



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2009





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The second year of my period as World President has past, and I feel happy to say that it is a privilege to have this position for OMEP. 2009 was the year when the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated its 20th anniversary and when a lot of activities about children's rights have taken place in different countries around the world. However, it is unsatisfying that the convention has not yet been adopted as a law or integrated in all laws concerning children's welfare in most countries. But if we look back 20 years in time the UNCRC has contributed extremely to the child's rights in society.

We have also seen the OECD evaluations where it is stated that money invested in ECE pays back most of all investments in the whole education system. In the report *Doing Better for Children* (2009), OECD summarizes key findings on what can be done to improve children's wellbeing. There are also recommendations on how governments should invest to enhance this and the report also outlines things they should do less of and things they should keep an eye on for the improvement. One of

the key sentences states: "Most of the variation in spending between countries occurs during early childhood. This variation reflects the markedly different country approaches to parental leave and early childhood education" (p. 9). So we all in OMEP know that there still is a long way to go in the area of our aims, to contribute to a good start in life for all children.

This year was a year when I had the opportunity to visit the National Committees in Uruguay, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Greece, Bulgaria, Nigeria and Norway. Where ever I go I'm always very fascinated to see how engaged and devoted people working in the area of ECE are. At the same time we all share the lowest position on the education scales; all the while the politicians are being rhetorical about the importance of young children. However, there seems to be a slight shift on its way in Europe where ECE no longer is only about numbers and statistics, but where the European Union in Brussels also begins to work for a basic level of competence for staff in ECE and runs seminars about quality issues. This gives a small hope for the future. I hope the same development will take place in other regions of the world.

However, I also hope to see more of the topic of Education for Sustainable Development adopted by OMEP, which is still in its infancy, although there are many very good initiatives going on – initiatives we hope to hear a lot more about at the next World Congress which will take part in my hometown and at the headquarter of OMEP – Gothenburg, Sweden.



This year UNESCO run a conference to find out what has been done during “The DECADE for ESD”, since now it is mid-time for this initiative. I think OMEP can feel proud for being in the frontline in this area, with many initiatives for promoting young children and ESD.

Finally I want to recognize all the good work that is done by OMEP members around the globe. On behalf of the children of the world I want to thank you all. Let’s keep up the good work!

Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2010

Ingrid



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA

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Africa is quite a large Continent comprising South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana, Mauritius, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia among others.

Incidentally out of these countries, only eleven are members of OMEP. It is quite interesting to note that in the Africa Region like any other Regions in the world there are Children from Birth to Six years old. The issue of Children and their Education in their Early Childhood setting vary from country to country.

In most of the rural areas in the Africa Region, Early Childhood Education has not yet been accorded maximum support but the demands for the services have increased considerably as a result of changing family structures and lifestyles. More and more parents are working outside the homes either on the Farm, Plantations, Factories, Markets, etc. As such there is the need for centres to care for their Children when they are away from home.

Research shows that many countries in Africa now appreciate the great need for Early Childhood Education centres and are ready to support such centres. However, the greatest obstacles facing most of these ECD centres are inadequate facilities for holistic child development. They lack basic play materials and appropriate programs as well as nutrition and health support services.

There are still many untrained teachers who are not fully aware of children's needs and

appropriate ways of interacting with them. In countries where OMEP National Committees exist, efforts are being intensified to give the educators of these centres training and re-training programs. Various workshops are organized from time to time to support these care-givers on how to interact with children as well as engage them in making soft toys and didactic materials which could be used in their centres.

During my visit to Cote D'Ivoire in June 2009, there was an NGO on ground whose members always arranged for immunization program for children in the rural areas of about 35 Communities in Ivory Coast. They also sensitized members of the Communities on how to keep their surroundings clean to avoid mosquito breeding. This NGO has embraced OMEP and has now been accepted as an OMEP Preparatory Committee of Ivory Coast.

Project Proposal, Networking, OMEP Project

During the 2009 World Assembly in Nigeria, members from the Africa Region met and discussed at length on:

- The Toy Library Project in Democratic Republic of Congo which could later be re-duplicated in two or three other countries in the Region. V.P North America and the Caribbean is actively involved to see that this project takes off in 2010.
- Networking and information sharing among OMEP members in the Region – E-mail addresses of some key officers in each member country were circulated to all members.



- Member countries were encouraged to participate in the 26th OMEP World Congress LOGO presented by the Swedish National Committee which is relevant to Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education.

OMEP Nigeria National Committee

This committee worked relentlessly to host the OMEP World Assembly and International Conference in August 2009 in Lagos, Nigeria on the theme: “Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn” Participants were from Twenty Eight (28) Countries. 15 Countries were physically present, Twelve (12) Countries sent their proxies and One (1) Country came as Observer.

On yearly basis, the committee always set a day aside to celebrate OMEP Children’s Day as well as mark the ‘Day of the Africa Child’.

In addition to these, workshops were organized for Educators, Caregiver and even Proprietors of Schools on various topics such as Classroom Management, Making of toys and Teaching aids, Creative Activities for Children and so on.

LIBERIA, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mauritius

The OMEP members in these countries I believe are working steadily but quietly to improve the Education and Health of the Children in their communities. However, for some of them necessary support from their government is still not forthcoming hence their inability to establish Early Childhood Education Centres. The much desired recognition of the existing centres is yet to be given.

In the case of *Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mauritius*. There is collaboration with their Ministries of Education, Social Welfares, Unicef and UNESCO as far as Early Childhood Education and care is concerned. The commendable rapport with their

government particularly Ghana which has a very laudable Training centres for ECE Educators.

Ivory Coast is yet to get the full assistance of the UNICEF office in the country. However their members with the support of some well meaning citizens and philanthropists are helping the rural communities in the area of immunization for Children and providing health care for them.

Contacts made

Between August and December 2009, several contacts were made with some personnel in Togo, Congo Brazzaville, Uganda and Kenya with the intention of creating awareness of OMEP aims, objectives and activities and to get them interested in joining OMEP thereby setting up a Preparatory Committee in their respective countries. Incidentally this has not yielded any result yet.

Egypt and South Africa

It has not been easy to get in touch with Egypt and South Africa. I have sent several mails to them but received no single acknowledgement from them. The mails I sent were *never* returned undelivered yet there had been no confirmation from them whether or not they received my mails. I recollect that Mrs Mapitso Malepa was the V.P Africa Region from 1994 – 1999. Since the World Assembly was held in South Africa in 2002, contacts with any OMEP member in that country had proved abortive

Appeal to OMEP World Members

I hereby appeal and request anybody who may have contacts with some personnel in any of the Africa countries and who are interested in this noble Organization of ours to liaise with me by sending me such person’s address and Telephone number.

OMEP should be embraced and established in many more Africa countries.



IVORY COAST

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Major Activities during the year 2009

Solidarity

Target: Orphan Children Disabled children Community

- Sensitization to the jointly liable commitment
- Sharing and mutual support Actions
- Support to people confronted with hardships (death of a parent, cases of diseases)
(Abidjan, N'Zanfouénou, Assouakro, Bocanda, Menou)

Health

Target: Mothers and all the populations of different Communities

- Sensitization to the health and to the hygiene
- Hygiene Control Operations
- Distribution of health books
(Allakro, Ménou)

Education

Target: Children aged from 02 to 06

- Beginning of the implementation of the program «Social instruments of participation to local Development »
- Creation or reactivation of Committees
- Creation of a specialised early Childhood Education Centre
(Bocanda)

Target: Children in difficulty aged less than 17

- Scholarly assistance of the secondary of the children of primary and Secondary schools
(Abidjan)

Membership

- New memberships: 47

Others Activities

- Visit of the V. P Africa Region of OMEP, Mrs Victoria O. Bilewu
(Ivory Coast)
- Participation to the world Assembly of OMEP 2009
(Nigeria, Lagos, Ikeja -Airport hotel)
- Celebration of the International Day of the rights of the child
- Census of the children aged from 0 to 6 and that of pregnant women.
- Launching of the broadcast of the Lagos report
(Allakro)
- Several missions, meeting and encounters
(In all the local committees)

Activities related to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Preparations for the participation to the world Project ESD on the logo of 2010 OMEP congress in Sweden



Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

- Promotion of the rights of the child.
- Conference theme: Learn to listen, listen to learn
- Sensitization
- Large broadcast of Lagos's report (OMEP World Assembly)

The most important plan or task anticipated in 2010

See Action Plan for 2010.

Number of members (total): 359

Number of individual members: 359



LIBERIA

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Major Activities during the year 2009

The major activities for 2009 were the recruitment, Visitation to Day Care centers, Educating on OMEP, Introduce the reading program.

Activities related to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Activities for OMEP schools will include the three interlocking parts: a commitment to care; an integrated approach; and a selection of 'doorways' or sustainability themes. The aims and values should appear in the Curriculum which relate to the self, relationships, society and the environment. It can be integrated across subjects and embedded in the OMEP member schools approach.

Activities Linked to the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child .We were not involved directly with the UN convention on the rights of the child.

Most Important Planned Task (s) for OMEP during 2010

Develop a curriculum that integrates technology in the classroom, with components for Infant and toddlers, family child Care. Develop a training module for early interventions for teachers and administrators. Develop Health and nutrition manual and teaching materials for classrooms and outdoors

The five-part Technology Integration Planning (TIP) Model will be design to help teachers analyze instructional situations to plan lessons that use technology appropriately and effectively.



NIGERIA

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Activities during the year of 2009 in Nigeria

The year 2009 was mostly characterized by the preparation and hosting of the World Assembly & International Conference/Workshop held in Lagos, Nigeria from 3 – 7 August 2009. Theme: – “Learning to Listen, Listening to learn”.

Scholarly papers were presented on different sub – themes, workshop sessions were held and visits were made to schools and interesting places.



Participants were from 28 Countries – Present 15 Countries, 12 Proxies and 1 observer.

It was a memorable hosting for OMEP Nigeria National Committee.

Declaration from the International Conference is as follow:

Declaration form the OMEP International Conference and Workshop held at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria in August 3-7, 2009 – “Learning to Listen, Listening to learn”.

Listening is one of a child's basic rights. Articles 12 and 13 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) reinstates that children have the right to be listened to and be heard, hence the theme of the conference and workshops.

Scholarly papers were presented on different sub-themes and workshop sessions were also held. The following issues were highlighted:

- Learning starts from the conception as the result of interactive communication between people.
- The well-being of children is dependent on quality in the early childhood education and care settings and the attachment to important adults; i.e. parents, teachers and relatives.
- Children have the right to be listened to, to participate and to actively engage in matters that relate directly to them.
- We are facing great challenges and need to work with Education for Sustainable Development for a democratic, future world.



Recommendations

- Adults should give unconditional respect to the rights of the children.
- Children should be given ample opportunities to express themselves and to participate in everyday life and education.
- Parents should lay solid background for development of listening skills in children right from early years.
- Parents should create time to give quality attention to children.
- Teachers should be dedicated and committed to their jobs by handling children with care and love.
- Teachers should be involved and active listeners to what is expressed by the children, trying to understand, support and challenge them in their learning.
- The environment affects children deeply, and is an encouraging partner in learning. Corners, indoors and outdoors, should be created and equipped with books, toys and listening devices for children's play and learning.
- Government should adequately fund Early Childhood Education through the training of teachers and care givers and the provision of Early Childhood Settings and Resource centres.

Education for sustainable development

At States Chapters Level

- Science and Mathematics Competitions for OMEP Members were held.

- The first Spelling Bees Competition was held.
- Workshops were organized for Teachers, Proprietors and caregivers with different themes like School Management and Repositioning of Schools.
- OMEP Children's Day Celebration was held in all State Chapters.
- Regular Meetings were held throughout the year.

Collaboration

OMEP Nigeria enjoyed collaboration from the following:

- Federal Ministry of Education, UNICEF State Education Basic Education
- Board, Publishing Houses, Green Circle Technology (IT) LAMUEL and Commercial Banks.

Other activities

Membership drive.

Most important planned task(s) for OMEP during 2010

African Regional Conference and Meeting to be held in Ghana from April 6th to 10th 2010. Theme: "Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education – African Experience".

XXVI World Congress August 11 – 13, 2010. Goteborg, Sweden. Theme: "Children – citizens in a challenged world".

Challenges

Lack of fund.

Number of members: 231



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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Major activities during 2009

Participation in the seminar for the updating of the new preschool curriculum. From November 1 to 10th, OMEP DRC actively participated in the conferences and discussions for the updating of the new preschool curriculum by the Ministry of ESPS (Primary, Secondary and Professional Education).

Arrangements for the International Day of the African Child. For the remembrance of the massacre of South African children within the apartheid framework, OMEP DRC organized 1-day cultural and recreational activities in 3 schools in the suburbs of Kinshasa city (MASINA). Participants in the activity were: the Mayor of the target commune as well as military and ministerial authorities. The theme of the gathering was: the creation of new environments for life.

Meetings with authorities from Ministries and other organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF) aimed at establishing partnership. Based on an action plan, OMEP DRC would meet with some authorities of the ministries associated to care (EPSP and social affairs) and organizations (UNESCO and UNICEF). Thus far, it has been possible for us to contact EPSP through its secretary-general and UNESCO permanent secretariat. We continue undertaking the corresponding steps to reach an agreement protocol.

Participation in UNESCO Seminar (3-7 October). Some OMEP members were invited to take part in DIGE sessions in a seminar organized by UNESCO permanent secretariat.

Correspondence with World OMEP. OMEP DRC had contact with World OMEP. It is not an easy task as communications in our country are very difficult. Mails from other countries are received smoothly but our responses do not always reach their destination.

Activities related to education for sustainable development

- Updating of the new preschool curriculum.
- Environmental education and the creation of environments for life was the topic for the celebration of the Day of African Child.

Actions related to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on its 20th Anniversary

- Based on sensitiveness to Children and Teachers in schools of the suburbs, garbage cans and other materials to contribute to the protection of the school environment were distributed.
- Recitation of poems and the performance of brief drama scenes as the expression of an inclusive education within the framework of free expression for each child.

More important planned task for 2010

- Implementation of the toy library for the benefit of deprived children in DR of Congo, especially in Kinshasa suburbs.

Number of Members: 30

Number of Individual Members: 20

Number of Collective Members or any other type of Membership: 25 (schools)



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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Activities

Conferences, symposium, parent workshops, teacher professional development, health clinics, development of learning resources, advocacy and newsletter and email communication feature as activities across the Asia Pacific Region in 2009.

Networking and cross regional communication has been strong. Specifically the annual Asia Pacific Regional Assembly and Conference, held in Singapore in August 2009, was a highlight with slightly less than 200 participants attending. Seven countries, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, were represented at the Conference and four countries were represented at the Assembly.

Two Asia Pacific *eNews* and a set of Minutes following the 13 August Assembly were sent out to the Region. There has also been considerable communication in relation to the *Fact Sheets* and planning for the region's *Pedagogical Research* project. Five countries have expressed interest in the Research and *Fact Sheets* from five countries, Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand have been published on the Singapore Website. www.omep-sgp.org.

The highlights include, Sri Lanka preparing a draft curriculum and a number of exchanges and visits between different countries. China held the 5th ECE exchange between Western China and Hong Kong, Singapore organized an exchange with Korea, Thailand visited Nepal and China and 10 New Zealand ECE professionals were hosted by China. Japan and Korea attended the World Assembly in

Lagos Nigeria. These activities highlight the continuing communication and interest in each others policy and programmes across the Region.

Education for Sustainable Development

The annual Asia Pacific Regional Conference, organized and hosted by OMEP Singapore, explored *Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education*. The conference provided a platform and springboard for the Region's focus on ESD. Several countries from our region are participating in the OMEP Sweden collaborative ESD research project. Continued promotion and focus on ESD is necessary to strengthen awareness and work in this area.

United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Some countries have given great attention to the UNCRC using the 20th Anniversary as an opportunity to advocate for early childhood education. For example Japan has introduced a "Rights of the Child" project that is aimed at promoting this issue for both young children and students majoring in ECE. Students are encouraged to make a book about the "Rights of the Child". New Zealand has collated information on discrimination of children in education as a basis for promoting the rights of children and quality ECE.



Asia Pacific Region – Most important tasks for 2010

The Region has agreed to a Research project that will focus on the link between “National Standards, teachers’ pedagogical beliefs and understandings and actual teaching practice and programmes that are in the best interests of children”. A framework for the research project has been developed with input from across the region. At this stage five countries have expressed interest in the project, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. We also hope that more countries will contribute to the *Fact Sheets* and I will continue to promote focus on ESD.

2009 has been a positive year with continued focus on ways to improve and prompt ECE. A core group of countries are very active while a number are less so. An objective for 2010 for me, as Vice President, is to find ways to strength those countries that are less active.



AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

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New Zealand has a National Executive drawn from 5 chapters. They met for retreats and electronically to address issues facing ECE in Aotearoa New Zealand. Two issues is to lobby the Ministry of Education and government about the proposal that only 50% of teachers working with under 2-year old children need to be qualified and registered and that overseas teachers may be deemed qualified and registered after a six week course.

The National Executive is also keen to see better communication between chapters so that ideas and accomplishments can be shared.

In this record of what the National Executive has achieved some were instigated by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, the World President:

1. To foster optimum development of every child in regard to physical, cultural, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions both in the family and in other social environments.

Information about events and functions are circulated amongst OMEP members so that there can be some representation at them e.g. Families Commission “Healthy Families, Young Minds and Developing Brains: Enabling all children to reach their potential”.

2. To advocate on behalf of children and their families.

OMEP has continued to support change to Section 59 of the Crimes Act to outlaw physical punishment of children. Members were encouraged to vote “yes” in the referendum. Members of Parliament were lobbied individually and through the Early

Education Federation of which OMEP is a member that the government should consider a campaign to empower parents and educate about alternative means of discipline.

OMEP submitted a response to the consultation on the Code of Practices for pastoral care of international students.

3. To promote quality early childhood education in all its forms in Aotearoa New Zealand.

National Executive members have compiled, circulated then collated information gained through a questionnaire to ACYA regarding the discrimination of children in education.

4. To promote a bicultural approach to the provision of early childhood education within the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

This is an area of work in progress but National Executive observe Maori tikanga in relation to opening and closing meetings. The Auckland chapter hosted Naida Glavish who shared insights into “Maori ways of teaching and learning”.

5. To further the development of multicultural values and practices in early childhood education.

OMEP has an ongoing relationship with people in China and in 2009 ten people were part of a delegation that presented at a number of conferences and gatherings of ECE teachers in Beijing, Tianjin, Guilin and Shenzhen. Presentations by the participants have helped stimulate New Zealand teachers’ knowledge about ECE in China.

6. To support any organization, institutional group or individual activity which furthers the cause of quality early childhood education within the limits of the organisation’s resources.



OMEP belongs to the Early Education Federation which has aims and aspirations in keeping with those of OMEP and has two representatives that attend the meetings throughout the year.

Two National Executive members represent OMEP on ACYA and the Human Rights Network.

OMEP contributed to the reestablishment of ECE services in Victoria Australia following devastating fires. At their request a box of CDs were sent to replace resources lost in the fires.

7. To support research which furthers understanding and provides direction as to appropriate provision in the area of early childhood education.

OMEP's book of international research on infants "Play and learning in early childhood settings" was launched in July 2009. Five OMEP members from New Zealand had contributed to the book.

Two chapters have become involved in OMEP's research into education for sustainability.

Many chapter meetings are used as opportunities for local people to talk about their research.

8. To support early childhood programmes which promote peaceful interaction.

9. To foster international contact, communication and meetings of early childhood educators.

Several chapters have enjoyed hearing from overseas early childhood educators when they have visited Aotearoa New Zealand. The secretary was hosted in Singapore and in England met up with the President of OMEP.

A website is being developed to enable better communication with members and to reach a wider audience.

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson urged OMEP to become more political and the National Executive is urging chapters to communicate what they are doing in this regard. To some extent OMEP's presence/membership at other organizations such as Early Education Federation, ACYA is part of this objective



CHINA

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During the year of 2009, OMEP Chinese National Committee mainly carried out the following work in accordance with the work plan and actual situation of China.

Prepared and Organized International Academic Conference

OMEP Chinese National Committee and Jiangsu Education Institute cooperated and held 0-3 Year-old Sino-US Symposium on Infant and Early Childhood Upbringing in Nanjing, Jiangsu. 150 members from different parts of China participated in this conference. Dr. James Elicker from Purdue University and Dr. Mary McMullen from Indiana University made keynote speeches in this conference. Seminars and workshops on 0-3 year-old infant and early childhood upbringing were organized simultaneously at the Conference. Professor Zhou Xin from East China Normal University, Professor Liu Jingbo from Nanjing Normal University, and visiting professor Wang Jianhong were invited to organize the workshops. After this seminar in Nanjing, these experts gave academic reports about evaluation on preschool education in Beijing.

Continued to Enhance and Expand Cooperation with OMEP Hong Kong Committee

In May 2009, OMEP Chinese National Committee, cooperated with OMEP Hong Kong Committee, organized the fifth learning and exchange activity of western china kindergarten teachers visiting Hong Kong, in which 8 kindergarten teachers from 5 western provinces or cities attended. From May 12 to 21, these teachers successively visited 7 distinctive kindergartens, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Institute of Education and Hong Kong University. They also communicated with local kindergartens about Chinese art and showed shadow-graph, tie-dye, national folk dance and embroidery to local teachers and children. It is very helpful to improve the mutual understanding between teachers of early childhood education in the mainland and those in Hong Kong, and form a base for further cooperation.

Continued the Construction of Love Libraries in Earthquake areas

After 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake, OMEP Chinese National Committee helped the children in these areas in variety of ways. Thanks for OMEP World Congress of calling for donation to China and also great thanks to OMEP UK Committee and Hong Kong Committee for their kind donation.

In 2009, with 40,000 books donated or bought, OMEP Chinese National Committee set up 5 OMEP love libraries in earthquake areas, such as Gansu Wudu District Kindergarten, Gansu Kangxian First Primary School, Gansu Wushan Chengguan Kindergarten, Gansu Wushan Taolixiang Kindergarten and Qinghai Mutual Tu Autonomous County Kindergarten and so on, which actively contributed to local early childhood education business.

Actively Participated in OMEP Collaborative Research Projects

1. Finished the fact sheet on early childhood education of China. In 2009, according to the uniform requirements of OMEP Asia-Pacific Committee, OMEP Chinese National Committee finished the fact sheet, introducing basic information, the situation



of teachers, the content and construction of courses and the problems, challenges and trends of current early childhood education in China.

2. Participated in the collaborative research project of OMEP, which named international education for sustainable development. With the support of national committee members, 303 children from 10 provinces were involved and interviewed in this project.

Actively Participated in International Exchange Activities

1. In 2009, OMEP Chinese National Committee attended OMEP Asia-Pacific conference and academic symposium in Singapore. Professor Wang Xiaoying, OMEP committee member, organized kindergarten directors of north eastern to attend the 30th General Assembly and the 30th anniversary of conference of International Early Childhood Education Society (IAECE) in Japan in November 2009. Professor Zhou Xin attended Asia-Pacific Child Development Policy Seminar

in Singapore in December 2009, in which she introduced the progress of making 3-6 Year-old Children Learning and Development Guidelines of China. And then, she attended the fourth council of executive conference of Asia preschool education joint committee.

2. Promoted advocacy and communication in various ways. Cooperating with the Journal of Early Childhood Education, we introduced the early childhood education in other countries and the current situation of OMEP in Asia and the world in the Column of OMEP Chinese National Committee, helping the teachers in China to better understand the tendency of ECE in the world and the OMEP of the Asia and the World.

3. Actively offered information about international academic conferences and seminars, and supported OMEP Chinese National Committee and early childhood education staffs to communicate and cooperate with abroad.

4. Kept closely in touch with OMEP World and Asian-Pacific.



HONG KONG

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The events and activities reported below took place between December 2008 and December 2009.

Throughout 2009 OMEP—HK has continued to inspire early childhood advocates, practitioners and researchers, changing and touching many children's lives both locally and globally.

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

OMEP-HK 16th Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of OMEP-HK took place February 12th at Baptist University. Dr. Maggie Koong, President of the organization, addressed the members with her annual report. Amelia Lee, Treasurer of OMEP-HK gave the annual financial report. It was proposed and agreed that Mr. Albert Mak be accepted again as the honorary auditor for OMEP-HK. It was proposed that the five EXCO members whose term was concluding be asked for one more term since no additional nominations were submitted. After adjournment of the

meeting, Mr. Kenneth Chen, Hong Kong's Under Secretary for education spoke on "The Issues Facing Pre-school Education".

Mr. Chen addressed the issue of subsidies provided through the voucher scheme in order to make early childhood education affordable to more Hong Kong families and to enhance financial support for teachers. Since the introduction of the voucher scheme, 90% of teachers now have certificates. The scheme however still needs to better assist children from low-income families, address concerns about the standards that preschools must meet, and consider resistance to the scheme from administrators who do not always welcome it because it raises teachers' salaries.

Seminars

OMEP- HK and Early Childhood Research & Development HKIED presented lectures by Dr. Yeh Hsueh and Dr. Katherine Kitzmann, Associate Professors of University of Memphis, USA, on "Teacher Intervention in Preschoolers' Conflicts: A Cultural Perspective". It was held on the 3rd of April, 2009, at Causeway Bay Kaifong Welfare Advancement Association, Tin Hau, Hong Kong.

OMEP- HK and the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong presented a seminar by Professor Patrice Engle, Professor and Associate Chair of Psychology and Child Development at California Polytechnic State University in California, on "Early Learning and Development Standards: Implications for early childhood programs". It was held on the 24th of September 2009 at the Hui Oi Chow Science Building, Hong Kong University.



International Activities and Relations

OMEP was involved in the 5th international workshop of the *Gothenburg Recommendations on Education for Sustainable Development* at which recommendations were agreed upon regarding education for sustainable development. Early childhood settings need to be places in which sustainability is practiced and lifelong learning is encouraged. Children can learn to work toward problem solving and solution seeking that will lead to sustainable living. These ideas are based on the concept that children can gradually learn they can be agents to affect positive change in their own lives.

Special Projects

OMEP-HK made a donation of US\$ 1,000 to OMEP-China in February 2009. The purpose is to help establish libraries for children in the quake-hit areas of Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

School Visits

Under the auspices of the *North West China Exchange Group 2009* the China group visited Hong Kong from 12th to 20th May, 2009. They attended lectures in different Kindergarten- teacher training institutions. They also contributed by organizing a seminar and four workshops on Chinese Arts and Crafts. It was held in the N.M.S. Lutheran Kindergarten School.

Challenges in 2010

While continuing to contribute to the continuous refinement of research-based educational policies, OMEP-Hong Kong must also remain engaged in the ongoing education dilemmas: the question whether preschool education should become

compulsory and, if so, how to differentiate between half-day and full-day schools; the education of minority children; and the continuing use of developmentally inappropriate curricula in some Hong Kong preschools.

As an international interdisciplinary organization, OMEP-Hong Kong will seek to become increasingly more relevant as a strong advocate for high-quality developmentally appropriate early childhood practices and for the protection of young children's rights.

Upcoming Events

In August 2010, the 26th World Congress will be held in Göteborg, Sweden. Its theme, "Children – citizens in a challenged world" highlights and responds to the call for Children's rights and Education for Sustainable Development. I invite your participation in the recognition and discussion of topics with such great importance on children's growth and development in today's society. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.omep2010.org>.

Moving forward, I strongly welcome interested individuals to join us and existing members to remain active in the work of OMEP as we continue to witness the burgeoning demand of the work in Early Childhood Education and Development and to celebrate and care for the children and families of today.

OMEP-HK will host the 2011 World Assembly and Conference and to get an early start we have already formed a Preparatory Committee which is entrusted with the responsibility of planning the event. The theme of the conference is "Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of All Our Youngest Citizens".



JAPAN

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Main activities for 2009

Events: Meeting, Lecture, and Symposium

- National Annual General Meeting and an Open Lecture, March 2009.

Guest speaker Ingrid Engdahl, President of OMEP Sweden, spoke about Early Childhood Care and Education in Sweden relating to ESD, “Listening to the Children’s voice: Improving the Quality in Preschool.”

- International Symposium jointly sponsored by the Japan Society of Research on Early Childhood Care and Education, at the 63rd JSREC Conference in Chiba, May 2009.

Guest speaker Dr. Weng Lifang, professor at North Taipei University, spoke about current topics in Taipei including “the Low Birth Rate and Child Care and Education.”

- Information Exchanging Meeting for members, November 2009.

President Kaneda and board members reported World Assembly and Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in 2009, including discussion on “Child Care and Education in Nigeria and Singapore.”

Public Relations

- Periodical News Letter, May 2009
- Home Page on Web site

International Activities

- Attendance and presentation at World Assembly and the International seminar in Nigeria, August 2009
- Attendance and presentation at Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in Singapore, August 2009

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- A lecture with the aim of learning more about ESD, March 2009 (Guest speaker was Ingrid Engdahl, President of OMEP Sweden).
- Participation in discussion on “ESD in Early Childhood focusing on Characteristics of Asian Culture and Environment” at Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in Singapore (We reported the ESD practice in Japanese Child Cares).
- The determination of participation in OMEP World Project on ESD (Working on plans relating to this project).

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

- Working on “Peace and the Rights of the Child”, our consistent theme.
- “The Rights of the Child” project. This project aims at promoting interests in this issue for both young children and students majoring in Early Childhood Education. Students participate in making



Child Books about “The Rights of the Child” as educational tools.

Most important national task or plan for 2010

- Working on preparation for 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in Tokyo focusing on “ESD in Asia”, the Main topic (collecting and analyzing local data).
- Working on The 40th Anniversary Celebration of OMEP Japan project, including a memorial publication tracing the history of OMEP Japan and “The Rights of the Child” project.

- Working on OMEP World Project on ESD, collecting and analyzing local data.
- Attendance at World Assembly and planning study opportunities on ESD in the Scandinavian countries.
- Participation in Asia-Pacific Region project.

Number of members (total): 206

Number of individual members: 191 (2 honorary members included)

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 13 collective members and 2 associated members



KOREA

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The most important activities conducted at a regional level in 2009

The Annual Conferences of the Korean Society for Early Childhood Education (KSECE): November 17, 2009

The Korean Society for Early Childhood Education, one of the major affiliated groups of the OMEP Korean National Committee, held the annual conference in November. Many members of the OMEP Korean National Committee participated and presented their studies.

The most important activities carried out in our country at a national level in 2009

The 7th Annual Parent Workshop by OMEP Korean National Committee: May 23, 2009

The OMEP Korean National Committee held its 7th annual workshop for parents and teachers on May 23, 2009. The theme of the workshop was “Color and Children’s World,” which explored the colors that young children expressed. The speakers were Prof. Yeo-Joo Chung (Seoul Women’s University Graduation School of Professional Therapeutic Technology) and Dr. Yong-Hee Hong (Ewha Womans University). Prof. Chung presented relationship of color and children’s emotional expression. Particularly, she introduced education and therapeutic approach to read children’s mind through

the colors of their drawings. Prof. Hong introduced Korean traditional colors, ‘O-Bang-Saek,’ and ‘Saek-dong’. She showed how to teach young children about Korean traditional colors through embedded curriculum. About 500 parents and educators from all over Korea participated.

Participation in the OMEP Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting and International Conference in Singapore: August 13-15, 2009

Dr. Ok-Jung Ji (Chungju National University), who is in the board of directors of OMEP Korea, participated in the 2009 OMEP International Conference held in Singapore. The theme of the conference was ‘From Caring, Responsible Children to a Sustainable Future: Education for Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific.’

Participation in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Lagos, Nigeria, August 5-8, 2009

The national president Dr. Soon-Lye Lee and Dr. Shin-Kyung Park (YOUNG NAM Theological University and Seminary) participated in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Lagos, Nigeria. The theme of the conference was “Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn.”

Number of members:

Board Directors: 12

Affiliated groups: 17 groups comprising over 10,000 members



SINGAPORE

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Activities

Local

1. School visits were planned for members to understand more about the different ECE programmes available in Singapore. This is an annual on-going programme we conduct for our members.

2. A members' meeting was organised in May. It was entitled, Your Professional Image. It was well-attended and members were reminded about the importance of correct deportment and the use of good communication skills in the course of our work-day with colleagues, parents, and visitors.

Regional and International

1. An exchange programme was organised between Korea and Singapore. Korean EC educators visited Singapore in February 2009, and a return visit to Korea by Singapore EC educators was organised in September for Singaporean EC educators. The programme was so enriching another one will be organised for 2010. The visit to Singapore in 2010 plans to also include visits to ECE programmes in neighbouring countries like Malaysia.

2. The Singapore Committee of OMEP organised the Asia-Pacific meeting for 2009. Singapore was happy to host members from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, New Zealand and Australia.

Education for Sustainable Development

Singapore committee of OMEP organised a conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood Education

for its members and those in the Asia and Pacific region. It was a ground breaking for ECE in Singapore as ESD is a very new subject for Singaporeans. Although the conference was attended by less than 200 people, participation was warm and enthusiastic and there was much networking and a steady flow of exchange of ideas among participants. This conference has spawned understanding and much inspiration for future projects in ESD. A conference declaration was put together which will serve to highlight some goals and tasks for the coming years. This declaration can be accessed at <http://www.omep-sgp.org> under OMEP Asia-Pacific Region.

Report on Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

The Ministry of Community Development for Youth and Sports in Singapore submits periodic reports on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The latest media release was dated January 6 2009 and is a 116 page report on the key developments in child welfare and protection since the country's accession to the UNCRC in October 1995 and the submission of its initial report to the Commission in 2002. This report may be accessed on line. It also includes information on progress in the area of legislative and judicial enhancements to protect children, and details on its continuing efforts to provide quality education and healthcare to children and to provide the best opportunities for all children. The Singapore committee is aware of these efforts and has committee members who participate in



many of the Nation's Early Childhood Education Task Force groups.

Singapore's most important task or plan for 2010

The Singapore Committee of OMEP will continue with its aim of making ESD a reality in the early childhood fraternity in

Singapore and, therefore, will plan projects and activities around this goal in 2010.

Number of Members: 80

Number of Individual Members: 75

Number of Collective Members or any other type of Membership: 5



SRI LANKA

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Activities

- OMEP Sri Lanka continued to conduct in service training at pre-schools island-wide in collaboration with UNESCO Clubs. The resource persons were Mr. Manage & Ms. L. Malkanthi.
- Nutrition project was implemented in all districts on the instructions of the Public Health Inspectors and Family Counsellors.
- Traditional games were introduced to pre-schools. The resource persons were senior citizens.
- The National Committee has made arrangements to organize and conduct workshops on education on sustainable living to be introduced to pre-school education.
- Monthly Health clinics were conducted regularly. Physicians who were members of the National Committee volunteered in this programme. Children with eye, ear and skin ailments were identified and treated.
- A catalogue of folk tales and songs were compiled and recorded. Traditional dance form was modified to suit the 4 - 6 age group.
- OMEP - Sri Lanka rose to the occasion even before the conflict ended. President of OMEP - Sri Lanka made a tour of the refugee camps set up for displaced families. He assessed the situation of the war-affected children of displaced families and submitted a report to the National Committee. In the aftermath of the armed conflict National Committee decided to implement a recovery program to heal the scars of the children and also to

contribute to their physical well-being by December, 2009. The National Committee formulated the program. The economic rehabilitation of the war-affected families, the National Committee believes, contributes to the mental & physical well-being of the children.

- Three parent workshops were held in three districts, Matara, Galle and Hambantota to raise their awareness on the best practices in early childhood education and parenting for children.
- An advocacy program to eliminate child abuse in all forms was launched in collaboration with the mass media. The UNESCO Club for Media gave professional assistance to the project. Further street theatre was performed island-wide.

The National Committee decided to entrust the president to prepare a draft curriculum for pre-schools, incorporating education of sustainable living and to submit to the Ministry of education.

Three workshops on creative dramatic play for Teachers of children were conducted on weekends from July to December. Workshops were conducted for Parents with an artistic flair to make toys to suit the children.

Meetings/reports

Quarterly meetings of the National Committee were held regularly. The special sub-committee appointed to monitor the program of the pre-school functioning under the project for the rehabilitation of tsunami-hit schools, submitted its quarterly report at the above meetings. The sub-committee also supervised the conduction of



the tsunami - hit children who are now living with foster families.

Foster families

OMEP-Sri Lanka notes with satisfaction that it succeeded in preventing the institutionalization of children who lost their parents. The National Committee advised the authorities to find suitable foster families for them.

Promoting Interaction

A program to facilitate interaction among the family, pre-school and the primary school was implemented in the Matara district.

Indigenous festivals

Indigenous festivals were held on the eve of the date of festival at every pre-school, simulating the aspects of the relevant traditional ceremony. Thus the traditional New Year, Vesak, Deepawali and Christmas were celebrated. It is significant that in several areas the festivals were celebrated by the children and their parents, belonging to several communities.



THAILAND

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Early Childhood Education in Thailand has been guided by the country's policies under the "Long Term Plan for Early Childhood Education (2002-2016)". The following are projects based on involvement of OMEP Thailand Executive Committee:

Most relevant activities conducted at national level

National Projects

- Project on "Developing Science Curriculum Standard for Preschool Education" undertaken by the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science
- Project on "Excellent Preschool Program" undertaken by the Learning Research Institute
- Project on "Implementing Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Preschools" undertaken by the Bureau of the Crown Property
- A research project on "Analysis of Integrated Learning Activities Based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Preschools" undertaken by the Bureau of the Crown Property and the Learning Research Institute

Other Activities

Seminars on:

- Trends in Early Childhood Development Under Governmental Policies
- Intellectual Development with Moral and Ethics
- Bilingual Education for Young Children
- Role of Administration in Supervising Preschool Teachers

Publications:

- Monthly article on early childhood care and education in the "Teacher and Parent Education Journal"
- Academic papers related innovation and creativity in teaching young children

Committees:

- on selecting the best performer in the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Exam
- on evaluating early childhood lectures/teachers for career promotion under the Ministry of Education
- on preschools external evaluation by the Office of National Education Commission

Workshops:

- "Training for Quality Child Care" sponsored by the World Bank in cooperation with Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Chulalongkorn University
- Mobile workshops for preschool teachers in private and public schools on "Physics in Constructivist Education for Young Children"
- Mobile workshops for caregivers in child care centers on "Toys, Books, Songs, and Games for Infants and Toddlers"

Most significant activity conducted at regional level by visiting

Nepal

- Attending a religious ceremony in Young Sakya Buddhist Ordainment and visit a child care center in Bhaktapur



China

- Educational tour to Lichiang and Kung Ming

Most urgent challenges to be faced by OMEP in 2010

- To publicize and advocate OMEP activities to the public

- To advocate the implementation of teaching and learning in constructivist approach and the application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Early Childhood Education'

Number of members: 230



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE

Milada Rabusicova
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Member countries' activities

The wide range of activities undertaken at both the national and the international level around Europe has been covered by the annual reports submitted by the individual national committees. The reports show how extremely varied and useful the activities enhancing education and care for young children in the individual member countries are. They are often connected with organization of conferences and workshops for wide public as well as teachers but they are also specific activities targeting children themselves. The annual reports we have received include reports by all 22 member countries plus two additional ones, by the preparatory committees in Cyprus and Ukraine. I would thus like to thank all national OMEP committee presidents for their assistance in the process.

A number of European countries have participated in the worldwide project Education for Sustainable Development announced at the World Assembly held in Lagos. The results are being processed and will be presented at the world assembly and conference in Göteborg in 2010.

The number of member countries representing Europe remains the same as last year, i.e. 22. There has been a preparatory committee in Cyprus since the World Assembly held in Quebec City in summer 2008 and another one, in Ukraine, since the World Assembly held in Lagos in summer 2009. The establishment of the latter one, which currently has 30 members, would have been impossible without the initiative of Ms. Inessa Filipova and the

strong support of the President of the Polish OMEP committee Ms. Anna Wrobel. We believe we will be able to welcome our colleagues from Cyprus and Ukraine among regular OMEP members as soon as possible.

Events in the region

The most important joint event for member countries from around Europe was the *European Regional Meeting and European Conference* held on the isle of Syros, Greece, on 28 April to 2 May. The event was attended by nearly 40 participants representing 14 European member countries and a representative of the Cyprus preparatory committee. The other participants included members of the Executive Committee, namely Ingrid Pramling, World President; Victoria O. Bilewu, Vice President for Africa; Madeleine Baillargeon, Vice President for North America and the Caribbean; Doreen Launder, Vice President for Asia and the Pacific. After the European meeting and conference concluded, a meeting of the Executive Committee was hosted by the Greek OMEP committee.

The theme of the conference was *Current Issues in Preschool Education in Europe: Shaping the future*. The participants could enjoy a number of papers by their colleagues from Greece and elsewhere. If I can express my own opinion, supported by the response from many participants, the conference was an exceptional success, with excellent organization, enriching both professionally and culturally. The OMEP conference was indeed an event which energized the whole small island. Once again, many thanks to the



organizers led by Nektarios Stellakis and Chrystalla Papadimetri!

Another occasion where representatives of European member countries could meet in person was the World Assembly held in the capital of Nigeria, Lagos, in August 2009. The associated conference was called *Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn*. As expected, not too many European countries participated; with only 4 countries represented: Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The ERM took place nevertheless.

Activities of Vice-President

The *European Newsletter* appeared in 2009 again. National representatives were sent two -issues of *Newsletter OMEP Europe*, Spring 2009 and Autumn 2009. They present up-to-date information on conferences, minutes from European regional meetings, and announcements of new publications on preschool education. Thanks to the initiative of several OMEP members, informal flashbacks reviewing important OMEP events have also been included. The spring issue featured a flashback of the assembly held in Syros (by Bibi Karlsson, Sweden) accompanied by

photographs (by Eva Ahlin, Sweden); the autumn issue included an informal review of the Lagos assembly (by Patricia O'Connor, Ireland). These issues of the *Newsletter* are also available on the OMEP website (www.omep.org.gu.se).

I was invited to attend the national OMEP conference at the Kliment Ochrid University of Sophia, Bulgaria, where I presented a keynote speech called "Intergenerational learning: which qualities should children learn at home?". The speech was also published in a Bulgarian journal of pedagogy. My thanks for the invitation and for the organization of the event belong to Elena Roussinova-Bahoudaila, President of the Bulgarian OMEP committee.

In conclusion

It had been 3 years since I started to work as OMEP Vice President for Europe in 2009. I was re-elected into my second period of service in the position at the World Assembly and I want to thank everybody for the trust they have in me. I feel honoured and hope to continue the good cooperation. There is still much we can do together for the welfare of young children in Europe and other parts of the world.



BULGARIA

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Main activities for 2009

The participation of Prof. Ingrid Pramling – World President of OMEP and the vice president & European President Prof. Milada Rabusicova in the National Conference of the Bulgarian OMEP, 4-5 of May 2009 in Sofia was one of the most significant activities for us.

BG. OMEP could express its gratitude towards them to get the time to see one of our activities and to participate with our members such event and to discuss with us our problems and to hear their comments and their proposals. Their scientific presentations are evaluated highly and are published in our pedagogical journal; thus their pedagogical scientific opinions could reach all our teachers in the Kindergartens all over Bulgaria.

The National Activities: 2009 – Year of Creativity & Innovations

The National Conference with International Participations “Creativity of Teachers for creativity of Children”, 4-5 May 2009.

Publishing the scientific participation of Prof. Ingrid Pramling and Prof. Milada Rabusicova in the Journal “Preschool Education” in addition of the scientific papers of the Bulgarian Participants.

Participation in The Regional European OMEP in Syros- Greece.

Establishing International Correspondence with Educational Centers in many countries of the European Union.

Participation in the International Educational Projects, in coordination with

The Ministry of Education, Youth & Science; and with the Municipalities of different provinces in the country.

Achievements in relation to UC on UNCROc

Teaching by “Twinning” – for all kindergartens.

Week of Child’s Rights and Duties. (RC.Sliven, RC.Pleven, RC.Vratza).

Week of Good Will and Tolerance. (RC.Haskovo, RC.Pleven, RC.Sofia).

Week of Ecology – in the World, in relations, in behavior (RC.Pleven).

Program for developing physical culture in kindergartens under the theme: “Sport and Health in the kindergartens” (family sport in kindergartens, competitions in racing, tourism, tennis games, etc.).

Presentations in the topic: “The role of the new technologies and the media for building an evaluation system in the child of preschool age”.

Trainings with the parents and the teachers: “Illnesses or differences”.

Interchange of experiences: video-materials of pedagogical situations.

Training – teaching with resource centers: “Models of interactivity for dealing with children with special pedagogical needs”.

Training with parents: “Parents and teachers together for the sake of children”. Formation of good speaking behavior and culture of using books.



Trainings – Practicum with the participation of the parents and teachers: “To be someone’s else with a better way to recognize one self”.

Practical teaching with solving different situations: “New Paradigms in ecological education and right of children”.

Discussions with Parents on:

“Tolerance of the teacher for the sake of tolerance of children”.

“Interactivity of the educational environment – difficult to achieve but is a necessary”.

Qualification courses in all regional committees of OMEP

Modules: Developing career – differentiatinal estimation payment for teachers work (RC.Sofia)

Safety and traffic.

State educational requisites in preschool age.

Integration of children from the minorities.

Work among children with special educational needs.

Prevention of aggression from the elders over children and among children them selves .

Studying the European educational systems.

Competitions

Regional competitions for didactic products: “In nature – herbs for health and beauty” 7-8.05.09), (RC.Pleven).

Competition of 200 children: “Travels – Fantasy and children painting” (RC.Sliven).

Competition among teachers: making covers for children stories using computer technologies.

Photo competitions on the Topics: “One Bulgaria – and several cultures organized by the European center – k Europe Direkt”.

Exhibitions

“I know which is useful for my health.”

“I love my country soil.”

Celebrations

Folklore celebrations.

Competitions: ”Mama & Dad and M“.

Concerts for the first of June – children’s day.

Charity activities for orphans (RC.Pleven, RC.Sliven).

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

Round Table: “Support of highly qualified active kindergartens”/SOC/358, 2009.

Seminars: Kindergarten and the school – united educational system for sustainable development.

Participation in World Project of OMEP:

“Education for Sustainable development”.
End of the first Period: Interviewed are, 900 children age 2 to 8 years.

In this study are participating 70 workers-teachers and students.

End of the second period-analysis of the data reported.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Presentation of the World Congress of OMEP – Sweden, and the European Forum in England in the pedagogical press.

Participation in the Project of OMEP: Education for Sustainable Development, “ESD”.

Participation in sub- regional conference of the countries in south east Europe. “qualified Education for all by promoting qualification of the teachers, April 2010.



Organizing of National Conference of BG
OMEP, June 2010: “Education for
Sustainable development”.

Number of members (total): 600

Number of individual members: 138

Number of collective members or any other
type of membership: 42



CYPRUS

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Preparatory Committee of Cyprus continuous to have a strong cooperation with Greek Committee.

In April 2009 a representative of the Cyprus preparatory committee attended the European regional meeting and conference 2009 which was held in Syros island, Greece.

In November 2009 Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani, President of Cyprus Preparatory Committee met with Nektarios Stellakis, President of Greek National Committee for planning and organizing following actions. As a result it was decided that the the 8th Greek Conference of OMEP will be hosted by the Cyprus National Committee, in Cyprus in May 2010.

Furthermore the Greek National Committee agreed to sponsor members of the Cyprus National Committee to attend a one-day workshop that was organized by the European University Cyprus.

The constitution has been finalized and is now in the process for official recognition. Thus the announcement of the acceptance of Cyprus is now scheduled for the world assembly in Gothenburg Sweden next august.

Number of members (total) approx.: 100



CZECH REPUBLIC

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The Czech OMEP Committee participates and cooperates closely in both the Czech Republic and the spheres of international cooperation and international activities. These activities overlap. Czech OMEP Committee also cooperates closely with other organisations operating in the sphere of pre-school education in the Czech Republic. It is represented in the Advisory Board at the Ministry of Education.

Main activities for 2009

Several times this year, the OMEP met with all professional organisations of pre-school education to amend both acts and regulations concerning pre-school education. This concerned lowering the number of children in nursery schools; lowering the number of hours for nursery school headmasters; and the “Pro-family Package”. This included specifying of the creation of mini nursery schools, small maternity centres – babysitting at home. The representatives of the Czech Republic attended a meeting in Greece in April 2009. The OMEP participated in a survey – “Should pre-school education be compulsory?”

In 2008, the Grundtvig project was completed; its results were summed up in a brochure printed in 2009. This brochure is to help both teachers and parents with children’s transfer from nursery schools to elementary schools.

Under the auspices of the Czech and Slovak First Ladies, Mrs. Lívie Klausová and Mrs. Gašparovičová, the second Czech-Slovak Conference of Businesswomen and Managers – we held our *Visions Without Boundaries*, last September in Bratislava. This

meeting was attended by the Chair, Jarmila Kotrbová. The OMEP was a presentor at this meeting; the participants were introduced to OMEP’s organisation and mission – a publication on OMEP’s overview and development was exhibited.

In November, PaedDr. Jaroslava Břízová attended the Czech-Polish meeting as part of long-term border cooperation. This meeting’s participants visited nursery schools in Poland, and were introduced to their operation, environment, and specifics of pedagogical work. Our Polish friends were interested in the school system of the Czech Republic.

Teachers’ Magazine (issue 21/2009), published an interview with OMEP Chair, Mrs. Jarmilou Kotrbová – the interview introduced the pedagogical public to both the organisation work of OMEP.

Education for sustainable development activities

In autumn, nursery schools participated in an OMEP’s worldwide project. A total of 519 children from 42 nursery schools participated in the project.

The nursery schools continued working on the sustainable development project even after the completion of the project, and the poster was used for further work. Contents of the generally educational programme for nursery schools contain a part devoted to sustainable development of pre-school children.



Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

OMEP's Chair participated in the amendment procedures in the Senate of the CR – concerning children's rights. OMEP cooperates with a non-governmental organisation dealing with children's rights and their abundance.

Initiatives for the year 2010

2010 plan for the Czech Republic – Working on membership development.

Helping pre-school education during act and regulation amendment procedures in cooperation with other professional organisations of pre-school education in the Czech Republic.

Number of members: 50



DENMARK

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Main activities for 2009

We have worked very hard to sort out the OMEP materials we have stored here since 1948. We have sent all our international journals and reports from the very beginning of OMEP to Germany to have everything digitalized. We still have a number of things and papers. Some are to be kept in the archives of the Danish state and other papers will probably be sent to the archives in Prague.

We have worked very hard to make an application ready to be able to send toys and material to some children's hospitals in Ghana.

We have also worked to offer a pre-tour visit to Danish institutions before the world congress in Sweden.

Education for sustainable development activities

The project of sending toys and material to Ghana is not an easy job. We have tried to figure out how to combine the laws of 2 countries involved with the same shipping project. Now we are almost done and both the Ghanaian and the Danish committees have done their utmost to clear all eventual misunderstandings.

We are willing to advice others that might think of doing the same "stunt".

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

We have participated in a number of meetings regarding implementation of the rights of the child. A report was sent to UN.

Initiatives for the year 2010

We will continue the work with the archives.

We will also finish the collection and sending the material to the hospitals in Ghana.

We will plan and be happy to welcome OMEP-participants on the pre-tour to show them Danish institutions.

We will discuss how to deal with the necessary increase of member interest in OMEP work.

Number of individual members (approx): 60



FINLAND

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Main activities for 2009

The Finnish OMEP committee had meetings and discussions about the best interest of the child in the early childhood education and care system in Finland. This discussion related in the planning's with the new law for the early childhood education and care.

Quality and administrative questions were also at the plenum.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

Finland is within the OMEP sustainable development project for the 2010 World Congress in Gothenburg.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

Committee members were actively in a seminar about children's participation in early childhood education and care. Seminar was organized by Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland, The Finnish Ombudsman for Children and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Quality in early childhood education and care in the situation where the Finnish municipalities – responsible to organize the system – have problems with the economy.

Number of members (total): 30

Pirjo Honkavaara
Planning Officer



FRANCE

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Main activities in 2009

Training schemes – national caucus and lectures on the following subjects: (caucus/discussion/meeting?)

- Education and development of the child and of psychological and learning difficulties (and of juvenile psychological and learning difficulties...)
= books and reading for young children in France and Senegal
= receiving the young child (how to treat/welcome/him)
- Platforms for exchanges and expression
 - 3 parents' cafes – one specifically for parents who are in prison
 - parent-child workshops centered on books and run by a member of OMEP

Training and follow-up of professionals

- In Senegal – training scheme for nursery personnel; building of a teachers' reference library in Ndiaganiao
- In Vietnam – in cooperation with the association 'Children First' training and evaluation of programmes in the 'blue houses'
- In Romania – equipment for a young children's library

Communication

- Publication and distribution of the quarterly OMEP journal
- Setting up of the OMEP web-site

- Partnership with the AGEEM nursery school teachers' association, with the AIN librarians association, with the Franco-Vietnamese association 'Children First', and with the National Federation of Specialized Teachers /FNAREN
- Creation of a CD of nursery rhymes in partnership with the Charente Centre for 'Teachers' Documentation CDDP

Activities linked to Sustainable Development
(State whether national or international)

Set up the OMEP international inquiry

- Participation in the Sustainable Development Week of the Academy of Paris
- Presentation in Vietnam of school projects concerning sustainable development

Actions concerning the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on Children's Rights

- Organization of an event in UNESCO, Paris and elsewhere in France for Children's Rights Day

Principal tasks for 2010

- National elections
- continue and analyze the OMEP-EDD inquiry
- create a scientific committee

Number of individual members: 163

Number of individual members: 17



GERMANY

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Main activities for 2009

The child and youth welfare association (AGJ) is the German national committee for early childhood education (EDK). On behalf of the AGJ board, the AGJ's "childhood and family / secretariat of the German national committee of OMEP" expert committee looks after DNK tasks and is thus also the DNK spokesperson. Unlike in other countries, the DNK does not only comprise individual members but also includes, in particular, representatives from the structures in child and youth welfare.

In 2009, the DNK focused especially on the following issues:

- The quality of early childhood education and care
- Training and expertise of specialist staff working in children's day care services
- Child and youth poverty in families

Over the last years, a series of statutory changes, studies and reports have critically engaged with issues in early childhood education and care. In this context, the DNK has repeatedly called for establishing quality-oriented and needs-related educational and care services for children. These calls have not only spotlighted enhancing the work/family balance but also, first and foremost, increasing educational and equal opportunities for children.

Against the background of growing demands on specialist staff in day care facilities for children on the one hand and, on the other, the targets under the framework of extending day care facilities for children under three years old, the

debate has focused on the objectives of the extension, above all in terms of quality. The primary issues here are, for example, concepts of inclusion and child orientation, and also the problem of funding and receptiveness for other professional groups.

Over the last years, the subject of child poverty has been a main focus of political debate in Germany as well. In 2009, the DNK dealt extensively with the issue of poverty among young people in families. The discussion started from the question of what families need to ensure children can grow up in accordance with their needs. This considered in particular the aspects of monetary benefits, infrastructure and services, and the general conditions for family and child-friendly environments.

Education for sustainable development activities

The DNK is not directly involved in the UN decade of education for sustainable development. Nonetheless, early education, cooperation with schools and non-formal and informal learning are all key substantive areas in the DNK's work.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

On 20 November 2009 the National Coalition, a project of the AGJ for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (NC), organized an anniversary event in the course of the National Conference for the Rights of the Child on 20 years of the UN CRC.



The conference set out to provide a forum for joint, cross-generational discussion between “young and old” to formulate the requirements, goals and guidelines for a long-term policy for children and young people. This concern was thus linked to driving forwards concrete improvements in children’s rights and heightening awareness in society for the rights of children.

The conference participants believe that overcoming future problems which have a direct impact on subsequent generations is only possible if the interests of the coming generations are adequately taken into account and they are involved in realizing their interests.

The most pressing tasks were considered to be the Federal Government’s long overdue withdrawal of the declaration of reservations entered at the time of ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, creating an inclusive educational system based on equal opportunities for all children, and combating child poverty. The other key topics focused on expanding rights of codetermination by, among other things, introducing voting rights for children and young people, implementing a secure and ecologically viable energy concept and providing for the individual right of complaint in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. There were also very emphatic calls for establishing a comprehensive independent system to monitor children’s rights in Germany.

In addition to the federal government’s state party report, due to be presented in early 2010, informing the UN committee on the rights of the child of the current state of UN CRC implementation in Germany, children

and young people are evaluating children’s rights implementation in Germany from their own perspective. They are to produce an independent children and young people’s report. This will be presented to the UN committee on the rights of the child parallel to the federal government’s state party report. Young people are to present the report in Geneva and be given an opportunity to be consulted personally. The children and young people’s report is similarly a project run by the AGJ.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

In the coming year, the DNK will also track current social and political discussions and developments from its own expert perspective.

In early childhood education, it will provide an expert policy commentary on the debates over and the cooperation between day care services / childcare provision and other measures to support families.

The transition from childcare facilities to primary school is a key aspect in the cooperation between child and youth welfare and school and is similarly a topic for the DNK in 2010.

The area of migration is also another main focus of the DNK’s work. In this case, the emphasis is on private and public responsibility in the issues surrounding growing up in an intercultural environment. The aim here is to take into account the need for support and further development in the fields of education and care in families, childcare provision and day care facilities.

Number of members (total): 29

Number of individual members: 9

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 20



GREECE

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Main activities for 2009

Inform the three major activities conducted by the National Committee in 2006 (January to December) in all aspects of Early Childhood Education and Care. Include some relevant comments for a broad understanding of the activity scope. (See note at the end).

In 2009 the National Committee of OMEP in Greece conducted the 7th Congress of OMEP in Athens, on the subject of Mass Media and Children relationship with them. Researchers of various scientific branches and from the all rungs of education, representatives of state and professionals of the field of media, contributed in the dialogue which focused on all aspects of the topic and made their proposals.

Also, European Conference of O.M.E.P. was held in Syros from 28 to 30 April 2009. Members of all National committees came to the beautiful Syros island and all together worked on the subject “Current Issues in Preschool Education in Europe: Shaping the future” and we felt optimistic, despite the problems that the speakers of the congress underlined, about children everyday life, all over the world.

National committee of Greece keep on publishing of the scientific journal “Researching the world of child”, which is the only scientific journal for early childhood education in Greece.

Education for sustainable development activities

The nine OMEP regional committees in Greece have conducted many activities through out the year. These activities covered a variety of topics, such as: inter – personal relationships and facing conflicts, intercultural approach through music in preschool education, math in preschool education, linguistic and numerical literacy, feelings’ management and workshops for our members and festivals for children as well.

Initiatives for the year 2010

OMEP in Greece will held up its 7th congress about the appropriate relationship that a child has to experience with mass media as their role and their power increases year by year. Parent role on this aspect is fundamental. The point is to have well educated parents and strong laws and statutory frame about the ways that mass media approach children affairs.

New ideas, problems and important issues

As we wrote in a previews report, we are seriously concerned about the subject of children adoption. We would be very happy if our organization could help to improve the existing law. Child adoption is one of the most appropriate ways to rescue orphans or abandoned children from mistreatment which can range from “simple” poverty to sodomy. In Greece, even good couples, can’t adopt a child quickly and easy, meanwhile the number of children at risk increases.

Number of members (total): Approximately 2.100 in nine regional committees



ICELAND

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Education for sustainable development activities

Lectures and course about children 0-3 years.

Lecture for publicity of a new book about the first years of one's life: the years nobody remember.

Plant trees in our children's park, we could not do it last year because of crisis in our country.

Number of members (total): 75

Number of individual members: 73

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 2

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Support and cooperation to children who have unemployed and indebted parents which are going to lose their home and hope.



IRELAND

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Main activities for 2009

The OMEP Ireland committee met monthly, and our AGM was held in September 2009. Dr Anna Ridgway was re-elected President, Ms Lorraine Crossan was elected as Vice-President and Treasurer, Ms Patricia Radley as Secretary, and Dr Denice Cunningham as Membership Secretary.

Pat O'Connor gave an account of her visit to the OMEP world assembly in Lagos, Nigeria in August 2009. OMEP Ireland was also represented at regional and European meetings.

The OMEP Ireland annual conference was held in University College Cork in March 2009, and it was attended by representatives from all of the major early childhood organisations in Ireland. The conference theme was *In Defence of Childhood*, and a wide variety of papers were presented. Many of these have now been peer reviewed and will be published in the next issue of *An Leanbh Óg, the OMEP Ireland Journal of Early Childhood Studies* (editor: Dr. Rosaleen Murphy) which is published annually.

The OMEP Ireland website www.omepireland.ie was launched at our AGM in September. It contains details of our activities and order forms for our publications, some of which are already freely available to download from there.

The OMEP Ireland Guest Lecturer series continued, with a talk on the future of early childhood studies by Prof Francis Douglas, Patron of OMEP Ireland and Emeritus Professor of Early Childhood Studies in UCC. Prof Douglas was given honorary Life Membership of OMEP Ireland, in

recognition of his services to OMEP and to the field of early childhood education and care in Ireland.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

OMEP Ireland are participating in the OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). See <http://www.omepireland.ie/ESDproject.html>. The young children being interviewed come from a variety of early years centres. The results, together with those of other participating countries, will be presented at this year's world conference in Sweden. Presently the results are being collated for submission at the end of March.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

A principal focus of the OMEP Ireland national committee is to raise awareness of children's rights. We endeavour to do this through our conference, our publications and our guest lectures, provoking discussion and raising issues of concern to parents, policy makers and early childhood practitioners. In 2009, Dr Conor O'Mahony (Faculty of Law, UCC) made a presentation on constitutional reform on children's rights in Ireland.

We also endeavour to raise awareness of the work of OMEP and of important issues relating to children through our publications and our website. Vol. 3 of the OMEP Ireland journal was published in summer 2009 and was distributed to all OMEP



members. It was also sent to the city and county childcare committees nationwide and to the colleges involved in the training of the early childhood workforce. OMEP Ireland also co-sponsored, with the National Children's Nurseries Association and a number of other early childhood organisations, a new guide for parents – *9 Steps to Choosing a Childcare Service*.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

The OMEP Ireland annual conference will be held in University College Cork on March 25th and 26th, 2010.

The conference theme will be *Working for Our Children's Future*, and the keynote speaker will be David Coleman, author of *Parenting is Child's Play*, who will speak on *Communication: The Key to Emotional Development*. The conference will also raise funds which will be sent in response to the World President's appeal for the children of Haiti. Conference papers will be published in issue 5 of our journal.

Number of members (total): 37

Number of individual members: 27

Number of collective or any other type of membership: 10 group members



ISRAEL

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Main activities for 2009

Continuing Promotion of Legislation to protect the rights of children, ensure their welfare and optimal development. The Association participates regularly in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) in discussions on early childhood issues, particularly those of the Committee for Children's Rights through its Early Childhood Education Lobby. A main effort in the area of legislation is the Licensing and Supervision Law for Early Childhood Education as well as the application of the Free Compulsory Education Law for Children over the age of 3.

Increasing National Awareness of the needs of young children and their parents via collaboration with a wide variety of professional organizations and services. For this purpose, the Association organized professional tours and many planned encounters.

Its representatives were invited to speak at different education meetings. This helped to strengthen the ties among academia, people in the field and the civil society, all working to protect children's rights.

Narrowing the gaps in early childhood education in the Arab sector and increasing enforcement of existing laws in Arab society, such as the Free Compulsory Education Law for children over the age of three. This year, a *Parents' Guide for Choosing an Educational Setting* was translated into Arabic and distributed.

Broadening the Committee's Activities in local governments, working more closely with local authorities and municipalities. For this purpose, volunteers were recruited and an action, pilot program has begun in a number of local authorities. The goal is to recruit the

leaders of the local authorities and their subordinate groups, to work together, speed up legislation, develop quality services for children and parents. An effort is being made to influence communities to coordinate services in various areas.

Creation and development of an Association Website was begun and will soon be completed.

Election Results: Committee Chair, Pres. OMEP Israel, Mrs. Tuca Yalin-Mor

Executive Committee: Dr. Dorit Aram, Ms. Naomi Arbel, Ms. Goony Belcher; Dr. Rose Lehrer-Cohen, Dr. Yael Dayan, Ms. Tamar Erez, Ms. Sumia Haj-Yehye, Ms. Elinor Kolumbus, Ms. Rachel Mann, Ms. Hagit Solomon, Ms. Talia Weinberg, Ms. Nurit Zarzif, Ms. Edith Zulman

Educational Activities on a National Level

Publishing articles in Echo of the Kindergarten (Hed HaGan). This is the Journal of the Israel Teachers' Union, which describes the professional work of kindergarten and nursery teachers. The Association publishes articles, updates on its activities and areas of intervention, and book reviews.

Annual National Meeting: "Strengthening Young Children: A Professional and Social Challenge" was the topic of the annual national meeting which was planned and conducted in conjunction with the Masters' program in Early Childhood Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Marian Center for Young Children and Families in Kiriyat Gat. It took place in Southern Israel to allow the convenient participation of professionals from the south of the country where they are living and



working under security constraints and ongoing tensions.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Continuation of our efforts in the Knesset (Parliament) to promote legislation for the Licensing and Supervision of Early Childhood Programs for the very young and the application of the Free Compulsory Education Law for children over the age of 3.

Continuation of our work to press government departments to deal with particular problems and failures in operating services requiring immediate special action.

These are problems brought to our attention via our reach-out to professionals and parents.

Continuation of our Volunteers' Action Pilot Project of encouraging trained and experienced educators (all with Masters' Degrees) to work with the Early Childhood Committees of local governments. This project is under the guidance of Executive Comm. Member, Dr. Aram, of Tel Aviv University.

Broadening the Association's Circle of Activists and creating a National Program for Early Childhood.

Maintaining and Keeping Updated the soon-to-be completed Website.

Number of individual members: 80

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: executive committee, 12 members



LATVIA

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Main activities for 2009

During the period January - December 2009 National Committee of Latvia have organized 3 state conferences about the preschool practice in Latvia.

The first – “Development of language and communication skills in preschool ages in multicultural society”, which was organized together with University of Latvia.

Language and communication is one of most important part of general development of preschool age children, that's why participants worked in 5 work shops and plenary. Children's language will have developed rapidly by this stage and they will be able to concentrate for a longer period of time. The main topics were: development language and communication skills through the play, multi language situation and child, book and language development etc. Teachers were very happy to be together and change their experience of practice.

The second state conference – Administration of quality in kindergarten. Participants discussed about the didactics, evaluation, quality of programmes, accreditation of schools.

Teachers were very interested in the workshops where they have interesting discussions about the curriculum and their own practice in the kindergarten.

The third conference was “Creativity in preschool” Contents was about the handicraft at preschool. This conference show us how many ways is possible to develop children's creativity in preschool.

Every conference have exhibition of materials for announced theme, which was made by teachers or teachers together with children and preschool experts.

Number of members (total): 436



LITHUANIA

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Main activities for 2009

Activities of OMEP Lithuanian National Committee were mainly dedicated to the implementation of the state child's welfare policy. Special attention was dedicated to the creation of superior educational environment for children. Among these activities, the most important are the following:

- Organized a conference "Qualitative changes in the child environment: Opportunities and Realities";
- The book "Creative Curriculum for Preschool" was initiated, prepared and published, presentation of the book for the educators and students was organized;
- Series of seminars on the children creativity and artistic expression in the game, dedicated to the nursery educators, have been carried out by the lecturers of Vilnius Pedagogical University and Vilnius College.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- Important contribution has been made to the preparation of an updated national family policy conception and implementation program of this policy.
- Participation in research on the topics "How we value importance of management in Kindergarten", "What we expect from the Kindergarten", "How the Kindergarten is seen today".
- Presentations on educational innovation for Lithuanian kindergartens on the topic: "'Reggio Emilia' elements in children

activities to create new educational opportunities".

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

Better opportunities achieved for integrated education of healthy children and children with disabilities.

More flexible working hours in Kindergartens. Introduction of evening child care groups in the kindergartens, sports clubs, combining family and work interests.

Each year, arranging children's art exhibitions "The world is the child's eyes", contributed by different nationalities children living in Lithuania.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Seminars and creation of methodological recommendations for educators will be continued on the improvement of children's creativity inspiration tools, renewal of internal and external educational environment.

Based on 2009 research results on the topics "How we value importance of management in Kindergarten", "What we expect from the Kindergarten", "How the Kindergarten is seen today", development of practical recommendations, holding round-table discussions, creation of plans for the implementation of required qualitative changes.

Educational innovation will be pursued in search for improvements of children's educational process.



Number of members (total): 48

Number of individual members: 9

Number of collective members or any other
type of membership: 28



NORWAY

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Main activities for 2009

The committee has worked on three main activities

- Education for sustainable development
- Promote knowledge and debate concerning the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC
- Strengthen the OMEP Norway committee

Education for Sustainable Development activities

At a national level there was organized a conference at the 5th of November at a new science discovery centre VILVITE, for the promotion of science and technology among children and people of all ages, situated in Bergen. Elin Eriksen Ødegaard promoted OMEP's work on the issue. Susanne Urban, a local architect specializing in sustainable housing and philosophy held an inspiring presentation loaded with photo examples. Kreative Barnehager (Creative Kindergarten), a kindergarten owner specializing in deep ecological kindergartens, held a presentation on plans for future building and pedagogy promoting ecological fostering, cooperating with parents and education.

The committee also started cooperating with national and local organization with similar aims in order to organize more activities in 2010.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

At an international level Elin Eriksen Ødegaard participated at the conference: Children's Rights at a Cross Road – A Global Conference on Children's Rights in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in December. The occasion was the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a celebration organized by Childwatch International, African Child Policy Forum and UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. OMEP Norway participated in Round table discussions on the invitation from Childwatch International.

A planning of a Nordic conference raising a debate concerning future tasks in the Norwegian kindergartens was started. A national White paper (Stortingsmedling nr. 41) give signs of changes in what is considered to be a Nordic holistic approach by suggesting language testing of every child at the age of three. The conference aims to consider consequences for kindergarten curriculum and every day practice and aims to raise a debate of future tasks and quality in the Nordic kindergarten.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

The committee will continue to work along the three lines mentioned also for 2010 and the planning of three conferences will be prioritized. In addition to the two mentioned above, the committee is also planning a post tour to Norway after the World Congress in Gothenburg in August 2010. The committee



will organize an academic, cultural and social program and look forward to host OMEP members.

Number of members (total): 77

Number of individual members: 68

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 9



POLAND

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Main activities for 2009

- Participation in the European OMEP Conference on the island of Syros in Greece. Within its participation the Poland Committee has presented the following subjects “Actual issues of pre-school in Poland” “What future wanted from the present”.
- Cooperation with the OMEP Committee in Nepal. Organizing “Study visit” in Warsaw for OMEP representatives from Nepal. The Visit of the various educational organizations, participation in methodical presentations about early childhood education in Poland. Warsaw sightseeing.
- Cooperation with the OMEP Committee in Slovakia. Organizing “Study visits” in Warsaw for 40 Slovaks teachers. Visit kindergartens, Warsaw sightseeing, the visit of the Museum and Cultural Centre.
- Organizing International Conference “Education according to Dalton plans” in cooperation with Dalton International. Over 100 participants (including OMEP members from Slovakia and Ukraine) took part in this conference.
- Participation in Governmental program “Kindergarten year” – working as a consulting organization and advising on changes in childhood education proposed by the Government.
- Cooperation with the higher Linguistic School in Częstochowa. Cooperation in organizing of the 5th Science International Conference about “Teaching foreign languages for preschool children”. Held

under the honorary auspices the 1st Polish Conference of Kindergarten Directors.

- Cooperation with the OMEP Committee in Ukraine:
 - Participation in Science Seminary organized by Wolynski State University named Łesi Ukrainki in Łuck. Kindergarten visits. The ceremonial agreement signing - agreement about cooperation signing in the Ukrainian Centre of International Cooperation.
 - Due to the pandemic of influenza a/H1N1 organizing aid to The Ukraine OMEP Committee Donation of medicines and personal protective equipments for children and teachers from kindergarten in Łuck.
- Organizing visit for 12 teachers from Ukraine in Warsaw and Lublin. Visiting kindergartens, Participation in Conference in Warsaw and Seminary in Lublin.
 - Support for kindergarten in Łuck. Sending to Ukraine education materials for art classes, materials provided by the sponsor.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- Managing the project financing by Warsaw budget. Organizing families’ workshops in kindergartens and other centers supporting education for young children from 2 to 5 years old. These workshops were run by pre-school teachers and their main goal was provided the support to parents and learnt them how effective children education should look like.



- Participation in The World Wide OMEP Project concerning education for sustainable growth.
- Promoting of education for sustainable growth in Ukraine. Seminary presentation within by the Volyn State University Lesi Ukrainki in Łuck.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

- Spreading education for children with special educational needs. Create pre-school branches for autistic children in Częstochowa.

Dissemination pre-school education for children from 2 to 5 years old.

Initiatives for the year 2010

- Supporting initiatives to improve the conditions of respectful coexistence with autistic children. Creating the support centre for autistic children and their parents.

- Dissemination of pre-school in rural areas.
- Raising awareness among parents and children guardians how to develop the right children growth.
- Active participation in the implementation of the education reform in Poland.
- Getting the grant within the partnership project with The National OMEP Committees coordinated by OMEP Committee in the Czech Republic, under the Grundtvig Program.
- Due to International Year of Chopin – (one of the biggest Polish composers) popularization of his music among the children.

Number of members (total): 375

Number of individual members: 373

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 2



PORTUGAL

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From the Portuguese OMEP activities on 2009, we enhanced the following.

The running Projects:

a) “A RODAR” (Rolling) project – Amadora, Social Workers: 5 (<http://projectarodar.blogspot.com>)

This project takes action in Amadora district, near Lisbon and in the past 3 years promoted: (a) individual and social skills for children and young people, (b) school diagnose, support and leading, (c) better shaping school and community relationship, (d) young and adults empowerment and initiative, (e) community social cohesion reinforcement and family involvement for neighbourhood wellbeing. In 2009 was classified by social partners between Good and Very good.

The project was supported by national government program ESCOLHAS and shall be refunded from January 2010 till December 2012.

From its numerous activities we enhance:

- The number of supported families duplicated on the last year of the “A Rodar”, reaching 130 needers from gipsy ethnic mostly. By mean 30 families were followed intensively and the rest were regularly watched.
- Dewing this intervention new health, hygiene and food behaviours were acquired as well as better relationship with school agents. More gipsy families inscribed their children in compulsive school, demanding more attendance and responsibility to their children.

- By introducing in the program two scholar mediators, generally significant change of better behaviours and school attendance and better family and school relationship arose observed by the decrease of social conflicts and more parents’ presence in school issues and meetings.



- Other of our big issues was promoting in these families scholar competences by preventing scholar absence and offering a service of following children in homework and studying skills. This work was always articulated with schools teams in meetings special arranged for these matters. All of the children improved lecture and writing skills.
- The adult competences in ICT grew as well. The users showed significantly better autonomy and knowledge in doing computer tasks. Slowly they were coming more and more to our space to use our ICT equipment.
- Parental negligence and precarious housing were properly forward to national competent agencies.
- From outdoor activities of this project “A Rodar” we enhanced visits to Estrela Mountain (Highest Portuguese



Continental point), ecological Badoca Park, Oceanário (oceanarium), João de Deus Writer and Pedagogical Museum, St George Castle, as well as seaside and cinema sessions; we participated in sports championships and in a musical workshop that led to a CD musical production with gipsy songs recorded by youngsters from the neighbourhood.

On the new approved program the project was classified in 11th among the 2267 national candidate projects. The 1st classified project was “Anos Ki Ta Manda” runned by Associação de Jardins Escolas João de Deus, where OMEP is partner too.

b) “AJUDAR AS CRIANÇAS A CRESCER SAUDÁVEIS E FELIZES” (Helping Bring Up Children Healthier and Happier) – Lumiar, Lisboa. Social Workers: 2 (<http://omepbcv.eblog.pt>)

During 2009 our space in Lumiar was frequented by more or less 70 children, aged from 3 to 12. Daily the mean attendance was about 23 children. One of our big aims is to complement school learning by helping in homework and reinforce the learning skills, fighting school absence and social exclusion. The school work was always articulated with Parents’ Associations where parents and local school teams are represented.



Beyond scholar homework we’d like to enhance in the program several workshops on professions, plastic arts and, for example, planet Earth its resources and conservation.

We consider very important, as well, the relationship between children and their neighbourhood. So, we visited several institutions nearby. One of the most popular was the local Police headquarters visit, among others like local library, local health centre and local dweller association where they can work among elder people with ceramics.

Finally, referring the swimming pool baths on primary school yard, and the Lisbon Zoo and Gulbenkian Planetarium visits, as well as the cinema Alvaláxia sessions.

Other Portuguese OMEP Activities

- February, 13 – General Assembly
- May (the whole month) Once again the exhibition of Portuguese OMEP activities in National Education Headquarters windows, placed in the heart of Lisbon.
- May, 25 to 30 – OMEP participation in OESTE INFANTIL Children’s popular feast, with lots of workshops, in Torres Vedras City (40 Km North of Lisbon); organized by Torres Vedras Town hall with a network of social institutions.



- June, 1 and 2 – Commemorating the 50th year of UN Declaration on Children’s Rights and the 30th anniversary of the OMEP – Portuguese Committee, we organized on Lisbon Forum site, the congress “Being Child on the XXIst Century with the following program:

OPENNING SESSION: Representing the Prime Minister, His Excellency the



State Supporter and Education Secretary,
Dr. Jorge Pedreira

EDUCATIONAL PANEL –
Coordinator: António Ponces de Carvalho
OMEP Portuguese Committee President.

Speakers:

Eduardo Marçal Grilo, PhD (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Member and former Minister of Education): “Why Kindergarten education is needed?”

Guilherme Oliveira Martins, PhD (Accounting National Court President and former Minister of Education): “Kindergarten education – Citizenship Factor”

João Formosinho, PhD (Specialized LLL for Teachers National Agency Vice-President): “Kindergarten Education and Social Welfare Integration”

Rosália Vargas, Dr. (Education Secretary of Lisbon Townhall Government)

Ruben Cabral, PhD (Dean of Macao University): “Child Education: Between Myth and Metaphor”.

FAMILY PANEL – Coordinator: M. Emília Nabuco (OMEP Port. Vogel)

Armando Leandro, Council Judge (National Commission for Protection of Children and Young in Risk President): “Family and Child Today”

Fernando Ribeiro e Castro, Eng. (National Large Families President)

M. Emília Nabuco, PhD (ESE Lisboa researcher): “Familiar Empowerment – A Par Project”

Paula Colares Pereira, PhD (ESE João de Deus): “(Re)build in Family Time of Quality”

Matilde Sirgado, Dr. (IAC Coordinator).

HEALTH PANEL – Coordinator: José Eduardo Rosado Pinto (OMEP Port. VP)

OPENNING – Francisco George, Dr. (General Director for Health - DGS)

Ana Leça, Dr. (DGS Service Manager Pediatrics Doctor): “Support Network for Child in Risk”

Deolinda Barata, Dr. (Family and Child Team Support Coordinator in Estefania Children’s Hospital): “Child and Violence in Familiar Environment”

José Eduardo Rosado Pinto, Dr. (National Coordinator of WHO – GARD): “Bring Up Child with Chronic Disease”

Nuno Neuparth, PhD. (Medical Sciences Faculty Professor): “Environment and Child Respiratory Health in school and at Home”

Maria de Lourdes Levy, PhD (OMEP Pt General Assembly President; Jubilee Professor): “The Last 50 Years of Pediatrics in Portugal”

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS PANEL – Coordinator: Maria João Tomé (OMEP Port. Vogel)

Alvaro Laborinho Lúcio, Council Judge (National Supreme Court): “Children’s Rights”

Dulce Rocha, Dr. (Republic Attorney)

The Congress had 283 inscriptions. During this congress and in the Hall of the Congress Centre there was an exhibition of works on Children’s Rights held by children came from 23 Schools all over the country.

The Honour Commission For the congress had the following entities:

His Excellency The President of the Portuguese Republic, Anibal Cavaco Silva

His Excellency The Ministry of Health, Ana Jorge

His Excellency The Ministry of Education, Maria de Lourdes Rodrigues

His Excellency The Ministry of Work and Social Welfare, José da Silva Vieira



CONFAP President, Albino Almeida

President of Lisboa Townhall, António Costa

President of Social Welfare Institut, Edmundo Martinho

President of National Commission for Genre Parity, Elza Paes

National President for UNESCO, Fernando Andresen Guimarães

President of Nacional Townhall Association, Fernando Ruas

President of AMI – Assistência Médica Internacional, Fernando Nobre

General Director for Health, Dr. Francisco George

President of Accounting National Court, Guilherme d'Oliveira Martins

President of UDIPSS (Social Welfare Private Institutions), José Carlos Borges Batalha

President of APESP (Private Higher Education Institutions), João Duarte Redondo

President of National Council for Education, Júlio Pedrosa

Presidente do Conselho Coordenador dos Institutos Politécnicos, Professor Doutor João Sobrinho

President of the National Red Cross, Luís Barbosa

Director of Refugee House Aboim Ascensão, Luís Villas-Boas

President of IAC (Child Support Inst.), Manuela Eanes

President of Pro Dignitate (Human Rights Inst.), Maria Barroso Soares

Writer Matilde Rosa Araújo

High Commissioner for Intercultural Dialog, Rosário Farmhouse

- June, 17 – The ESE (Higher School of Education) of Santarém organized in

partnership with OMEP Port. the following colloquy. “Childhood: Past and Present”:

- Childhood - The Past and the Present:

Idália Moniz, National Government State Secretary

António Ponces de Carvalho, OMEP Port. President

Lurdes Asseiro, Instituto Politécnico (Polytechnic Inst.) of Santarém President

Maria João Cardona, Escola Superior de Educação (ESE) of Santarém President
Projecting the movie: “The Education for Citizenship Starts in Kindergarten”, from one Kindergarten school of Santarém.

- The Past:

António Gomes Ferreira, PhD (Psychology, Science of Education Fac., Univ. Coimbra)

Rogério Fernandes, PhD Jubilee (Psychology, Science of Education Fac., Univ. Lisboa)

Luís Vidigal, PhD. (ESE Santarém)

- The Present and The Future

Eliseu Raimundo, CPCJ (Child and Young Protection Commission) President of Almeirim

Anabela Rato, (Regional Social Welfare Director of Santarém)

Sónia Seixas, PhD. (ESE Santarém)

- Final Reflexion

João Formosinho, PhD. (Child Studies Inst., Univ. Minho)

Ramiro Marques, PhD. (ESE Santarém)

- July, 4 – The associated Paula Branco organized the third edition of SHOT SOLIDÁRIO (Golf tournament). The main aim is to collect money for supporting OMEP Portuguese projects. There were 193 participants and 43 official sponsorships. We thank the



collaboration of the Golf & Country Club Quinta do Peru, which let, without charging, run this tournament once again.

- December, 21 – Parents and children of several João de Deus Kindergarten Schools delivered toys, games and clothes to children who live in some Slams and poor housing neighbourhoods of Lisboa

Working Groups:

Our national committee is represented in Social Welfare Local Comissions (CLAS) of Amadora and Lisboa. In the last is part of the Group of Work for Children's Matters (GTAC) and in the Working Group of Alta de Lisboa Quartier (GCAL).

OMEP Portuguese Committee number of presences in working meetings:

- Lisboa CLAS (254 institutions): 6
- GTAC (22 inst.): 4
- GCAL (25 inst.): 5
- GCAL – Scholar subgroup (16 inst.): 6
- Amadora CLAS (64 institutions): 7
- Project “A Rodar” Consortium (5 inst.): 5
- Project “Anos Ki Tá Manda” Consortium (as partner): 3

National Media Means Presence:

- SEMANÁRIO – weekend newspaper (np); “Olá Semanário”
- NOTÍCIAS DA MANHÃ – Lisboa regional np
- SIC NOTÍCIAS – cable national tv
- JORNAL DE NEGÓCIOS – daily np
- RTP 2 – national antenna television
- EXPRESSO –weekend np
- RTP International – satellite television
- SPF Convergence – Paris, France
- RTP Africa – satellite television
- JORNAL DE NOTÍCIAS – daily np
- RADIO CLUP PORTUGUES – national radio

We'd like to thanks to everyone who joined us to make our aims and dreams possible, specially our will in “promote for each child better conditions of life, wellbeing, growth and happiness among families, institutions and society, by all means we can reach”.

For last, we would like to register our mourn for the death of our OMEP Portuguese Vogel Maria João Boléo Tomé.



RUSSIA

Dr. Larissa A. Paramonova

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Main activities for 2009

1. As 2009 had been declared by the government The Year of Youth in Russia, the following main activities took place:

Members of OMEP Russia took an active part in the IV Annual Fair “From A to Z” in the Manege Exhibition Centre in Moscow. There was prepared an informative and entertaining program for children and their parents. The guests learnt about the work of state agencies that provide assistance to families and the city programs aimed at supporting young families and parents with many children.

2. Currently, under a joint pilot project of Moscow Department of Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of child upbringing and early childhood education «Education in Moscow: from infancy to school» with the active participation of OMEP members thematic activities are being held in the following directions: environmental education of preschoolers in modern life, principles of pre-school education in bi-and multilingualism; psychological and pedagogical support for the modern family and conditions for the first positive experience of child's socialization.

3. In 2009 our members wrote and published “Development lessons for children aged 3-4” (630 pp.) edited by L. Paramonova. This methodological book for parents and teachers of preschool educational institutions is based on new principles of modern preschool didactics

and has the purpose of full physical and mental development of children.

4. Members of OMEP Russia prepared and published a textbook “Intercultural pedagogy” for students of pedagogical colleges and universities.

All the materials will be sent to Russian regional OMEP members.

5. Members of OMEP Russia prepared and held a roundtable “The interaction of Arts in art activities for children” (November 2009, Moscow).

Initiatives for the Year 2010

1. The fulfillment of major projects (ecology, education of children in bi-and multilingualism; support for modern family and socialization), proposed by OMEP members and approved by UNESCO Moscow office with the participation of researchers, practitioners and Moscow preschool educational institutions.

2. 2010 has been declared by the government The Year of Teacher in Russia. The following main activities will be taken:

- Regional conferences, seminars and workshops, contributing to the promotion of the assimilation mechanism for implementing the programme “Sustainability in the kindergarten and school in addressing intercultural education”.
- Creative workshop «Child as artist and Nature», «Boys and girls».

The materials will be sent to regions.



- Round table «Organization of work on physical development ».
- The preparation of a book for teachers and parents “Director's game”. The content is based on the organization of

the «directing game» in groups of kindergarten and its influence on the child's game and the intellectual development of preschoolers.

Number of members (total): 150



SLOVAKIA

PaedDr. Monika Miňová
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www.omep.sk

Main activities for 2009

Conferences

On 19 – 20 June 2009 under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic Ján Mikolaj we arranged the professional-pedagogical conference entitled *Pre-Primary Education Under Conditions of Current Reform*. The organizers of the conference were SC OMEP, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, University of Prešov, Pedagogic Faculty, Methodical – Pedagogical Centre in Bratislava and State Pedagogical Institute.

The aim of the conference was: *to point out to key and primary components at pre-primary education in the context of content reform on the basis of empirism and theoretical reflection*. 170 conferees took part in the conference, 5 of them presented the main reports and 13 of them addressed their reports the plenum.

On 4 November 2009 in Banská Bystrica, on the occasion of 180th anniversary of the establishment of the first public nursery, Slovak Committee of OMEP, Society for Pre-Primary Education, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, District Education Office in Banská Bystrica, the City of Banská Bystrica and the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica - Pedagogic Faculty arranged the international professional -scientific conference entitled *From Public Nursery to Kindergarten*, that was held under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic Ján Mikolaj.

The conference's aim was: *to deepen and enrich the knowledge of pre-school education in Slovakia*

from historical point of view and to support the need and relevance of institutional education in the 3rd millennium.

200 conferees took part in the conference. Interesting main reports presented by four requested authorities in the given area were heard and fourteen professionals presented their reports at the Plenary.

Conceptual and special activities

- Marking up of conceptual materials and legislative proposals;
- Participating in content reform of educational system;
- Active partnership with research team that co-operate in research projects of State Pedagogical Institute and Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic;
- Ensuring of cooperation with universities and other institutions in research of pre-primary education area;
- Inspection of children, kindergarten teachers and material conditions readiness for upcoming content changes in Kindergarten Curriculum;
- Methodical manual making to the Creation of School Educational Programs;
- Methodical manual preparing for parents and kindergarten teachers: *Pre-Primary Education of Children in the Kindergarten and Family*;
- National project making: *Training of Kindergarten Teaching Staff as the Part of Reform in Education*.



International Activities

- In April 2009, two SC OMEP members took part in the European meeting and conference of OMEP in Greece.
- We arranged the study-sightseeing tour to Poland – Warsaw, the Czech Republic – Prague and Hungary – Budapest.
- We hosted the guests from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia.
- Entering into co-operation with OMEP European Committees.

National and Regional Activities

- Training-methodical seminars for kindergarten teachers and directors;
- Shows of creativity of preschool children;
- Public performances of children;
- Doors Open Days in kindergartens;
- Involvement in the world project on *Sustainable Development*.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

16 kindergartens from 7 regional sections of OMEP joined the world project. In November and December 2009, the talks with children took place in kindergartens, that were recorded by teachers. Children discussed with teachers, they look through encyclopedias, art works originated and photos of children at these activities were taken. These activities had local nature inside and outside of kindergartens.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

A. We led discussions with students – intending kindergarten teachers at pedagogic faculties in subjects Pre-school pedagogy, Ethics, Prosocial education style, Strategy of the development of child's personality, Multicultural education, School cooperation

with institutions and we incorporated human rights and rights of the child issues into the content of teaching through various interactive techniques.

B. We implemented rights of the child issues in educational process of kindergartens in the frame of individual thematic circuits, educational areas and content and performance standards into each organization form of daily program and during the stay of the child in kindergarten through a game.

C. At conferences *From Public Nursery to Kindergarten and Pre-primary Education in the Context of Curriculum Reform* and training – methodical seminars, we kept to the rights of the child and reflected the content of individual meetings to this essential document. Rights of the child were also observed in organizing of various fine art (The World Around Us, Rainbow Carousel), literary presentation (Fabulous Skein, Small Chalúpka Brezno) and shows of creativity (Gemerská posy).

Initiatives for the Year 2010

In 2010, SC OMEP is planning to engage actively in the regional European meeting and conference in England and the world congress in Sweden; to arrange the study-sightseeing tour to Olomouc (the Czech Republic), the professional scientific conference entitled *Perceptual-Motor learning in Pre-primary Education in the Context of Curriculum Reform* in Prešov, the national conference entitled *Sustainable Development by Eyes of Preschool Children* (evaluation of the world project) in Bratislava, the conference together with membership meeting of SC OMEP.

In 2010, we further consider as being key and SC OMEP will participate and endeavour to:

- Make and annotate conceptional materials and legislative proposals;



- Participate in national projects;
- Make active partnership with research team, that co-operate in research projects of State Pedagogical Institute and Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic;
- Carry out several researches focused to pre-primary education.

Number of members (total): 450



SPAIN

Amalia Bayón Álvarez

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Main activities for 2009

Training Courses.

A Staff Teachers Early Childhood Education: Attention to diversity. Students with special needs, remedial and high capacities.

Implementation of new curriculum because of the new Education Law.

Implementation of programs, using different methodologies and evaluated with different instruments and techniques.

Attendance of various members of the Committee with the President and Vice President of the European Meeting-Seminar-Assembly of OMEP in Syros (Greece) and presentation of work (April 2009).

Participation in the Seventh Congress of Early Childhood Education promoted by ACADE (private educational institutions) in Seville (Spain).

In the opening ceremony it was announced that the OMEP. He put a booth with stuff of OMEP. Attended more than two thousand (May 2009).

Maintain School Parent prior years.

A regularly published newsletter and Website OMEP.

We have participated in working meetings with UNICEF and Save the Children.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

He has made known to nursery school teachers from Spain the Order of AEC 14 May 2009, which created the National Awards for Sustainable Development in Teaching Centers supported with public funds.

Project Development “Other Cultures” with children 5, 6 and 7. It consists of providing information about the different ways of living, education, housing, health, climate, to achieve an attitude of solidarity in those early ages. This activity performed on an experimental basis in a private center of Madrid, with the possibility of bringing the project to other centers.

In several colleges, through various courses, it encourages the recycling and utilization of waste materials for the production of school materials, toys, etc.

Recycling awareness campaigns in collaboration with various social works: oil recycling, recycling paper, plastic, etc.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

There is some success in Spain, as both legal and health education, legislation consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There has been a breakthrough in the understanding of cultures, integration and specific support to people with reintegration.



In the educational aspect in Stage 0 to 3 years, has designed a specific organization in the future trying to universalize this offer.

Special courses for dealing with groups at risk of social exclusion: poverty, maladjustment, migration, broken families, etc.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Keep the plan in the performance requirement of the legislation relating to the Rights of the Child.

OMEP Cooperation with UNICEF Spain through the agreement that the two organizations in matching programs.

Complete and evaluate the project “Other Cultures” and disseminate it.

Continuing work on the Teaching of Mathematics from 3 to 8 years, taking into account the different characteristics of children by both age as intellectual ability.

Maintain Parent Education Courses, with emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development.

Collecting and disseminating the rules legislate that are nationally and internationally, related to sustainable development.

To inform and educate members of the different Autonomous OMEP Spain, on “School Link” in Madrid for children from other countries, to provide Spanish language learning.

Continue and update our website.

Number of members (total): 325

Number of individual members: 300

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 25



SWEDEN

Ingrid Engdahl
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Main activities for 2009

- Preparation for the 26th OMEP World Congress in Göteborg in August 2010
- National action research project *Child Participation in the Outdoor Environment*
- Seminars and lectures on different subjects for members

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- OMEP has organised open seminars focusing on ESD in Göteborg and in Stockholm
- Representatives from OMEP have given lectures on ESD in Early Childhood Education during international conferences in Sweden
- Participating in the OMEP World ESD Project

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

- Representatives of OMEP Sweden have participated in meetings with politicians, children and young people, teachers and other professional celebrating the anniversary.
- Articles in our Swedish OMEP-NEWS

Initiatives for the Year 2010

- OMEP World Congress in Göteborg
- Child interviews on ESD
- Discussing and implementing new reforms in Education, like new national ECE curricula, new School Act, new national teacher education programme.
- Recruiting new members

Number of members (total): 223

Number of individual members: 192

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 31



SWITZERLAND

Yvonne Cook

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Main activities for 2009

The scientific committee met 6 times in Geneva, took part to the Congress organized in Fribourg and contributed to the publication of a collective book, which has also been translated into German. The scientific commission sent a message to the Swiss Commission for Childhood and Youth and established relations with this commission. This Commission is working at the Swiss level. M. Léo Barblan took part to the European Congress and to the European Assembly organized in Greece. Mrs Yvonne Cook participated to the World Assembly in Lagos (Nigeria) and to the Congress which followed this Assembly.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

Participation to the follow up of the activities organized at the level of the French speaking cantons, concerning the children from 4 to 6 years old. With the implementation of the project "HarmoS" concerning the harmonisation of the school system, there will be a stronger concern for childcare during the time when children are not at school or at home. This is more a structural than a pedagogical problem.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

In some preschool education institutions, educators have conducted activities related with this anniversary. These activities have been generally implemented under the authority of the school, less often with a reference to OMEP.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

Study of the situation of OMEP in Switzerland mainly and particularly in the German speaking part of Switzerland. this region which will get the presidency, since 2011. We are currently observing the existence of too many local and national organizations working on the topic of early childhood. Each organization is working on a specific approach, as the Dolto's green houses, institutions for prevention, temporary welcome places, or places for exchanging plays (toys, medias and books libraries). It is currently very difficult to have meetings with the presidents or the members of these different structures. OMEP-Switzerland is looking for its new strategic orientation and revises its statutes to have them in accordance with an open and networking strategy.

Total membership: 15

Number of individual members: 15

Number of collective members or other kind of membership: 0



TURKEY

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Main activities for 2009

Meetings

In 2009, 12 board meetings were held and 6 news bulletins were issued and delivered to all members. Also, round table meetings and supportive discussions with other NGOs and governmental institutions were organized in order to improve the quality of early childhood education.

Conference & Seminars

Informative conferences about parenting, child development, conflict management, in various cities, and towns of Turkey.

Workshop on “Quality in Children’s Book in Turkey” was organized in collaboration with Turkish Librarians’ Association and Ankara University in Ankara between the dates May 8-9, 2009. Many scholars, writers, publicists, librarians and teachers participated in the discussion groups. The workshop book was published and posted to all the participants.

In-Service training seminars for preschool inspectors, principals and teachers, initiated last year, continued through various cities of Turkey such as, Merzifon, Kuşadası, Mardin, Tunceli, and Gerede.

International Architecture and Children Conference (ARCHILD) in cooperation with our organization was held in Ankara in November 2009. Our members participated in the conferences as presenters and session chairs.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

Regarding education for sustainable development activities, as an organization we involved in a research where perceptions of early childhood pre-service teachers about the sustainable development concept were examined. Almost 700 hundred student-teachers participated in the research. The results of the study will constitute the baseline data for what early childhood pre-service teachers think in Turkey. Also, for the ESD project of OMEP World, our organization collected data from approximately 200 children. The results will be shared during the world conference in Sweden.

Most important national task or plan for 2010

OMEP Turkey, as a partner with local schools, made submissions for IPA project (Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme – RCOP (2007-2009)) co-financed by the European Union and by the Turkish Government under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance –IPA-) This call for project proposals aims to establish a pipeline of projects which will contribute to improve and raise awareness about the quality of early childhood education. According to the results, our organization will work on these projects through the next year.

In 2010, several workshops and seminar will be held throughout the year. In March, we organized a conference and workshop about “Storyline Method”. Steve Bell and Sallie Harkness gave a conference and made a



workshop with preschool teachers and academicians. In June, a seminar and workshop about infant-toddler care and education, and in October, a workshop and conference about architecture, environment and children will be held respectively. OMEP World President Prof. Dr. Ingrid

Pramling Samuelsson will be one of our guest speakers for the latter.

Number of members (total): 198

Number of individual members: 198

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: -



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

Janet Morris

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Main activities for 2009

Most of last year's challenges have been met. These include the following:

- The DVD has been launched and sales are progressing steadily. We took it to the World Congress in Nigeria and it was well received. Thanks go to staff and children at the settings which allowed filming to take place.
- The Executive has worked hard on the revision of the Constitution. Thanks to everyone for their patience in sorting it out.
- The Website is up and running. University College School, Hampstead are hosting the Website as part of the UCS Foundation's ongoing commitment to promoting education and inclusion, at no cost to OMEP.
- Members have played their part in Advocacy. A letter was sent in response to Sir Jim Rose's Primary Review, in which we welcomed the recognition of good practice, the emphasis on spoken language, the dovetailing and the dynamics of being pro-active, but expressed our concerns about the transition to school at four years old and the distinction being made between Nursery and Reception when the whole age-group should be referred to as the Early Years Foundation Stage. I have regularly attended the Early Childhood Forum (ECF) and taken part in discussions with colleagues and representatives from government and

other agencies, which I have reported back to the Executive.

New Developments

During the past year, the Early Years Foundation Stage has been statutory in England, and practitioners and all concerned have been assessing its progress, in order to contribute to the Review in 2010. Wales has "The Foundation Phase Framework for Children's Learning for 3- to 7-year-olds", Scotland "The Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland" and Northern Ireland "The Foundation Stage in Northern Ireland."

The Primary Review, led by Sir Jim Rose, came out at the beginning of the year. The Cambridge Primary Review, led by Robin Alexander, came out in October.

OMEP Activities

The theme for the Manchester Conference was: "Childhood: a precious time?" This provoked much thought and discussion! Thanks go to the Manchester Northern Committee. The 2010 Conference will also play host to our European Delegates on the Saturday.

Updates

The Update on 'The Child's Personal, Social and Emotional Development' was of great interest to a wide variety of people, and congratulations are extended to them both. Back copies of Updates now appear on the Website, and it was decided that they would also be offered for publication on the Children's Webmag site.



Children's Fund

During the past year, we have contributed to 'The Mango House' street children's project in Goa. Two members of staff from Le Herrison School took essential items to support this project, and we have since received their Newsletter and thanks.

We are hoping soon to put photos from China on the website, which show children unpacking the books provided by the donation we sent. Very few applications from UK groups have been received in recent years.

World Wide Links

The European Meeting on the Greek island of Syros was attended by six members of OMEP UK. Two Executive members gave a paper explaining the Early Years Professional status. We were particularly impressed by the communal efforts of all the island's Kindergartens, and the deep involvement of parents.

The World Congress was held in Nigeria and attended by myself and Hugh. It was a major event in the country, and, although it was not attended by representatives from many countries, it was very inspiring and interesting to hear what is happening in different parts of Africa and the other member countries represented. The UK Executive proposed that a fund be set up to aid countries which are unable to pay their annual Subvention, and this was agreed. We were most warmly welcomed and given a flavour of life and education in Lagos.

Initiatives for the Year 2010

We need to have a campaign in the coming year to boost membership.

The European Meeting in 2010 will be a major focus.

We will continue to advertise the DVD and hope it will sell well, and consider anything else we can do to boost finances.

Our Advocacy role must be highlighted, especially as two major reports will be influential in education. Also, after the General Election, whether or not there is a change of government, there could be new policies affecting the lives of young children and their families.

We must take a more multiagency approach, encouraging membership from other professionals and agencies, and representation on our Executive Committee.

I feel this has been a successful year, with great support and interest from all Executive Committee Members and many others. We look forward to more challenges and achievements next year in fighting for the cause of young children throughout the world.

Number of members (total): 110

Number of individual members: 75

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 35



UKRAINA

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Main activities for 2009

A Conference “Culture and Development of a Personality: myths and realities in psychology and pedagogics” Trainings: “Free breathing”, “Partnership Communication”.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

The International Seminars “Culture of Education in the context of the development of a personality”, “Hyperactive Children: problems of their development and Education”, Have signed an Agreement about cooperation with Polish OMEP for 5 years. Took part in International Conference on Pre-School Education in EU and Russia.

Training and seminar:

“Nourishment of Children in Ukraine”, The International seminar “Future begins today” (with USA).

Most important Cooperation with the Ukrainian magazine “Psychologist of Pre-School Education”.

Will take an active part in Supporting of Children invalids. The International Seminars “Culture of Neighbourhood”. Planning the Celebration of the 1-st of June. Preparing an Action with pre-school children and their parents “Future without chips Begins today”.

Number of members (total): 30



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR LATIN AMERICA

Ms. M. Victoria Peralta Espinosa
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OMEP Latin America Regional Meeting

End-October, the OMEP regional meeting was held in Santiago (Chile) as agreed in the previous meeting in Buenos Aires (April 2008). With OMEP Chile relevant support, a meeting and a seminar were developed, fulfilling thus all targets proposed consisting on devoting enough time to develop all matters of interest with time.

Participants were: Argentina, Bolivia (under development) Brazil, Colombia (Antioquia), Chile, El Salvador, and Uruguay. (Peru excused its non-attendance).

Thus, in more than a day of work, just to discuss about OMEP at regional and international level, the following matters were addressed:

1. Situation of OMEP in Latin America and at international level.
2. Possibility to perform shared works between the different countries attached to the corresponding commitments under way.
3. Enhanced visibility of OMEP in various fields.
4. Strengthening of communications, as the foundation for a better regional work.

In general, the *development* of topics and the *agreements* were:

Situation of OMEP in Latin America and at international level

Overview

Regional VP delivered an account on the status of Latin American countries performed in 2008 and 2009, summarized in the table below:

Status	Country
Active	Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Mexico
Semi-Active	Honduras
Passive	Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay.

It was stressed how hard it is to perform this kind of regional activity and contacting and/or visiting the National Committees due to lack of resources available for this purpose, depending on the possibility of attaching these to other professional activities carried out in the different countries. Regardless of that, an extensive action consisting on direct contact and through the various means with different countries allowed to detect then active committees, semi-passive ones as well as passive. These latter are concerning in spite of the various meetings held in some of them.



Establishment of New Committees

Nicaragua was approved in the Congress held in Nigeria as Full Committee, being recently the host of a Seminar on the History of Early Education in Nicaragua, where a research performed with the support of this Committee was presented.

The interim president of Bolivia attended; this country is undertaking the steps required to formalize its establishment.

Works shared between the different countries, attached to the corresponding agreements under way

Two work groups were established for constituting research lines between the countries starting from some of OMEP focuses: “sustainable development” and “relevant learning for children below 4 years”. Certain working parameters were established in the participant countries, and the offer was open to other countries to join. Coordinators for the first group are Laura Camacho (Uruguay) and Eliana Corsi ecorsi@ucentral.cl (Chile), and for the second group: Verónica Romo eromo@ucentral.cl, respectively.

Enhanced visibility of OMEP in various fields

At Regional Level

A wide discussion was open on the need to continue strengthening OMEP national committees in Latin America through more opening, renovation, decentralization and visibilization at all level. Alliances with UNESCO, UNICEF, OAS and other organizations, both international and national (governments, city halls) are evidenced as relevant both for being granted more support to the activities and to raise relevant matters which are not always stated from the regular sectors.

Some of them are concerning as relevant matters, such as quality, loss of play in early

education, and too much over-schooling for this level. Various initiatives to be developed were suggested as support to these topics.

At World Level

The latest World Congresses were discussed, expressing the need to put to World OMEP attention, and for a new reflection as it is a concern of ours, the possibility of not having annual events in order to have more participants and more relevant guests, jointly with facilitating the participation of OMEP members from all countries. Likewise and as result of this, the need to strengthen OMEP regional management with some resources to support activities such as projects and publications.

Strengthening of communications as the foundation for a better regional work

As a significant resource to develop all the activities stated, it was deemed necessary to improve and establish a better communicational culture. For such purpose, Argentina offered the creation of a google mail (as group) and to facilitate a portion of the Infancia-Red network to communicate the regional activities.

In turn, the Regional VP stated the need to formalize the changes in the national executive committees informing the World President and carbon copying the Regional VP, including the corresponding addresses, phone numbers, etc., as well as any other relevant information.

Miscellaneous

Concerning the World OMEP request of a Latin American country as a host for 2012 World Congress, Brazil mentioned the possibility to be one. This will be confirmed further to a consultation to its national executive committee.

Current Vice President informed that she will not continue in that capacity from 2011



on due to health problems. Then she invited the regional countries to consider potential candidates. They committed to do so.

Development of a review of the History of OMEP in Latin America

Because of the 60th anniversary of OMEP presence in Latin America (1949-2009), the Regional VP elaborated a document based on the history and focused on its early days. It was delivered to the countries as a base to continue feeding it and as an eventual book to be published on this matter. Member countries were requested to contribute providing some documentation. Some of them (Brazil, Uruguay) responded.

Participation of OMEP Latin America in events on the sector

World Congress in Lagos (Nigeria)

Due to health problems, the VP could not be present in Nigeria, requesting Gabriela Etchebehere (Uruguay) to do the presentation on behalf of the region. Also, some countries such as Chile and Brazil attended, presenting their works. Additionally, Brazil delivered some toys to the library in Liberia.

Latin American events on Early Education

Regional VP participated on behalf of OMEP in the events below:

- American Symposium on Transition organized by OAS/Van Leer, Valparaíso, Chile (May).
- OMEP Chile Seminar, Santiago, (May).
- Congress on Inclusive Education, organized by OEI in Panama (July).
- Congress on Early Education, organized by CENDI in Monterrey, Nueva León, Mexico (September).
- Launching of Publication: History of Early Education in Nicaragua, National Committee of OMEP Nicaragua, Managua, Nicaragua (October).
- Congress on Inter-Cultural Education, organized by Integra and JUNJI, Iquique, Chile (November).

Relationship with other international organizations

- Contact with the expert, Dr. Gaby Fujimoto, OAS specialist, to participate in 2009 OMEP Congress in Argentina. She was present in Buenos Aires (April).

Let me express my special gratitude to all the regional countries, for their contribution to the development of OMEP in Latin America, whose work is informed in the country reports attached to this Regional Report.



ARGENTINA

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Objectives of OMEP Argentina

Contribute to the effective implementation of rights stated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially in reference to the right to be provided education from birth, to express him/herself, to be listened and participate in those decisions affecting him/her.

Promote policies and practices improving the educative services and programs for children from birth to three.

Reinforce the discussion around an education contributing to the construction of a sustainable future for the well-being of current and previous generations, highlighting the importance to strengthen democracy for the development of citizens willing to participate creatively/in a responsible manner in reference to the environment.

Activities

Second International Gathering on Early Childhood Education “Building a Good Education for Small Children”

It was sponsored by UNESCO, OEI, Ministries of Education in the country, Buenos Aires City and Province. 800 people attended: representatives and members of OMEP Uruguay, Chile, Mexico and Brazil, educational authorities, principals and early childhood education teachers, special education teachers from all areas; principals and teachers from various Institutes and Universities, and other professionals interested in early childhood education. As well as members from UNESCO, OEI and

the Third Sector, with whom networks and partnerships are being built for improving early childhood education.

Participation in the website Portal EducaRed (partnership with Fundación Telefónica de Argentina)

For the fifth year consecutive year, we have participated in the website Portal Educared (www.educared.org.ar/infanciaenred), thus considerably enhancing the visibility of the organization in the country and overseas, and allowing to present Early Childhood Care and Education issues, working to increase the quality of educative services and experiences. In this website, “Dilemas” and “Educrianza” are managed. *Dilemas* (www.educared.org.ar/infanciaenred/dilema) proposes to debate and discuss ideas around teaching and learning for children under six for the improvement of educative environments. In the past year, the participation and virtual exchange with schools has increased and these latter deliver experiences on quality to be uploaded to the site. (In October, there were 304,765 visits to the program, with an average of 250,000 visits per month). *Educrianza* (www.educared.org.ar/infanciaenred/educrianza) is a site for the consultation, exchange and development of adults in charge of children from birth to three while developing topics related to quality environments during the upbringing and education in formal, non-formal or informal settings. During 2009, a Blog was introduced for directors, other virtual courses were delivered at no cost, where 600 educators participated on topics related to psychomotor development in the early years, communication in the early years, limits and



art and early childhood, as well as live conferences at not cost where some 400 early childhood education teachers participated. The site receives around 14,000 visits monthly.

PROYECTARnos Initiative (in partnership with foundation Fundación C&A)

2009 was the first year of Proyectarnos: a program for the development of teachers and educational staff acting in settings for care to children from birth to five years in community nursery schools located in poor environments, aimed at improving their educative quality. It is addressed to 106 teachers and 900 children under six from 6 nursery schools located in extreme areas of Buenos Aires.

Radio program “Agenda for Early Childhood” and collaboration in monthly Magazine “Paper and Ink in Daily Activities at School” (in partnership with “12ntes”)

Agenda for Early Childhood is the first radio program exclusively devoted to education from birth to six years in Argentina. This year, OMEP produced 13 programs that were broadcasted by Internet: www.radionexo.com.ar. Likewise, every month an OMEP article is published. It may be on significant concerns and goals of the organization. The magazine is “Paper and ink in daily activities at school”, and is published digitally (<http://www.12ntes.com>).

Publications:

- Big Themes for the Smallest Children. On the complexity of early years. Studies and Reflection on education and care to early childhood. Conferences presented in the 1st International Gathering on Early Childhood Education. These were collected by M. Mayol Lassalle. Publication sponsored by UNESCO (available in Spanish in: www.unesco.org.uy)
- First Issue on Early Childhood Education. Study and Practice. Regular publication –

80 pages and DVD – in partnership with Publisher 12(ntes).

Academic Coordination of 15th National Gathering of Nursery Schools (in partnership with Publisher Puerto Creativo)

OMEP was in charge of the academic coordination for the event on the theme “Nursery School: pedagogical and instruction matters”, on 26 September, in Beccar, Buenos Aires Province. Over 300 teachers and principals focused on early childhood education from birth to three participated.

Research Program in Early Childhood Education

In year 2009, the Argentinean committee designed the OMEP Early Childhood Education Research Program in order to foster and support projects and activities aimed at generating new scientific and technological knowledge – both in basic and applied themes – developed by researchers belonging to public and non-profit public institutions in the country, in the early childhood education field. Sub-programs: Course a- Cátedra “Lic. Lidia P. de Bosch”, covers matters related to the construction of diagnosis on early childhood education, studies on teaching for that level, etc. of specific interest for OMEP. b- Scholarship “Hebe San Martín de Duprat” grants incentives to researchers or research teams in the early childhood education field, and c- specialized Library.

Web Page and Newsletter

We have 6000 subscribers

International Relations

On 8 & 9 June, the President and Administrative Vice President of OMEP Argentina National Committee participated in an event organized by OMEP Uruguay in Montevideo city, and attended to the conference by the World President, Prof. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson on Sustainable Education. Also they joined a meeting



chaired by the World President with the Presidents of regional countries.

From 29 to 31 October – within the framework of the 60th anniversary of our organization in the Latin American countries, two members from OMEP Argentina National Committee participated in the OMEP Latin American Committees meeting and Seminar on “Pending Early Childhood Education Matters: A Latin American Perspective”, held in Santiago (Chile). It was organized by the Regional VP, Dr. María Victoria Peralta, and OMEP Chile National Committee. OMEP Argentina presented its work: “Early Childhood Education in Argentina”.

Most important task or plan for 2010

- 3rd OMEP International Gathering on Initial Education “Environmental Sciences and Education: Teaching how to understand the world and live in a sustainable manner” (June).
- Continue participating in the website Portal EducaRed, in partnership with Fundación Telefónica.
- Implementation of the initiative PROYECTARnos (Let’s Project Ourselves) in partnership with the foundation Fundación C&A.
- Collaboration in the virtual monthly Magazine, in partnership with “12ntes” (Spanish for “teachers”).
- Extension of radio program “Early Childhood Agenda” – two hours a week.
- Academic Coordination (in partnership with Puerto Creativo or Creative Bridge) for:
- 4th Gathering for the Upgrade and Development of Teachers: “Play in the Nursery School: Widening audiences” (April).
- 16TH National Gathering of Nursery Schools (October)
- Speaker of the Seminar “Early Childhood Education, social policies and issues” in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters – University of Buenos Aires – UBA (May)
- Management of OMEP Research Program on Early Childhood Education.
- Program for Teachers Development in the National Museum of Beaux Arts.
- Participation in OMEP World Congress in Sweden (August)
- Management of Web Page and Newsletter.

Number of members (total): 109

Number of individual members: 92

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 17



BRAZIL

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In this report, you will see some of OMEP Brazil actions in year 2009, which led to the strengthening of the institution representativeness and the effective attainment of goals focused on the integral child's development and a political & social culture establishing the proper environment for the healthy development of the human being.

We believe that our target will be reached by means of Education. For such purpose, we have intensified our actions in relation to child's care and education, the development and valuation of professionals interacting in that field, and the research on the social and family context where they are located while using our knowledge and credibility to indicate both the Brazilian government and society the pathways for the establishment of Public Policies favorable to the scenario we wish to attain.

As part of various actions jointly with the professionals interacting with children, we highlight the 17th OMEP BRAZIL Congress in the city of Maceió/Alagoas on the theme: "Early Childhood Education: New Visions, Responsibilities and Practices" aimed at granting subsidies to the daily practice of quality education, ensuring thus the child's right and his/her integral development. After the congress, a letter of intention was produced and delivered to the bodies and authorities committed to early childhood education.

We also highlight the participation of OMEP BRAZIL in some events on Early Childhood Education topics, some manifestations with the academic community and the society, consulting

services for the Federal, State and Municipal Governments, some research and publications supported by national and international fellows, such as: Institute C&A, Fundação Abrinq, UNESCO, Save The Children, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, among others.

To strengthen the Institution, OMEP Brazil President as well as Regional Presidents worked jointly with the associations present in 15 states and 75 municipalities of the national territory. Also she participated in the meeting held in Chile, aimed at sharing experiences between leading persons in OMEP Latin America, and the "WORLD FORUM of WORKING GROUPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD; CIVIL SOCIETY – STATE", in Colombia. For these events, illustrative panels were produced, revealing various successful OMEP actions while rendering services for the benefit of early childhood education in its 56 years of life of OMEP in Brazil.

Every one was introduced and given access to OMEP BRAZIL site (www.omep.org.br) that intends to promote the interaction between the units of the Institution in the national territory and South America, overcoming the geographical barriers, extending the field of action of the Institution and deepening the work developed jointly with the professionals of education, the society and the public power through events, courses of continuous development and upgrade as well as the publication of research. The site has resources for video conference, chat, forum, platform for E-Learning courses and will include files, audio and video.



OMEP leading position in Brazil and the acknowledgment to its work were evidenced with the invitation to join the Management Group of Early Childhood National Network (www.rnpi.org.br). After starting to work jointly with the Management Group, OMEP Brazil was elected for the Executive Secretariat of the network for a two-year period (2009 - 2011), thus performing tasks that bring together more than 80 organizations of the civil society, the government, private sector, international networks and multilateral organizations interacting for the promotion of early childhood education. It is worthy to highlight the performance of OMEP Brazil with the network, the publication of the National Plan for Early Childhood funded by institutions from Brazil, England and Netherlands. The plan stresses the undeniable priority of early childhood, intending to articulate the different sectors of the public power and the visibility to rights that must be observed in public policies.

In accordance with WOLRD OMEP, we started the research of the Project: “Education for Sustainable Development”, developed in coordination with Brazilian OMEPs in partnership with researchers from Public and Private Universities, with research tools as the participation of children from urban and rural regions and indigenous towns in the country. With this research, the project will cover various actions focused on the theme.

- With this commitment, in 2010 we will develop the actions below:

- “21st State Gathering of OMEP/BR/MS” on the theme: “Teacher and Child: Critical and Ecological Development”, to be held in Campo Grande/Mato Grosso do Sul;
- “7th International Seminar of OMEP/BR” on the theme “Education, Development and Sustainability”, to be held in Campo Grande/Mato Grosso do Sul;
- 3rd Brazilian Seminar of OMEP/BR on the theme: “Childhood, Sustainability and Citizenship: Political and Pedagogical Challenges”, Belém do Pará;
- Production of the book on the Project “Education and Sustainable Development”;
- E-Courses on Education, Post-Graduate courses and Continuous Development to professionals acting in the Early Childhood Education field;
- Availability of OMEP Newsletter on-line;
- Launching of OMEP bookstore;
- Intensification of articulation proposing thus the upgrading of public policies focused on children from birth to six years;
- 1st Seminar on the Child’s Right in Brazil in accordance with the United Nations convention;
- Project: “Education for Sustainable Development” through practices/reflections in the Early Childhood Institute sponsored by OMEP/BR.

Number of members (total): 450



CHILE

Verónica Aedo

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Main activities in 2009

OMEP National Executive Committee (NEC):

Verónica Aedo	President
Verónica Romo	Vice President
María de la Luz Cano	Secretary
Tatiana Parra	Alternate Secretary
Claudia Ormeño	Treasurer
Eliana Corsi	Alternate Treasurer
Solange Antoine	Director
Jocelyn Uribe	Director
Verónica Ubilla	Director

- Seminar: Development and learning in an early childhood student: a critical view (8 May)
- FODEP (Forum of Preschool Educators Trainers). Agreement on new research project: Latin American countries are invited to “Relevant learning for boys and girls under 4, based on the opinion of various actors of four Latin American countries.”
- CAPES (OMEP Chile Student Chapter). In 2009, CAPES just met once where an interesting reflection took place around “Leaving belligerent toys behind”. In this opportunity, the main agreement was inviting to an open and participative reflection led by the educative communities involved: Professional Institute of Providencia, University Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez and Central University of Chile in order to generate concrete proposals around this topic.

- Seminar “Pending matters in Early Childhood Education: a Latin American perspective” (30 October). Speakers: Victoria Peralta, Verónica Aedo, Carmen Gloria Cortés
- OMEP Latin American Gathering (29-31 October). Participants were representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, El Salvador, Chile, Colombia.
- Publication of research coordinated by Chile with the participation of Colombia: Opinion on the professional role of the Early Childhood Education Teacher in two Latin American countries.
- Panel with representatives of candidates to the presidency of the Republic of Chile: November 2010
- Publication of four Newsletters in 2009 (sent by e-mail to members)
- Development of NEC monthly meetings
- Attendance to OMEP gathering in Argentina (Claudia Ormeño, from NEC). Her report was published in the first 2009 newsletter
- OMEP representative in meetings with MINEUC for the creation of Educative Programs for the early education level (Participant was Verónica Aedo, the President).

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- The incorporation of the topic to the research under way has been discussed.
- Participation has been informed and requested, but there has been no response.



Most important task of plan for 2010

- Actions attached to the Bi-Centennial anniversary of the Republic of Chile with different universities of the country (September-October).
- National Seminar: Educative Inclusion in Early Childhood Education (August)
- NEC monthly meetings
- Continue the research “Relevant learning for boys and girls under 4, based on the opinion of various actors of four Latin American countries”
- Continue with FODEP actions underway
- Workshops with CAPES (3 speeches-workshops, in May-June)
- Alliance with the Association of Early Childhood Education Teachers for the different actions
- Publish 4 Newsletter
- Develop monthly meetings

Number of Members (total): 44

Number of Individual Members: 44



COLOMBIA

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Main activities in 2009

- Activation of the new National Executive Committee (NEC) whose members are mostly deans and early childhood education teachers
- Argue in favor of 400 nursery schools in Bogotá city risking to be closed due to their non-conformance with the huge amount of requirements stated as if they were similar to the nursery schools in upper economic levels. This intervention was made with the presence of two authorities and the purpose was attained.
- The siege was recovered for seminars and training workshops.
- A workshop was held. 120 people attended: principals, teachers and students of three education faculties. They were informed about OMEP and ACDEP, and their objectives.
- Attendance to roundtables on Education with Associations of private schools headed by CONACED and participation in the roundtable with the Secretariat of Distrital Education as representative of Initial and Early Childhood Education.

Education for Sustainable Development

- In Boyacá department, Dr. Abigail Blanco Blanco made presence with the education department authorities strengthening the activities reactivated by ACDEP, which were informed to directors and principals of educational institutions. Educators and early education teachers were reminded about working with attitude and committed with the child's integral

development. This work allowed increasing the number of members in Boyacá department, what was extended to Santander department.

- In Medellín, Alejandra Restrepo made presence with city authorities on working with nursery schools of children that have no resources. She was also present in the OMEP Congress in Chile where she diffused her research work.
- Attended to the network of networks meeting and to the World Congress on Early Childhood.
- A seminar in favor of early children was held in Boyacá department.
- Meeting with Social Integration and Distrital Education Secretariat with relevant contribution in favor of early children due to closure of nursery schools.
- The siege was recovered for seminars and training workshops.
- Speech in 3rd. Congress of Teachers for Teachers on the theme Education, Diversity and Inclusion. Organized by the Centre of Educative Research of Medellín city. Participants in this event as ACDEP representatives were Mrs. Myriam Pardo Torres and Graciela Rodríguez Poveda.
- Active participation in distrital roundtables for early childhood.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) in its 20th anniversary

- Diffusion of OMEP World Congress in Sweden.



- The siege was recovered for seminars and training workshops.
- Working with member to sensitize them on policies in favor of children. Purpose: Help to support agreements with principals, educators and less favored children.
- Strengthening the early education teacher profession in reference to attitude and commitment.
- Continuous work with principals and teachers in nursery schools helping them to generate strategies and action plans allowing them to improve their work in class resulting in a meaningful child's development.
- Activate Meta Huila and Valle.
- Arrange a gathering on significant experiences around the world.
- Develop strategies as a networking with organizations and regional, departmental, national and international institutions with Latin America and the Caribbean for the benefit of children with UBN.
- Make presence in situations affecting the good development of children around the world.
- Active participation in distrital roundtables for early childhood.
- Activities with deans of Education Faculties.
- Restatement of ACDEP activities in the administrative and academic strengthening.

Most important task of plan for 2010

- Create awareness amongst governments on the importance of providing an integral and quality attention and, hopefully, the implementation of the right of children under 6 to have a quality teacher.
- Review faculties of education curriculums so that the instruction is more consistent with conditions in the country.
- Revive the student chapter so that they perform more internship to support community mothers.
- Invite the childhood networks to work with OMEP Colombia.
- Being closer to Jardines Pequeños for the benefit of deprived and low-level children.
- Diffusion of the World Congress in Sweden in order to strengthen the participation of Colombia.
- Participation with government bodies: Ministry of Education, ICBF, Social Integration and Secretariat of Education.

Number of Members (total): 113

Number of Individual Members: 53

Number of Collective Members or any other type of Membership: 13



CUBA

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Report on the main activities in 2009

Activities projected and executed during year 2009 by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of OMEP Cuba and its members were basically oriented to accompany the Ministry of Education and its different structures in the strengthening of the pedagogical culture. In the diverse staff diversity directly related to the attention to early childhood which is provided education by the institutional via (Early Childhood Circles and Primary Schools' classroom) as well as the non-institutional one (Raise your Child Program):

In that line:

- Different upgrading courses and activities oriented to educators, other professionals, families and various community agents directly related to boys and girls from birth to six years, which updated them with scientific grounds on matters relative to basic aspects of their task.
- Participation in the development of scientific workshops and events for the open presentation and debate of research works by the educators enrolled in the Magister on Sciences of the Education, major in Early Childhood Education, allowing the socialization of partial and final results of their experiences as well as the improvement of their thesis and final works. It is a satisfaction to inform that in the last three years and until end-2009, 2,448 educators of all provinces in the country and the Municipality Municipio Especial Isla de la Juventud earned their Magister Degree.
- Members participated directly in the organization, orientation and development

of grassroot events as well as those ones of the municipalities and provinces in 2009 Pedagogy Congress as well as in the Symposium "Educative attention for the integral development of early children" in the international event itself.

- Acknowledgment to Committee members that were selected as Renown Educators of the 20th Century was projected, organized and executed in all the provinces and in a national act in Havana city within the framework of the Educator's Day celebration (December 2009).
- Participation throughout the year in the organization of activities for the celebration of the days' anniversaries related to the creation of Childhood Circles, the International Women's Day, Mother's Day, Educator's Day (on 22 December, to commemorate the culmination of the Literacy National Campaign), among others. In these activities the members created spaces for inter-generational gatherings between retired educators, working educators, other educative agents and students in the Universities of Pedagogical Sciences, representing instances for learning, amusement and stimulation.

Projection of activities for year 2010

The strengthening of OMEP National Executive Committee as well as increasing the number of members with an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach in line with the integral character to be attained by the development achieved for Cuban boys and girls from birth to six years when they enter to a primary and elementary school.



Likewise, it has been projected to continue accompanying the Education structures of direction and methodology (in their different levels) in the pedagogical strengthening (by different ways) of the diverse staff involved in the educative attention to early childhood with special emphasis in the preparation of Cuban families with boys and girls of these

ages, for the performance of their role as the first promoters of early childhood development.

Another side of the work that has been quite weak and we intend to strengthen is the scientific disclosure, at national and international level, of results attained in the best experiences of educators, other educative agents and, especially, the families themselves while performing their educative task with quality.



EL SALVADOR

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Activities

Work on the professional development of Initial and Early Childhood Education teachers in:

- Two seminar-workshops on “Emotional Intelligence”
- One Workshop on “Education for Sustainable Development”

Attendance to the “Gathering of the Latin American Seminar on Early Childhood Education” in Santiago (Chile, October 2009).

In a marginal zone where the FUNDASILENCIO organization worked with parents, children, volunteers and psychologists to provide educative and

psychological assistance to children. On 7 November, the Toy Library “OMEP – FUNDASIL” was established. All the materials were donated to them: furniture, books, plays and a manual for the Toy Library operation. Also advisory is being provided.

Required steps are being undertaken for the donation the piece of land where the Early Education Establishment “OMEP-MONTEZEL” operates. It is located in Jucuapa, Usulután department, in the eastern area of the country.

All year long, we have worked to incorporate new members while promoting OMEP objectives.

Number of members: 40



MEXICO

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Report on the main activities in 2009

To us, in OMEP MEXICO, our responsibility consists on encouraging the adults who live and work with children to participate more assertively with them, as children require the adults for the construction of their self-esteem and self-confidence allowing them to use what they know to resolve those problems that they will need to face gradually. Thus they will have more opportunities to be participative, help themselves and others.

Reflection and enrichment of contents are provided by us through conferences, advisory, speeches to parents and educators.

Children are accompanied through play that encourages reflection and self-esteem, in centers established as Toy Libraries or participative events such as the mobile toy libraries.

Also with play as support in the disaster areas to rescue the emotional balance that these events cause in all of them.

We congratulate ourselves as due to the effort and excitement of our OMEP fellows in different delegations of the States, children find an important shelter in toy libraries. Centers where this project is sustained are:

- State of Mexico, Morelos, Guerrero, Querétaro, Tabasco, Tlaxcala, Guanajuato, Veracruz and Campeche.
- Project for the improvement of food in preschoolers, piloted in rural communities of the State of Querétaro.
- OMEP MEXICO National Council (November 2009) with the presence of representatives from 16 States in the country.
- We analyzed the work performed and also projected the work for 2010. A proposal to encourage the School for Parents projects to support the child's development was presented.
- Participation in a survey on Sustainable Education project's logo of OMEP. Opening of the Ecology program in preschool establishments in the State of Sinaloa.
- Emotional support to children in the disaster areas as result of rain and flooding.
- The intense work to sustain toy libraries in deprived areas required as a fundamental item of the child's right to play as the foundation for his/her development.
- OMEP MEXICO annual congress on the theme "How to Encourage Reflection Processes in the Child" with the presence of foreign and Mexican experts.
- Continue with the work project to support children in deprived communities.

Number of Committee Members: 8

Number of Individual Members: 124



NICARAGUA

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Main activities in 2009

- Seven ordinary meetings, 4 of them just for the coordination group members and 3 expanded meetings. Matters covered were specific to the organization, focused on how to expand the network and preparation for an academic event.
- Academic event: presentation of the book *The First Nursery Schools in Latin America* by María Victoria Peralta, with the participation of the author. It was performed with the support by OEI and the Institute of History and Central America of the Central American University. Authorities from the education area, universities and non-governmental organizations, the Chilean embassy (60 people) participated. It was a space for projection and allowed to gain knowledge on the chapter and encouraged the study and search of additional information on initial education in the country.
- New members. The Chapter was presented in 4 departments of the country to people studying to earn their diploma as Early Education Technician given by the Teachers Colleges of Nicaragua - Pacific area in 74 municipalities. General information on OMEP was distributed as membership drive. Collection of membership cards is pending.
- Regular participation in education networks (Council of Education for Adults of Latin America or CEAAL and National Commission for Initial Education) where OMEP promotes the application of the rights approach in the areas – curriculum development, integral attention for young children programs

and projects with emphasis on birth to three stage.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- Sensitization and training to educative staff of 4 schools in the capital city of Nicaragua on a) the importance of investment, care and education of early childhood, b) neuro-scientific base and attachment, and c) work methodologies in the classroom.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) in its 20th anniversary

- OMEP active members study and apply the approach – rights in projects and technical contents of training and upgrading oriented to grassroots personnel.
- OMEP participated as a guest to the Forum on Education and Human Development (an organization from the civil society with an initial education commission), in two activities to promote the importance of early childhood focused on boys and girls from birth to three years: a national forum and a municipal one with the participation of professionals, teachers and community educators (100 people approximately).

Most important task or plan for 2010

- Training to educators and principals in schools for children with limited resources.
- Making use of existing publications on early childhood matters to contribute with



articles including updated information on the rights of youngest children and relevant pedagogical aspects.

- Mapping of private institutions with quality educative experiences oriented to systematize and disclose such experiences, and identify the possibility to present them in OMEP world events.

- New members as result of the promotion work in 2009.
- Bimonthly meetings of the chapter.

Number of Members (total): 47

Number of Individual Members: 47



PANAMA

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Main activities in 2009

- OMEP PANAMA Committee held a set of training sessions oriented to educators providing attention to a population of 5-year old children. They were focused to the relevance of Play in child's Learning.
- One-day work sessions with parents from different schools were held to highlight the importance of preschool education and the development of habits and good manners in children from their early years.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- OMEP PANAMA National Committee has coordinated with the Ministry of Education of Panama the Education for Sustainable Development Project. Participation was successful; in September and October (school period), at national level, early childhood education teachers could share with their students this relevant matter and also apply the interview to the children.
- Apart, individual interviews to boys and girls below 5 were held. These were accompanied by their parents, specifically in Capira region, a semi-rural area one hour from Panama capital city.

- On-going communication is maintained with people responsible for the Project at international level to present the preliminary reports and/or relevant questions.

Most important task or plan for 2010

As part of the Work Plan, some of the priorities for the Committee are the following:

- Strengthen the relations with the association of preschool educators through joint actions benefiting the preschoolers' population in Panama.
- Promote the relevance of Education for Sustainable Development so that it becomes an on-going matter in child's education. Diffuse the positive aspects of the Project: Education for Sustainable Development so that it is promoted in the classroom among children to attract their interest on this relevant international Project. For this purpose, close contact is being established with the liaison persons of the Ministry of Education in Panama.

Number of Members (total): 25

Number of Collective Members or any other type of Membership: 50 teachers of preschool education area



PERU

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Main activities in 2009

- Pedagogical workshops with the participation of members and teachers invited in order to discuss the current work approach relative to child's education and the methodological strategies stated for this work.
- Training to educators at national level given by our members within the framework of the quality education improvement program in our country.
- Actions undertaken by our members at national level within the framework of the Municipalization of the Education process being implemented at present.
- Coordination meeting with OMEP Brazil President, María Aparecida Salmaze, during her visit to Peru.
- Participation in a discussion roundtable in the pre-congress organized by the Catholic University of Peru linked to the 2nd World Congress and 9th International Gathering of Initial and Preschool Education on the theme "Development and Guide to Teachers and Educative Agents" to be held in Monterrey, Nuevo León. There, the information relative to non-formal or out-of-school curricula for the early childhood in Peru from different perspectives, stressing the upgrading of teachers and educative agents was discussed.
- At this roundtable, the situation of programs, policies, principles, strategies, progress and constraints was addressed in order to formulate recommendations contributing to the improvement of quality of an integral attention to boys and girls under poverty and exclusion

conditions in various socio-cultural and geographical realities in the country.

- Participation in the National Forum on Education for All. This organization was established as a Multisectoral Committee of the Education Sector, whose members are State agencies and organizations of the Civil Society. Its purpose is the integration of public and private efforts to implement the commitments subscribed by Peru with the World Forum on Education in Dakar-Senegal, organized by UNESCO.
- Meeting with the Director of Initial Education (Ministry of Education). Purpose: being provided information on the policy guidelines and main actions being undertaken by the Directorate and see how OMEP may support some of these actions.

Actions favouring the sustainable development of young children

Pedagogical workshop "Analysis of the Regular Primary Education's National Curricular Design".

This workshop was organized taking into account that this is the first regulatory document to be used by educators. Experts from the Ministry of Education were invited to this event in order to be provided information directly from the people responsible for the elaboration of the above mentioned document.

Day 1: Theoretical and Doctrinaire framework sustaining the National Curriculum Design. Day 2: The same for the first cycle, i.e., boys and girls under 3. Day 3: The same for the second cycle, i.e., children from 3 to 5 years.



Actions for Training to Educators

Members of our organization are participating in the National Program for Continuous Development and Training, undertaking advisory tasks under the in-attendance or e-learning system in the Initial and Primary Education Level. This program is being developed within the framework of the Quality Education Improvement program proposed by the Ministry.

Actions in favour of initial education

Actions by teachers oriented to child's education

Members of our institution are developing actions on: training to teachers and monitoring in the classroom, non-formal programs oriented to boys and girls, and guidance and involvement of parents in educative actions in the southern part of our country.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) in its 20th anniversary

OMEP members participated in attention to boys and girls through non-formal education programs.

Actions oriented to contribute to quality education improvement through the development of training to teachers.

Some challenges (projects) proposed for year 2010

Organize training session to teachers in coordination with Regional and Local Governments

Generate room for discussion and reflection for the Child's Right.

Number of Members: 32



URUGUAY

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Major activities in 2009

1. Fulfilling the expectations of our members, as in previous years, an extensive and intensive teacher upgrading program was developed. It has a monthly frequency and involves matters of interest such as the implementation of the new Education program at national level; sex education in early age; links and emotions; body expression and play.

2 In parallel, bimonthly gatherings with principals and coordinators, sharing case studies and searching strategies to improve the management, the link with families and quality of education were held.

3 Members of our National Executive Committee have participated as special guests in various congresses, giving their speeches.

In August (Lagos, Nigeria), Prof. and Psych. Gabriela Etchebehere represented Uruguay in the World Assembly and the theme of her speech at the attached World Conference was “The Right of Boys and Girls to be heard: A socio-educative work from the Child’s Right Perspective”.

In December, we were responsible for the Innovation Axle in Early Childhood Education of the Congress: “The Right to Speak”, organized by the University of the Republic.

Activities in Education for Sustainable Development (Report on what is being done at national and international level)

1. At national level we welcomed Dr. Ingrid Pramling who gave two conferences on Education for Sustainable Development (8 & 9 June, in Montevideo). Over 500 educators participated. During her stay in Uruguay, meetings were held with representatives of OMEP Brazil and Argentina Committees. Also she visited the siege of OMEP in Maldonado. She met with national authorities. She visited public and private Nursery Schools, providing counseling at any time.

In the gathering, participants were given the book “Contribution of Early Childhood Education to a Sustainable Society”.

2. As result of the World President visit, we joined the Environmental Education NETWORK (RENEA, in Spanish) which operates in the Ministry of Education: www.reduambiental.edu.uy and participates in the weekly meetings. A congress for more than 1000 educators is being organized, to be held in May 2010, in the Municipal Intendence of Montevideo and OMEP is among the members of the organizing committee for this event.

3. At international level, attached to the Latin American gathering in Santiago (Chile), we joined the team of countries participating in the Education for Sustainable Development research. Quantitative data were delivered and the elaboration of the qualitative report started.



Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) in its 20th anniversary

1. Links with UNESCO/Education in Montevideo continue to strengthen. It is a very good opportunity to work for the Child's Rights, in association to the millennium goals, mainly objective 1. UNESCO program is called "Point of Encounter", and projects that were developed in Uruguay (Maldonado & Canelones) and Paraguay were elaborated. "Point of Encounter" refers to intensive seminars (48 hours present) to different target audiences, including agents from the areas of education, health, civil society, also including the families.

2. In September, we participated in an initiative of UNICEF and the Municipal Intendence of Montevideo called "Childhood is Capital". A stall was jointly organized with UNESCO, UNICEF and OMEP. Throughout a week, the audience had access to data, books, brochures and posters in addition to live workshops, giving visibility to children and their rights, care and education in the early years.

Over 200 Early Childhood Education Centers in Montevideo opened their doors to the general public and that week the purpose was giving visibility to our children, participating in workshops and exhibitions, etc.

3. We continue to be part of the Latin American REDSOLARE, deepening the pedagogical ideas of Reggio Emilia. A group

of study that gathers monthly was established to study and share with those interested to know about this pedagogical line.

National task or plan for 2010

1. Continue with the decentralization process, establishing more Departmental Secretariats. It is worthy to note the establishment of the Secretariat of Tacuarembó based on its academic activities and dynamism.

2. Participation of the Uruguayan committee in the OMEP World Assembly and Congress (Sweden).

3. Arrange an international educational congress on quality in Reggio Emilia Nursery Schools will be held in October.

4. Appointment of an Election Commission that will be in charge of the national elections for 2010-2012 period.

Every two years, the active members of our committee elect their office bearers. This is a highly valuable tradition due to its high democratic content and high level of participation and commitment by the members. These will take place in September 2010.

Number of members (total): 350 members

Number of individual members: 300

Number of collective members or other type of membership: 50 (School and Nursery Schools)



WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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Situation in the region

The North America and the Caribbean region comprises three National Committees: Canada, United States of America and Haiti. Two other National Committees are geographically part of the region, but for obvious reasons of language and culture belong to the OMEP Latin America region.

The region is large and diverse from the geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic points of view as well as concerning early childhood. Up north, Canada and USA are among the richest countries in the world and yet stand at the lowest rank of industrialised countries for services provided for young children and families. In the Caribbean, the situation is generally even worse and much is yet to be done to support our members' action and to establish new committees.

However a better future can be foreseen, as results from the many good research studies undertaken here as well as the persistence of advocacy groups have convinced the public and public policy experts that our young children need good quality programs. Even though our governments are slowed down by the present economic situation, the public keeps being much in favour of enhancing programs for our young citizens, families needing even more support in these hard times.

Main activities in the region in 2009

According to the reports from the three National Committees, activities of

networking with other organisations dedicated to early childhood are important in our region. In Canada and the USA especially, many professional associations fill the needs for contacts and professional development of people involved in the various types of early childhood programs. OMEP Committees have to value the unique international feature of our organisation. These relationships help recruit new members, reach wider audiences and take joint actions such as the campaign for the ratification of the Convention on the rights of the child in the USA, for example.

Relationships with the National Committees

Apart from my «From the Vice President» column in the Canadian and American Newsletters, I had many contacts with the National Committees in 2010, including Haiti where communications keep being difficult. I am very grateful for this excellent collaboration. I attended the OMEP Canada Board meetings and each time I shared international and regional news. As a member of the OMEP USA Board Google group I keep being posted on its activities and I am invited to the spring and fall meetings. This year I was able to participate in those held during the NAEYC annual Conference. I had the opportunity to share with two US members involved in Jamaica about plans for a new OMEP committee to be established there. On that occasion, I also replaced the World President at the Global Alliance breakfast, and Judith Wagner, the new president elect of OMEP USA and Carol Darcy, OMEP representative to



UNICEF, also attended. OMEP belongs to this alliance. We noticed the importance of OMEP for Global Alliance and we had the opportunity to present it to participants from other organisations.

Participation in meetings

I attended the World Executive Spring meeting in Hermopolis, Greece, during the European Conference and General Meeting hosted by the Greek Committee. Many thanks for its high quality welcome and organisation! I also participated in the World Executive meeting, the World Assembly and Conference-workshop in Lagos, Nigeria. I enjoyed the famous welcome of our Nigerian colleagues, and I thank them very warmly. Canada and Haiti had delegates to the Assembly and regional meeting I chaired then. A Canadian member and myself made presentations at the following Conference-workshop.

Toy libraries in Africa project

During the 2008 elections, I wished OMEP would follow-up with the projects tabled by our African colleagues, and I committed myself. Therefore, in 2009, I developed with partners an answer to the request of OMEP Democratic Republic of Congo to establish a toy library. It turned out as a joint project with OMEP-Canada, OMEP-DR Congo and C.I.E.LO (a French NGO with a long experience in toy libraries in Latin America and Africa), approved by the World Executive and Assembly, which moved to dedicate 2/5 of the Children's fund to it. At the end of 2009, the amounts raised cover the first part of the project. A grant proposal will be presented to UNESCO, early in 2010. The Ivory Coast preparatory Committee is very interested and wishes to join this project conducted in collaboration with my colleague for Africa, Victoria O. Bilewu.



CANADA

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Main activities in 2009

Canada has finished its activities regarding the OMEP World Seminar held in 2008 in Quebec City by making the proceedings of the *Nurturing peace together with children* seminar accessible on its website www.omep-canada.org.

After being informed by Haitian colleagues that the school re-opening is delayed due to bad weather, the Canadian Committee decided to organize a fund raising among its members to help Haiti and has added the amount to the funds already raised for Haiti for the deaths of Mrs. Pineault and Mrs. Garon. A sum of CAD 1000 has been given to the Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie to support its work of educating young Haitian children.

Last spring, OMEP-Canada participated in interesting activities organized by our partners: the Regroupement des Centres de la petite enfance de la Montérégie (RCPEM) and the Association des Services de garde en milieu scolaire du Québec (ASGMSQ).

During summer, at the OMEP World Assembly held in Lagos, Nigeria, we were represented by Robin Milani, a member of our Board, and the Ontario Representative to our Committee. She has also talked at the *Learn to listen, listen to learn* conference-workshop.

We have also developed a toy library project in Africa, in partnership with OMEP-DRC and the French NGO, Coopération Internationale pour les Équilibres Locaux (CIELO), creating a toy library in the Democratic Republic of Congo and a

network of toy libraries in six French-speaking African countries. This project has been presented in April at the World Executive Committee meeting and in August at the World Assembly. Based on OMEP-Canada's Board's proposal presented by Robin Milani at the OMEP World Assembly, it has been decided that 2/5 of OMEP's Funds for Children's Development will be allotted to this project. At the end of 2009, the results of our fund raising campaign corresponded to the costs for establishing the Congolese toy library.

In November, the Canadian Committee was present at the 29^e Congress of the Association d'éducation préscolaire du Québec (AÉPQ). OMEP-Canada has had an information kiosk. AÉPQ is a member of OMEP and dedicates a page of its quarterly magazine to OMEP-Canada. We have presented our objectives, our mission and services to our members. We have also talked about the importance of playing by citing documents published by OMEP-Canada. Madeleine Baillargeon has summarized her reports from the OMEP's European Regional Meeting and the *Current Issues in Preschool Education in Europe* conference: *Shaping the Future* from Syros, Greece. Rolande Filion, creator of the www.systeme-esar.org site has presented the Kimaloé game approaching the theme of the rights of the children.

The child's right to play remains a great concern for OMEP-Canada. Madeleine Baillargeon, counsellor to the executive committee, has promoted the theme by animating a workshop to the Resource group of parents at Vanier.



Education for Sustainable Development Activities

Related to the OMEP's 26th World Congress to be held in August 2010 in Sweden, OMEP-Canada is participating in the project "Interviewing children about the OMEP 2010 Congress logo". We are collecting information about young children's thoughts, comments and understanding of the OMEP 2010 Congress logo.

Achievements in relation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

To emphasize November 20, 2009, the International Child's Day and the 20th Anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* by the United Nations, the Canadian Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood

Education OMEP-Canada has published a press release as a reminder that OMEP was a member of the NGOs drafting the text and to greet all those who not only promote the rights of the child but also abide by them in their daily activities.

Most important national task or plan for 2010

At our Annual General Meeting for 2009 and 2010 we have adopted a three point action plan:

- Encourage our Canadian members to contribute to early childhood education in connection with sustainable development;
- Increase the number of OMEP-Canada members;
- Support Haiti.

Number of members (total): 69

Number of individual members: 67

Number of collective members or any other type of membership: 2



HAITI

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Main activities for 2009

- Establishment of an OMEP section in the Plaine du Cul de Sac region.
- Meetings with Government representatives to advocate for recognition of early childhood education's importance.
- Joining the Consortium for private teaching in Haiti (COSPEH)

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- Forming a committee responsible for making suggestions to the Government concerning early childhood.
- Participation in various meetings with COSPEH to reinforce the importance of early childhood education.

Most important national task or plan for 2010

Due to the earthquake, OMEP Haiti faces many challenges. Among our priorities are the following:

- Restart school activities in the 2nd quarter of 2010
- Psychological support to children, teachers, and also parents
- Form other regional sections to be able reaching a larger population
- Be more active on the field and re-launch the creation of our website.

Number of members (total): 91

Number of individual members: 91



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Main activities for 2009

- Student Chapter Liaison Activities (Kathleen Pompey & Judith Wagner) included a How to Launch a Campus Chapter brochure; responses to Franklin D. Roosevelt School and Skyline Community College (California); Georgianna Duarte (Texas); and Cathy Mogharreban (Illinois). Whittier College (California) presented a college film series on Congo; Family Fun Faire fundraiser to support projects in Jamaica and UNICEF; Children's Day and CRC celebrations (campus-wide human chain around Whittier College campus); and workshop plans the Children's Literature Conference, Spring 2010.
- Print and electronic publications (Lita Haddal, chair), including 2 newsletters, E. Engley, editor; 5 *News in Brief*, Haddal, editor; 2009 Membership Directory, membership renewal letters; ReelChildren Film Festival schedule; OMEP members presenting at National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference; OMEP-USA interim web site.
- 2009 ACEI Conference Events: OMEP Breakfast, Chicago; Speaker: Maggie Koong, World OMEP Treasurer, Hong Kong, SAR China; ACEI Heritage Committee Session: *The Heritage of OMEP, The World Organization for Early Childhood Education* (Edna Ranck, Lenore Wineberg, Gwendolyn Coe, Lita Haddal);
- 2009 NAEYC Conference Events: ReelChildren Film Festival, Lita Haddal, Carol Darcy, Judi Estes, etc.; OMEP-USA International Panel: *Giving Our Children the Gift of a More Peaceful World*, John Surr, OMEP-USA Washington Liaison; Ashfaq Ishaq, International Child Art Foundation; Judith Wagner, Whittier College professor & OMEP-USA president (2010-2012); OMEP-USA International Reception/Poster Session (Johnetta Morrison, Linda Christensen, Kay Emfinger)
- World Forum for Early Childhood Education Events, Belfast, Northern Ireland, June: Judith Wagner, Edna Ranck, Diane Whitehead, Diane Levin, etc.
- Reports from OMEP-USA's geographical regions included these activities:
 - Co-ordination of OMEP-USA activities in Southeast Region and presentation on Reinventing the Teacher...to Nurture Children's Holistic Development; submitted letter to the editors on CRC contents; introduce community college students to work of OMEP-USA and World OMEP; facilitated NAEYC Global Children's Interest Forum (Region 4);
 - Co-ordination of Oxford Roundtables, Oxford University, UK, on women in academia, women's careers, autism, and children's literature; a presentation on "learning methodologies in the Caribbean," Belize City (Region 5);
 - Information-sharing among Region 6 states; Oklahoma state representative presentation at National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) conference;
- Developed flyer/membership form for broad distribution to members, potential members, and colleague organizations.



- OMEP-USA is honored that its two nominees for World OMEP Honorary Memberships were elected. Congratulations to Leah Adams and John Surr.

Education for Sustainable Development Activities

- Participation in OMEP World Project: Interviewing Children About the OMEP 2010 Congress Logo;
- Participation in work-travel project in Jamaica (Carol Darcy, Ann O'Neill);
- Continued work on UNICEF Working Group on Education (WGE) in New York under guidance of Carol Darcy, World OMEP representative to UNICEF, New York; Kate Kolchin and Ann O'Neill. 2009 emphasis on Speaker Series to focus on the topics of Migration, Immigration and Young Children, and on the European Union Policy for Protection of the Rights of Children (Emanuele Giaufret, Delegation of the EU to the UN, New York).

Achievements in relation to the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the 20th Anniversary of UNCROC

- Continued distribution of joint statement on the UN CRC created with ACEI;
- Presented as invited panelist (OMEP-USA president); with over 20 OMEP-USA participants in the 2009 Symposium of the Campaign of the U.S. Ratification of the CRC (Campaign), June 1 & 2;
- Support of US Ratification of CRC selected by Advocacy & Work Project Committee;
- Promoted Children's Day activities, including *The Children's Day Activity Packet, 2009* on November 20;

- Continued efforts to have "Universal Children's Day" placed on calendars on November 20;
- Played leadership role for celebration of 20th Anniversary of the UN CRC on November 20, during NAEYC annual conference, Washington, with ACEI, Lakeshore Learning Materials, the Campaign, and World Forum Foundation (WFF); and
- Presented poster session on CRC ratification at OMEP-USA Reception & Poster Session, NAEYC Annual Conference.

Most important national task or plan for 2010

- Follow-up OMEP-USA Strategic Planning Sessions held in May and November --
- Work with colleagues and advise policymakers on achieving US Ratification of CRC;
- Expand OMEP-USA membership by direct invitation;
- Seek partnerships with ECE organizations, such as ACEI and NAECTE (Diane Whitehead and Blythe Hinitz, liaisons), on national and international issues, including, but not limited to, maternal and child health, earthquake relief for Haiti, infant/toddler project with Zero to Three, and educational projects in Jamaica;
- Extend participation and presentations at national conferences of colleague organizations: ACEI, NACCRRA, NAECTE, NAEYC, etc; and
- Continue *Calendar Project* to get "Universal Children's Day" on calendars for November 20, expand to all OMEP national committees.

Number of individual members: 186



Number of collective members or any other
type of membership: 0



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