



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2012





WORLD PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012

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



Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2013

Another year of hard work by OMEP national committees around the world has come to an end. The following reports provide a brief overview of what the national committees have accomplished and what their goals are for the future. Although some countries did not submit reports this year, we are sure that OMEP members around the world remain devoted to young children – their general wellbeing, their rights, and their education and care.

I am happy that two projects I mentioned in last year's report have continued in 2012: (1) the project to promote education for sustainable development led by Ingrid Engdahl (Sweden) and Milada Rabusicova (Czech Republic) and (2) WASH from the Start led by Judith Wagner (USA).

Under leadership by Ingrid Engdahl and Milada Rabusicova a new phase of the World project on sustainability has also been launched to engage young children in conversations with their parents and grandparents about everyday sustainability practices, such as reducing use of plastic bags.

Another new project lead by John Siraj-Blatchford began at a workshop in Gothenburg in November 2012 with participation of OMEP representatives from 8 countries: China, England, Korea, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Turkey and USA. With inspiration for the ECERS (Early Childhood Education Rating Scale), we developed a Rating Scale for ESD, which is now being field tested in each of the participating countries. We hope this will result in an OMEP rating scale for ESD that can be used worldwide.

For some of the other officers and myself, 2012 has been dominated by efforts to promote early childhood as a priority in the UN's post-MDG goals for 2015-2030. These will be called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In June 2012, OMEP was invited to co-host and also to present at a panel on Early Childhood at UNICEF. The audience was considerably larger than anticipated, again demonstrating the support within the Early Childhood community for prioritizing early childhood in the upcoming SDGs. Since June, we have worked closely with Nurper Ulkuer, recently retired director of the Early Childhood division at UNICEF, and many others to encourage local, national, and world leaders to understand the short- and long-term economic, social, and educational benefits of investing in early childhood as a key factor in global development and sustainability.

To promote early childhood as a global priority, we prepared an open appeal to local, national, regional, and global leaders. The appeal was first published in the



International Journal of Early Childhood in fall 2012. At the 2012 World Assembly and Conference in Brazil, we also adopted the OMEP Position Statement on the Critical Importance of Early Childhood Education and Care as a Priority on the World Agenda. We have asked all national committees to distribute these documents broadly. We have also created videos of both documents and posted them on You Tube.

Nektarios Stellakis (VP Europe), Judith Wagner (VP North America and Caribbean and Deputy President), and I were also invited to participate in a national consultation on the development of the SDGs. This resulted in the publication of The Istanbul Declaration calling for prioritizing early childhood development, education, and care in the SDGs. The conversation continues through email and Skype to build consensus with the early childhood community about our own priorities and strategies.

OMEP has gained considerable visibility on the world stage during 2012 under the leadership of our outstanding UN/UNICEF team in New York: Carol Darcy, Jerry Aldridge, and Maria Pia Belloni Mignatti. Maria Pia represents OMEP on the UN NGO Executive Committee on Migration, where she also chairs the Working Group on Children in Migration. She also represents OMEP on the UN NGO Committee on Education and the UN/UNICEF NGO Committee on the Family. Jerry represents OMEP as a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on the Family. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Working Group on Children in Migration. As 2012 came to an end, Jerry and Maria Pia drafted a proposal to develop kits for Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. This project represents OMEP's goal to work for children as researchers and practitioners, and also as effective and responsible child advocates and activists.

The OMEP representatives at UNICEF in Paris, Madeleine Goutard, Micheline

D'Agostino and Lisbeth Gouin, have also been working hard to make OMEP visible.

In addition, OMEP has worked closely with UNICEF on the WASH from the Start initiative by promoting Universal Hand-washing Day, October 15, in all OMEP countries and by collaborating on a small book entitled WASH from the Start: Soap Stories and Toilet Tales from Early Childhood Settings around the World, scheduled to be published in 2013.

Jerry Aldridge is also the North American representative for OMEP to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Ingrid Engdahl and I went to an international conference called "The power of ESD", organised by SWEDED. Over and over again in various seminars and discussion, we had to raise our voices and bring up the youngest age group, that most of the time is forgotten or overlooked. I believe all of you have the same experience: early years education is often missing from the political agendas even though there are so much evidence from various fields that it is more beneficial for individuals and societies to invest in young children than to wait until they reach school age. We must repeat this message over and over again to politicians and other gate keepers. Imagine what we could accomplish if every member of OMEP around the world were to have a conversation about the importance of early years with just one or two of their national leaders.

The fight for children's right and education is, for us within OMEP, a life-long and endless task. My sincerest thanks to all OMEP national committees for all work you are doing for children in the world.

Ingrid



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA

Abimbola Are
arebimbo@yahoo.com

Activities of member countries in the Africa Region



In the region 2012 has been an eventful year both at the national and international levels. Various activities were carried out in different member countries majorly on advocacy, conferences, workshops for teachers, parents and care-givers which are yielding better results for the development of Early Childhood Education and Care in Africa. It is interesting to report that more and more countries are keying in into the aims and objectives of OMEP. Governments at the Local, State and Federal levels have now accepted Early Childhood as the bedrock for the other levels of education thus developing key documents like Policy, Curricular and Minimum Standard on Integrated Early Childhood Education and Care.

National Activities

Five countries-Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria reported their activities while impressive development is going on in Uganda and Kenya what with the tremendous support and encouragement being enjoyed from John Siraj-Blatchford. OMEP UK plans to give financial support to Kenya. Some reports are still being expected from the other country members.

OMEP Burkina Faso Committee carried out activities to enrich the review on the evaluation of National early learning pro-

gramme incorporating mapping parenting experiences and participated in the development and validation of national education programme focusing on integrated early childhood in Burkina Faso(2013-2017) developing and organised the Annual General Meeting of OMEP mapping out the programme of activities for the year 2013.

OMEP Cameroon Preparatory Committee has done a tremendous work to boost the activities of OMEP in the country. Education by quality programme is ongoing thus promoting Education through play as pedagogical mean for education research by enumerating and drafting existing and new education play.



The Green Education Project as a means of making children aware of the importance of protecting their environment thus making them actors in the protection of the nature was embarked upon and implemented by organising sensational campaign among early childhood even in the rural areas in eight nursery and primary schools in some villages. The committee also did several



other activities both at the national and international levels.

The Cameroun Preparatory Committee is now very qualified to be proposed as a National Committee during the OMEP World Assembly to be held in Shanghai, China in July 2013.

OMEP Cote d'Ivoire National Committee is not relenting in her effort to keep the flag of OMEP flying in the country.

The Toy Library Project that was co-financed by UNESCO and OMEP Canada courtesy the kind effort of Madeleine Balliarageon-(The Immediate Past President for the North America and Caribbean) is still functional thus providing access to quality education through play to the children in rural area of M'Batto a village located 230km from Abidjan the capital of Cote d'Ivoire was launched.

Also, a new project -"Welcome To School" by the Committee through a grant from an NGO "Save the Children International" was launched on August 27, 2012. This project is to further promote the Early Childhood Education and Care in the country.

Earlier in the year between 9th and 16th of April OMEP Cote d'Ivoire hosted the 7th Africa Regional Conference in Bellecote Hotel, Abidjan-Cocody, Cote D'Ivoire. The theme was "Satisfying the Learning and Developmental Needs of the Young Children". The countries that participated were Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo. The conference was a success.

OMEP Liberia National Committee

The Committee's main activity was geared towards the hosting of the 8th OMEP Africa Regional Conference and the 1st Liberian National Early Childhood Development in April 2013.

The Theme would be "Early Childhood Development In The 21st Century; Ensuring Children's Rights To Live, Play, Explore and Understand The World"

The President of Liberia, Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to be the Special Guest of Honour while the Keynote Speaker is expected to be the World President of OMEP, Prof Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson.

OMEP Nigeria national committee

The OMEP Nigeria now has more State Chapters to promote the work of OMEP.

Collaboration with UNICEF and Federal Ministry of Education is on-going. OMEP participation in a workshop on Early Learning Development Standard (ELDS) to develop performance indicator to enhance teacher's service delivery at the early childhood Education level.

Competitions on Science, Mathematics and computer for age bracket 5-8 years and excursions to educational places and homes were organised by state chapters.

Also programmes were organised to mark the OMEP Children's Day and the Day of African Child on the 25th May and 16th June 2012 respectively. Attendance at these events were really impressive.



Collaborations with ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission) and SURE-P



(Subsidy Reinvestment Empowerment Programme - Maternal and Child Development). These two bodies are expected to give both technical and financial support for future workshops in 2013.

At the 23rd OMEP Nigeria National Conference held in Abuja, Nigeria, from Nov.11-14, 2012 had in attendance 108 participants from all the State Chapters of OMEP Nigeria. The theme of the conference was Early Childhood in the 21st Century - Children's right to live, play, explore and learn about the world around them.

International activities

OMEP Africa Region members started off the year by participating in the First Annual Conference of International Research in Early Childhood Education, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, 22nd & 23rd January, 2012. The World President of OMEP, Prof. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson was Keynote Speaker while many OMEP members from Nigeria and Ghana were resource persons. The conference was rich and well attended.

OMEP Cameroon and Nigeria experts took part in the draft of the Curriculum for Indigenous Early Childhood of IICBA UNESCO. For that purpose they attended seminars at Addis Ababa and the Validation Workshop held at Abuja on 18 to 20 April 2012. During the validation workshop, Cameroon was chosen as the Central Africa pilot place and OMEP Preparatory Committee of Cameroon to handle the pilot phase. However, the pilot phase has not yet begun due of lack of fund.

The 28th OMEP World Assembly and the World Symposium - "Early Childhood in the 21st Century - Children's right to live, play, explore and learn about the world around them" 18-21 July 2012 in Campo Grande MS, Brazil was attended by only members of OMEP Nigeria from Africa and this was due to lack of fund.

Education for sustainable development

Only OMEP Cameroon has reported her participation in the Phase 111 of The ESD Project (Education and Sustainable Development).

Wash from the start

The Global Hand Washing Day was observed by almost all the OMEP member countries with awareness created through the print and the electronic media. Hygiene is now becoming a pleasant way of life even among the young children

OMEP initiated activities

The Open Appeal to Authorities and the OMEP Position on Critical Importance of Early Childhood Education was disseminated to traditional authorities, education authorities at the Local, State and Federal Governments in Cameroon, Liberia and Nigeria. Cameroon went extra mile by contacting International Embassies & Consulates, Organisations, NGOs, Entrepreneurship Boards and Foundations. We are hoping that the appeal will yield fruitful results.

Most important task or priority for 2013

Disseminate information about the 8th OMEP Africa Regional Conference, Monrovia, Liberia and the OMEP World Assembly & Congress holding in Shanghai, China 9-13, 2013 to encourage good participation from Africa.

Follow up on soliciting for Africa Governments' involvement in OMEP Programmes.

Encourage a common OMEP African Project among member countries for uniformity in our approach to the development of Early Childhood Education and Care in the continent.

Encourage participation in OMEP World Projects.



Challenges

- The most serious challenge for all OMEP Committees in Africa is sourcing for fund for projects.
- Membership drive
- Forming quorum at regional meetings.

OMEP Kenya preparatory committee

OMEP Kenya has bounced back in such a big way with a promising development. A new executive is being put in place while 32 pre-school members spread out across Kenya are now registered for different project being embarked upon courtesy John Siraj-Blatchford with OMEP UK looking into their financial assistance. Update report will be given during the OMEP World Assembly Meeting to be held in Shanghai, China in July 2013 when the Committee shall be proposed as a National Committee.

OMEP Mauritius national communication

Communication has resumed once again with the Committee after a long break. The new President is Mrs. S. K. Kistamah. Her E-mail address is: amrita205@yahoo.com Quality OMEP Early Childhood Development work has resumed in earnest in that part of the continent.

Two new committees

I am happy to report that we have established new contacts in Uganda and Angola. Our contact persons in the two countries are Safina Nyanzi and Mr. Lucomaolio. Their e-mail addresses are: safinanakato@yahoo.com and lutonadio1960@hotmail.com



BURKINA FASO

Etienne Gnonmon
omep.cnbf@yahoo.fr

Introduction

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) is an apolitical and non-profit organization whose goal is to promote for all children the optimum conditions which will ensure their development and well-being in their families and communities. In Burkina Faso, to achieve the objectives set by the National Committee, an annual program of activities has been elaborated. This report represents a balance of the program implementation for 2012 and is articulated around 5 main areas: i) description of the purpose and objectives of OMEP Burkina Faso (OMEP-CNBF); ii) balance of planned activities; iii) activities beyond the programs; iv) balance of activities; v) difficulties encountered and solutions provided.

Description of the purpose and objectives of OMEP Burkina Faso

Purpose

Pursuant to Article 5 of the By-laws, the purpose of OMEP-CNBF is to promote the early childhood development as a whole.

Targets of OMEP-CNBF

The targets set by OMEP-CNBF in Article 6 of the By-laws are the following:

- Promote the child's rights, specifically to education and care;
- Promote better management of preschool education considering the child interests and well-being;
- Promote studies and research on early childhood education and care;

- Promote parental education and individual educative projects related to early childhood education and care.

Balance of planned activities

The following activities were 100% accomplished:

- Enrich the review of the National Program for Preschool Education evaluation that is part of a mapping of parental education experiences in Burkina Faso;
- Involvement in the National Program of Parental Education elaboration and validation tasks was focused on the overall development of early childhood in Burkina Faso (2013-2017);
- Arrangements of OMEP-CNBF Annual General Meeting;
- The elaboration of OMEP-CNBF 2013 program of activities.

Due to financial problems, OMEP-CNBF was able to participate in an international conference out of the 2 scheduled.

Concerning the solutions provided, OMEP-CNBF will continue looking for financial partners for the execution of its activities.

Activities beyond the programs

OMEP-CNBF members participated in some activities within the framework of overall development of early childhood, although they were not registered. These activities are carried out jointly with the National Ministry of Social Action and Solidarity (MASSN, in French) and those taken with partners and other departments in charge of education.



Among the activities, the following may be highlighted:

- Participation in Preschool Education Standing Committee meeting arranged by the National Ministry of Social Action and Solidarity;
- Participation of OMEP-CNBF members at the training sessions for the development of MASSN groups of experts and of education personnel on education in emergency conditions;
- Participation of OMEP-CNBF members in works oriented to the transition period from preschool and post-primary education in the Ministry of National Education and Literacy (MENA, in French).

Balance of activities

In 2012, the average rate of execution of planned activities is **72.85%** versus **84.28%** in the previous year, i.e., a variance of 11.43 points.

The main reason for this significant decrease is that the activity relative to OMEP-CNBF participation at international conferences was not carried out.

Difficulties encountered and solutions provided

Difficulties

The main obstacle for the execution of activities is related to the lack of OMEP-CNBF financial resources. It is mainly due to non-payment of annual fees and contributions from members. On the other hand, the lack of funding for the activities of technical financial partners was an obstacle to achieving OMEP-CNBF objectives.

Solutions provided

To overcome these difficulties, it is essential to obtain resources from members' fees and collaborations and from technical and financial partners through some applications.

Conclusion

In general, it should be noted that the execution level of planned activities scheduled for 2012 is quite satisfactory, despite the limitations to perform some activities. The average rate for the program of activities execution has been deemed low (**72.85%**) by end-2012 unlike past year. For this reason, OMEP-CNBF members are encouraged to increase their commitment to achieve the challenge of preschool education development in Burkina Faso.



CAMEROON

Binyet Bi Mbog Alain Philippe
omepcpcameroon@gmail.com

To continue to boost activities of OMEP in Cameroon; the OMEP Cameroon Preparatory Committee during 2012 involved in activities of the mother organization, sole or with partners.

National activities

Education by Quality program was continued. Thus the Education by play as pedagogical mean for education research was held. In the same vein, we begun to search to enumerate and draft different existing and new education play. We search also for songs and recite useful for the early childhood. The Green Education project come also as a mean to bring children been aware of the importance to protect the environment and become the main actors in the protection of the nature. That is why we have organized sensitization campaign in the Mbam Inubu division among early childhood in some village and 8 primary and nursery schools.

Others part of this program like Education by culture, International Volunteer for Education; online Teacher Library have not being implement yet. Despite this, we thing this year will be more favorable. We have also decided to support that program by a nomination of best early childhood schools and best teacher and also by listing actors and methods breeching the Early Childhood education in Cameroun.

International activities

OMEP Cameroon experts partake to the draft of the Curriculum for Indigenous Early Childhood of IICBA UNESCO. For that purpose they attend seminar at Addis Abeba and the Validation Workshop held at Abuja on 18 to 20 April 2012. During the valida-

tion workshop, Cameroon has been chosen as the Central Africa pilot place and OMEP Preparatory Committee of Cameroon to handle the pilot phase. Thus the pilot phase has not yet begun because, we are searching for fund.

Education for sustainable development

The ESD (Education and Sustainable Development) has continued. Five schools have joined the project. We have also proceeded to a diagnostic of methods and approach we have used till now, in other to give more strength to the implementation of the project. Thus, a reorientation of our strategy has been decided for more efficiency, more attractiveness of schools for the years to come. This is why the proposal to launch the phase III is more appreciated.

Wash from the start

In other to enable children to live in a safe and healthy environment, we launched sensitization campaigns for parents, caregivers and children at Yaoundé and Bafia in the center region, Douala in the Littoral Region and Kousseri in the Far North region. We have also put more emphasis on training caregivers to settle a safe environment; this is why We also insist on reinforcement of their hygiene capacities.

We also brought our support to people of Far North region victim of flood, particularly some people at Kousseri to whom we succeeded to distribute 100 seals and 20 bags of rice



OMEP initiated activities about the Open Appeal to Authorities and the OMEP Position on Critical Importance of Early Childhood Education

We held the same strategy to spread the Open Appeal to Local, National, Regional, and Global Leaders: Secure the World's Future: Prioritize Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care) and the document OMEP Position on the Critical Importance of Early Childhood Education and Care as a Priority on the World Agenda). So we use official means of popularization. We have dispatch information

- Locally to: traditional authorities, local associations, religious authorities.
- Nationally to ministries concern about early childhood like the Ministry of Basic Education, Ministry of Social Affair, Ministry of Secondary Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Sport, Administrative Authorities and National NGO
- At the international level, we contacted International Embassies and Consulates, International Organisations, International NGO, Entrepreneurship Board, International Foundations.

In the same vein, we have put poster of the declaration in public place and announcements in media.

Actually, we are still working on it.

Most important task or priority for 2013

During 2013 our priority will be to search to have more fund and enhance the development of our activities. We will search fund to implement the Pilot Project about Early Indigenous Childhood Curriculum in Africa; this, because IICBA UNESCO support is more technical than financial; Give more impetus to WASH project will be done by reinforcement of capacities, sensitization and support in term of equipment support like dustbins, wheel, latrines...

We wish also to give more impetus to the project of Education by Quality by tackling breeches to education like lack of birth certificate, corruption, lack of early childhood center, parent's unconsciousness. Enumerate useful local and traditional pedagogical material use in the country. The Education and Sustainable Development phase III will be held with primary and nurseries schools.

Due to the increase of early childhood mortality and the death of pregnant women and their baby at the birth, we decided to put in place the project: Save Lives of our Children.

We hope to extend our activity in domains we left last year. We hope also to implement an entrepreneurship program for schools and early childhood parents.



IVORY COAST

Evariste Bosson Brou Kowoussa
assiven@yahoo.fr

National activities

Numerous meetings were held at national and local level (between October 2011 and September 2012) to think about and develop actions for white populations.

On 18 February 2012, the Institute for Early Childhood Education integrated to the Child Protection Center was officially launched in M'Batto. Project funded with UNESCO and OMEP Canada support.



From 21 to 25 February 2012, Mrs. Are BIMBOLA, Regional Vice President for OMEP Africa, visited us with Mrs. Victoria BILEWU, immediate past Vice President, in the framework of the arrangements and planning of OMEP Africa Regional Conference 2012. The delegation took the opportunity to visit OMEP facilities in M'Batto (city located at 230 km from Abidjan).

Before the trip to M'Batto, the last stage of the mission, the delegation held meetings with UNICEF Ivory Coast, press agencies, the Ministry of National Education, the Agreement of Ivory Coast civil society as well as Congressman N'Guetta KAMANAN and OMEP Ivory Coast Chancellor to discuss some issues related to the African conference.

10 March 2012: Ceremony for the introduction of the sports field project to the authorities and residents of M'Batto (Region of Moronou). This ceremony was sponsored by Mr. Edia GERVAIS, Mayor of the Municipality of M'Batto.

5 June 2012: Inauguration of the sports field integrated to the Child Protection Center of M'Batto. Project carried out with NGO CIELO (International Cooperation for Local Balance) support. This ceremony was attended by Mr. Patrick BERNARD, director to NGO CIELO.

27 August 2012: Start-up of sensitization project "Welcome to School" thanks to a grant by SAVE THE CHILDREN international NGO.

29 to 31 August 2012: Participation in a workshop at the Apprentices House in Grand-Bassam on "To provide an educational opportunity to children from 9 to 17 years who do not attend school". The gathering was organized by SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL.

7 September 2012: official launching ceremony of "Welcome to School" project in Agboville.

10 to 15 September 2012: Development of sporting monitors responsible for children. Meeting funded by NGO CIELO.

29 September 2012: 5th General Assembly of OMEP Ivory Coast.



Most important task or priority for 2013

Carry out “Welcome to School” project in 11 towns at Moronou Region. This project aims to sensitize and raise awareness and conduct a census to children between 9 y 17 years, who do not attend school, specifically girls or teenage mothers in order to integrate or reintegrate them to informal and condensed schooling (education/training), creating shelters at some sites identified.

International activities

9 to 16 April 2012: 7th OMEP Africa Regional Conference at Bellecôte Hotel in Abidjan Cocody on Meeting learning and development needs of young children.



LIBERIA

Malia Harris
mmayharris@aol.com

National activities

Our main activities was preparing for the 2013 African regional conference.

Education for sustainable development

Training of Preschool teachers and providing food for the children while they attend school.

Wash from the start

In collaboration with UNICEF and Ministry of Health and OMEP Liberia national committee held an indoor program in observance of the Global Handing Washing Day on October 15, 2012 on the campus of the St. Paul Presbyterian School. The school did receive thirty-two (32) pieces of T-shirt carrying messages on the importance of hand washing as was instructed by UNICEF Representative Julia Moore. Ministry of Health also gave the school on cartoon of laundry soap and flyers with hand washing messages. Activities at the indoor program were as follow:

- Inspirational songs
- Welcome & Introductory Remarks
- Introduction of the Program
- Drama on the importance of hand washing by the students of SPPPES
- Hand Washing Messages from the students of St. Paul School
- Introduction of the Guest Lecturer
- Guest Lecturer Message by Mrs. Agnes Wrueh

Demonstration of Hand Washing by Mr. Franklin Jimlack & Mrs. Netty Davis Mason

follow by the students The program committee in collaboration with the administration invited Mrs. Agnes Wrueh, a graduate of the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts and Proprietor of JAW Community Clinic in the township of Gardnerville, Montserrat County, Liberia. On her part, the guest lecturer encourages participants to wash their hands before eating after during the followings:

- Using the toilet
- After hands shaking
- After playing in the dirt
- After blowing your nose
- Keeping our surroundings clean
- Washing hands save life amongst other things

The principal during her deliberations educated participants on the establishment of the Global Hand Washing Day. She did inform participants that the day came about through United Nations General Assembly on October 15, 2008, in the republic of Sweden for the so purpose of saving lives. The practice of hand washing with soap tops International Hygiene agenda on October 15, 2008 and was declared as the International Year of Sanitation. She also acknowledged participants to take the message back home to their family members, friends, and community members on the importance of hands washing and Personal Hygiene. In addition to, about 60% of the participants washed their hands with soap, water and dry their hands with clean towels, while those of them that would not afford clean towels dry by their hands by shaking it in the open air. Washing hands is a serious problem face by many African



Countries, most especially our country Liberia due to the unavailability of clean water in the country. A case study is the St. Paul's School, two or three days before the hosting of the program the only pump the school is depending on as her source of getting safe drinking water got damage. Due to the heavy down pour of rain that day we were able to get enough water.

The importance of celebrating this day in school, is that children are agents of change and easier medium of sparing message

OMEP initiated activities

We intend to open hands to other organizations in the country and to collaborate with the ministry of education.

Most important task or priority for 2013

To conduct 2013 OMEP African Regional Conference and come up with programs that will encourage the rural teachers to embrace OMEP in a more positive way that will improve their status.



NIGERIA

Lady Pat.O. Okeke (J.P)
obypat207@yahoo.com
www.omep-nigeria.org

OMEP is gaining more grounds in Nigeria. A lot of awareness and collaborations has been established but we still have more grounds to till.

OMEP Nigeria is in 24 states out of the 36 states in Nigeria - 22 chapters and 2 Preparatory chapters. In some of these states, OMEP is domiciled in the University Community and we have been working towards bringing it out for all to join because it stagnates the activity of OMEP.

Some States are large and because of the distance not all are accommodated and because of this we have advocated OMEP Communities which are under the States Chapters.

National Activities

Most of the 24 state chapters has been pulling their weight in operations in the development of Early Childhood Education and Care through organizing Conferences, Workshops, Seminars for pregnant women, Nursing mothers, parents, teachers, caregivers and stakeholders.

The Federal Ministry of Education in collaborations with UNICEF organized a workshop on Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) and OMEP was part of it. All these are efforts to develop performance indicators that will direct the right type of teaching /exposure necessary for this level of education early enough to guarantee well and balanced development of the child.

OMEP Nigeria carries out researches and trains teachers and caregivers of Early Education. Pregnant women, young women and

nursing mother are also trained to help these ones develop better.

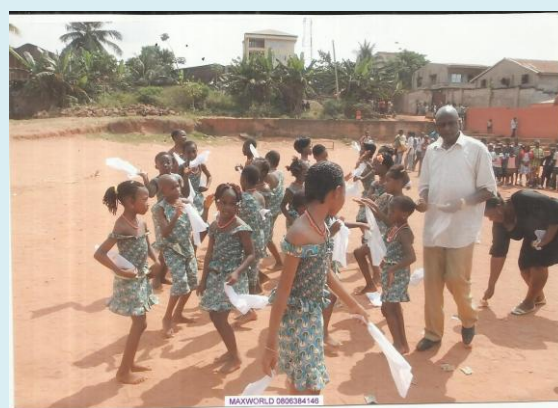
Children are not left out for they are at the centre of all our programmes.

OMEP NIGERIA organizes quiz competition on science, mathematics and computer for ages 5 - 8.

Excursions to villages, Parks and other Schools are usually embarked on. Visits are also made to Charity homes, Motherless babies homes, Deaf and Dumb schools, School for the blind, where children interact and give out gifts to the less-privileged children.

These different days are organized and observed by the children.

- OMEP Children's Day - May 25th.
- The Children's Day on 27th May
- The Day of the African Child, 16th June



OMEP Children dancing at a Rally

Networking / Collaborations

OMEP has been spreading its tentacles of late.



MEP has now a working relationship with ICPC – independent Corruption Practices and related offences Commission and SURE-P – Subsidy Reinvestment Empowerment Programme. (Maternal and child Department). A workshop tagged mother and child welfare, Ethics/ Character Count for a better Nigeria is billed to be held in Abuja in February 2013. This is to catch our children young in an already corrupt world.

We received technical support from them and we are hoping to get financial support from them.

Visits

OMEP Nigeria monitors activities in the states.

There are a line-up of inaugurations of new Chapters.



Inauguration of OMEP ABIA chapter

OMEP Nasarawa states was inaugurated on the 10th of November 2013. Abia, Delta and Ebonyi States are on course.

Conferences

Every State organizes Conferences, Seminars and workshops all the year round. National conference was held in Abuja on the 11th – 14th November 2012 at the National Universities Commission, Maitama, Abuja.



Issuing Certificate at a National Conference



OMEP council at a national conference

OMEP gives back to the Communities by keeping our areas clean and also beautifying RoundABOUTS and Parks.

OMEP projects

Toy library /Mobile library is picking up in OMEP Communities.

The underserved Children are given opportunities to touch toys and read books that are not ordinarily found in their environment and schools.

The ESD project is moving in Nigeria but we hope to do better.

Children are allowed to come closer to nature outside their classroom.

Wash From Start

A lot of awareness has been created about hand washing, people no longer feel they know how to properly wash their hands. Almost all our schools were, engaged in the last Global Hand washing Day of October



15th 2012. A survey of 100 schools were also carried.



Children at hand washing

This year OMEP Nigeria marked it at the Fesitval Road, Primary School Garki, Abuja.

OMEP Nigeria launched her membership certificate and Identification Card for members. All membership are made eligible by coding which is in our Website.



Launching of OMEP certificates

We launched a two volume Journal at our last National Conference.



Launching of OMEP journal

International activities

OMEP attended the 1st IRECE Conference in the University of Cape Coast Ghana on the 22nd – 23rd Jan. 2012.

Our World Mummy, Professor Ingrid Pramling Samuelson was the Keynote Speaker.

OMEP Nigeria was there with the V.P. African Region to support her and 11 of our members delivered papers at the Conference.

OMEP Nigeria is planning to partner with the MONASH University of Australia to replicate what they did in Ghana for Nigeria.

The UNESCO (IICBA) –International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa Workshop on the Development of Indeqennoos Curriculum for African Care-givers and Teachers in Early Childhood and Care Development on October 11-14th 2011, A follow-up validation workshop was done in April in Abuja with the Ministry of Education Officials in Nigeria and OMEP was represented.

This document is now ready for use as a pilot testing in Nigeria and other African Countries

African regional conference

This was held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire between the 9th -16th April 2012. OMEP Nigeria was well represented with 11 of us delivering well researched, powerful papers on the theme, "Responding to the learning and Developmental Needs of young children".

World conference

OMEP Nigeria made the bulk of the African Regional representation at Brazil in 2012. Brazil Conference was so enriching and we pray that China will even be more educative and exciting.



OMEP initiated activities

The Open Appeal to Local, State, National and Global leaders to Secure the World feature by prioritizing early Childhood Development Education and Care was duly submitted and we are awaiting implementation.

Our most important tasks for 2013

- to strengthen collaborations and ties with the Ministries of Education, Health, Women Affairs, UNICEF, UNESCO, USAID, ICPC, SURE P, OIL COMPANIES AND OTHER Corporate bodies.
- Making the new Curriculum available to schools.
- Creating awareness on the ESD project so we can join the 3rd phase of the project.
- Membership drive and making OMEP a family Name.

OMEP Nigeria website: www.Omepng.org. This showcases OMEP Nigeria.

Challenges of OMEP Nigeria

- Finance is a big problem as OMEP is a non-governmental and non-profit.

We are looking forward for sponsorship from UNICEF, UNESCO, USAID, FEDERAL MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, YOUTH/ SPORTS & CULTURE to come to our aid.

Way forward

- Advocacy and collaborations to be strengthened.
- Marking out programmes for our children and not just adults.
- Enlarging the coasts of OMEP through membership.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Eunbye Park
ehparkh@ewha.ac.kr

National activities

Workshops and symposia with teachers and parents continue to be a major area of activity among countries. Some member countries such as Hongkong and Thailand were involved in the development of national policies. Hong Kong held seminars about improving classroom quality and learning framework in early years. Also, they participated in the meetings of 15-year Free Education Working Group. India conducted multiple seminars to prevent Child Abuse in the 'I-Care Initiative'. Japan held the 40th anniversary celebration of OMEP Japan in March 2012. They operated "OMEP Japan Komodo fund" for relieving the victims of Eastern Japan great earthquake. Korea held its 10th annual workshop for teachers and parents and the theme was "early childhood education in a 'SMART' world" which focused on the theory and practice of old and new technology in 21st century. OMEP Pakistan has been concentrating their activities on recovery programs for children who are victims of child abuse, malnutrition and poverty. They also organized arrangement and conducted workshops and seminars for preschool education and parents. Sri Lanka held workshops for parents about the philosophy and the techniques of early childhood education. In-service courses for pre-school teachers were also provided in cooperation with Open University, Social Service Department, and UNESCO Clubs. OMEP Thailand has involved in the development of national education standard of education level from birth to 2 years old and held workshops for teachers of child development centers from 6 provinces

which were under the cooperation of OMEP members and the officer of Social Development and Human Security.

International activities

International collaborations among member countries have been increased. Those include scholarly exchanges, donations, researches, and teacher exchange programs. Australia provided four scholarships for the volunteers for early childhood educators from rural Papua New Guinea. Lobbying was carried out to obtain more early intervention services for young children experiencing developmental delay. A donation was arranged to help Haiti earthquake victims in various ways. China participated in the research on the relations of kindergarten teachers' education philosophy and practice; Asia-Pacific region initiated this. Hong Kong and China have been collaborating to create a China-Hong Kong teacher exchange program since 2003 and it is still continued. New Zealand has arranged a project "Spring into action for Christchurch" to support early childhood colleagues in the wake of the 2011 earthquake and held special 'fund raising' to support the Japanese Trust which has been working with children and families who are affected by the tsunami and the damage to the nuclear power plants. Singapore hosted 20 Korean early childhood educators in February 2012 for the school visit as an exchange program and visited Japan and Korea which extended learning about ECE programmes in Singapore.



Education for sustainable development

ESD is an area of growing interest. China and Korea has participated in the evaluation tool research of ESD and data collection training session which was held in Sweden in Nov, 2012. Hong Kong continued to try to balance three sustainable development's aspects, especially social and economic aspects, through research and education. Japan has reconsidered the concept of the ESD after the Eastern Japan Earthquake and the radiation-contaminated disaster in Fukushima. The ESD taking into consideration the above items is one of the urgent issues. Korea introduced the ESD project in Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and Care (titled as "Keeping Green Earth") in the workshop. Many kindergarten and child care centers have realized the importance of ESD and included the contents of ESD in the curriculum. Singapore intends to organize the national survey of early childhood educators on early childhood education for sustainability in cooperation with other countries. Thailand has been participating in the Project of the ECO-School Guide for ESD and there are now 14 preschool programs. A 2 years large survey on state and problems of operation on ECO School Guide of ESD project has conducted and finished with collaboration of OMEP members.

WASH from the start

Four member countries participated in WASH from the start project. Australia provided resource materials to a remote indigenous centre at Hall's Creek in WA to accompany the WASH program. Hong Kong introduced and promoted Global Hand Washing Day to kindergartens. India conducted campaign to teach children and parents the importance of washing hands. Korea introduced the purpose and the meaning of WASH project to individual and collective members of Korea and submitted stories. New Zealand has joined OMEP

world in promoting hand washing within chapters.

The most important task for 2013

Each country will continue its work from 2012.

Recruit members and revamp and activate the website to provide up-to-date information and resources - Australia, Hong Kong, India, Korea.

Arrange and organize workshop, seminars, symposium and campaign - Hong Kong, Japan, India, Korea, Pakistan.

Continue advocacy for the government's agenda, gain more public awareness, conduct research to promote early education for Sustainable Development - Hong Kong, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand.

Celebration and Welcome

- 40th Anniversary for Hong Kong, 20th Anniversary for Japan
- Preparing to set up Preparatory Committee: Lebanon, Jordan
- New committee president: Korea, New Zealand



AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

Hilary Alach
hilarya@ihug.co.nz

OMEP Aotearoa/NZ Executive committee members are spread throughout both main islands of the country. We meet monthly via Skype and, while this does mean that we are able to cover all issues, we also endeavour to meet face to face at least twice a year. I find that these face to face meetings are more productive than Skype. However, we face a continuing challenge to meet the cost of travel and accommodation when we travel throughout the country to meet.

Highlights of 2012

The highlight for this year was when we all travelled to Christchurch to support our early childhood colleagues in the wake of the 2011 earthquake. A lot of work has been done by the Christchurch chapter to support teachers, children and families as they cope with the aftermath of the earthquake. National Executive was able to demonstrate a commitment to the area and encourage those who are having to face the challenges on a daily basis of disruption in their homes, their workplaces and, the effects of the trauma on children and their families.



Nat Exec members taking a break and a walk around the devastation in Christchurch.

While we were in Christchurch we arranged for a project “Spring into Action for Christchurch”. We urged all members send a letter to their own MP, (regardless of what Party they represented) asking that they not forget that Christchurch families were still experiencing trauma and that they still needed special consideration. I particularly want to thank Lia de Vocht Van Alpen and Glynne Mackey for their ongoing support of the Canterbury Chapter and ECE centres in Christchurch. They sent letters to every MP in the country!!! Wonderful practical work to support the cause – Advocacy in Action!

Chapters: There are currently five chapters operating in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Waikato/Bay of Plenty and Auckland. Each chapter works autonomously on the Aims and Objectives of OMEP, by holding workshops, seminars and lobbying Government on issues which they or National Executive have recognised as worthy of action.

Research: Members from Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago have continued to be involved in research in conjunction with OMEP international projects. Information has been shared by presentations to Chapters to disseminate the findings.

Most chapters throughout the country have hosted evenings to discuss research being carried out by academics and practitioners throughout the country.

International: Members were asked to support the Japanese Trust which has been working with children and families who were affected by the earthquakes, tsunami and damage to the nuclear power plants. Most



chapters held special 'fund raising' evenings and this resulted in our being able to send \$NZ 1,000 to help the cause.

Issues raised and acted upon:

OMEPE Aotearoa/NZ has joined with OMEPE world in promoting hand washing within the chapters. Although we have abundant clean water, it is an issue which all ECE teachers must be diligent about if they are to prevent the spread of infection in early childhood facilities.

OMEPE Aotearoa/NZ has continued to lobby Government where their policies have impacted on families, such as: the changes in ECE funding – in particular the reduction in funding for qualified teachers. This has added to the stress of centres which have, for some time, worked hard at attracting and retaining fully qualified/registered teachers.

OMEPE Aotearoa/NZ is concerned that the Government has left it 'up to the sector' to nominate group sizes. This could be an issue particularly for under 2-year-old children in early childhood care and education centres.

We challenge the Government where it has stated that it wants to encourage more ECE participation by Māori and Pacific Island children while they, on the other hand, have reduced funding for resources which would assist that very education and care being offered.

OMEPE Aotearoa/NZ is also concerned that the Government policy seems to require that mothers receiving a benefit return to the paid workforce earlier. We think that a one-size-fits-all approach may not meet the needs of all families

We will continue to work within the Aims and Objectives of OMEPE. As I stand down as president I thank the committee for their willingness to meet even though, at times, it can be challenging and for their unswerving dedication to OMEPE.



AUSTRALIA

Dawn Butterworth
dawnbut@tpg.com.au

National activities

OMEP Australia provided 4 scholarships to volunteer early childhood educators from rural Papua New Guinea where we are establishing grassroots early childhood education – the first kindergarten in provincial PNG. The 4 volunteers were brought from Popondetta, PNG to Perth WA where they were billeted for 4 weeks in March, 2012. They were given intensive workshops in early childhood education; attended visits to kindergartens and schools to study early learning environments, equipment and curriculum; visited early childhood resource centres; and received general cultural enrichment and Australian hospitality. They were given many teaching resources, including 3 laptops to take home and a special Sri Lankan Butterfly Banquet raised \$2,000 towards their centre. They were joined by an early childhood educator from Galle, Sri Lanka who was sponsored by Graduate Women.

Therapeutic music kits were donated to Queensland Centres affected by intense flooding for use with traumatized children.

Lobbying was carried out to obtain more early intervention services for young children experiencing developmental delay; more child care places especially for babies and toddlers; and a national paid parental leave scheme.

Lunch boxes were donated to a centre for children in need to ensure that they had access to a healthy lunch that remained cool and fresh.

Refugee welcoming kits containing toiletries, socks and jocks, books, toys and drawing

materials were distributed to newly arrived refugee children.

International activities

A donation was made to Haiti earthquake victims.

In the wake of crop failure due to climate change, funds were sent to Crispins Kindergarten in Popondetta, PNG to buy rice in order to give lunch to hungry students and to purchase a water cooler so that students had fresh, cool water to drink.

Soap and towels were provided to enable hand washing after toileting and before eating as per the WASH program.

Funds were also provided to enable volunteer teachers to travel to their village homes for the holidays and to provide them with a basic salary for Term 4.

Education for sustainable development

All early childhood centres in Australia teach conserving scarce resources and make maximum use of natural and recycled materials.

The PNG centre is built from local timbers and palms; water is from an underground spring, rainwater tank and local creek; cooking is done on an open fire and electric power provided by solar panels. Most play equipment is made from recycled materials.

Wash from the start

Resource materials have been provided to a remote Indigenous centre at Hall's Creek in WA to accompany the WASH program which is also supplemented with teeth



brushing, nose blowing, ear cleaning and a healthy breakfast each morning.

Most important task or priority for 2013

The most important task for OMEP Australia is to build membership and momentum by maximising the use of computer technology by building a new, dynamic, self-managed website linking all the chapters throughout Australia and to make greater use of social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn to appeal to younger members. We then need to make greater use of these tools to have a stronger voice for young children and to advocate for high quality early care and education throughout the world.



CHINA

Professor Lijuan Pang
lijuanpang@163.com

National activities

- February 10, 2012, Chinese Ministry of Education issued “Kindergarten Teacher Professional Standards (Trial)”.
- February 12, 2012, Chinese Ministry of Education issued a “The Interim Measures of Early Childhood Education Supervision and Evaluation”.
- May 19, 2012, the national education Awareness Month was launched in Beijing.
- October 9, 2012, Chinese Ministry of Education issued Guide on 3-6 year-old children’s learning and development.

International activities

- Participated “Research on the relations of kindergarten teachers’ education philosophy and practice” which initiated by the Asia-Pacific region OMEP, completed the report in January 2012 and submitted to Ms. Doreen, the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific region OMEP.
- Responded positively to OMEP headquarters about the mini-survey information of early childhood education in China.
- Participated in the OMEP Work Conference and Annual Meeting held in Brazil in July 2012, and reported at the meeting on China’s preparations for the 2013 meeting.

Education for sustainable development

- Participated in the evaluation tools research of ESD and data collection training sessions held in Sweden on 15-17 November 2012.

OMEP initiated activities

- Organized 30 kindergarten teachers in western China to go to Hong Kong for a 10-day visit during 2-12 December 2012 which supported by Luo YingShi Cihui Foundation-funded and Hong Kong OMEP Chapter.
- Established the preparatory work commission of the 2013 OMEP International Conference and actively mobilized all possible resources to do the preparatory work.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- Go all out in preparation for the 2013 OMEP international conference.
- To continue ESD data collection work on schedule and to submit the report on time.



HONG KONG

Nirmala Rao

nrao@hku.hk

<http://www.omephk.org/eng/page.php>

National activities

Seminars

Our AGM was held on January 8, 2012 and Dr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Walter H. Gale Professor of Education and Academic Dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education gave a seminar entitled, “Improving classroom quality: Results from a 2-year intervention”. The AGM and seminar were very well-attended.

Dr. Susan Greishaber, Chair Professor of Early Childhood Studies, Hong Kong Institute of Education, gave a seminar entitled, “Departures from tradition: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia”, on December 18, 2012 Executive Committee members Dr. Hui Li and Ms. Gloria Leung responded to Prof. Greishaber’s talk with perspectives from Hong Kong.

Policy Matters

OMEP-Hong Kong Executive Committee members have been particularly active in matters related to early childhood policy in Hong Kong.

- We participated in meetings of the 15-Year Free Education Working Group. OMEP-Hong Kong was represented in the second forum held on November 19, 2012 and the third forum held on December 10, 2012. The latter focused on the move towards a fully Subsidized Early Childhood Education Sector.
- OMEP Office Bearers also met Mr. Eddie Ng, Secretary for Education, Hong Kong SAR Government to share views on ways

to enhance kindergarten education of Hong Kong.

- The Executive Committee prepared a policy brief specifying OMEP’s views on early childhood education policy in Hong Kong.

Promoting Early Education in Western China

To encourage the development of early childhood education in western China and Hong Kong, OMEP-Hong Kong and OMEP-China began collaborating in 2003 to create a China-Hong Kong teacher exchange program. This successful program aims to foster the teacher exchange through observation, discussion, academic sharing, and kindergarten visitations. Dr. Hazel Lam, the OMEP-Hong Kong project director, was able to secure financial support from the Lo Ying Shek Chi Wai Foundation to fund the Chi Wai OMEP Western China Exchange Program. We had two groups of delegates from China in 2012.

International activities

Two of our Executive Committee members, Dr. Maggie Koong and Dr. Hui Li, participated in both the OMEP World Assembly and Symposium in Brazil from July 17 to 21, 2012. Dr. Koong is the OMEP World Treasurer, a position that has been held by a member of OMEP-Hong Kong for the past 8 years.

Executive Committee members wear different hats and this means they can promote OMEP at meetings organised by international development organisations and networks including Asia Pacific Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), UNICEF,



UNESCO and the World Bank. In 2012, OMEP-Hong Kong President attended the Brookings Institute Global Compact on Learning, Research Task Force meeting at UNESCO, Paris (March), the Technical Committee Meeting of the Holistic Early Childhood Development Indicators, UNICEF, Paris (June), the South Asia Regional Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education Policies and Practices: Towards 2015 and beyond, New Delhi (August) and the Asian meeting on Supporting Children's Holistic Learning and Development: Homes, Schools and Communities, Jakarta (November).

Education for sustainable development

As noted in the last Annual report, early childhood educators in Hong Kong do not have comprehensive notions of Sustainable Development and have tended to neglect the Social (Respect, Reflect, Rethink) and Economic (Recycle, Redistribute) aspects of Sustainable Development. In 2013, we will try to redress this imbalance through research and education.

Wash from the start

Global Hand washing Day was observed in some kindergartens in Hong Kong.

OMEP initiated activities

Many of our activities described above are closely aligned with the OMEP initiated activities (A + B).

Most important task or priority for 2013

- Revamp our website to include up-to-date information and resources.
- Arrange workshops, seminars and school visits for members.
- Continue advocacy to prioritize Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care in the government's agenda.
- Conduct research and education to promote early Education for Sustainable Development
- Continue our work with OMEP China to promote the development of early education in Western China.
- Organise a large delegation to the 65th OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Shanghai, China in July 2013.



INDIA

Sindu Aven
sindu@zeelearn.com
www.omep.in

National activities

In the first year of receiving its full membership, OMEP India has conducted numerous activities successfully to enhance the purpose of OMEP worldwide. In accordance with OMEP's principles to defend and promote the rights of the child with special emphasis on the right to education and care worldwide, OMEP India has worked to educate, demonstrate & advocate two very critical and life issues – Prevention of Child Abuse & Improving hygiene amongst children.

Wash from the start

India loses almost USD 12.5 Billion in a year—more than twice the sum of US\$ 6.25 Billion it set aside for the country's health budget in 2012—to small infections. What's more, an estimated 380 Million of its citizens catch small infections with the result that they lose 1.6 Billion workdays every year. That's a heavy price to pay for negligence to hygiene.

In 2011, more children under the age of five died in India than anywhere else in the world. That's 1.7 million children – over 4,650 child deaths a day. Almost 38% of these deaths can attribute to illnesses caused by poor hygiene & sanitation. Washing hands regularly can prevent such illnesses by almost 65%.

OMEP India wants to champion this cause and inculcate this habit in as many children as possible. OMEP India, with its founding institution – Kidzee, has conducted campaign across 6 major cities of New Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Guwahati, Patna &

Lucknow reaching out to more than 10,000 children and taught them the importance of washing their hands – a habit which inculcated daily, can prevent a whole plethora of diseases related to hygiene and sanitation.

In these camps, the parents were educated too about the importance of washing hands. A special team of medical and hygiene experts were brought in to effectively demonstrate to children the correct way of washing their hands.

Some Images:





OMEP initiated activities

OMEP India, the 'I-Care Initiative' to prevent Child Abuse across the country, has conducted multiple seminars to educate parents, employees, and educators on the various aspects of Child Abuse & its prevention. These seminars were conducted in schools across India in a work-shop mode where participants were sensitized regarding the issue and given guidelines to be followed so as to prevent the occurrences of abuse related incidents.

Most important task or priority for 2013

OMEP India's priority for 2013 can be summarized in the following points:

- Enrol as many as possible members under the ambit of OMEP India through the following:
 - Direct Mailers
 - Social Media Marketing
 - Approaching existing ECCE associations / consortiums etc.

The preparation for activity is already under way and will be executed by 15 May 2013.

- Start a nation-wide campaign with relevant NGOs on preventing Child Abuse. Approaching preschools & schools on sensitizing the stakeholders on various aspects of child abuse prevention. The campaign will be executed by 1 May 2013.
- Launch a study on needs of ECCE teacher training across the country by 31 May 2013.
- Conduct a national level symposium / workshop / conference based around promoting the criticality of Early Childhood Education & Care all across India in the month of October 2013.



JAPAN

Toshiko Kaneda

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

kaneda123@hotmail.co.jp (president)

<http://www.gakkai.ac/omepjpn/>

National activities

Events: Meeting, Lecture, and Symposium

- National Annual General Meeting, March 2012
- Ceremony of the 40th Anniversary Celebration of OMEP Japan, March 2012
- International Symposium jointly sponsored by the Japan Society of Research on Early Childhood Care and Education, at the 65th JSREC Conference in Tokyo, May 2012

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

- Operation of “OMEP JAPAN KODOMO Fund” for relieving the victims of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake
 - Tsumiki (Building Blocks) Project
 - Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) Forum in Fukushima
 - Preparation of “A Report on Support Programs with JAPAN KODOMO FUND” and reporting it at the OMEP world assembly.

Public Relations

- Periodical News Letter (May 2012 and November 2012)
- Home Page on Web site
- Preparation of a memorial book tracing the history of OMEP Japan called “the OMEP Japan 40th Anniversary Brochure” and a picture book about the Convention on the Rights of the Child

International activities

Attendance and presentation at the 64th World Assembly and Seminar in Campo Grande, Brazil, in July, 2012

Support program with the OMEP Japan KODOMO Fund and the ECEC activities under Tsunami and radiation-contaminated disaster in Fukushima

- Presentation about the support program with “Japan KODOMO fund” at the OMEP world assembly.
- Showing the movie “The Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011-A nursery teacher’s hard work”

Japan committee activities report

A picture book introduced the Convention on the Rights of the Child was published as the OMEP Japan 40th Anniversary Brochure in Japanese and English and provided to each national committee of OMEP.

Participation of Asia-Pacific region research project

The research of the belief and activities for nursery teachers of the ECEC was carried out and the paper regarding the result was submitted to the IJEC.

Education for sustainable development

The recovery of the Early Childhood Education and Care from the Eastern Japan Earthquake is one of the most important items and also the Early Childhood Education and Care under the radiation-conta-



minated disaster in Fukushima. The ESD taking into consideration the above items is one of the urgent issues.

The concept of the ESD and the approach to it were changed drastically after March 11, 2011 and ESD in ECEC is reconsidering through the forum.

Most important task or priority for 2013

A report for the ECEC program under the Tsunami and the radiation-contaminated disaster in Fukushima and the support program by the OMEP Japan committee will be prepared and provided it to the world wide OMEP.

We would like to hold a symposium regarding the ECEC under the radiation-contaminated at the world assembly.



KOREA

Dae-Ryun Chung
cdryun@dongduk.ac.kr

National activities

The OMEP Korean National Committee held its 10th annual workshop for teachers and parents on June 16, 2012. The theme of the workshop was “Early Childhood Education in ‘SMART’ world,” which focused on theory and practice of old and new technology in 21st century.

Main speech was about ‘early childhood education in the period of highly developed technology’ by Dr. Young-Man Yu (Professor of education technology in Han Yang University). For the lecture of the theme, Dr. Koo-Jong Yu (Professor in KangReong-WonJoo University) had a speech “A plan for applying smart machinery and tools in the early childhood practice.” Mrs. Hyun-Joo Kim (Vice director in Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and Care) had a lecture of ‘Revisiting old technology in smart world.’

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

International activities

Including Dr. Eun-Hae Park (national vice-president of OMEP KOREA), 36 Korean researchers for poster presentation from 13 universities and 2 research institutes participated in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Brazil.

The national vice president of OMEP Korea, Dr. Park was nominated for the office of Regional VP for Asia Pacific, and elected as a VP Asia Pacific in World Assembly in Brazil for three years from 2012-2015.

Education for sustainable development

Since the ESD project in Ewha Institute of Childhood Education and Care (titled as “the project for protecting blue stars”) was introduced in the workshop, many educators in child care centers and kindergartens have realized the importance of ESD, and the contents of ESD have included in the curriculum for young children.

Wash from the start

The purpose and the meaning of WASH project were introduced to our individual and collective members. To promote healthy, sanitary, and hygienic hand washing and toileting behaviors among young children, participating in a case study related to WASH was encouraged through the on-line.

Most important task or priority for 2013

The OMEP Korean National Committee will hold its 11th workshop for teachers and parents on June 2013. The theme will be related to current issues in Korea and the world.

In order to provide and share information with all present OMEP members, OMEP Korean National Committee is preparing for opening the Korean OMEP web-site.



PAKISTAN

Noushad Ahmed Khan
Omeopakistan@yahoo.com

The National Committee of OMEP Pakistan congratulate new Vice President Asia-Pacific Eunhye Park. OMEP President, Professor Ingrid Pramling and Vice President of Asia-Pacific Eunhye Park leadership of OMEP run smoothly and also that you have success in supporting us and all countries of the World. We thank them for their support and guidance of OMEP Pakistan for all time. The National Committee of OMEP Pakistan continues to promote and encourage the Early Childhood Education ECD, Early Childhood Education and Care ECEC, Education for Sustainable Development ESD in Early Childhood Education ECE, Children's Right to play and Rights of the Child, and Wash in School of the Child project that is aimed at promoting this issue for both young children and students majoring in ECE, ECEC, ESD, CRP, WIS.

Throughout 2012 OMEP-Pakistan has continued to inspire early childhood advocate, practitioners and researchers changing and touching many children's lives both locally and globally. With the generous support and involvement from partnering educational organization and committed members. OMEP-Pakistan remained active in its role the enhance professionalism in the Early Childhood Education ECD, Early Childhood Education and Care ECEC, Education for Sustainable Development ESD in Early Childhood Education ECE, Children's Right to play and Rights of the Child, and Wash in School. The OMEP Pakistan wish to continue to forge strong relationship with OMEP World, and all members countries around the World, providing assistance and enabling close collaboration and global exchange in the all eares, development and establish the ECE,

ECEC, ESD, CRP, WIS, Schools and teaching centers in Pakistan.

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

As a 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 because of their poverty lines. Sometime 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 get mast send their children to education.

The National Committee OMEP Pakistan keeps a good relationship with World President & Committee, Vice President of the Asian-Pacific region and OMEP members from others countries.

Main Activates

OMEP Pakistan at the regions / provinces concentrates their activities on recovery programs for children who are victims of child abuse, malnutrition and poverty. The made possible by the support of local and international organization.



OMEP Pakistan continued to conduct in service training at pre-schools proves wide in collaboration with Local organization.

Local affiliated bodies organize their activities according to the needs in early childhood education and care in their own areas with their own way of life.

Nutrition project was implemented in all districts in the Pakistan.

The OMEP Pakistan has made arrangement to organized and conduct workshops and seminars to be introduced to pre-schools education.

An Art, folk, song and tradition programs compiled and recorded was modified to suit the 3-6 age groups.

The parent's workshops were held in the Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad Quetta, Gilgit 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.

The OMEP-Pakistan remained active in its role the enhance professionalism in the Early Childhood Education ECD, Early Childhood Education and Care ECEC, Education for Sustainable Development ESD in Early Childhood Education ECE, Children's Right to play and Rights of the Child , and Wash in School.

Most Important Plan for 2013

We have prepared a draft plan for the year 2013. Major activities are.

- Training, Workshop and Seminar programs.
- To promote a ECEC, ESD, Children Rights to Play and Wash in School with collaboration United Nations and local companies.
- To enhance professionalism in the Early Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education ECE and Children Right to Play.
- Exploration of Partnerships to initiate child programs, Children Rights to Play Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education ECE.
- Technical supports National Committee and local committees meeting.
- Participation in the World Congress, Regional Meeting, and World & regional programs.
- To establish Schools and teachers training centers with the support of OMEP members countries and any organization.
- International Children's Art Competition 2013 the age group 3-6.
- Wish to host 2014, 2015, 2016 World, Asian and Regional Congress / Conference / meeting in Pakistan.



SINGAPORE

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

Main activities in 2012

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 extended their learning about ECE programmes in Singapore on these visits and they remain popular with them.

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

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.

Most important task or plan for 2013

Third Project of ESD for World OMEP

The Committee will participate in the above in 2013.



SRI LANKA

C. A. Samaradivakara
divakara_me@yahoo.com

The National Committee focused its attention on parent education programme on the philosophy and the techniques of early childhood education as practiced in the modern world. In the present education programme, priority is given to effective parenting methods, before pre-school begins. The Programme became an opportunity for mothers to equip themselves with skills and nurture their children so that they go on the right track of their development. The programme consisted of monthly weekend workshops in all the provinces of the Island.

The National Committee used the mass media on parent education where it was stressed that education involves not only teaching but helping children to learn themselves.

Creative material for effective pre-school education were prepared to be given to pre-school teachers.

A series of exhibitions of paintings by children of all pre-schools were held on world Children's Day (October 01) in all provinces.

Ten refresher in-service courses were conducted for pre-school teachers covering all provinces. The services of the Open University, Social Service Department and UNESCO Clubs were obtained in the implementation of the programme and workshops.

The National Committee decided to extend their services to realize the right of children in general, that is, children above the pre-school age too. This decision was taken as there are a large number of war-affected children who were traumatized due to their being exposed to violence. This programme is in full swing and the National Committee seeks support from the international community.

The new curriculum with emphasis on environment and citizenship prepared by Mr. C.A. Samaradivakara, the President, OMEP, Sri Lanka, has aroused keen interest among teachers and authorities in the fields of general education, conservation and social activism. They were full of praise for the enlightened approach towards conservation and civic awareness along with innovative techniques pro founded in the new curriculum which they believe would mould their personality in their formative years.

The National Committee is making efforts to publish it in original national languages.



THAILAND

Udomluck Kulapichitr
udomluck.k@chula.ac.th

Main activities in 2012

Since the announcement of the published and implementation of the National Education Standard on Indicators for Early Childhood Education Level (2-5 years old) for external quality assurance under the responsibility of the Officer for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization) in 2010, the following activities and projects involved by the leadership of OMEP Thailand Executive Committees are as follows:

- The Development of National Education Standard of Education Level (birth – 2 years old) under the responsibility of the Officer for National Education Standards and Quality assessment (Public Organization).
- Workshops for teachers of child development centers from 6 provinces on “Book Start Project: Reading with Young Children”, “Classroom Management”, “Learning Environment for Young Children” “Teacher- Made Materials for Preschoolers” under the cooperation of OMEP members and the Officer of Social Development and Human Security.
- Workshops on training the external evaluators for external quality assessment of preschool programs under the Office for National Education Standards and Quality assessment (Public Organization).
- Workshops on “Enhancing Preschool Teacher’s Teaching Potentials” under the government policy of “Strong Nation”.
- A research project on “Situations, Effects and Approach on Enhancing Welfare, Protection and Learning Potential of Young Children Under Nonparental Care With an Innovation Approach to Enhance Family Attachment Relationships for the Safe Society”.

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

- Thailand has participated in the United Nation Decade of Education for Sustainable Development by announcing the Project of the ECO-School Guide for ESD which include education from early childhood, elementary, and secondary education levels. Part of the schools involve in this project, there are now 14 preschool programs.
- A two years large survey on state and problems of operation on environmental education in the preschool level of schools participating in the ECO-School Guide of ESD project has been conducted and finished with the collaboration of OMEP executive members.

Most important task or plan for 2013

- To launch a campaign for creating young children adult attachment relationship in nonparental care at home and early childhood settings.
- To advocate OMEP organization and activities in order to gain more public awareness and memberships in Thailand.



WORDS FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST 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. Even though three out of 25 are missing, 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. Not all reports follow the guidelines which were suggested by OMEP Executive Committee for this year. 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. What can be seen as a very important activity is involvement of number of national boards in policy decision making – consultancy and advisory concerning ECEC within the specific country. Some reports show that OMEP has its voice in the field of ECEC policy (for instance Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Slovakia). Moreover, some committees are trying to continue or establish collaboration with International Organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.) or NGOs or support OMEP committees in other regions in the World (Denmark, France).

A number of European countries participated in the Education for Sustainable Development project both in the first and second phase. The results were presented at the World Assembly and Congress in Campo Grande, Brazil, in July 2012 and also at the European Meeting and Congress in Warsaw, Poland, in April 2012. When third phase of ESD project on Intergenerational Dialog has been announced during Autumn 2012 nine European countries started to work on it (Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine).

2012 also saw the continuation of the European project on multicultural education called “What Life is Like in Europe: Children Learn Already in Kindergartens” proposed by the Czech OMEP committee and managed by Marek Kadlec. The project is now taking a more specific shape due to support from the EU Comenius fund which the project got. The project concerns the promotion of cultural awareness of preschool children through the production of teaching materials and their implementation in country specific kindergarten days. There have been so far six participating countries from Europe: Poland, Slovakia, Norway, Greece, Croatia, Russia and the Czech Republic. We hope that Kindergartens also from other countries will take part in the project.

The number of member countries in Europe increased to 25. Preparatory boards established in Ukraine and Croatia got full membership at the World Assembly in Campo Grande, Brazil, in July 2012. All people who have contributed towards the foundation of OMEP in these two countries



and its activities there should be congratulated – especially Innesa Filipova from Lutsk in Ukraine and Adrijana Višnjić from Croatian Zagreb. We welcome very much these two newcomers to OMEP Europe which remains to be biggest and strongest region in terms of member countries.

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 Warsaw, Poland, in April 2012. The Conference “Respect for a Child” was hosted by OMEP Poland together with the Academy for Special Education. Many thanks belong to all Polish colleagues who helped to create very friendly and fruitful environment for the conference and meeting in Warsaw. On the first place, thanks go to Anna Wrobel, President of OMEP Poland.

The World Assembly in Campo Grande held in July 2012 provided another opportunity to meet people representing European OMEP member countries. This time, the meeting of OMEP Europe was really a small one, attended by representatives of six countries only: France, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Turkey. The minutes were published in the Autumn issue of the European Newsletter.

Activities of Vice-President

The European Newsletter came out in 2012 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 as usually accessed from the OMEP website (<http://www.omep.org.gu.se/>).

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 Conference in Campo Grande summarizing the results of its second phase, whose focus was on implementing specific projects into the activities of institutions of preschool education. We also initiated third phase of ESD project on Intergenerational Dialogue on ESD in Autumn 2012.

It is the last Annual Report for Europe region which I have prepared as the Vice-President for Europe. My period of service expired in December 2012. The OMEP World Assembly in Campo Grande, Brazil, has elected a new Vice-President for Europe, Nektarios Stellakis of Greece, and I would like to congratulate him again on this occasion and wish him a lot of success in this demanding and interesting work. My hopes are that under his leadership, OMEP Europe is going to get stronger and you will all contribute towards meeting the mission of OMEP – work to benefit young children.



BULGARIA

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

National activities

In all regions of Bulgarian OMEP, recently there were organized discussions on a New Law for School and Preschool Education, with obligatory preparation for children two years before joining school education.

In relation to 130 years, since establishing the first kindergarten in Bulgaria, was organized the fifth scientific-practical National Conference of preschool education: "We are walking together for the future". In the forum participated more than 500 teachers in preschool education, teaching staff of several Universities, representatives of Ministry of education, youth, and science, different communities and NGOs.

Our special guest for the conference was Dr. Nektarios Stellakis – OMEP Greece, who pleased the members of BG.OMEP by his lecture and discussing the problems of OMEP in the framework of cooperation. BG OMEP supported the nomination of Dr. Nektarios Stellakis as a President of OMEP-Europe.

Regional committees of OMEP were participants in the National Campaign of the Ministry of education, youth and science: "Participate and change", for improvement of the quality of preschool education.

International activities

Participation of members of BG OMEP in International Educational Projects and Seminars of the Universities and Communities with corresponding institutions in England, Belgium, Slovenia, Greece, France,

Turkey, Czech, Russia. The materials from these projects were distributed among kindergartens for discussion and application.

According to the Program "Learning through the whole life" are organized Opened doors of kindergartens for national and international exchange of innovations and creativity in education. The future advantages of mobility of common Europe practices for intercultural interactivity are discussed.

Participation of the collective members of BG OMEP in Project "Intergenerational Dialogues on ESD"

Participation of BG OMEP in the special issue of the Journal "Policy Futures in Education".

Education for sustainable development

Regional committees of BG OMEP participated in applying the concept of Education for Sustainable Development in educational programs in preschool education.

Round tables were organized under subject "Educational projects – factor for promoting competence of teacher in kindergartens and schools". We organized practicum e-Twinning portal for start of projects in partnership with educational institutions of European countries widening of perspective to consumption of means of educational Europeans programs for national initiatives.

Presentation and discussion of scientific paper and film by theme "Education for sustainable development" made by Prof. Natalia Ryzhova and Dr. Igor Ryzhov –



OMEP Russia as a special guests of the conference of BG OMEP. By theme are waiting cooperation for exchange of educational strategies and experience.

Wash from the start

In this initiatives of OMEP were included all kindergartens from our regional committees. The activities are based on the national educational requirements for preschool age (3-7 years old), in relation to the basic culture-educational directions: social world, nature, language, arts, labor, mathematics, games. In order to achieve proper knowledge, necessary skills and good feelings, children were organized in instructive, practical and play activities.

Learning and practicing of children in educational and life situations were supported from their teachers and parents during different activities: children watered the flowers and washed the flowerpots; children cleaned and arranged the flowers and gathered the seeds for the glass houses; children washed the dresses of their dolls and the technical means for drawing, modeling, etc.; children participated in celebration of the Global Hand Washing Day trough different initiatives.

OMEP initiated activities

National forum "130 years preschool education in Bulgaria: responsibility and support to children", with the participation of Ministry of Education, Youth, and Science, Teachers Trade Union, Universities, Non-governmental organizations. Special visitor-lecturers in mention conference were Prof. Natalia Ryzhova and Dr. Igor Ryzhov from OMEP Russia.

Organization of Open discussions on the Open Appeal with Local and National leaders for the Prioritize of Early Childhood Development, Education and Care. The basic results of National Policy in education are: including preschool education (3-7 years

old) in united educational system on the bases of united standards; and including 5-7 years old children in obligatory preschool groups, two years before school.

Organization of Regional Seminars and Round Tables: applying of interactive methods for developing learning process of children in kindergarten; civil education and formation of identity in childhood; discussing educational variants for obligatory joining of 4 years children in kindergarten.

Organization of innovative forms of pedagogical interactivity: consultative rooms – effective model of work with parents in kindergarten; study-hall room for the future – supporting environment on communication technologies for children; natural laboratory – ecological path in kindergarten.

Most important task or priority for 2013

Organization of National forum of BG OMEP and partners (7 June): "The Teacher – experience and innovations for quality of preschool education", with Round table: Care and support for young teachers.

Including in initiative of UNESCO: "Education on top of the development agenda": promoting better equity in access; improving the quality of learning; promoting global citizenship.

Active participation in the national set "NELLII for initiatives and information concerning learning for the whole life, according the program Socrates".

Participation in the project "Education for sustainable development".



CROATIA

Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić
avisnjic.jevtic@gmail.com

National activities

Most important activities that NC OMEP Croatia was enforcement is to announced public and ECE professionals fact about OMEP. We worked on collecting members and promoting OMEP activities. For that, we had articles in papers and magazines for education in Croatia.

Held a symposium for professionals in the ECE with the theme “Changed childhood - effects on children, families, educators”. Meeting was attended by professionals from the entire Croatia.

The best-known magazine for preschool “Child, preschool, family” has published a special edition issue about OMEP and connection between professionals around the Europe. ESD OMEP Project was also presented in this issue. Finally, they published lectures from Symposium.

International activities

We start to work on the European Conference 2013 – with announcement for people, made web site of the Conference, get auspices from President of Republic Croatia and Ministry of science, education and sport for the Conference. We also made partnership with Agency for education and care, so they announced the Conference on their official web site.

Croatia also take a part of Project “We are Europe” with 6 other OMEP National Committees – Norway, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Greece and Poland.

Education for sustainable development

Croatia implemented OMEP plans and programs for Education for Sustainable Development.

We included the Bosnian kindergartens in the new part of ESD project, and we also included more kindergartens from Croatia.

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.

Wash from the start

All Croatian Kindergartens has education for health in their curriculum, so children in ECE institutions are involved in this project.

OMEP initiated activities

President of OMEP Croatia is a member of two National Committees – National Committee for education and care of Republic of Croatia and Group in Committee of National Strategy for education and Care, so we will try to improve the quality of ECE in Croatia.

Most important task or priority for 2013

At the beginning of the 2013 we will organize a Symposium “The role of educators in the development and education of children of early age”.

We will organize European Conference 2013 and European Regional Meeting.

In the spring we will organize more education for ECE professionals.



In the autumn we are planning to do
Discussion about Pluralism in Education.

For the whole 2013 we will further work
with kindergartens for ESD World Project.



CYPRUS

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

National activities

During 2012 OMEP Cyprus Committee responded to a call from its members to organise a series of professional development workshops. Focusing on a common theme of 'Play in the Early Years context', noted professionals and academics accepted an invitation to participate in the initiative, offering to share their personal experiences and knowledge with our members. Five different axes were explored:

Play in adult life – this workshop allowed teachers to explore the positive social, cognitive and psychological benefits of playing first hand.

Pedagogical principles and potential of play – this workshop presented current research trends and findings regarding the importance of play in early years settings.

Play and Mathematics: practical implementation during free and structured play activities – participants observed best practices in action, with twenty 4-5 year olds interacting with dynamic mathematical resources.

Play as a tool for differentiation in a mixed ability kindergarten classroom – special needs expert presented contemporary theory underpinning pedagogical approaches in working with learning difficulties and then presented cases studies for investigation and discussion.

Play and the arts –participants' groups were invited to experience first-hand the benefits and processes involved in creating music and art using common, everyday objects and

resources, as means to support creativity through play.

Workshops were free for members and all the workshops were oversubscribed. Participation to workshops was kept intentionally small (between 20-25 participants) to maximize hands-on learning and impact. Feedback from members has been extremely positive, with requests for workshops to be repeated, to continue for alternative topics, and to extend over several meetings for an opportunity for an in-depth investigation of a specific subject or approach.

International activities

Dr. Nikoletta Christodoulou, represented the Cyprus Committee at the 63rd OMEP conference in Hong Kong, 8-9 July, 2011.

Dr. Nikoletta Christodoulou is Vice President of OMEP Cyprus and Lecturer of Curriculum and Instruction—Curriculum Studies in the Preprimary Education Department at Frederick University, Cyprus. There she presented a workshop entitled "Young Learners as researchers: The example of Cyprus Oral History and Living memory Project" (N. Christodoulou, L. Avraamidou & B. Ayers).

This paper discussed the importance of teaching young pre-school and elementary school children (k-3) the techniques of oral history research. By developing research skills and inquiry through play and engagement with purposefully designed activities the researchers aimed to employ learning in a natural and fun way, as a platform for developing learning further.



Marianna Efstathiadou represented OMEP Cyprus at the European Regional Meeting held in Poland in April of 2012.

Ms. Efstathiadou is currently the Treasurer of OMEP Cyprus and Special Teaching Personnel in the Dept. of Education Sciences at the European University Cyprus.

She presented a joint paper, written with Dr. Chrystalla Papademetri Kachrimani, President of OMEP Cyprus and Lecturer in the Dept. of Education Sciences at the European University Cyprus, entitled “Young children engaged in sophisticated forms of mathematical thinking”.

Wash from the start

(Brief description of activities to support WASH from the Start in 2012 in your country)

Most important task or priority for 2013

To offer the professional development workshops focusing on “Play” island wide to reach members from the remaining 4 regions of Cyprus. Members often face difficulties in travelling to Nicosia to participate in professional development programmes, therefore we aim to continue to respond to members’ most pressing need for support and information regarding contemporary research findings and exemplary good practices in Early Years Education.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Dana Moravková

e-mail: rimska@ctyrlistek.biz

www.omep.cz

National activities

Same as in previous years, also in 2012 the OMEP the Czech Committee female members met regularly all professional organisations of early childhood education to submit comments on acts and regulations concerning early childhood education that are presented by the Department of Education of the Czech Republic.

OMEP CR has their representation in the Advisory Board of the Czech Republic Ministry of Education in the affairs of early childhood education. We consider this activity, that allows us, to a certain extent, affect the quality of the Czech early childhood care, very important.

In spring 2012 new committee of OMEP CR was elected; currently the committee operates headed by the chairwoman Dana Moravkova. The new committee strives very actively to enter into discussions on early childhood education in the Czech Republic, particularly on websites of professional and branch-specialized magazines, as well as in media.

Two priorities, among other, were set for 2012 for the committee's activity: getting new members mostly from the Moravian region which already started to happen and creation of new websites to improve communication with members and public which really happened.

International activities

The OMECP Czech Committee is the initiator of the European project of multicultural education titled How to learn about different cultures at pre-school age.

Last year, this project was granted financial support within the Grundtvig program. Currently it involves seven European countries: Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia and Czech Republic.

OMEP CR is regularly represented at European regional meetings and conferences. The last one took place in 2012 in Warsaw; the name of the conference was Respect for a Child.

Same as in the previous five years, also in 2012 OMEP CR supported and created a positive background for its member Milada Rabusicova in her function of vice-president for the European region which she had been fulfilling for a period of six years.

Education for sustainable development

The Czech OMEP Committee was engaged in all three phases of the World project on education for sustainable development (ESD). More than 60 nursery schools registered for the first two phase of the project. The ideas and outcomes of this project were presented at various forums and are also published at the Czech OMEP Committee's website. Third phase called "Intergeneration dialogue on sustainable lifestyle" was announced in January 2013 at the conference "Czech early childhood education in the light of worldwide care for pre-school children". Also this project is found very attractive for nursery schools.

In 2011, The Czech OMEP Committee announced an artistic contest to the World project on education for sustainable development. The results of the contest provided grounds for an itinerant exhibition



that was presented at different locations of the Czech Republic also in 2012.

Wash from the start

Within the project, the Czech OMEP Committee did not develop any activities.

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP CR prepared the documents for these initiatives but has not carried them out so far. We plan to address top Czech Republic authorities in early 2013.

Most important task or priority for 2013

In 2013 we plan to concentrate mainly on the following activities:

Organize and as a professional conference accredit the conference “Respecting children” the purpose of which is to familiarise the Czech professional public with one of the pillars of education for sustainable development which is social development. The plan is then to hold the conference in Prague (Bohemia) and Brno (Moravia).

We consider important that OMEP CR keeps visualizing and promoting its activity by means of media and professional magazines. Also supporting decision taking authorities in the early childhood education development in form of commenting on laws, decrees and other documents relating to early childhood education.

We count with our engagement in the World Project on ESD that was announced in the Czech Republic, and with the work on the European project on multicultural education.

And, finally, in terms of the internal organization, it is necessary that we update our statutes, keep extending and activating our member base and improve communication with members and public by means of our websites.



DENMARK

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

National and international activities

OMEP Denmark held the annual general assembly May 2nd 2012. The report of activities for 2011-2012 was presented by Stig Lund.

The administration of the finances of OMEP Denmark has been a major problem throughout 2012 but seems here in the beginning in 2013 to be solved by having our member "Frie Børnehaver" (an association that runs kindergartens in Denmark) to be continuing this administrative task.

Quite essential as we did not have the opportunity in 2012 to mail out request for member-fees as we had no one to do this job. So right now we are about to ask for fees for 2012 and 2013.

Our bank account is empty so it will be needed – also to be able to pay the international OMEP fee.

During the year we established relationship with the Association of Social Policies that is involved in social well-fare in general and for children as well in order to investigate if this association and OMEP could run meetings and a conference on inclusion and poverty among children and families.

There is a positive approach to such arrangements but has not been effected yet.

OMEP Denmark Vice-president Jørgen Boelskov represented the Committee in the OMEP Europe meeting in Poland April 2012 that was an inspiring meeting.

During the year we succeed to get the OMEP Denmark webpage up again and updated the most important details. Still a lot

needs to be done. Meanwhile we have chosen to use email a lot for our members and have passed News onwards to the members.

Our information brochure on OMEP has been updated as well and has been disseminated at different occasions.

In late 2012 we were asked by OMEP Benin if we could receive a study-visit if 5 people from OMEP Benin (and one person from OMEP Nigeria).

Due to problems with the Danish immigration authorities the visit had to be cancelled in the last moment and the idea of a visit was dropped in January 2013.

As we are only 3 persons in the Committee our main focus is still to establish meetings in order to get more members – also in the Committee - and so strengthen the Danish OMEP work and finances.

We are looking forward to improving the situation in 2013.

Education for sustainable development

Unfortunately the exciting European project on ESD initiated by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson and John Siraj-Blatch did not get funding from the EU Comenius Programme.

OMEP Denmark was involved in the project together with a University, a college for education of pedagogues (pre-school teachers), kindergartens and a research institute.

We and the other Danish partners did not have the resources to follow up in other ways.



Most important task or priority for 2013

It is still the most important issue to get more people involved in OMEP and to support it financially.

We are working on having 3-4 shorter meetings on child poverty and inclusion in cooperation with local colleges for education of pedagogues.

Because of the severe financial restraints it is not likely there will be any participation in the OMEP Europe and Global meetings in 2013.



FINLAND

Satu Järvenkallas
satu.jarvenkallas@hel.fi

Main activities in 2012

OMEP Brochure

Delivering information about OMEP to the Finnish ECE field was one of the main issues for the year 2012. To do that, OMEP Finland made a brochure which was delivered to Finnish ECE professionals. At the same time the OMEP Finland web pages were reformed. (<http://www.lskl.fi/omep>)

'Protect, support, act' – a guide for ECE professionals

In Finland day care is seen as a wide entity of care, rearing and education. Day care has also an important role as a preventive child welfare service. This means cooperation with parents and also with other important institutions in children's lives (social welfare, health care services etc.). To help ECE professionals in this co-operation, OMEP Finland Committee together with other partners, made a guide *Protect, Support, Act*. The guide is available in Finnish and in Swedish.

Education for sustainable development

In the field of Finnish ECE there have been many seminars and projects on education for sustainable development. The year 2012 was also the theme year of socially sustainable education (The Association of Kindergarten Teachers in Finland).

Most important task or priority for 2013

In recent years most local authorities in Finland have assigned day care to the local education administration. In the beginning of year 2013 the drafting of legislation, the administration and the steering of day-care

services and early childhood education was transferred from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to the Ministry of Education and Culture. The guiding idea is to steer and develop early childhood education as one operational whole. At the same time early childhood education has an important role in promoting sociability and evening out differences in social starting points. Cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is crucial and will be stepped up.

At the end of 2012 the Ministry of Education and Culture launched the preparations for an early childhood education act. The government bill will be submitted to parliament during the spring session 2014.

In addition to that, pre-primary education will be developed as uniform instruction which ensures equal prerequisites for the whole age group. Studies will be undertaken to explore the possibility of making pre-primary education mandatory.

The Finnish OMEP Committee will follow that the promises are carried out and the high quality of Finnish day-care system is ensured. We will also do ombudswork that the best interest of child will be taken into consideration and will be the basic idea behind the new early childhood education act.

OMEP Finland Committee will also carry on in dissemination of the information on the Finnish early childhood education and care on the European and to the international OMEP field. At the same time, OMEP Finland will deliver more information about OMEP to the Finnish ECE professionals.



FRANCE

Danièle Perruchon

daniele.perruchon@voila.fr

omep-france.blogspot.com

National activities

Organization of conferences concerning violence, child development, perception of time, autism to the attention of OMEP members or parents associations:

Prevention of Juvenile delinquency: Marwan Mohammed, sociologist

Spare the rod and spoil the child: Marcel Sanguet, psychologist psychoanalyst

Changing the abominable Snowman into rope companion; Major stages of development; Support the child in his rhythm changes: Anna Pinelli, early childhood coordinator

Passing of time: time lived, depicted and measured: Danièle Perruchon, educational advisor in Sciences and Education for Sustainable Development; Autism nowadays: Dr Catherine Barthélémy, child psychiatrist University of Tours

Organised with partnership: Exhibition concerning children victims of parental abuse.

Work with parents:

Two monthly meetings (Coffee for parents) one of which in a detention house (prison), led by a psychologist.

A Children Books Reading Workshop for 0 to 3 years 'olds who are kept at home. Open to everybody and aimed to encourage reading in not French speaking families.

Departmental training day for childminders regarding relationships with parents.

Reflection on the Rights of the Child:

Using the support of OMEP-France action in Senegal, raise awareness of children's rights with documents, kits, exhibition and action called the Rights of the Child are exhibited. These actions concern ten schools, meetings of school directors, teachers' associations, 5 fairs for children book publishers as well as a public musical evening organised as part of the International Solidarity Week. Each of the 800 children from visited schools received a booklet of the Rights of the Child.

Attendance to Kindergarten Teachers General Association Congress focusing on: preschool, the first common sharing.

Visit of the Maria Montessori Training Centre

Visit of an exhibition on the subject: Toys and Men (Grand Palais, Paris)

Monthly participation to a radio show concerning Early Childhood Education: OMEP member Marie Françoise Ferrand.

Two radio shows related to Children and Games and to I want a perfect child: Anna Pinelli, early childhood coordinator.

Three members are part of OMEP World Representation at the UNESCO and present the commissions output.

Since September 2012, the workgroup Education for All is lead by Micheline D'Agostino.

In this group, Maryse Métra presented Multiple Supports and Early Childhood day organisation, key issues, with Madeleine



Baillargeon's participation, OMEP Canada representative.

International activities

Attendance to the World Congress in Campo Grande, Brazil.

Publication in the conference proceedings of a slide show "The World and I: Anna Pinelli, early childhood coordinator".

In Senegal, project called Ndiagianiao Daycare: two classrooms constructed and equipped to accommodate a hundred children aged from three to six. A project to achieve a third and last classroom. Learning resources Centre equipped with documents and supplies to help pupils from local elementary middle and high schools to do homework.

A team from the OMEP travels over there once a year, in February and March; to contact the local authorities as well as families during meetings in the day care premises.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

At the UNESCO, two presentations of ESD projects achieved in kindergarten by Danièle Perruchon, educational advisor in Sciences and ESD, for the Salesian University of Venice (sorting and recycling of waste, and about Water) and for the workgroup Ethics and Environment (Water).

Continuation of ESD activities implemented in 2011: daily recovery of food waste by children in a composter located in the early childhood premises garden; waste that don't belong to the composter is taken away by children to an education teacher to feed the hens and to collect the eggs used to bake some cakes. Set up containers to recover used toys twice a year in 8 villages.

Testimony of experiences concerning the Child and his awareness of the environment, by OMEP members of an early childhood section, addressed to kindergarten schools and presented during the Sustainable Development Week.

Wash from the Start

Set up of the dental Hygiene in nurseries (tooth brushing) for 0 to 3 years 'old children.

2013 most important Task or priority

Work on intergenerational ESD dialogue.



GERMANY

Karin Böllert

Representative: Mrs. Doris Beneke
agj@agj.de, beneke@diakonie.de
www.agj.de

National activities

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 the reporting period, the DNK has provided expert support and guidance on the comprehensive provision of early years day care, in particular for the under-threes. The issues considered in detail not only included the qualitative aspects of education, learning and care provision but also the obstacles of quantitative expansion as well as the requirements for professionals working in this area.

The DNK also addressed inclusive approaches in early years care. There was agreement on the notable lack of clarification of the meaning of ‘inclusion’ and a general recognition that this debate should not be reduced to the issue of the integration of disabled children. Instead, putting inclusive approaches into practice must be regarded as a process which has to be shaped.

A further key focus was set on the discussions about calls for gender-sensitive education and care in early years day care

and how this applies to the professionals working in this field and their qualifications.

The priority here was to consider whether gender-sensitive education is a part of professional training and what significance can be attributed in this context to educational plans and the cooperation between professionals and parents. It was also discussed how to attract both male and female professionals, in particular against the background of child protection issues, and what this topic concretely means for educational work in early years care.

In addition, consideration was given to the educational plans and programmes in the different federal states of Germany. The topics addressed here included, for example, how to implement the content of the educational plans in practice, whether they had to be obligatory elements of vocational training and advanced training, and whether practical experience is to be considered in developing the educational plans further.

The recent changes of the Social Code VIII by the Federal Child Protection Act and their significance for early years care were also central topics in this year's work. Here, the discussion addressed a variety of related questions including the link to preventative assistance and the participation of children.

International activities

In the reporting period, the responsible policy officer took part in the European Regional Meeting in Warsaw on behalf of the DNK.



In addition, the AGJ cooperates very closely with the Eurochild network on the European level, for instance in thematic working groups named “Children without parental care”, “Early years’ education and care”, “Child and youth participation”, and “Parenting and family support”.

Education for sustainable development

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, on the “Portal for Professionals in the Field of Child- und Youth Welfare Services”, an AGJ project, a section has been created where a compilation of current information on the UN Decade can be presented.

Wash from the start

The DNK is not directly involved in the project WASH from the start.

OMEP initiated activities

In Germany, early years education and care receive high public attention. The DNK is closely observing current developments, both with regard to qualitative aspects as well as issues in the vocational and advanced training of the professionals in the field. Here, Germany is already engaged in an intensive exchange of knowledge and experience on the international level. The DNK delivers statements and position papers to these debates.

Most important task or priority for 2013

The DNK will keep on presenting expert policy commentary on the early years education and care sector in 2013.

Organising and preparing the 15th German Child and Youth Welfare Congress (2014) will be one priority. As part of the Congress, the DNK will host seminars which are to be prepared in 2013. The “Future of Early Years Education and Care” is going to be the main theme, establishing a discussion forum for topics such as the development of early years care, in particular with regard to inclusion and migration. These seminars are supposed to address both staff on the managerial level as well as early years educators.

In the AGJ's joint consultations with the School Committee of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states, topics such as the cooperation between early years care centres and elementary schools as well as language training will also continue to play a significant role.



GREECE

Angelaki Christine

omep@mail.gr; c_angelaki@yahoo.com
www.omep.gr

National activities

Seminars on research and on recent issues in ECEC, open for members in all six regional committees. Topics include issues about the importance of play, literature for children, science in preschool, music, critical thought, and social issues such as economic crisis.

Communication through our website:
www.omep.gr.

Publication of Journal: Researching the World of Child.

International activities

Nomination and election of Nektarios Stellakis as Regional Vice-President of Europe.

Nektarios Stellakis works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Science and Early Childhood Education in University of Patras. The last four years he is, also, teaching as Visitor Professor in the European University in Cyprus. He represented Greek Committee in European Regional Meeting in Warsaw and in World Assembly in Brazil.

Education for sustainable development

Greece participated in phase II of World Project.

Wash from the start

Hygienic topics are part of Curriculum and there are great examples of relevant projects.

OMEP initiated activities

A. No activities initiated by the Open Appeal to Local, National, Regional, and Global Leaders: Secure the World's Future: Prioritize Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care.

B. No activities initiated by the document OMEP Position on the Critical Importance of Early Childhood Education and Care as a Priority on the World Agenda.

These documents were translated into Greece and were sent to all newspapers, political parties, universities and organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.). One can found these in our website. Stellakis Nektarios met the Chair of UNESCO Greece and discussed the importance of these papers and the possibilities of further cooperation.

Most important task or priority for 2013

The 9th Pan - Hellenic Congress of the Greek National OMEP Committee, which will be substantiated on October 2013 (18th – 20th), at Ioannina, Epirus – Greece. The congress is entitled: “Life skills: Personal – Social Development in Early Childhood”.

For the congress, the Greek National OMEP Committee 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 2013, sustaining persistently, the development of activities for educators and children.



ICELAND

Sigríður K. Stefánsdóttir
siggak@hi.is

National activities

Financial and professional support for Center for Research in Early Childhood Education.

The centre's mission is to increase and promote research in the field of early childhood education and to be a forum for development in the field.

OMEP initiated activities

First congress about the education for kindergarten teachers because of reduced number of student's applications. We look at it as a big problem for the future and tomorrow children.



IRELAND

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

National activities

The main activity of the Irish Committee is the planning and organization of a conference each year based on a specific child centered theme. The conference includes prominent key note speakers, workshops and the presentation of papers. The aim is to generate research and to give the early year's sector a forum to present their research findings. After the conference a peer reviewed journal is published and this includes all the papers presented and the key note presentations. The journal is titled 'An Leanbh Og' which means "The Young Child".

The conference is held after Easter each year and is the only forum in Ireland that is aimed specifically at researchers in the early years.

International activities

The president attended the European Conference in Warsaw and the World Conference in Campo Grande in Brazil.

Education for sustainable development

Ireland contributed to the first strand of this research.

Wash from the start

Details of this project were sent out to the membership but was not taken up.

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP Ireland disseminated these documents to over 2000 people in Ireland including the Early Years Sector, Politicians, Educators, Third Level Students, NGO's etc.

Most important task or priority for 2013

The planning and running of the annual research conference with a theme this year of "Children's world of play".

Planning the 2014 World Conference and World Assembly which will be held in Ireland.



LITHUANIA

Elena Markevičienė
eevrol@gmail.com

National activities

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 a creative environment and a curriculum renewal.

Together with the Association of the Leaders of Pre-school Education Institutions, OMEP organized a conference „Opportunities for developing creative environment and qualitative changes in the curriculum: Possibilities and RealitiesX.

In collaboration with the specialists and experts of local academic institutions (Vilnius College, Childhood Department of Vilnius Pedagogical university) organized workshops for kindergarten teachers about how to improve the planning of education processes and a new approach to the readiness of children to go to school;

In 2012 we were continuing the program “Preparation of field trips to nature aiming at developing children's communication skills and cognitive enrichment”. Various activities were organized with the goal to unlock children’s creativity and artistic self-expression in the game, improve cooperation among parents, teachers and children (exhibition “Creating together with the family”).

International activities

Organized the first field trip to Riga (Latvia) to share practical experience and know-how of integration of Reggio Emilia ideas into daily activities of kindergartens.

Initiated cooperation with the businesses seeking to develop new tools and toys for creative education (www.edu2.lt/en). The new product designs were developed as a result of such cooperation.



OMEP members attended seminars on quality education led by invited lecturers, shared gained experience with the visitors from other countries.

Education for sustainable development

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



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

Continued disseminating information on activities of educational innovations to Lithuanian kindergartens such as “Application of Reggio Emilia educational system into the children daily activities”, “Environment - the third teacher”.

Wash from the start

WASH ideas were well accepted both in pre-school and primary schools of the country. In most kindergartens playful instructions are placed in the bathrooms and children were told fairy tales about personal hygiene. Children brought home their knowledge about the right way to wash hands and could teach family members the new rules.

Most important task or priority for 2013

We are planning to organize a round table discussion with the heads and experts on the local academic institutions on a more effective and modern preparation of students who should have knowledge and skills on creativity development and on readiness of children to go to school.

Together with the leaders and lecturers of Vilnius Pedagogical University and Vilnius College teachers, OMEP will hold a conference "Opportunities for cooperation among kindergartens, parents and schools towards quality education for children".

OMEP will continue working towards raising awareness of society of the importance of creative and quality children education.



NORWAY

Elin Eriksen Odegaard

eeo@hib.no

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

National activities

Presentation of OMEP at University of Stavanger.

Celebrating the distribution of OMEP-Norway's price of Play. Preschool teacher Devy Pandey was celebrated for many years of commitment to children's play and for the work of a playful architecture and rich environment for play activities in the International kindergarten.

Invitation for OMEP membership to all the teacher training universities in Norway (two of them support OMEP-Norway; Stavanger University and Bergen University College).

International activities

Participation in OMEP-Europe Conference, Poland.

Participation in OMEP- world Conference, Brasil.

Cooperation in the project: How to Learn About Different Cultures in The EU – What is Europe?

Comenius project: What is Europe visitors from Czech Republic and Croatia to Bergen Norway, OMEP Norway hosted a meeting in Bergen in cooperation with Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU).

Education for sustainable development

OMEP member Marianne Presthus Heggen in ESD cooperation with John Siraj Blatchford including participation at University of Gothenburg.

OMEP initiated activities

Hearing on NOU 2012:1 For the best of Children.

Contributing with appeal on Quality in ECEC on the Ministry of Educations website: Kindergartens for the future.

Sent letter; Global appeal to the Ministry of Education, The Ombudsman for children, Save the Children - Norway, National teacher union, UNICEF – Norway, The Union for Save the Nature, Forum for kindergartens and the Academy of Education.

Most important task or priority for 2013

International involvement including appeal for Istanbul Declaration (Millennium Development Goals Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure a world fit for children) and raising money for a higher agenda.

Promote play by planning the celebration of a new national Play price winner in 2014.



POLAND

Anna Wróbel

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

National activities

There was organised the second polish meeting of OMEP members in Gdańsk in order to integrate the community. The main subject of the meeting was Cultural education in kindergartens.

There were published many articles about activities of Polish OMEP Committee declared to education for young children in periodical for teachers "Education in kindergarten" ("Wychowanie w przedszkolu"):

- Nr 1/2012, Anna Młynarczuk–Sokołowska, Katarzyna Szostak–Król: „The adventures of different”;
- Nr 1/2012, Elżbieta Jaszczyżyn, Janina Uszyńska–Jarmoc : „Let`s Meet – Let`s Respect Each Other”;
- Nr 2/2012 Hanna Strojewska, Monika Czarnecka– Zreda: „The journey of Vietnam`s dragon country”;
- Nr 5/2012, Brygida Bieda: “The healthy soul in healthy body”;
- Nr 6/2012, Małgorzata Narożnik: “Respect for the child”, OMEP Conference;
- Nr 7/2012, Klim–Klimaszewska, Ewa Jagieło: “Multicultural education”;
- Nr 8/2012, Anna Wróbel, Katarzyna Dryjas: „Dalton Education In Holland”;
- Nr 11/2012, Małgorzata Narożnik : “The Polish Day of kindergarten Education”

On 29 September 2012 a Polish Day of Kindergarten Education was organized. 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.

According to Polish Day of Kindergarten Education was organized polish competition “The balloon of dreams”, which comprised two contests: plastic competition for children and the best scenario for observation The Polish Day of Kindergarten Education among teachers.

In Częstochowa there was worked out and made real project entitled Mummy, Daddy, I want to go to school, for the execution of public administration service of the Ministry of Education within the framework of projects about friendly adaptation of children during their school education. The main aim of the project was to increase the rank of kindergarten and preschool education in children`s development, especially concern children which are physically or mentally unhealthy.

In cooperation with Mazowiecki`s Centre of Teachers Development was organized conference for teachers called “Learning of thinking”.

There are supporting initiatives taken because of Janusz Korczak` Year in Poland. Promoting Janusz Korczak`s pedagogical ideas, especially children` rights.

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

- The Centre for Teachers Development in Kielce, Świętokrzyskie Province (Świętokrzyskie Centrum Doskonalenia Nauczycieli w Kielcach) – the patronage



over The 3rd Kindergarten and Early Education Forum;

- The 7th International Academic Conference in Częstochowa organized by the Collage of Foreign Languages devoted to kindergarten and early-school foreign language education of children;
- The 4th Polish Conference of the kindergarten headmasters organized in Warsaw by RAABE Institute and The House of Knowledge (Dom Wiedzy);
- The 1st International Conference Pedagogic of child, theoretical perspectives and practise, organized by University in Zielona Góra.

International activities

The Regional Meeting and the European Conference entitled Respect for the child were held from 17 to 20 of April in Warsaw. This Meeting took place in Janusz Korczak's year, so a lot of Polish authorities were interested in this event. The Conference was under the honourable patronage of The First Lady Mrs Anna Komorowska, The Minister of National Education, president of Warsaw, Representative of Children's Rights and Polish UNESCO Committee. Deliberations and events took place in different parts of Warsaw: in Senate, in the Royal Castle, in Special Pedagogic Academy and also in thirteen Warsaw's kindergartens and two elementary schools which cooperating with OMEP Polish Committee. Cultural programme promoting Warsaw contained visit in The Great Theatre, Royal Castle, Science Centre Kopernik and tour on the Old City. Conference participants had opportunity to meet at integration Polish feast.

On 15 -17 of October 2012 there was organized international meeting with members of Ukraine OMEP Committee from Łuck in Częstochowa. The purpose of this visit was to introduce our guests into Pedagogical methods and work adapting in

kindergartens in Częstochowa City and exchange of experience about kindergarten education in Poland and Ukraine.

Participating of Polish OMEP Committee in Project School's Partnerships Comenius "What is Europe?" together with Committees of Czech Republic, Norway, Slovakia and Croatia. The main aim of this project is to share cultural ability among children in preschool age.

Education for sustainable development

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.

Wash from the start

Propagating among all Polish children The World's Day of Washing hands. Polish OMEP Committee was taking part in OMEP and UNICEF competition to show good practice about WASH from the beginning: Soup stories and toilet tales from the youngest years throw all over the world. There was presented project of Public Kindergarten no 41 "Vistula's drop" ("Wiślana Kropelka") called "Water drop in the youngest life".

OMEP initiated activities

In cooperation with Mazowiecki's Centre of Teachers Development was organized conference for teachers called "Learning of thinking".

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.

There was propagated in Poland OMEP Appeal, that called the World community to include ECEC as a priority in the Sustainable Goals (SDGs) for 2015 – 2030.

In answer for World Organization Appeal Polish Committee of OMEP supported the action building schools in Nepal, initiated by Polish himalaist Anna Lichota. The first built school is named by famous Polish himalaists Wanda Rutkiewicz and Jerzy Kukuczka.

Most important task or priority for 2013

Taking part in 3rd part of World OMEP Project for Sustainable Development: Intergeneration dialogue about Sustainable Development. (ESD).

Continuing Project Schools Partnership Comenius „What is Europe?“, in which participating OMEP member states.

Cooperation with Polish Senat in range of education and health promotion among small children.

Cooperation with National OMEP Committee of Nepal through common initiatives to support education in countryside in Nepal.

Supporting healthy feeding for small children at home and in kindergartens as the key to Sustainable Development.



PORTUGAL

António Ponces de Carvalho

associacao@escolasjoaodeus.pt or ese@escolasjoaodeus.pt

<http://omep.pt.vu>

In 2012 the Portuguese Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEPT) continued its work in the promotion of better living conditions for each child, their well-being, growth and happiness within the family and community, institutions and society in general. Accordingly it developed and participated in activities within the framework of institutional goals and continued the projects “A RODAR/ Programa Escolas” (ROTATING /A Program for Schools) in the Casal do Silva, Falagueira neighborhood within the Council of Amadora and “Ajudar as crianças a Crescerem Saudáveis e Felizes” (Helping Children to Grow Up Healthy and Happy”) in the Cruz Vermelha (BCV), Lumiar neighborhood in Lisbon.

In the following topics we highlight activities developed throughout the year of 2012 and we also summarize the project activities of the reporting year.

Annual General Meeting

Date when the General Meeting was held - 30/01/2012.

Forum for Children’s and Young People’s Rights

Continuing to develop ideas, as well as, organizing events that contribute to the defense and promotion of social, cultural, economic and civil rights of children and youth, the Forum for Children’s and Young People’s Rights solidified and broadened its goals to become an area of dialogue, exchange of ideas, knowledge and institutional viewpoints. The following institutions are a part of this Forum: AMI, Amnesty International Portugal, Association of the João de Deus After-School Centers,

APAV, APEI – Association of Childhood Education Professionals, Margens Association, Lisbon Municipal Council, CPCJ at Risk, National Confederation of the Institutions of Solidarity, Portuguese Red Cross, ESE of Lisbon –Superior School of Education of Lisbon, Fernanda Freitas (journalist), Aragão Pinto Foundation, Gil’s Foundation, Pro Dignitate Foundation, IAC, IPJ, Oikos, OMEP Portugal and UNICEF Portugal. Throughout the year several meetings were held with the intention of achieving goals and formulating common strategies.

Of the activities organized by the members of the Forum and in the presence of OMEP, we highlight:

- As part of the celebrations of World Children’s Day, a meeting was held; “Between the Minor and the Child”; with the Judges Armando Leandro and Laborinho Lúcio; organized in the Conde d’Óbidos Palace, headquarters of the Portuguese Red Cross, in Lisbon - 31/05/2012
- Commemorative session of the 23rd anniversary of the Children’s Rights Convention, with the participation of Dr. Maria Barroso and Judge Armando Leandro, Helena Roseta (Councilor of the Lisbon Municipal Council) Ana Perdigão (IAC jurist), Catarina Tomás (ESE Lisbon teacher), Fernanda de Freitas (journalist) and the Master Domingos Saraiva Youth Orchestra (conducted by maestro Ademar Ângelo Ferreira); National Cordage, in Lisbon. This was followed by the inauguration of the exhibition “Um Direito a (des) envolver” – “A Right to



(dis) involve”, organized by the Lisbon Municipal Council - 20/11/2012

- Social Gathering "The Role of Education as an Inhibitor of Social Exclusion" with Isaura Pedro (university professor), João Brites (promoter of the Project "Transformers"), Diogo Simões Pereira, CEO of EPIS, moderated by Miriam Alves (journalist); organized at the headquarters of the Portuguese Olympic Committee in Lisbon – 3/12/2012

Programa Escolhas (Choices Program) – The Project "A RODAR" ("ROTATING")

"The Choices Program" is a nationwide program, overseen by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and merged with the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, which aims to promote the social inclusion of children and youth from more vulnerable socio-economic contexts, particularly immigrant descendants and ethnic minorities, with a view to equal opportunities and the reinforcement of social cohesion (cf. www.programaescolhas.pt). Since its 3rd Generation (2006 to 2008) OMEP-Pt witnessed the approval of its project "ROTATING" with an intervention in Casal do Silva, in the district of Falagueira (Amadora) which has been referenced in previous year reports.

On the 31/12/2012 the 4th Generation (2009 to 2012) of this project ended. Over a period of 3 years this project involved more than 700 users between 6 and 24 years of age and families.

Among the continuation of measures referred to in previous years, in 2012 the following were highlights:

- Organization of camping programs, cultural visits, sports and recreational activities.
- In an intergenerational perspective, the project continued to provide the space, as well as the resources with the initiative of computer classes for the elderly of Quinta de S. Miguel.
- Closing session and diploma presentation to students of the Literacy Course by the João de Deus Maternal Booklet Method - residents of the neighborhood Casal do Silva - taught by Dr. Isabel Ruivo and collaboration of the ESEJD students, held on the premises of the Falagueira District - 10/05/2012
- Cultural trip to Madrid (Spain) where, among other visits 12 children and adolescents visited the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium and had the opportunity to watch practice sessions and talk to players of the Real Madrid team. They were accompanied by 3 adults of the team "Rotating" – 18 and 19/09/2012

On the 27/11/2012 under the directive of numbers 1 and 8 of Article 13 of the Choices Program Regulation (approved by normative dispatch nº 17/2012) the project "ROTATING" was approved in its 5th Generation by means of the minutes of the meeting of a jury of approval of the applications to the Choices Program - E5G.

The following novelties stand out in this new generation:

- Intervention in the Quinta da Lage neighborhood, located in the same district and where its population is primarily Portuguese and Cape Verdean;
- In addition to the school mediation that is usually carried out, there will be a more direct intervention in the playgrounds of the school EB1 Artur Bual and the High School Mães d'Água, aimed at promoting healthy beneficial relationships in the school environment, the prevention of bullying and the reduction of absenteeism and school dropout;
- A stronger emphasis on entrepreneurship, job creation and training, particularly for youth and young adults;



- Online training program (B / E-learning) for both the Casal do Silva and the Quinta da Lage neighborhoods.

Additionally in this funding program, our Organization will continue to be a part of the consortium of another approved project, named “João de Deus Choices” with an intervention in the neighborhood 6 de Maio, in the Venda Nova (Amadora) district and whose promoter is the Association of the João de Deus After-School Centers.

Project “Helping Children to Grow Healthy and Happy”

Continuing its main activity as providing schoolwork support to socially deprived children in the Cruz Vermelha neighborhood in Lumiar (Lisbon), the venue reopened in the 2nd Semester of 2012 after construction works by the Lisbon Municipal Council.

In addition to the regular activities of schoolwork support, thematic workshops in music, dance and visual arts were developed.

Additionally we highlight:

- The launch of the book “Portugal for Children” with texts in Portuguese, French, English and German by Joana Paz and Danuta Wojciechowska (associate of OMEP Portugal) published by ESEJD in partnership with Lupa Design. Presentation by António Ponces de Carvalho and Ana Sousa Dias. Amongst other personalities at this event, representatives from the Embassies of Angola, France and Canada, as well as, from the Lisbon Municipal Council were present. Held at the João de Deus Museum - 21/06/2012
- During the month of August, elements related to activities of the projects OMEP Portugal and “Anos Ki Ta Manda”, as well as, toy libraries from the Association of the João de Deus After-School Centers/ João de Deus Superior School of Education were displayed in the windows

of the Ministry of Education. Through these projects, “Anos Ki Ta Manda” (co-financed by the Choices Program) and “João de Deus Toy Libraries”, both operating in the run-down poorer neighborhoods of Lisbon and Amadora, we seek to work together in outreach work and social intervention that can meet the needs and inherent realities of children who are at risk of social exclusion, respecting them as individuals who are integrated in a specific community. In this way, amongst other conditions, children can experience daily situations of a playful and educational nature in which we intend to implement social attitudes of tolerance in view of their cultural and social differences, as well as, of their families.

- Following the approval of the re-election of the project “ROTATING”, the following people attended the signing ceremony of Cooperation Protocols of the Choices Program – 5th Generation, António Nunes and Jaime Santos, secretary and treasurer respectively of OMEP Portugal. Auditorium 1 in FIL (International Fair of Lisbon), Parque das Nações in Lisbon - 17/12/2012
- As usual in December toys were distributed to the children covered by the projects developed in deprived neighborhoods, received from students from the João de Deus After-School Centers.

In addition to participating in the aforementioned Forum for Children’s and Young People’s Rights, the Portuguese Committee of OMEP is still a part of and regularly participates in working groups of the Local Committees of Social Action (CLAS) in Lisbon and Amadora and in the consortium of the project “Anos Ki Tá Manda” of the Association of the João de Deus After-School Centers, approved by the Choices Program.

Also worthy of note is the participation of the President of the Portuguese Committee of OMEP, Professor Dr. António Ponces de



Carvalho in the TV program series
“Sociedade Civil” (Civil Society) – a
platform for social and educational debate –
broadcast on channel 2 of RTP.



RUSSIA

Dr. Larissa A. Paramonova

cddz@mail.ru

cddz.educom.ru

National activities

In 2012, members of OMEP Russia worked on the following educational projects:

- The quality of pre-school education
- Development of basic approaches to innovative platforms
- Implementation of a new training techniques basic education program for pre-school education.

Support for the Moscow Association of Preschool Education Pedagogues:

Joint participation in projects, aimed at musical education of children, interaction of preschool institutions with museums, sports etc.

Organization of round tables for spreading awareness about OMEP and its international projects among pedagogues.

Publication of materials about OMEP in Russian periodicals, presentation of OMEP on all-Russian conferences.

International activities

On December, 6–7th, 2012 the Second Annual International Scientific Conference **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION** took place in the Public Chamber of Russia (Moscow).

The Conference was organized by Moscow Pedagogical Academy of Preschool Education with the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and with the

participation of Institute of Psycho-Pedagogical Problems of Childhood under the Russian Academy of Education, Research Institute of Preschool Education named after A.V.Zaporozhets.

The Goals of the Conference were: analysis of modern tendencies in scientific-practical research of preschool education; discussion of problems and perspectives of preschool education; development of the cooperation between the authorities, the scientific society and the practitioners of preschool education.

Members of OMEP Russia took an active part in the preparation and conduct of the section “Development of Early Childhood Education”. The Members of OMEP Russia made reports on: “Current Approaches to Preschool Didactics” (Paramonova LA), “Importance of a Game in Preschool Education” (Trifonova EV), “The Development of Speech of Young Children” (Arushanova AG).

Participation in the European Assembly and OMEP Conference in Warsaw (May).

Participation in the anniversary OMEP Conference in Bulgaria, visits to kindergartens that are OMEP members (Sofia, June).

Participation in the international Conference of the Ukrainian OMEP, visits to the kindergartens that are OMEP members, consulting (Lutsk, November).

Two kindergartens joined the project “What is Europe?” (preparation of presentations and other materials).

Participation in the Polish-Ukrainian meeting (Warsaw).



Education for sustainable development

ESP Project (Parts 1 and 2) continued. All participants of the projects were awarded with OMEP certificates. The information was published on the websites of educational journals and institutions. The information about the project was spread among students of pedagogical universities and colleges, and pedagogues that were involved in teacher training programs. The results of many kindergartens' projects have been presented in publications. Educational films for pedagogues, summarizing the work on the project, have been made. One of the projects has won the award of the Moscow City Public Service Department.

The results of the ESD Project were presented at the international conference, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Rio De Janeiro Conference (Moscow), and discussed at local conferences.

The results of ESD Project in Russia were presented and discussed with Bulgarian OMEP members (Sofia University), with Ukrainian OMEP members (Lutck), with Polish and Ukrainian OMEP (Warsaw).

ESD Project was discussed in the course of events, organized within the other international project in the field of ESD, namely, the joint project of UNESCO and Moscow City Education Department. The principles of ESD have been for the first time introduced into the federal comprehensive educational program for preschool children by the author, who is the National Leader of ESD Project in Russia.

Wash from the start

In 2012, Russia introduced new sanitary-epidemiological rules and regulations. Discussion of new requirements for content and organization of educational institutions took place in different forms:

- Round tables
- Seminars

- Training courses
- Publications in professional journals on preschool education.

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP Members took part in the discussion of important Russian regulations with reference to Early Childhood Development, Education and Care: the Education Law, the National Federal requirements to comprehensive educational programs, and others.

The OMEP documents has been translated into Russian and prepared for publication on the website of the national educational journal.

Most important task or priority for 2013

Preparation for the 150th anniversary of opening of the first kindergarten in Russia. Activities will be conducted in all institutions of early childhood education in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Participation of Russian preschool institutions in ESD Project Part 3.

Participation of Russian Federation in the project «What is Europe?»

Dissemination of the results among pedagogues in Russia.

Increasing awareness of the OMEP documents among pedagogues.



SLOVAKIA

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

National activities

Conferences

Safe movement = Healthy baby

Objective and professional focus of the seminar was the acquisition of new knowledge and the objective of the mission movement and relaxation exercises: psychosomatic healthy growth and development of preschool children as well as the overall development of the psychomotor skills with regard to their developmental specificity. The seminar, which was held in May 2012 was attended by 70 people from Slovakia and two lecturers from the Czech Republic.

Pre-primary education in the present

In October 2012, under the auspices of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport Minister Dušan Čaplovič in Hlohovec organized the international scientific - technical conference. The aim of this conference was pre-primary dimensions that make up the educative reality and create opportunities for professional discussion in the field of pre-primary education. Innovations in pre-primary pedagogy, content of education in kindergarten, school management and digital technology in the kindergarten have been identified as key dimensions of conferences, discussions and individual contributions. The conference was attended by 100 participants from Slovakia and England. 5 major papers were presented and 22 registered contributions.

Conceptual and technical activities

- Commenting policy documents and legislative proposals
- A survey conducted in kindergartens on the theme the children and childhood.

National and regional activities

- Professional - methodological seminars for teachers and nursery school directors,
- Shows creativity of preschool children,
- Performances of children in public,
- Open days in kindergartens,
- Participation in the first and the 2nd Project of the World Sustainable Development ESD.

International activities

Implementation of an educational project for kindergarten teachers in Serbia.

- Participation in the European session OMEP in Warsaw.
- We welcome guests from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland.

Education for sustainable development

SV OMEP decided to participate in the ongoing project of ESD.

In The 1st part of the project 13 kindergartens were involved. All together 333 children (girls 166, boys 167) were interviewed on OMEP ESD logo.

In the 2nd part of the project 9 kindergartens were involved with 20 teachers and all together 505 children (girls 244, boys 261) and 348 parents. They participated in 85 activities and they developed 34 projects.

Four kindergartens were involved in both parts of the ESD project.

In September 2012, conducted scientific - technical conference under the auspices of the Minister of Education, Science, Research



and Sport Minister Dušan Čaplovič called “Sustainable development as a possible cure for humanity's environmental problems through the lens of preschool children”. Attended the nursery school have been involved in the global project ESD. The aim of scientific - technical conference was the issue of the status of sustainable development in the content of pre-primary education, the perceptions of sustainability through the lens of pre-school age, to explore environmental education in kindergarten terms, the environmental activities and projects involving children, teachers, parents and the public.

Wash from the start

In Slovakia, the issue of hand washing, teeth, face, belongs to the basic hygiene practices that are part of the daily routine of kindergarten. Children learn in partnership with parents to follow these important hygiene habits, but also for hand washing, using the toilet, save water and keep drinking regime. The 1st of March is the Water day. During this period, primarily, but also throughout the school year, kindergarten have developed internal projects and activities which through games, creative drama, theater, poems and songs for children approaching the need to conserve water and wash your hands. The kindergarten is a common use toilets for girls and boys, but in some kindergartens already appear divided. In primary and secondary schools are separate toilets for girls and boys.

OMEP initiated activities

The curriculum, which was implemented in the Slovak Republic since 2008 gives an emphasis on pre-primary education. Major curricular documents give prominence to the play as a basic method, a means to achieve the objective of pre-primary education. Expert on preschool education institutions cooperate with the government in the creation of legislative documents and to

advocate the importance of kindergartens in the life of preschool children.

Kindergartens make their environment for parents and children who are interested in pre-primary education. Work clubs for parents to provide guidance and counseling services for parents. Kindergartens have their own web sites, information on their activities in the local press and national TV. In this way, the importance of getting pre-primary education for the general public.

Kindergarten teachers are continually educated through the national education project, or internally in nursery schools or self-education. The main themes of the area of pedagogy, psychology, didactics, digital technology and management. All this information and knowledge are applied to the teachers of the educational process kindergarten.

Most important task or priority for 2013

In 2013 SV OMEP plans to organize:

- Study visit to Prague, Czech Republic
- Conference on the 20th anniversary of the SV OMEP
- Conference on Sustainable Development (to assess the involvement of the third part of ESD world project).

In 2013, a further and consider key SV OMEP will participate and strive for:

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



SPAIN

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

National activities

Completed the investigation “quality indicators” in Early Childhood Education, directed by María Paz Lebrero Baena, Vice President of OMEP-SPAIN, along with Doña María Dolores Fernández Pérez. Bayón Amalia Álvarez, President, has served as Chief of Field.

Holding a tribute on September 22, 2012, Doña Aurora Medina de la Fuente, Honorary Member and Founder of OMEP OMEP-SPAIN. This tribute was organized by the Hon. Montalbo City Council, his hometown in Cuenca (Spain), with large turnout of members of OMEP and other different personalities. Bayón Amalia made a heartfelt portrait of this great educator of the twentieth century in Spain. It opened at the same time, an exhibition of educational materials and the extensive bibliography of Doña Aurora.

Participation in the meeting promoted by the Fundación Areces, held in Madrid in March 2012, to publish the text “authority, discipline and education, three levers of the school environment.” Research that has been developed over the last three years, culminating in the aforementioned publication that summarizes the different experiences.

Maintenance School Parent Teacher training in various early childhood centers.

Projects for kindergarten teachers based on the development of different intelligences: emotional, linguistic, artistic, etc., and using different learning styles.

Development Program activities for children 0-2 years.

Regularly updated Website and Blog, media partners and professionals regarding teaching.

International activities

Participation at the Congress and World Assembly, held in Campo Grande (Brazil) in July 2012, the President, Doña Amalia Álvarez Bayón, the Vice President, Doña María Paz Lebrero Baena, as well as several members of the Spanish Committee and Partners, with presentation of several papers.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

Develop conclusions Project for Sustainable Development conducted by María Jesús Pérez Marcos and his team with students from kindergarten, that project was presented at the 2012 Congress of Campo Grande.

Wash from the Start

Continued work on water and its importance to life, whose advance was released in the working group that was formed in the 2012 World Congress in Campo Grande. There he presented a comprehensive dossier of material prepared for the project, which was well received by the group and was the exchange between members of OMEP.

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP position regarding the critical importance of education and early childhood care as a priority on the international agenda.



Information to various political and educational levels of priority attention to early childhood as the basis for further development of the child.

Task or highest priority for 2013

Develop conclusions Sustainable Development Project.

Maintenance of Parents School in different centers Education.

Continuing Educational Renewal projects for primary education teachers.

Maintain Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF and updating the website.



SWEDEN

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

National activities

- Seminars on research and on recent issues in ECEC in Sweden, open for members and other professionals with interest in ECEC. Some examples of topics, Toddlers in ECE, Natural science and technology for young children. The importance of aesthetics in ECEC, Play and learning, Pedagogical documentation.
- Projects on ECE for sustainability, with preschools, and on Health and ESD.
- Communication and information development through our website www.omep.org.se and our journal OMEP-News, three numbers yearly

International activities

- Presentations during the European OMEP Conference in Warsaw, in April 2012, and at the World Assembly and World Conference in Campo Grande, Brazil in July, 2012.
- Presentations of OMEP Projects at European Early Childhood Education Research Conference in Oporto, Portugal and at the international workshop The Power of ESD at SWEDESD, Gotland University, Sweden in October 2012.

Education for sustainable development

- 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 decided to join Part 3 of the international OMEP project 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 Campo Grande, Brazil in July, 2012.
- 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.

Wash from the start

We have discussed this project in the national and local committees of OMEP Sweden, and published an article about this in our News letter.

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP Sweden has contacted the deputy minister of foreign affairs Gunilla Carlsson, who is also a member of the High Panel for the Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030. We have asked for her participation in a conference linked to the Open Appeal to



Local, National, Regional, and Global Leaders: Secure the World's Future: Prioritize Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care), so far without any success.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- OMEP Sweden will continue to work with questions linked to ESD, the AB-ESD project and also to the relevant issues for young children, e.g. implementing the new General Comment on Article 31 of the UNCRC. All our four chapters arrange evening seminars on these kind of topics.
- Linked to our Annual meeting in February, 2013, OMEP, UNESCO and the University of Gothenburg will arrange a seminar on Education for Sustainable Development and children – in theory and global practice. Teachers, health care professionals, politicians and local officers in are invited as well as students and university lecturers.
- We will work harder on increasing our membership numbers and to be seen more frequent in media.



TURKEY

Prof. Dr. Gelengül Haktanir
gelengul.haktanir@ankara.edu.tr
<http://www.toogd.org>

National activities

In 2012, 10 board meetings were held and 2 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.

Parent education conferences across Turkey were held by our members in various cities, and towns. Also, 3 preschool classes in disadvantaged areas of Turkey were furnished with books from OMEP Turkey budget.

An 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 is used by state preschools throughout Turkey and follow-up studies will be conducted.

Another ongoing project which started in September 2011, titled "Children-friendly Cities" by UNICEF and Ankara Governance continued this year. One of our executive committee members is involved in as the project executive committee member.

International activities

In order to represent OMEP Turkey, a member of executive committee, Dr. Arif Yilmaz, participated in OMEP World

Assembly and World Congress between July 17-21, 2012 in Campo Grande, Brazil.

A two day conference regarding United Nations' Millennium Goals Consultation meetings, titled "Consultations on Early Childhood Development in the Post 2015 Agenda", on the improvement of the quality of early childhood development in worldwide in Istanbul was held between January, 24-25 2013. The Istanbul Consultation on ECD was held to provide a platform for inter-disciplinary stakeholders to place the child's right to development at the center of these consultations, identifying common challenges and opportunities for inclusive social, economical and environmental development. World Bank representatives, UN, UNICEF, Ministry of Education authorities, international and national scholars, NGO's, and municipality authorities were among the participants. Also, OMEP World president Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson and OMEP Europe Vice-President Nektarios Stellakis participated in the meeting.

Education for sustainable development

Regarding education for sustainable development in early childhood education as a committee, three of our members participated in a project to create a scale to measure sustainable development and three of our members, Gelengül Haktanir, Muge Sen, and Deniz Kahrman Ozturk, participated a meeting in Goteborg with the representatives of other countries. The scale is still under development and the first results will be announced in OMEP World Congress in Shanghai.



Most important task or priority for 2013

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 2013 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

Executive Committee Work, 2011/2012

Membership: Wide, but changes in publishing and distribution of the Journal, with additional costs, forced us to increase the subscriptions. Many academic institutions subscribe to the Journal online, so are no longer members. Many people are thinking very carefully about membership of organisations. We hope to increase student membership in future.

Developments in the England: Still experiencing cuts in early years' provision and establishments. We responded to several consultations about early years matters. Many Members are involved in discussions and respond to consultations. Discussions took place at the AGM.

Developments in Wales: Dorothy Selleck (Eiddona): The current economic crisis has particularly affected educational establishments in Wales. Mainly rural areas with a few densely populated around former coal and steel industrial regions. Twenty two Welsh education authorities have had to drastically reduce school and unit placements in both rural and urban areas at all phases of education. An attempt has been made to safeguard Welsh-speaking units. Many small, rural schools are amalgamated into "family federations" with one leader, small schools closing, experimentally, to create one large campus school, as an experiment. This is daunting to highly sensitive young children, often travelling long distances to school, on a restricted transport system.

Many villages lost their community schools recently, which is a blow to community life.

The Early Years programme, "learning through play" is now fully operational for children up to the age of seven years, but is hampered by the changes. An external evaluators report, giving results of a national survey of outcomes was published recently, showed many young children were gaining confidence in problem solving, speaking and listening, but cuts on appropriate in-service courses for teachers in early years has been severe, with debilitating effects on less confident teachers and classroom assistants.

Recently, the Welsh Government published a plan reducing the number of local education authorities from twenty two to four. Phase support, especially for early years, will be diminished. Current cuts are very severe in all aspects of administration. External monitors will evaluate changes to all phases and publish reports on the consequences periodically. OMEPUK observe these developments and comment when necessary.

New Leader in Early Years: A presentation of the OMEPUK DVD was given.

2 students attended to the OMEP European Conference in Warsaw and presented papers.

OMEP / Canterbury Christ Church University New Leaders in Early Years Programme, held a joint Conference for early years practitioners to showcase their practice through short workshops.



Advocacy: The Early Childhood Forum (ECF) was regularly attended, and contributions to Consultations made. There were interesting speakers from Education, Health, Social Services and the Voluntary sector and representatives from government agencies.

Nurper Ulkuer (UNICEF) spoke with our delegated representative regarding the project on Mobilisation and Advocacy of Early Childhood Development. OMEP UK will be taking part in this Project, concerning the Millennium Development Goals omission of under-fives.

Education for Sustainable Development: Not now operating in England, but continuing in Welsh schools.

Wash from the Start: Presentation by John Siraj-Blatchford at the AGM. We are now becoming involved in his programme concerning links with Kenya.

Organisations with OMEPUK representation:

Lady Allen of Hurtwood Trust: Affiliated to OMEPUK, giving grants to successful applicants wishing to travel for research purposes to benefit UK practice.

Hospital Play Specialists Education Trust (HPSET): Registers and re-registers Hospital Play Specialists.

Children's Fund

A sponsored walk was organised and undertaken by New Leaders students. Money raised was donated to a support programme for young children in the Phillipines. Further money was raised at the Conference.

Newsletter: Two have been published this year, of the usual good standard.

European Meeting and Conference, held in Warsaw, April 2012: Attended by eight members, including two students. OMEPUK did not go to Brazil. The representative from Eire took our Proxy vote.

European Meeting and Conference in Zagreb 2013 and World Conference and Assembly in Shanghai 2013: UK will be represented at both.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- Recruitment drive for new OMEP Members. We need to “tune in” to more students and younger practitioners for the sake of OMEP UK’s future.
- Run more meetings and Seminars.
- UNICEF Project: Plan campaign to influence the Prime Minister and UNICEF to include the needs of young children in the Millennium Development Goals, 2015-2025.
- Encourage all members to act as advocates for young children, be vigilant and speak up for their rights at every opportunity.
- Make more use of the Website and technology. Use member’s skills in writing and speaking to spread OMEP’s message.
- OMEP UK – Moving Forward’’: Where are we now? What have we achieved? What are our next steps?
- Support World President, Ingrid Pramling –Samuelsson and European Vice – President, Nektarios Stellakis, in working for Europe and OMEP Worldwide.

It is a hard time for voluntary organisations in the UK, and OMEP is no exception. We pledge to continue promoting young children.



UKRAINE

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

National activity OMEP Ukraine is directed on such priorities:

- Protecting children's rights
- Creating conditions for personal growth of the children
- Family advising and successful parenting
- Methodological improvement among professional educators and psychologists in kindergartens
- Cooperation with leading foreign scientists and practitioners in education

International activity in year 2012

Organization of international science-practical conference "Conceptual views of Janus Korczak as important spiritual values at the present stage" (15.-16.11.2012, Lutsk, Ukraine)

Participation in International science-practical conference by implementation of Dalton (Zelena Gora, 19.10.2012) and interchange of experience UA-POL "The role of preschool education in preparing children for life in the modern world" (15.10.2012, Chęstochowa, Poland).

Education for sustainable development

Interview was held in preschools, and such themes were discussed: traditions and cultures of different nations, defense of environment.

Scientific - practical seminar "Developing successful parenting" (February 2012, Lutsk, Ukraine).

Wash from the start

In 2012 we conducted contest "I want to live in a world of high-quality" and regional action "The future of children without GMOs" (May, 2012)

OMEP initiated activities

OMEP began work in 2009. In 2012 a regional action:

- "Family reads for the child" (January, 2012)
- Family Fair (September, 2012)
- Tolerance School for parents and teachers (November, 2012)
- Holiday of the Teddy bear (October, 2012)
- Share experiences with the Polish Committee OMEP and teachers, established relationships with Russian partners.

Most important task or priority for 2013

In 2013 will organize a regional Festival "Planet of children without borders" and International science-practical conference on problem preschool in Ukraine (25-27.09 in Lutsk), we need help from the European Committee.

Will be actively included in the work OMEP students of East European University of Lesya Ukrainka.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR LATIN AMERICA

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



We live in a historical moment ripe for reflection and action on behalf of children.

Increasingly, Education and Early Childhood care are treated as

priority issues by not only OMEP, but also by governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and a growing number of Latin American countries.

“We often say that OMEP is the organized voice of children. And for that, it must listen to them, giving them their right to participate in everything that concerns them” (Vital Didonet). I, Maria Aparecida Salmaze - vice president of the World Organization for Preschool Education, region, Latin America, and president of OMEP / BRAZIL - was in front of two major events in 2012, held in Brazil, both in Campo Grande-MS: the World Assembly of OMEP, held on 17 and 18 July 2012, and the 28th OMEP World Symposium, from 18 to 21 July 2012, with the theme of Early Childhood in the XXI Century: the right of children to live, play, explore and experience the world. “This theme also shows that early childhood education and supervision have been charged with the focus on research and playful learning” (Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson). In the message of Gary Stahl - UNICEF Representative in Brazil – “Playing is meeting the world meeting oneself, it is discovering new sensations and feelings, you socialize, you learn to respect and be respected, it is to live with the family, to

develop creative potential, and to develop physically and psychologically; it is simply to learn.” The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Ingrid Pramling Samuelson - President of OMEP / World. UNICEF made the speech of welcome, attended by Rui Aguiar (UNICEF-BRAZIL), Lisbeth Gouin, UNESCO, Nurper Ulker, Head of Unit of Early Childhood Development (UNICEF New York), and Marito Garcia, World Bank. The Assembly was performed with simultaneous translation in both official languages of OMEP. They discussed the following guidelines: reading and explanation of the annual reports of 2011; payment of annuities; diploma by indication; approving the accession of OMEP / BOLIVIA; election of the new National Committee of OMEP / ECUADOR; research and dissemination for the WASH Project, disseminating works devoted to ECD - Early Childhood Development - and the video presentation of Shanghai, the host to both the World Assembly and the OMEP World Congress in 2013.

The 28th OMEP World Symposium, was a great milestone for us in Latin America, we embrace the cause very diligently, with dedication, responsibility and entrepreneurship. The moments of the Symposium were designed very fondly, because in addition to celebrating the recognition of children’s rights to life, education and fun, we met with 800 people, we exchanged experiences, discussed the value of play, the time of being a child, childhood teacher education, public policy and child’s education for a sustainable world. Latin America interacted with more than 46



countries, aiming at developing scientific innovations and technological applications, in addition to seeking the best for Early Childhood, provided also the exchange between different institutions related to this segment.

As affirmed by the governor of Mato Grosso do Sul, Dr. André Puccinelli, “The world which OMEP is helping to build with all their work and dedication, many still fail to understand. Early Childhood Education is valuable, as valuable as the professionals who are dedicated to this stage of life”. Thus, in these 65 years, OMEP chapters throughout the world, working in groups of professionals, offering education as a work of art. We conduct research in search of early childhood education and welcome the differences of each country. With this, the OMEP chapters of Latin America seek to defend a public policy recognizing always that children are citizens in rights and duties. Thus, OMEP chapters seek the mobilization and awareness of society in general for the rights of Early Childhood.

OMEP / LATIN AMERICA works hard in teaching children aged 0 to 6 years, which we know possess a complex nature, since it is an undisputed fact owing to the specificity of human beings, especially in the early years of life, which through simple everyday actions, demands commitment, dedication, responsibility and specific training of the kindergarten teacher.

For 2013, the vice president of OMEP / LATIN AMERICA will be present at the following events: I Latin American Congress and VI International Meeting on Early Childhood Education, to be held by OMEP / ARGENTINA; 24th State Meeting Early Childhood and Early Years Primary and 10th International Seminar of OMEP / BR / MS, performed by OMEP / BRAZIL; XIX Brazilian Congress of Early Childhood Education and Early Years Elementary School, organized by OMEP / BR / MARANHÃO; World Congress in Shanghai, with presentation regarding Part 3 on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the World Assembly, also in Shanghai.



ARGENTINA

Mercedes Mayol Lassalle

mercedes.mayol@omep.org.ar

mercedes.mayol@arnet.com.ar

www.omep.org.ar

Main activities in 2012

5th International Meeting of Pedagogical Identity Childhood Education Early Childhood Education (0-6 years): pillars and projections -

There were 1300 participants and 47 innovative projects were selected (three were selected to be presented at the World Congress of OMEP in Brazil and won the Travel OMEP Sweden). Specialists from Europe and Latin America: Mari Carmen Diez Navarro of Spain, Victor Guerra of Uruguay and Argentina Patricia Sarle, Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, Claudia Soto, Rosa Violante, Hilda Weissmann, Ruth Kuitca, Malajovich Ana, Erika Chokler Victor Pavia, Ivana Rivero, Laura Santillan, Daniela Pelegrinelli, Patricia Goicochea, and others.

Manifesto for a Free Comprehensive Education and the Game

Having formed a Committee on Public Policy, it was responsible for drafting the Manifesto. Since May 2012, is conducting a media campaign and accession to the Manifesto. To date, more than 600 were achieved institutional and individual accessions and their dissemination through various public and private channels. Also materialized interviews with government officials at the national, provincial and municipal and teachers unions to which the principles are taken into account when formulating concrete policies aimed at early childhood.

Training Program and Professional Development for Managers

It is aimed at supervisors and professional technical team Registry Educational Institutions and Welfare (RIEA) of the Department of Education Private Management of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Education. We works on the development educational profile of the role and implementation of strategies to facilitate the adoption Curriculum Design by nurseries. They offered 40 clock hours to 9 participants.

Distribution

Development of the website (15,300 unique visitors and 277,000 hits per month)

Distribution of free weekly newsletter (15,000 subscribers)

Presence on social networks (Facebook and Twitter with 6300 followers and friends).

Strengthening OMEP blog (19,000 visits in 2012).

Media Management: he hired a journalist specializing in the development and publication of three press releases, facilitating radio interviews, television and newspapers to spread the action of the organization and its presence in newsletters of other institutions and public agencies. Proyecto "Cuidar y Educar".

A partnership with Fundación Navarro Viola, within the framework of its program of Early Childhood Development Support, is being carried out in the province of Corrientes a program that mobilizes more than 25 projects in almost 30 kindergartens



with about 160 teachers serving about 1,360 children between 3 and 6 years, most of which grow in conditions of poverty.

Other activities

University of Buenos Aires: Management Graduate School of Arts: Signing of cooperation agreement and issued the Seminar “Nursery, political and social problems” in the Masters, Specialization and upgrade program in Early Childhood Education. Involved about 100 students from different cohorts.

University of Santiago del Estero, School of Educational Innovation. Through the SIPO, the Committee of OMEP Santiagueño, created the Superior Specialization in Maternal Education. The OMEP has supervised and drafted the distance learning modules and has taught many of the seminars. Involved about 80 students from different cohorts.

Workshops Cycle Guys ... teachers play too! by Prof. Patricia Goicochea. 60 participants attended.

Day Working with families in the nursery by the Mg. Gabriela Fairstein. Attended by 45 participants.

Board “New Generation Poverty and Disparities: Care Services Early Childhood.” Organized by the Centre for Gender and Poverty together with the National University of San Martín, Master of Family Studies. Participation in the panel. Attended by 300 professionals.

Education Innovation Encounter III “Documenting practices Recreate pedagogy”. OMEP participation on juries and panels coordinators in the presentation. 400 managers and educators attended Public School Private Management of the City of Buenos Aires in its initial and primary levels.

Second Meeting Practice Provincial Early Childhood Education - Curriculum Meeting. Ministry of Education of the Province of

Chaco Chaco Province, Dec. 10. Participation in the conference opening and closing of the meeting attended by 400 educators and local school administration officials.

Presentation of the Manifesto for a Free and Comprehensive Educational Game Oberá, Misiones. The founding meeting organized by the Social Citizenship OMEP’s visit in order to spread the manifesto through intensive programming that included: talks with directors of kindergartens nucleated city, with teachers and students of the teacher training institute “Carolus Linnaeus” meetings with members of the Deliberative Council and Municipal Constitutional Convention, heading for the preparation of the City Charter. It also held a public lecture with authorities, institutions, and community concerning the general public, in order to reaffirm the legitimacy of initial education from a rights perspective.

Scholarship “Hebe San Martín de Duprat” Incentive initial education researchers. It provides an annual scholarship.

Library specializing in Early Childhood Education OMEP: Expansion and cataloging. Receiving new donations. Over 600 volumes.

New head of OMEP: Moving to a new headquarters and independent wider. It was possible thanks to the partnership with Fundación Navarro Viola, owner of the property, which has been given on loan free for three years. Publicaciones.

“Early Education: Research and Practice. Volume III” Subject: Science and Environmental Education: teaching to understand the world and live sustainably. In agreement with the Editorial 12ntes. (In press)

“Dilemmas in early childhood education” In agreement with Ecole Normale Supérieure in Modern Language No. 1. “President Roque Sáenz Peña”. (In press)



Lectures and panel discussions of the 5th International Meeting of Early Education OMEP-Argentina (2012) Edition of 5 DVDs: In collaboration with PopcornTV. Acciones de fortalecimiento institucional.

Moving Headquarters: New administrative headquarters to a department with an addition of two offices and a dedicated space for the library.

Strengthening OMEP Headquarters in Santiago del Estero, obtaining legal personality and development of Superior Specialization in Garden Nursery.

Administrative Update: Reorganization of the partnership process and management of member information. Adoption of a new electronic payment system (national and international) for events and new partnerships. Adoption of a new electronic registration system for events.

Renewal of authorities: creation of the new Board.

World OMEP: Participation in organizing the “28th OMEP World Symposium”, in Campo Grande - Mato Grosso do Sul, from 18 to 21 July 2012.

American Committee of OMEP: Joint Planning OMEP Latin American Congress to be held in Argentina on May 2, 2013, along the 6th International Workshop on Education.

Strengthening partnerships with NGOs and state and private organizations: ADD Forum, Institute for Teacher Sara Eccleston, Superior Normal School of Modern Language No. 1 “Pte Roque Sáenz Peña” Luminis Foundation, ASAPMI, IPA (International Gaming Association), Editorial 12ntes, Argentina Association for Children, AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) and FAMM (Argentina Maria Montessori Foundation), FUNDALAM, Machine of Dreams Argentina campaign for the Right to Education, SADOP (Argentine

Union of Private Schools), CTERA, UNADENI, CEDES, etc.

Education for Sustainable Development in ECE

Program “Care and Education”

A partnership with Fundación Navarro Viola, within the framework of its program of Early Childhood Development Support, is being carried out in the province of Corrientes a program that mobilizes 22 projects in almost 30 kindergartens with about 160 teachers serving about 1,360 children between 3 and 6 years, most of which grow in conditions of poverty.

The initiative was launched in May, with the Presentation Workshop that was held in the City of Bella Vista, Corrientes, which was attended by 37 teachers (principals and teachers room) kindergartens in the towns of Bella Vista and San Roque, we continued working face another day of June 26, closing instances of classroom training on 27 and 28 August, with an intensive activity by location. After a sustained, well executed through the email, have been received and evaluated 22 educational projects, covering different themes. The central axes were: water: 1 project, Supply: 3; autonomy and development of hygiene: 3; biodiversity: 6; oral health: 4; waste treatment: 5: total: 22. In its formulation the teachers have considered and given different gravitation to major components of the project “Care and Education”, namely:

- health education with an integrated approach,
- environments and healthy environments and
- social and community participation.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- 6th International Conference on Early Childhood Education OMEP “Art, Childhood and Cultural Identity.”



Conducting the meeting with renowned experts in early childhood education in Latin America, will be held on 3, 4 and 5 May 2013 in Buenos Aires.

- Latin American Congress of OMEP based in Buenos Aires, will be held on May 2, 2013 (simultaneous with the previous event)
- Manifesto for a Free Comprehensive Education and the Game. Continuation of the activities of the Public Policy Committee, and the publicity campaign and accession to the Manifesto
- Training Program for Supervisors and Professional aimed at supervisory and professional technical team Registry Educational Institutions and Welfare (RIEA) of the Directorate General of Education Private Management of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Education. Continued.
- University of Buenos Aires: Management Graduate School of Arts: Signing of cooperation agreement and issued the Seminar "Nursery, political and social problems" in the Masters, Specialization and upgrade program in Early Childhood Education. Involved about 100 students from different cohorts.
- Research Program of Early Childhood Education OMEP. Expansion of the program and search for sponsors.

- Publications: editions expand and deepen the sale.
- Website, Newsletter, Blog and Social Networking: Improved management and formats.
- Toy Library at the headquarters of OMEP Argentina: creation
- Media Management: Continued development and publication of three press releases, facilitating radio interviews, television and newspapers to spread the action of the organization and its presence in newsletters of other institutions and public agencies.
- Project "Care and Education" in partnership with Fundación Navarro Viola, within the framework of its program of Early Childhood Development Support, is being carried out in the province of Corrientes a program that mobilizes more than 25 projects in nearly 30 Kindergartens. Continued.
- Networking: expand work with other NGOs, unions and government sectors

Letter sent on a Decade for Education and Early Childhood Care was sent to the Minister of Education's Office without any reply as of yet.



BOLIVIA

Ana María Ampuero
mampuero@entelnet.bo

Major activities in the period 2011-2012

The proposed management plans for 2012 were met with the following activities:

- We reviewed and corrected the Statutes of the Organization for the operation of OMEP in Bolivia.
- We submitted the annual report of the Preparatory Committee of OMEP Bolivia and the documentation to the World President of OMEP.
- In the OMEP World Assembly, held in Campo Grande, Brazil from 17 to 18 July 2012, membership status of OMEP Bolivia has been approved. This procedure has been successfully achieved after two years of hard work and enables us conclude other legal and administrative steps.
- OMEP Bolivia has also complied with membership dues for 2011 and 2012 efforts. The amount of U.S. \$ 100.00 was sent to Ms. Maggie Koong, in Hong Kong. We sent several emails requesting acknowledgment of receipt but unfortunately we never got an answer.
- We managed to achieve a rapprochement with the Ministry of Education, because despite expected in its policy, attention schooling from age 5, could not be implemented due to lack of space in state schools. Therefore, a lot of children of that age, is still attending to children's centers.
- We have strengthened our relationship with the Creative Cultural Space (ECC) to support the design and implementation of a training project for teachers of a Children's Centre in the rural area of the city of La Paz, with the participation of NGOs, OMEP, Salesian University Cultural and Creative Space. This project will be implemented in the town of Calamarca from the second half of 2013.
- The Municipal Government of La Paz, has taken an important role in the organization and operation of more than 65 urban childcare centers under its Unit for Children, with which we have an effective partnership. It is with this unit you will develop a binational project between OMEP OMEP Bolivia with Chile. It will build on site training to 20 children's centers. Bolivia will reach 46 Chilean educators to participate in site two weeks training Bolivian educators need to improve the quality of early childhood education. It will be a shared learning process between Bolivians and Chileans was organized by both OMEPS.
- We extended our invitation to new members both individual and institutional, locally, in order to strengthen the organization and to achieve soon the constitution of our first full directory, as OMEP Bolivia.
- Also already started a national projection through the creation of regional committees, Santa Cruz this purpose and has expressed interest and commitment to organize a committee.
- OMEP Bolivia has promoted the launch of research by Maria Victoria Peralta of Chile: "The first to nursery schools in Latin America" in the Children's Book Fair and Youth, held in the city of La Paz, in April of 2012.



- In August we had the visit of OMEP Chile, to start a diagnosis that enables the implementation of a binational project training, onsite childcare centers to local educators. If the project is approved, this would be implemented in the second half of February 2013.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- Conclude with the processing of legal status.
- Run in the last two weeks of February, the nation training project.
- Coordinate with national institutions, NGOs and international organizations, support in all fields Childhood Unit of the Municipal Government of La Paz.
- Strengthen coordination with the Municipal Government of La Paz.
- Visit to WFP reissue Kids Book and Toy OMEP Committee participation-Bolivia
- Expand our call for new individual and institutional Members to strengthen the national
- Coordinate with people who have an interest in creating regional or municipal committees in other areas of the country.
- Encourage the establishment of regional committees.



BRAZIL

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



The World Organization for Preschool Education, OMEP / BRAZIL, throughout its 60 years of action, has undertaken the factual and legal issues of early childhood education, together with the state of

Alagoas OMEP chapters of the, Acre, Bahia, Ceará, Brasília, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pará, Paraíba, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and municipal associations.

National Activities

OMEP / BR / Mato Grosso do Sul held the 23rd State Meeting of Early Childhood Education, with the theme "Time and the Turn of Early Childhood Education: Revealing Perspectives, Voices and Paths", and the 9th International Conference of OMEP / BR / MS, with the theme "Education Faced with Challenges of Special Education in Inclusive Perspective".

Also implemented the Project reared towards the Teaching of English, totally free for children of the Institute of Education at OMEP.

OMEP / Brazil participated in the III International Forum on Early Childhood Education, "Management and Leadership in Early Childhood: Paths to Transformation", in Campinas-SP, and the 6th Social Forum of the Foundation Antonio-Antonieta Cintra Gordinho, with the theme "3rd Sector and the Challenges of the Current World" in Jundiaí-SP.

We were also present at the Meeting of the Steering Group of the National Network for Early Childhood, in Salvador, which had, among others, the theme: Policy & Advocacy for the National Early Childhood Network; Implementation of the National Early Childhood and the municipal Plans for Early Childhood and Sustainability.

OMEP / BR / Alagoas held the 13th Seminar of Early Childhood Education, with the theme "Early Childhood: children's right to live, play, explore and experience the world."

In commemoration of the Global Action Week, the OMEP / BR / Maranhão, in partnership with PLAN International Brazil, held the State Early Childhood Education Seminar, with the theme "Childhood Education and Right to Play in their Differences and Diversity." In September 2012, the state and its associations OMEPS celebrated the National Day of OMEP, with ample activities.

International Activities

The World Assembly 2012, held by OMEP / Brazil, was in Campo Grande-MS, on 17 and 18 July 2012. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Ingrid Pramling Samuelson - President of OMEP / World, Dr. Maggie Koong - World OMEP treasurer, and vice presidents: Abimbola Are - Africa region; Doreen Lauder - Asia-Pacific, Milada Rabusicová - European region, Maria Aparecida Salmaze - Latin America; Judith Wagner - region of North America and the Caribbean, and Lisbetth Soderberg - executive secretary of OMEP / World.



At the meeting, we rely on the presence of the presidents of OMEPS Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, China, Spain, Ecuador, France, Greece, Haiti, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay and USA. They discussed the following guidelines: reading and explanation of the annual reports of 2011, payment of tuition and graduation by appointment.

It was also disclosed that both the World Congress of OMEP as the Assembly will be held in Shanghai in 2013. The OMEP / Brazil also highlighted the achievement of the 28th Symposium World OMEP, with the theme “Early Childhood in the XXI Century: the right of children to live, play, explore and see the world”, the period from 18 to 21 June 2012, with 800 participants, to provide the exchange of OMEP / Brazil with the various institutions involved in Early Childhood, giving relevance to the discussions on behalf of children, subjects, and reflect on the challenges of educating children, according to their demands relating to the formation and work of professionals in the various spaces that happens in a child’s education.

The event had the support and presence of federal, state, municipal, UNESCO, UNICEF, and also with the participation of 46 countries. The event had speakers from renowned national and international, such as: Maria Aparecida Salmaze, Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, Manuel Sarmento, Vital Didonet, Rui Aguiar, Rita Coelho, Nuper Ulker, Vera War, Ordeal Almeida,

Angela Barbato, John Dear John Siraj-Blatchford, Roberta Rocha, Victoria Peralta, Carmen Maria Barbosa, Zilma de Moraes, Adriana Friedmann, Madeleine Baillargeon, Patricia Sarlé, Arilma Spíndola, Levindo Diniz, Claudia Xavier, Sonia Teixeira and Edinho Paraguassu.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

During the 28th OMEP World Symposium, the winners of the “Travel Awards” were presented: Education for Sustainable Development, by the World Project coordinators of: Education and Sustainable Development (ESD), Ingrid Engdahl - OMEP / Sweden, and Milada Rabsicova.

WASH from the start

Wash Project was introduced to more than 40 units of Early Childhood Education, through a questionnaire / survey to find out about appropriate conditions of hygiene and sanitation of each school. We celebrated for the 1st time, the World Day of Washing Hands, on the 15th of October 2012. We taught children aged 1 to 4 years old, from the OMEP Institute of Education, about the importance of hand washing.

OMEP started its activities

The Letter of Appeal of OMEP / World was translated into the official languages of OMEP, published on the website of OMEP / Brazil and forwarded for the knowledge and awareness, of the Presidency, the Ministry of Education, senators, congress-



men, governor, mayor and OMEP chapters of the federation and their associations.

Most important task or priority for 2013

- 24th State Meeting on Education and Early Years Child Elementary School and 10th International Seminar of OMEP / BR / MS.
- XIX Brazilian Congress of Early Childhood Education and Early Years Elementary School, to be held by OMEP / BR / MA in the city of São Luís, Maranhão.
- Launching the collection of four (4) books of the 28th World Symposium 2012.
- Continuation of Step 3 of the Sustainability Project.
- Implementation of the National Plan of Education - MEC.
- Conferences within the city and state: Education policy in Brazil.



CHILE

Selma Simonstein Fuentes
ssimonstein@gmail.com
www.omepchile.cl

National Activities

Updating the Chilean legal committee (for working as an NGO);

National Seminar “The quality of early childhood education and developing on the evaluation system to protect it”;

Public statements on relevant national contingency:

- About the Decree 115, concerning sizes of groups of children and dedicated staff ratio;
- With regard to the seminar conclusions above named.

Organization and activities of the regional committees of Valparaiso and Concepcion.

International Activities

Preparing volunteer project in Bolivia, organized by that country and OMEP Chile. Preparing the internship for professional support to children's centers in Bolivia.

Conference of the chairperson in a seminar organized by OMEP Colombia

Attendance to a delegation regarding the international seminar held in Campo Grande OMEP Brazil

Restoring the link of the Committee with UNESCO, with a work agenda agreed upon with Unesco's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

Dissemination of the work being developed by OMEP around the theme of ESD in conferences held in Antofagasta and Concepción.

Participation in the workshop for teacher training towards sustainable development held at the University of Gothenburg, in November 2012.

Participation in the preparation of a ECERS style scale for measuring sustainable development in early childhood education.

Activities initiated by OMEP

A. These documents were worked on in conjunction with directors of UNESCO, UNICEF and OEI.

Additionally, these documents were presented at the national OMEP seminars, whose attendees included the presence of Chilean parliamentarians.

B. These documents were worked together with directors of UNESCO, UNICEF and OEI.

Additionally, these documents were delivered in the national Omep seminars, whose attendees included the presence of Chilean parliamentarians.



Assignment or highest priority for 2013

Conducting a National Seminar on Public Policies

ESD Project in conjunction with the University of Antofagasta

Participation in the commission convened by UNESCO in building post 2015 agenda

Increase visibility of OMEP, developing a better website, among other things.

Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire



COLOMBIA

María Eugenia Cancino Lorza
presidencia@acdepcolombiaomep.com

National Activities

Symposium on 21st Century Childhood: The child's right to live, play and explore the world. Held in Bogota D.C., on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May 2012. With the participation of the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry of Education, the Institute for Family Welfare, and the Secretaries of Education and Social Integration of Bogota and Cundinamarca.

Attended by researchers, academics, students and professionals who work within the Early Childhood sector in Colombia.

International Activities

The participation of various professionals at the Symposium held by OMEP in Brazil, 2012.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

We have accompanied some activities programmed towards the development of political projects run by the government.

Wash from the start

Participation and collaboration in the National and Regional projects held by the Colombian government.

Activities carried out by OMEP

A. Participated in the Meeting for Quality Early Childhood Education, with the theme of 'integral attention to early childhood'.

B. Participated in the development of the guidelines for childhood care, at a national level.

Most important task or priority for 2013

To accompany and take part in the development of OMEP's Project regarding the play area for children in the countryside. Round table discussion with various national and regional Universities from Colombia.



ECUADOR

Elba Domaccin Aros

elbadom@hotmail.com,

eodoma@hotmail.com, omepecuador@gmail.com

National activities

National Election Committee in October 2012. "

Divulged OMEP through the press, concerning the election of the Committee, written by educational authorities and other related services to children of Manta city and of the province of Manabi, adding manifests sent by OMEP World.

Carried out, in the city of Manta, Manabi Province, sustainable development activities with wide press coverage and active participation of educational institutions and their teachers, administrators, parents, children / as and community

Participated in Research Project OMEP: OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Part 3: Intergenerational Dialogues for ESD, interviewing children and adults in the city of Manta, Montecristi, Jipijapa and Portoviejo.

International activities

Attended OMEP World Assembly and the 28th World Symposium. July 18th to 21st, Brazil. Workshop Presentation: The educational community is prepared to meet the challenge of a sustainable future and the Panel: "The play and toys with surrounding materials."

Participation in 2012 Annual Conference & Expo. November 7-10. Atlanta, Georgia. U.S.

OMEP USA. Board of Directors meeting and dinner, will feature World OMEP Posters projects Including the new initiative

with UNICEF, WASH from the START, Ninth Annual OMEP Film Festival: "Watch, imagine, & learn", and events during the 2012 NAEYC Annual Conference.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

Celebrating "Earth Day" in schools and universities, with press coverage.

Implementation of the "Guardians of the environmentally conscious environment" in 18 educational institutions in Manta, Montecristi and La Pila with children up to 8 years, which aims to raise environmental awareness administrators, teachers, parents, University students and 960 children of schools and community.

The topics covered were: Save water, Save Energy, Save the Forest, the family garden, tree planting and recycling.

In coordination with the Municipality of the city of Manta, and they donated plants, trees and compost, actively participating in the activities proposed.

The School of Early Childhood Education at the University Laica "Eloy Alfaro" Manabi and Department Liaison with the community enabled the students to collaborate in the implementation of this project in various educational institutions.

Wash from the Start

October 15 marked the "Handwashing Day" in 19 educational institutions, with the participation of children, parents and teachers, and widely reported in the press and television.



He received a donation of 1,000 soaps, one for each child, Industry “Ales”.

Activities started by OMEP

A. Broadcast media and educational leaders of the document stated.

B. Dissemination through print media and dialogues with college students in the area of Education.

Task or highest priority for 2013

To increase the number of members of OMEP Ecuador, strengthening the organization with new members especially related to early childhood education and other areas that contribute to the overall development of children.

Hold a Child Education Seminar, which will be presented by the Vice President of OMEP Latin America.



EL SALVADOR

Anti Aranjó Haydée

sandra.lucha@citi.com, haydee.lucha@yahoo.com

Activities

We taught a Diploma for Teachers and Preschool Early Education called “Art as a means of learning in inclusive early education (0-6 years).” Its duration was 32 contact hours and 8 hours virtual, making a total of 40 hours, starting in March and ending in June. The contact hours were over 8 sessions of 4 hours each. The four modules offered in two sessions each were: theater, children's literature, art and music. The graduates from different departments, were a total of 30. According to the analysis of the evaluations, the participants expressed that everything learned in the Diploma would be useful in their daily work with the students and was highly satisfactory.

International Day of the Child. This year students were selected from a national kindergarten called “The Nursery School Conacastes” located in a marginal area. The children were taken to visit a children’s museum called “Tin Marin Museum”. The OMEP Committee paid the entry of the 125 children who enjoyed all the different educational exhibits.

During this year, some members withdrew for personal reasons of the Committee, but in turn joined an equal number of new members.



MEXICO

Maria Aide Davila Olvera

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

www.omep.org.mx

National Activities

Small conferences were organized in various states, in order to encourage the reflection and commitment of adults to promote better preschool care and education. Conferences were offered by renowned specialists and with the assistance of educators and parents.

- In Guanajuato, with the theme 'Do you know your child?' ATTENDANCE of 70 people.
- In Oaxaca, with the theme "attachment limits development" with the assistance of 100 people.
- In Querétaro, Occupational Workshop for single mothers, attended by 50 people.
- Workshop in Tabasco aimed at preventing aggression in three kindergartens in underprivileged areas, with the assistance of 60 people.
- Workshop and a science course with Dr. Mora 130 people attended.
- In Sinaloa school was organized in five parents giving importance to communities family relationships in child development.
- The course "Cheerful Movements, smart psychomotricity" was organised in Tlaxcala with the attendance of 200 people.
- The National Congress of OMEP MEXICO was held in Mexico City, with the theme "THE SELF AS A TOOL IN A SOCIETY IN CRISIS" attended by 400 people from across the country and in which was elaborated and created the booklet of practice entitled "Practical advice for helping the kids of today",

1500 leaflets distributed among educators and parents.

OMEP MEXICO sustains toy libraries in various States in underserved communities where children have nowhere to play in, an effort which began in the 80's which won the Canadian CIDE for the best proposed organization toy library. This Project created the State of Mexico Toy Library. Having, to date, two more toy libraries in the states of Queretaro and Oaxaca. Performing in recreational activities organized by OMEP events in the states of Chiapas, Tlaxcala and Guanajuato.

International activities

This year we were not able to attend the International Congress.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

An agreement was made with SEMARNAP, which is the Secretary of the government of Mexico, regarding the environment, with the aim of creating activities through kindergartens. Mainly educational activities that Foster and generate awareness for environmental conservation. Organizing the OMEP Mexico Congress 2013 in joint collaboration, where actions will be proposed that will engage the country's preschools, through lectures and workshops given by specialists in the field.

Wash from the start

Posters made by children from several states of the country, were sent to OMEP International, and in the years 2011 and 2012 actions were undertaken regarding the



conservation of the environment in some schools that participated in the drafting of the bill. As it was observed that these activities were not sufficient, an agreement was reached with the Secretary of the Environment and a sustainable program will be created and proposed to Congress in July 2013. The program will suggest that communities are to be expected to participate in several states, providing a systematic way to work in a manner that is educational and will generate commitments.

Activities initiated by OMEP

The project for Education for sustainable development, in coordination with the Secretary of the Government of Mexico, for environmental conservation.

Task or priority for 2013

To consolidate the ecological Project and to disseminate it nationwide, diffusion action will be undertaken in the 2013 National Congress to be performed during the third week of July.



PANAMA

Judith Flores Bernal
Jbernal15@hotmail.com

National activities

OMEP-PANAMA, participates in the training of teachers for the relevant issue of Early Childhood Protection

There was a conference on the OMEP. And the role in education of children (as) to private school authorities in the region west of the country.

Handed baskets with baby items to families in need in communities Capira District

Letter was sent to the Minister of Education in Panama for the last resolution agreed at the last World OMEP Council as directed.

International activities

PANAMA submitted OMEP-Project Part Two Sustainable Development Project OMEP-INTERNATIONAL.

Maintain constant communication with the authorities of the OMEP International level.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

A way to continue the Sustainable Development Project, students from different schools made a great show of nature protection, with parades, banners, flyers, to promote early childhood from a culture of protection and care of our forests, mangroves and the environment in general.

Students participate in workshops with teachers on the use of plastics for the manufacture of toys, ornaments, like promoting recycling from home to the classroom

Wash from the Start

In conjunction with groups of teachers (as) was carried out the activity hygiene (hand washing in the child (a) preschool, with ornaments sheets, presentations by the students.

Activities initiated by OMEP

Is organized for this year 2013, a conference on the importance of play in the preschool child, in conjunction with officials from the Ministry of Education in Panama. (Western Panama)

Assignment or highest priority for 2013

Pick new Directive for the OMEP-PANAMA.



PERU

Maria Graciela Dupont

gracieladupont@yahoo.com, omepperu@yahoo.com

Main OMEP Activities at National and International level in 2012

Pedagogical journeys were held with the participation of guests (partners and teachers), aimed at analyzing the approach of ongoing work relative to boys and girls education, and methodological strategies for the work.

Training to teachers was given by our partners at national level within the framework of the program for the improvement of education quality in our country. Five workshops attended by 350 teachers were held.

Participation in the National Forum on Education for All. This organization was established as a multi-sectorial commission of Education, composed of National State institutions as well as civil society organizations, aimed at integrating public and private efforts for meeting the commitments subscribed by Peru at the World Education Forum in Dakar-Senegal, organized by UNESCO. It is worthy to note that OMEP Peru has participated in all meetings convened in 2012. At international level, our Honorary Member Dr. Martha Llanos represented us in Brazil, where her proposal to OMEP Honorary Member by the Peruvian committee was approved at the World Assembly.

Elections were held in OMEP Peru for 2013-2016 term where the previous National Executive Committee was reelected by unanimous decision at the assembly. But for family reasons Treasurer Marta Blegeri resigned and Raquel Gamarra was elected for that position.

Wash from the Start

Peru has an ongoing campaign, which encourages all educational centers to participate in a specific day selected by the Ministry of Education to this end. But OMEP Peru members have consistently organized this project activity for 15 years at the day care centers of our OMEP members. Note that this activity is part of the Essalud Educative Model Institution curriculum throughout the year as a transversal axle through its health area under the responsibility of our partner Jovita Valle.

Most important task a priority for 2013

We will keep insisting on training to teachers on subjects requiring support according to our annual diagnosis.

This year we will carry out a Project to teach natural sciences and environment preservation at several day care centers where we have OMEP partners, a proposal for the upgrading of the curriculum strategies.



URUGUAY

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

Major activities of 2012

The annual activities began in March with a lecture by renowned academic psychologist and Victor Guerra.

In the month of May in agreement with Barradas Workshop was held a conference with the notable educator Mary Carmen Diez Spanish.

In June, part of a corporate table at the “Early childhood plurality of voices” and participated in a workshop on Reggio Emilia School of Psychology, University of the Republic.

Conference was held in July on “Family participation in schools” by researcher Jan U.S. Fish.

In July, after the World Assembly is done in conjunction with School of Psychology a roundtable with Spanish guests (Quintanal Jose, Luis Llamas) and national Reading.

In August Professor Laura Barcia course provides a workshop on “Environmental Education in early childhood.”

In September and October was a Workshop “Upgrading in educational management” designed to coordinators and directors of schools.

In November we had the visit of the Brazilian writer and journalist Evania Reichert, who presented his book “Children: age sacred.”

Once a month, activities were developed for teachers and educators, in order to update professionals working with young children. Topics covered: The Game, The initiation

period in the Kindergarten, environmental education, literacy at baseline, and so on. These activities were conducted by leading professionals from various state and private academic.

In agreement with UNESCO and under the Book Fair was held in the department of San José a workshop on “Art and Education” which was the high number of participants.

Members of Board of Directors participating in several conferences, doing different presentations which prioritized the theme “The Game” and “Reading and Writing in the Initial Level”

Three members of the Board of Directors participating in the World Health Assembly held in Campo Grande - Brazil in July.

Education for Sustainable Development

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

Course - Workshop by Professor Laura Barcia “Environmental education: challenges for working with early childhood.”

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

Are continuing to strengthen ties with UNESCO / Education to work for children’s rights in teacher training.

In November, participating in the Book Fair San Jose department. Stand was organized



jointly with UNESCO, and OMEP. It is an event that lasts a week, and where information was provided, books, brochures, posters thousands of people who visit the show, plus experiential workshops, making visible the children and their rights, care and education in the early years.

It is involved in REDSOLARE Uruguay, deepening the educational ideas of Reggio Emilia. Workshops are held in Faculty of Psychology and the School and Lyceum Elbio Fernandez on the subject.

Task or major national plan for 2013

Continue strengthening the venues that work inside (Tacuarembó, Canelones and Maldonado) and liaise with other departments to create other venues.

Organization of local conferences in order to give continuity to the work of training and retraining of teachers, with the participation of technicians and professionals of leading national and international academic standards.

Preparation of election authorities to renew the national Steering Committee.

Establishment of Subcommittees to strengthen and support the Board.

Participation in Latin American meeting to be held in Buenos Aires in May, paving the participation of our countries in the World

Participation in national events organized by public and private agencies. UNESCO, UNICEF, Days of School of Psychology, Early Childhood Coordinating Council of the Ministry of Education and Culture, etc.



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Judith T. Wagner
jwagner@whittier.edu

We held our regional meeting on July 17, 2012 during the World Assembly in Campo Grande, Brazil. The most important outcome was that representatives from all three countries agreed to

- promote ECD/ECEC as a priority in the post-MDG goals
- mark Global Handwashing Day on October 15 and Universal Children's Day on November 20
- promote WASH from the Start in preschool and community settings

Although very little has been accomplished on a regional level in 2012, the three national committees in our region have been quite busy, as illustrated in their individual country reports.

We have continued to explore the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee in Jamaica, but there seems to be insufficient interest "on the ground" to move forward at this time.

The presidents of the three OMEP national committees have spoken about increasing our communication and collaboration, but no specific plans have emerged, probably because each national committee is small and lacks both human and financial resources.



CANADA

Madeleine Baillargeon
mbaillargeon@videotron.ca
www.omep-canada.org

National activities

Hosting a round table on play, exhibit, and participating in the annual conference of l'Association d'éducation préscolaire du Québec (Quebec Association for preschool education)

General meeting and elections to the Executive Committee and Board

Publishing (3 issues/year) the Newsletter (French, English)

International activities

Participating in the World Assembly and presenting at the Conference, Brazil

Following-up the African toy librarians engaged in the project realized in 2011

Following up with the toy librarians who participated in the Toy Library project in 2011

Publishing Toy Libraries for the Children of Africa (French, English, Spanish) on the toy library project in Africa, and distributing at the World Assembly

Education for sustainable development

Meetings to explore the eventuality of a toy library project with a First Nations community (a sustainable development project)

Wash from the start

Collecting posters

Advertising the global hand washing day

Announcing the Call for Submissions for UNICEF's Soap Stories and Toilet Tales publication in our newsletter and in the Revue préscolaire (Preschool journal)

OMEP initiated activities

To be realized in 2013

Most important task or priority for 2013

Initiating the toy library project with the First Nation community of Opitciwan (Northern Quebec)



HAITI

Ghyslaine JL ROCHELIN
Omephaiti.haiti@gmail.com

National activities

Completing the project to support the Normal School of ECE teachers: the library will be inaugurated during year 2013.

Workshops with the Consortium du secteur privé pour l'éducation (Private sector consortium for education) in preparation for the States General on early childhood organised by UNICEF.

Participating with the Department of National Education in working groups on early childhood.

Hosting of a conference on first aid care in case of emergency for preschool teachers and principals.

International activities

Participating in the World Assembly held in Brazil



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Judith Wagner
jwagner@whittier.edu
www.omep-usa.org

National activities

- Elected officers in accordance with the by-laws.
- Participated in a campaign to encourage President Obama to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the U.S. Senate for ratification.
- To promote visibility for OMEP, featured prominent speakers at a OMEP's State of the World's Children Seminar and annual OMEP Breakfast at the Association of Childhood Educators International (ACEI) Conference.
- To promote visibility for OMEP, featured prominent speakers at OMEP's Global Perspectives Seminar during the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference. Also hosted the annual OMEP Film Festival and Poster Session.
- Encouraged all 8 regions to promote Universal Children's Day
- Universal Children's Day Calendar initiative encouraged organizations and businesses to put November 20 on their calendars, websites and newsletters.
- Continued to promote collegiate and children's chapters.
- Moved website to a new host.
- Published three issues of the OMEP-USA newsletter and News-in-Brief.
- Several of the 8 regions sponsored events and seminars.

International activities

Member joined the Editorial Board for the International Journal of Early Childhood

Members attended the 2012 World Assembly and Conference in Brazil. One presented a general session speech on WASH from the Start and 7 presented posters or papers.

Members presented at several international conferences

Helped organize and participated in panel at UNICEF entitled Global Commitment to Give Every Child "The Best Start" in Life: Prospects beyond 2015 sponsored by Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations, OMEP, & UNICEF

Education for sustainable development

A member is on the international team developing the Environmental Rating Scale for Early Childhood Sustainability. She is also a co-editor of a book on an 11-country pilot study of the instrument.

Piloting the rating scale in 5 public school pre-kindergarten classrooms.

Wash from the start

Past president leads a collaborative project with UNICEF to develop an early childhood version of Soap Stories and Toilet Tales

Promoted WASH from the Start on its website.

Encouraged all 8 regions to participate in Global Handwashing Day.



OMEP initiated activities

- Created DVDs of both documents, which now appear on You Tube.
- Distributed the documents at fall board meeting. Asked board members to send them to decision makers and to distribute them at all conferences and meetings.
- Posted them on the website.

Most important task or priority for 2013

Promoting passage of the CRC by US senate

Launching the organizing committee for the 2015 World Assembly and Conference in the USA.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to those who have contributed:

All OMEP committees for their reports

Translation:

Cecile Menez

Delphine Yribarren

Flavia Livacic

Layout:

Lisbeth Söderberg