks to the assembly for the confidence in her, and declares that she will continue the good cooperation with all and to use technology better.

### **17. Future Meetings**

-OMEP World Conference and World Assembly, Hong Kong 6 - 9 July 2011.

The theme of the conference is “Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens”. Maggie Koong introduces Dr Mei Yung Hazel Lam, from the Hong Kong Institute of Education. She presents Hong Kong as a city and the Hong Kong Institute of Education where the conference will be held in cooperation with the Department of Education and the Centre for Childhood Research and Innovation, and welcomes all to attend.

A pamphlet including program, keynote speakers, logistics and important dates was distributed to delegates during the meeting. More information can be found on the conference website: <http://home.ied.edu.hk/~omep2011>.

-OMEP World Conference and World Assembly, Brazil 2012.

Maria Aparecida Salmaze presents the beautiful and multifaceted Campo Grande, Matto Grosso de Sul, on behalf of the Brazil committee. All delegates are most welcome to participate!

### **18. Honorary members**

Nominated Dorothy Selleck is presented by Janet Morris, UK.

The Assembly voted in her favour with 42 votes.

Dorothy Selleck declares that she will continue to work for the children's rights and to see the world from the child's perspective. "I am all for children, I will still fight for them although I am almost 80!"

Nominated Joan Waters is presented by Doreen Launder.

The Assembly voted in her favour with 42 votes.

Joan Waters talks about her experience as a member since 40 years in OMEP. Her aim has always been to live according to her device "If I cannot be good or clever, at least I would like to be useful".

Nominated Kerstin Bäckström is presented by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson.

The Assembly voted in her favour with 42 votes.

Kerstin Bäckström was very moved by the confidence given to her, and will keep on her devoted work for children.

Nominated Selma Simonstein Fuentes is presented by Maria Victoria Peralta Espinosa.

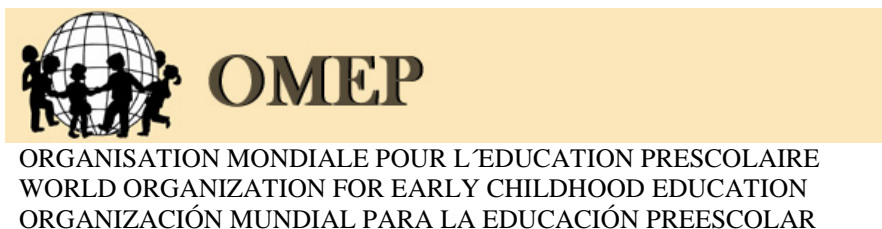
The Assembly voted in her favour with 42 votes.

### **19. OMEP in the future, Ingrid Engdahl**

It is wise to combine The World Assembly and the conference. 700 delegates are coming and we are all encouraged to share information about OMEP. Everyone is given information. The congress will be the largest focusing on ESD.

In order to attract new members, all delegates are encouraged to send current information to the OMEP website. The new website has problems with subscription for the newsletter; please circulate the newsletter until the problem is fixed.

Ingrid Engdahl gives a summary of the different regional projects that are going on all around the world. Projects on networking, ESD and early childhood education are prioritized, and will be highlighted during the conference. In Asia there is the upcoming 2011 conference. In Africa there will be a continuation of the toy library project, and plans for setting up training



seminars. Latin America will work for the 2012 conference, the sisterhood fund, and newsletters.

The floor was opened on the topic of the future of the OMEP.

Madeleine Baillargeon: On the matter of visibility. We should carry on the lobbying work on national and regional level to put forward the questions from OMEP; especially issues concerning the rights of the child.

USA, Judith Wagner: Is it possible to let young very active persons join and attend the World Assembly as observers? Can we allocate some seats to “Official Observers”?

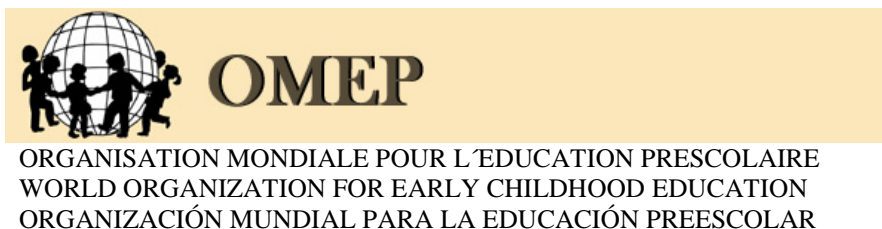
Portugal, Antonio Ponces de Carvalho: OMEP needs a higher visibility and also young active members. We should give more colourful and rich reports for the website from the different committees, and there will be no costs since internet is free. The national Portuguese committee is against a formal report form. *Africa, Victoria O. Bilewu*: Many annual reports are too voluminous. What should be the limit? *Asia Pacific, Doreen Launder*: The important thing is that we must put forward what is critical and important to write. Another issue is the translation of the reports. If every national committee provides the translation we may be able to extend the amount of words. *Europe, Milada Rabusicova*: There are three levels of information; national, regional and international. We will not have room for every country to have a lot of space. *Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson*: The annual report is a political report, and not what is happening in every country. It is important for politicians to get the important issues clearly pointed out. *Czech Republic, Marek Kadlec*: Suggests using new technology to attract young new members. *Portugal, Antonio Ponces de Carvalho*: Every country should have a page on the website, otherwise we are doing the same work as UNESCO are doing without coming up with new issues. The annual report is very important because this shows what the different countries are doing. We can have both political documents and national descriptions of what we are doing. We cannot let the problem with language and translation. Instead we should raise the question about how to finance this.

Ingrid Engdahl: Suggest that the world assembly have to keep on working on how to get higher OMEP visibility, and give the executive committee the task to collect these ideas.  
This was approved.

Portugal, Antonio Ponces de Carvalho Visual media is very important; a picture speaks a million words. We have to think about how we can use this media in the future.

Ingrid Engdahl: As a summary of discussions, we all agree that we have to do something for younger members and to find ways to attract new young members. Offer opportunities for them to attend and observe our work. Regarding visibility; we are all encouraged to give ideas about this to the executive committee.

Singapore, Hui Ling Chua: I have been in OMEP very long; through 4 World Presidents. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson and her team have done a great job. We have to be aware of Ingrid's ability to get the attendance to OMEP and especially to respond in a professional way. I want to congratulate Ingrid for her good work. It has really been a change since Ingrid



became World President. We are now listened to and responded to from our president. Thank you for that!

Madeleine Baillargeon: suggest activities among teachers from different countries on for instance the internet to get greater connections between different countries.

Maggie Koong: encourage to search for funds that are possible to get from OMEP. It is important to know there is not much money. She will send out information of this possibility. *Nigeria, Abimbola Are:* We are in need for a childcare Centre. *Maggie Koong:* The fund cannot be used for things like this. It is more for networking and for smaller pilot work. The amount to apply for is around 500 - 1000 USD.

Nigeria, OMEP needs to strengthen the position of the Vice Presidents. VPs from developing countries cannot travel and visit grass root members and national committees unless the money is provided. *Maggie Koong:* Most of the delegates are travelling on their own account. The money that OMEP can provide is not very much.

It can be concluded that people, as resources, are most important to OMEP. When it comes to help in a crisis situation – UNICEF is a more appropriate organization.

Liberia, Malia Harris: Talking about technology - my country is a dead country. How can you help us? For getting an e-mail through to me you have to mail to my son and he has to phone me. There is no electricity, no water in the pipes, and transportation is a huge problem.

UK, Dorothy Selleck: In 2006, OMEP wrote to the UN on behalf of children of the world. Although positive response from the UN, “Learning through play” do not apply for all countries. We are concerned and suggest that OMEP will write a strong letter to the UN on the issue. We must raise awareness on children’s right and to “learn through play”.

Denmark, Henny Hammershøj: Thanks to the Swedish committee for a very nice assembly. Different voices were heard. Planning was very good, it has been a pleasure.

### **World Assembly Closing**

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson closes The World Assembly.