



OMEP

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### **F**rom the OMEP Vice President for Europe

**Dear colleagues, dear friends,**

You are reading the Autumn 2009 issue of the Newsletter for Europe. The World OMEP Assembly and the World OMEP Conference were held in Lagos City, Nigeria, at the beginning of August 2009. The election of Vice-Presidents for Europe and Asia Pacific took place as a part of the Assembly. Doreen Launder from New Zealand was re-elected Vice-President for Asia Pacific for the next three years; I was re-elected Vice-President for Europe. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you who have nominated me or sent their proxies to support me. I will do my best to be a good Vice-President in the coming election period, to benefit the Europe region and the whole organization.

The World Assembly acknowledged the new preparatory committee in Ukraine, led by Ms. Inessa Filippova. I am very happy about that and it is my hope that our new colleagues from Ukraine will be recognized as regular members by the next World Assembly.

It is the main task of this Autumn issue of the Newsletter to reflect on recent events and remind everybody of the events and initiatives that are ahead of us,

being scheduled for the next few months and the first six months of the next year.

By courtesy of Ingrid Engdahl, the President of the Swedish OMEP Committee, I am able to pass on the information about the World Assembly held in Lagos, which has already been published in the most recent Newsletter by the OMEP World President Ingrid Pramling. Like the preceding one, this year's World Assembly, too, was not attended by too many members, partly due to the security concerns in Nigeria, partly due to the relatively high cost of travel and accommodation. Only 4 European countries were represented: Switzerland (Yvonne Cook), Sweden (Ingrid Engdahl), UK (Janet Morris, Hugh Morris), and Ireland (Patricia O'Connor). Despite this I can say that us who attended it will remember this most important annual OMEP event as extremely intriguing and indeed unforgettable. Patricia O'Connor is sharing her experience with you in this issue and I am very grateful to her for her input.

Our business in Lagos included the European regional assembly, too. The minutes are taken by Janet Morris, OMEP UK President. My thanks go to her, too.

As you know, the main focus of OMEP has been Preschool Education for Sustainable Development. A new project addressing this topic was launched of which you have already been informed by Ingrid Engdahl. The project involves interviews with children over the OMEP 2010 Congress logo. I hope this inspiring initiative will be joined by as many of you as possible. More detailed information on the project can be obtained from the OMEP website ([www.omep.org.gu.se](http://www.omep.org.gu.se)), or from Ingrid or me.

Another project is being prepared under the auspices of the Czech OMEP Committee. The intention is to find partners who would be interested in joining a developmental project of cross-cultural exchange and cooperation. I believe that this, too, may be a source of inspiration for many of you. Further information will be available this autumn.

We are happy to announce we have accepted the invitation of the UK committee to hold the next European regional assembly and conference in Chester and Manchester. We will be meeting in April 2010 (22-25). First information is part of this Newsletter, more detailed information on this event will be available on the UK OMEP website as soon as possible. I am looking forward to meeting you in person there.

Until then, you are most welcome to approach me with your comments, proposals and information you would like to share with other member countries of the Europe region.

**Milada Rabušicová**

*OMEP Vice-President for Europe*

**Chers amis et collègues,**

Vous venez de recevoir le Newsletter d'Automne 2009 pour la région européenne.

Au début d'août l'Assemblée mondiale et le Congrès de l'OMEP ont lieu au Nigéria, dans sa capitale Lagos. Pendant l'Assemblée on a élu le Vice-président pour l'Europe de même que pour l'Asie Pacifique pour trois ans. Pour la région de l'Asie Pacifique c'est Doreen Launder de la Nouvelle-Zélande qui a été élue, pour la région européenne c'est moi-même que vous avez choisie de nouveau. J'aimerais bien vous remercier de tout mon coeur de toutes les nominations et les autorisations à voter. Je vais faire de mon mieux pour exercer mon travail avec effort et au profit de la région européenne et toute notre organisation.

Au cours de l'Assemblée mondiale on a admis le nouveau Comité préparatoire de l'Ukraine, guidé par Madame Inessa Filippova. J'en suis très heureuse et j'aimerais bien que nos nouveaux collègues soient reçus comme membres réguliers pendant la prochaine Assemblée mondiale à Goteborg.

L'information principale de cette édition d'automne du Newsletter est la réflexion des événements passés et avertissement des activités qu'on attend bientôt et au cours du premier semestre de l'année prochaine.

Avec le gentil consentement d'Ingrid Engdahl, présidente du Comité suédois de l'OMEP, je vais me servir de son rapport sur l'Assemblée mondiale de Lagos qui

vient d'être publié aussi dans le dernier Newsletter de la présidente de l'OMEP Ingrid Pramling.

Les pays membre qui ont participé à l'Assemblée mondiale de cette année n'étaient pas trop nombreux. D'une part c'était à cause de la sécurité au Nigéria, de l'autre part ce sont les frais de voyage et de séjour très élevés. Il n'y avait que quatre pays qui ont représenté l'Europe à l'Assemblée mondiale de cette année : Suisse (Yvonne Cook), Suède (Ingrid Engdahl), Royaume Uni (Janet Morris, Hugh Morris) et Irlande (Patricia O'Connor). Néanmoins, je peux constater que l'événement le plus important de l'année a été pour ceux qui ont participé une expérience très intéressante et inoubliable. J'aimerais bien exprimer mes remerciements à Patricia O'Connor qui partage avec nous ses observations de l'Assemblée dans cette édition du Newsletter.

Pendant notre rencontre à Lagos on a réalisé aussi la Réunion régionale européenne. Je remercie Janet Morris, présidente de l'OMEP britannique, de la rédaction du rapport de cette réunion.

Comme vous savez, l'orientation principale de l'OMEP de nos jours est "l'Éducation Préscolaire pour le Développement Tenable" (Education for Sustainable Development).

L'OMEP a commencé à travailler ce thème à travers son nouveau projet. Ingrid Engdahl vous a envoyé une information à ce sujet. Il s'agit des entretiens des enfants qui parlent du logo du Congrès de l'OMEP pour l'année 2010. Je vous invite à prendre part à cet attractif projet. Vous pouvez consulter le site web de

l'OMEP pour obtenir plus d'informations ou bien dirigez-vous directement à Ingrid, éventuellement à moi-même.

On est en train de préparer un autre projet sous le patronage du Comité tchèque de l'OMEP. Son but est de trouver des collègues qui veulent travailler le projet du développement des échanges et coopérations interculturelles. Je crois, cette fois-ci également, que cela peut être un stimulant intéressant. On va publier plus d'information en automne.

Nous avons eu le plaisir d'accepter l'invitation du Comité britannique qui propose que la prochaine Réunion régionale européenne ait lieu à Chester y Manchester. On aura donc l'opportunité de nous rencontrer en avril 2010 (du 22 au 25 avril). On va publier une information détaillée sur le site web du Comité britannique et de l'OMEP bientôt. Je me réjouis à l'avance de cette rencontre personnelle avec vous.

Je vous serai bien obligée de vos commentaires, suggestions et informations qu'on puisse partager parmi tous les pays de la région européenne.

**Milada Rabušicová**

*Vice-président de l'OMEP pour l'Europe*

**Estimados colegas, queridos amigos,**

He aquí la edición de Otoño de 2009 del Newsletter para la Región europea. A principios de agosto se celebraron la Asamblea mundial y el Congreso de la OMEP en Nigeria, en su capital Lagos. En la Asamblea se produjo la votación del Vicepresidente para Europa de mismo que para la Asia Pacífica. Para la región de la Asia Pacífica ha sido elegida Doreen Launder de Nueva Zelanda para el período de tres años, para la Región europea me han vuelto a elegir a mí. Quisiera agradecerles de todo mi corazón todas las nominaciones, eventualmente la delegación del poder a voto. En mi futuro período intentaré ejercer de nuevo mi trabajo con mucho afán en provecho de la Región europea y toda nuestra organización.

En la Asamblea mundial se adoptó el nuevo Comité preparatorio de Ucrania, liderado por la señora Inessa Filippova. Estoy muy feliz y desearía que en la próxima Asamblea mundial en Goteborg nuestros nuevos colegas de Ucrania pudieran ser admitidos como miembros regulares.

La información principal de esta edición de otoño del Newsletter es la reflexión de los acontecimientos pasados y aviso de las actividades que nos esperan en un futuro cercano y en la primera mitad del año que viene.

Con el amable permiso de Ingrid Engdahl, presidenta del Comité sueco de la OMEP, me voy a servir de su informe sobre la Asamblea mundial de Lagos que

acaba de ser publicada también en el último Newsletter de la presidenta de la OMEP Ingrid Pramling.

En la Asamblea mundial de este año no participaron muchos países miembro, por parte a causa de la seguridad en Nigeria, por otra parte debido a los altos gastos de viaje y estancia en Nigeria. A Europa la representaron sólo cuatro países: Suiza (Yvonne Cook), Suecia (Ingrid Engdahl), Reino Unido (Janet Morris, Hugh Morris) e Irlanda (Patricia O'Connor). A pesar de esto, puedo constatar que el evento más importante del año ha sido para los que participamos una experiencia muy interesante e inolvidable. Quisiera expresarle mi agradecimiento a Patricia O'Connor que comparte con nosotros sus observaciones de la Asamblea en esta edición del Newsletter.

Una parte de nuestro encuentro en Lagos la constituyó también la Reunión regional europea. Le agradezco a Janet Morris, presidenta de la OMEP británica, la redacción del acta de esta reunión.

Como saben, el enfoque principal de la OMEP en la actualidad es "la Educación Preescolar para el Desarrollo Sostenible" (Education for Sustainable Development). La OMEP ha empezado a trabajar este tema en su nuevo proyecto. Ingrid Engdahl les ha mandado una información sobre el tema. Se trata de las entrevistas con los niños debatiendo junto al logotipo del Congreso de la OMEP para el año 2010. Espero que se animen a participar en este proyecto tan atractivo. Para más información, consulten las páginas web de la OMEP o diríjanse directamente a Ingrid, eventualmente a mí..

Otro proyecto que se va preparando está bajo auspicios del Comité checo de la OMEP. Su objetivo es encontrar colegas a quienes les guste tomar parte en el

proyecto del desarrollo con el tema de intercambios y cooperación interculturales. También esta vez creo que para muchos ustedes puede ser un estímulo de interés. Más información se publicará en otoño.

Hemos tenido el placer de aceptar la invitación del Comité británico que propone que la próxima Reunión regional europea se celebre en Chester y Manchester. Vamos a tener entonces la oportunidad de volver a encontrarnos en abril de 2010 (del 22 al 25 de abril). Otra información más detallada se va a publicar en las páginas web del Comité británico y de la OMEP cuanto antes. Me alegro con antelación de este encuentro personal con todos ustedes.

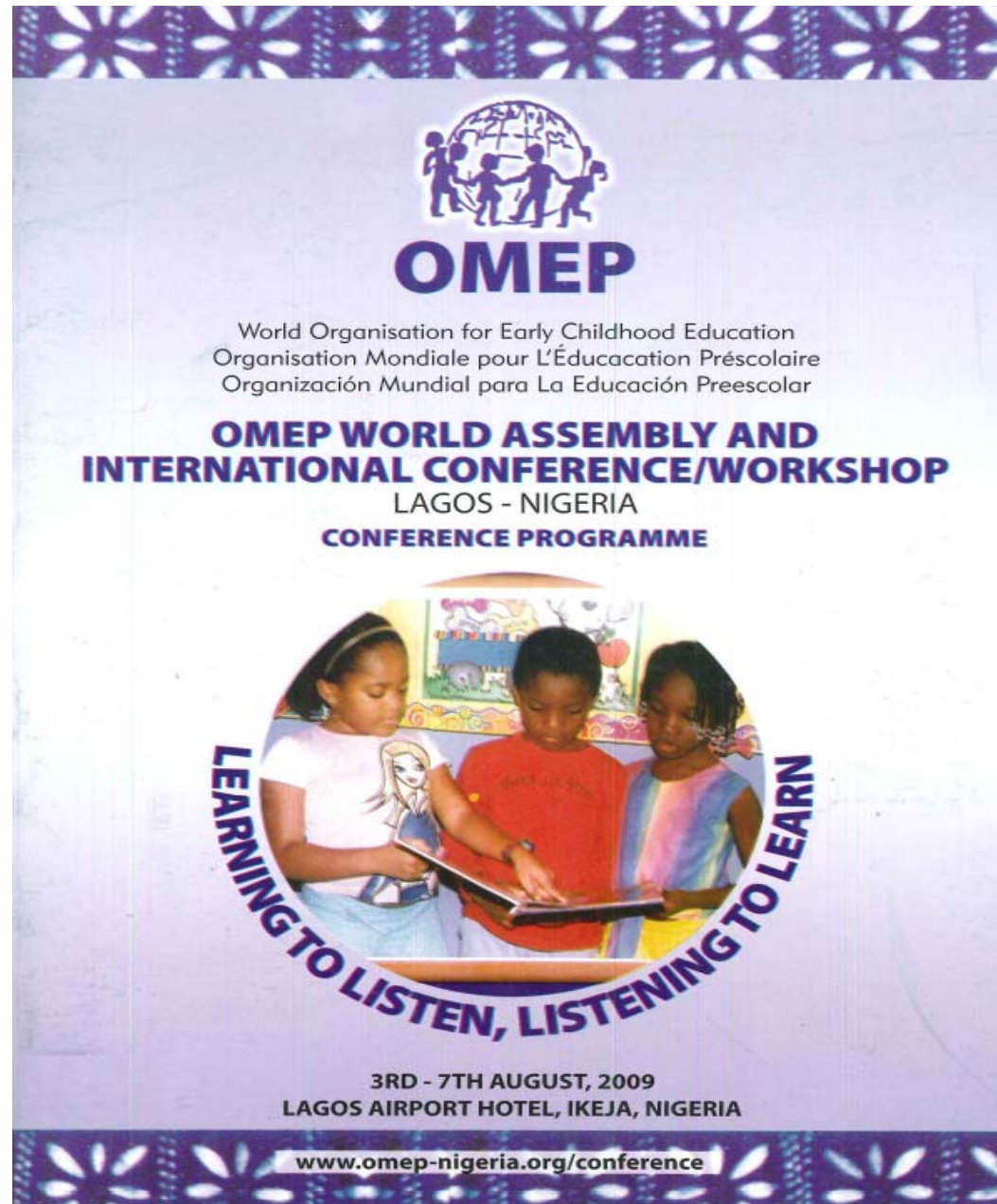
Mientras tanto les agradezco cualquier tipo de comentario, sugerencia e información que los demás países de la región europea podamos compartir.

**Milada Rabušicová**

*Vicepresidenta de la OMEP para Europa*







## Information on World Assembly in Lagos, Nigeria

*Learning to listen, listening to learn*

**Report from the WORLD ASSEMBLY in Lagos, Nigeria  
August 3-4, 2009.**

OMEP Nigeria arranged the yearly World Assembly and Conference at the Lagos Airport Hotel, where we felt hearty welcome – and safe. The conflicts in the northern and eastern part of Nigeria, with the new outbursts of violence in July, had discouraged some international participants, so there were some late cancellations. However, the guards at the hotel and our Nigerian hosts took very good care of us, and escorted us to the places outside the conference venue.

### **Participation**

There were participants from 16 OMEP countries present (Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, DR Congo, Ghana, Haiti, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Uruguay plus Côte d'Ivoire, with observatory status. Proxies had been given by ten more countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Slovakia and Turkey).

### **Nigeria welcomes us**

Mrs Abimbola Are, National President of OMEP, told about progress in Nigeria. A new curriculum as well as minimum standards for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Nigeria has been adopted. There is a great need for more preschools, as of today most of them are private. OMEP Nigeria recognizes the importance of parents' attitudes and support as well as teachers with good education. OMEP Nigeria and the 10 local chapters are organizing networks in the local municipalities and in service training courses and conferences for teachers.



### **World OMEP President**

Professor Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson opened the assembly pointing out that this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As well as OMEP members around the world were active in the shaping of and early implementing of the UNCRC, she encouraged us to reinforce our activities, especially based on the articles 12 and 13 in the convention that give children the right to freely express their views, to be actively listened to, and to participate in decisions that concerns them. Professor Pramling Samuelsson pointed out five levels of participation:

- 1) to be listened to
- 2) to be supported in expressing their views
- 3) children's views shall be taken into account
- 4) children are involved in decision making
- 5) children share power and decision making with adults

She challenged all OMEP members to work hard for putting this into practice.

### **Executive**

Mrs. Victoria O Bilewu, vice president for Africa, welcomed us all and told about the OMEP work in Africa. The Republic of Benin was welcomed as a new OMEP member and Burundi Côte d'Ivoire were welcomed as preparatory committees and Burkina Faso on observatory status. She asked for help with new contacts in South Africa and Egypt, because the old contacts don't seem to reach anyone.



Professor Madeleine Baillargeon, vice president for North America and the Caribbean, told about efforts in all countries to recruit new members and the continued work for children visiting parents in prisons in Canada. In USA, OMEP has launched a campaign to make USA ratify the UN Convention (UNCRC) in various networks and during conferences. In Haiti, OMEP works with staff training for Early Childhood Education.

Professor Doreen Lander, vice president for Asia and the Pacific, told about the different countries and their contributions and a joint project where each OMEP Committee produces new fact sheets about ECE and the situation for children. India was welcomed back in OMEP, as a preparatory committee.

Professor Milada Rabusicova, vice president for Europe, told about a very successful regional meeting in Syros, Greece, where children were very much involved during the programme. 17 of the 22 member countries were present. She has started a much appreciated biannual news letter telling about OMEP meetings, events, invitations to conferences and new books. Preparatory committee for Cyprus has been accepted last year, Ukraine was accepted at this WA, and Estonia works on an observatory status for OMEP.

Professor Gabriela Etchebehere, representative from OMEP Uruguay, by deputy of Victoria Peralta, vice president for Latin America, told us that OMEP in Latin America are working with implementing the UNCRC in a region where many people are poor, with ECE especially for children from birth to three and with

quality aspects. OMEP launches campaigns for Children First, for qualification of teachers and are more publicity minded with a new web page, conferences, producing CDs and books. OMEP also builds networks with OAS, UNESCO and other NGOs. Nicaragua was welcomed as a new OMEP member this year.

The VPs Milada Rabusicova and Doreen Launder were both elected unanimously to serve their second period as vice presidents for Europe and Asia – Pacific.

### OMEP Web page and IJEC

The world president informed us about the new OMEP World web page [www.omep.org.gu.se](http://www.omep.org.gu.se) and asked for contributions. The administration of International Journal of Early Childhood, linked to OMEP, will be handled by Springer from January 2010. The editor is Professor Eva Johansson, Stavanger and Gothenburg Universities. Springer has also started a series of books in Early Childhood Education and they welcome topics and contributions for the books. The first book tells about the OMEP research project: *Play and Learning in Early Childhood Settings*. Another one is just about ready: *Child Perspectives and Children's Perspectives in Theory and Practice*.

### Projects

#### *Toy Libraries in Africa*

OMEP Canada is running a project to open and support. The first step is to arrange training conferences for becoming staff in Congo, and then support them in opening Toy Libraries in Congo. The next step is to build a network between the toy libraries in

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée Conakry, Congo, Senegal and Togo (all French speaking countries), for mutual support and professional development.

### *Education for Sustainable Development - ESD*

The OMEP Sweden proposal on an OMEP World project was accepted by the assembly. The aim of the project is to enhance the awareness of ESD among OMEP members and to collect information about young children's thoughts and understanding of the OMEP 2010 Congress Logo. More information will be sent out to all national committees in August.

### *Cross cultural programmes in Europe*

The Czech OMEP Committee shared information about a project, where they seek financial support from the European Grundtvig Programme. The discussion showed the differences within Europe and a need to clarify concepts like foreign language, additional language and mother tongue support. More information will be sent out to European national committees in September.

### *Teacher training in Latin America*

In Brazil and Uruguay, OMEP works with education of teachers. Brazil has started their own preschools and now added teacher training at these schools.

### *UNCRC in Japan*

OMEP Japan is working on the wellbeing of children and will start a new implementing project on the UN convention. They will produce a short version of the convention, with drawings and written in a child oriented perspective. The material will be used both with teachers and with children.

### **Two Honorary Members**

On the last day the assembly appointed Dr. John Surr, Maryland, USA, and Professor Leah D. Adams, Ann Arbor, USA, as honorary members of OMEP recognizing their huge contributions for young children and within ECE.

### **Future OMEP Meetings**

Regional: 2009 in August - Singapore, 2010 in April - Chester, UK, 2010 Ghana, 2010 New Zealand

World: 2010 Göteborg, Sweden Congress [www.omep2010.org](http://www.omep2010.org) , 2011 possibly Japan.

**Thank you Nigeria for  
your hospitality and  
successful work!**

Notes taken by  
Ingrid Engdahl,  
president of OMEP Sweden  
[ingrid.engdahl@buv.su.se](mailto:ingrid.engdahl@buv.su.se)



## **M**inutes of the OMEP European Regional Meeting

**Lagos, Nigeria**

**4<sup>th</sup> of August 2009**

### **Present:**

Four countries were represented.

Milada Rabusicova (European Vice-President), Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson (World President), Yvonne Cook (Switzerland), Ingrid Engdahl (Sweden), Janet Morris, Hugh Morris (UK), Patricia O'Connor (Ireland)

### **1. Welcome**

Milada, the Vice-President welcomed all who were present. She regretted that representatives from some member countries had been unable to attend the Congress in Nigeria.

### **2. Approval of the agenda:**

The agenda was approved.

### **3. Minutes Review: European Regional Meeting, Syros, Greece(April, 2009)**

Yvonne from Switzerland reported that there had been some confusion regarding the dates of the Nigerian World Assembly and Conference. In future, we must be very careful to check all dates are checked and recorded correctly before circulating them.

### 4. Information from the European member countries

**Sweden:** The Project on Child Participation, headed by Ingrid Engdahl, will be reported at the World Congress in Gothenburg in 2010.

**UK:** The DVD, "The Developing Child," has been finished and is now on sale.

**Ireland:** Now have a new website.

**Switzerland:** Yvonne reported that a Swiss member, Stella Stuffer-Brown, is speaking at the University in Geneva in October.

**Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson** informed the members that the EU are looking at the Curriculum for early years, in order to standardise it for member countries.

### 5. Interim report of the Regional Vice-President

- We welcomed a new country, which was accepted as a preparatory committee at this year's World Congress: Ukraine. Cyprus is not ready for full membership yet, and is deferring until 2010. It is almost certain that Estonia will form a preparatory committee in the coming year.
- There was some discussion about new countries which might be interested, following on from the Syros meeting. There has been no contact with Italy.
- Milada was invited to Sofia University by Bulgarian OMEP Committee in May 2009. She has also been invited to Bucharest to ISSA (International Step by

Step Association) Conference in October 2009. As this will not be possible, she appealed for someone to offer.

- European Newsletter: This is valued and appreciated by member countries, some of whom pass it on via email or website to all members. It is recommended that all European committees should do this. For next Newsletter: Information on World Congress in Gothenburg, 2010, European Meeting in UK, 2010, UK DVD. Any other relevant information.

### 6. Research (development) projects for the next year – at European and world level

Milada presented a paper entitled, "*An investigation into cross-cultural schemes and awareness programmes in early childhood education*," submitted by the OMEP Czech Committee. OMEP in the Czech Republic have been involved in the Grundtvig programme on Adult Education, and have been looking at Transition from kindergarten to school, and feel that they could co-ordinate another programme. The objective would be to map the diverse schemes and programmes currently promoting cross-cultural awareness and foreign language learning in early childhood education. Project submission would be in January 2010. Milada asked for comments from member countries:

**Sweden:** Ingrid reported that they have contact with a similar project, concerning second language learning - mother tongue and foreign language.



Otherwise, foreign languages are only taught in primary schools.  
**Switzerland:** Yvonne said that they would be interested in investigating behaviour and traditions.

**Ireland:** Patricia told of the many different languages they now have in Ireland. Children are immersed in English at school and encouraged to speak their mother-tongue at home.

**UK:** Janet said that they have some informal teaching of an additional language in some nurseries, mainly private. Examples of different scripts and words in the different languages represented are displayed and used. Primary schools are to have teaching of another language from 2010.

**Milada** said that the Czech Republic and surrounding countries are mostly mono-cultural. All countries, in principle, supported the proposal, with the recommendation that it should focus on customs, traditions and festivals, and not only on language.

**7. Information on European Regional Meeting, Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> (pm) to Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>(am) inclusive: 2010**

Janet reported that a meeting had been held in Chester and plans were going ahead for the meeting to be based in Chester, with a trip on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> to Manchester. The programme was slightly adjusted to have the European meeting on Friday, late afternoon instead of Sunday morning. Full details will shortly be on [www.omepuk.org.uk](http://www.omepuk.org.uk)

**8. Any other business:**

As there was no other business, Milada thanked members for their attendance and the meeting closed.

*Minutes taker: Janet Morris, President of OMEP UK*

Members present at European Meeting, Lagos, Nigeria, 4/08/10

Eva Arlemalm Hagser	Sweden	<a href="mailto:eva.arlemalm-hagser@mdh.se">eva.arlemalm-hagser@mdh.se</a>
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### A week in Lagos

*Some reflections from OMEP World Assembly and International Conference/Workshop – Lagos – Nigeria.*

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 – Lagos Airport Hotel.

Until my visit to Lagos as the representative for OMEP Ireland I had never been particularly conscious of myself as a white person. This all changed when I boarded the flight in Paris for Lagos on August 1<sup>st</sup> this year. It was so striking that a doll being held by a child struck me – it was a white doll. Everyone else was of the African race. This was reinforced during my week in the city of Lagos. While being transported in a mini bus between hotels I used to sit up front with the driver – I scanned the crowds for people of other nationalities but to no avail. This was a very dramatic experience for me especially considering the fact that Ireland in the recent past has become a very multi racial society. I have travelled in the U.S.A., Canada, Europe and South Africa and have never had a similar experience. The welcome at the Airport from the local OMEP committee was amazingly warm, friendly and colourful. The very young daughter of an OMEP



member in her colourful native dress presented a bouquet of flowers to the OMEP World President. When we eventually made it out to the car park, disaster, the vehicle was in the process of being clamped. I can assure you that the OMEP ladies made a very convincing case to the officials and the clamp was withdrawn – ah not so very different to home, I thought!

Lagos is the main city of Lagos State which is the smallest State in the Nigerian Federation. The Federation gained independence in 1967. Part of the city retains the impressive buildings which were the hub of the colonial financial centre. The area of the city in which the conference was held was an incredible mix of the mansions of the rich and the hovel dwellings of the poor. It is a gated city in so far as security guards are stationed at each building prohibiting free access. I was again very struck by this complete lack of personal freedom and it probably accounted for the fact that I did not see foreigners on the streets. One did not leave the compound as this could only be done if accompanied by our Nigerian hosts.

After breakfast on the Sunday morning we were transported to a television recording studio as an interview with the OMEP World President, the National OMEP President and the Vice President for Africa had been arranged. This was a new and interesting experience for me.

The World Assembly was held on the Monday and Tuesday. It was an opportunity for me to gain a fuller understanding of what OMEP world wide was engaged in. It was my first introduction to Education for Sustainable Development – a theme that ran right through the week.

The conference opened on the Wednesday morning with great ceremony and with an amazing number of dignitaries including the Minister of State for Education who gave the keynote address and the Chancellor of Lead City University. Also present was the Oba of Lagos, who is the main native chieftain, accompanied by nine other chiefs. There were two presentations by OMEP children who gave a lively and enthusiastic display of dance and movement to the delight and pleasure of all. The prayerfulness of the organisers was very noticeable. The members of the OMEP committee had prayed and fasted for our wellbeing during our stay in Lagos. God's blessing was called for by a Christian lady at the beginning of the ceremonies and at the close by an Islamic representative.

The war that was raging in the North of Nigeria was between government forces and Islamic extremists. Yet, in Lagos the Mosque and the Christian Church stood side by side. On two of our visits, the first to the grounds of the State Assembly and another to Lagos State University this was very

evident. There is obviously a desire at government level that both traditions be freely available.

The theme of the conference "Learning to listen, listening to learn" was very appropriate since the UN Conventions on the Right of the Child has its 20th Anniversary this year. Articles 12 and 13 remind us that we should listen to children so that their views may be heard and respected. During the conference we had a short introduction to African drumming and our World President, Ingrid, was very sporting as she joined in the dancing on stage to the beat of the drum.

Early Childhood Education in Lagos appears to be entirely private provision. Many of the OMEP National Committee members were school owners with most of the schools providing for children up to age eleven which is the end





of the primary period. Some of the schools had an enrolment of 250 children. An outing was arranged to visit two private childcare facilities and a public primary school. The childcare centres were fine buildings well equipped and laid out with good play areas. The contrast with the public school was vast – bleak, bare concrete, windowless, no furniture apart from wooden benches – I think we were all rather shocked at what we saw. Seemingly teacher retention is difficult as trained teachers receive better salaries and superior working conditions in the private sector. Public school starts at age six but I understand that it is difficult to register all children as there is so much movement into the city from the rural villages. Perhaps



churches provide some early education for the poor Nigerian child but I was unable to ascertain if this was the position. I was told that the government is trying to improve conditions in the primary sector and that now there is also the recognition of the importance of the early year's sector. I believe that the UN and the Van Leer Foundation are actively

working at government level to advance the situation.

We had an outing, one evening, to a social club, where we enjoyed the local beer and good fun and chat. We were told that because the traffic is so bad that many people come directly to the club from work to perhaps eat and socialise delaying the journey home until later when the traffic has lessened.

Another very memorable outing was to the early year's centre/primary school located on the campus of Lagos State University which caters for the children of staff.. During our visit there was a summer camp in progress and the children entertained us with a routine of exercise movements. Later each delegate was presented with a certificate of attendance at the conference and a really delicious lunch was served. A large number of OMEP members were present so it was an opportunity to mix and get to know them better. Everyone was always so open and friendly and eager to get to know us.

The final event of the week was a banquet which was held in the assembly hall of one of the private schools. It had been finely decorated for the





event and caterers provided a really scrumptious meal. Some of us wore colourful African dresses with matching headdress which had so generously been given to us earlier. The highlight of the evening came near the end when each participating country was asked to do a party piece. Hugh and Janet Morris from the U.K. started off with a hilarious rendition of 'A bicycle made for two' based on an old music hall song. The two Korean delegates gave a touching, delicate performance of a traditional love song but the stars of the evening had to be the Swedish group and their cast of hundreds (practically everyone in the hall) as they organised everyone on stage for a children's game ending in a tug of war.

I found the whole week an amazing experience and was honoured to meet so many wonderful people all committed to the education and care of the young child. I particularly recall Victoria Bilewu, Vice President, Africa Region and Abimbola Are, President OMEP Nigeria National Committee, both of whom spent a lot of time taking care of our needs. I will finish with Victoria's words – Long Live OMEP Nigerian National Committee, Long Live OMEP African Region and Long Live OMEP World.

*Patricia O'Connor,*  
OMEP Ireland



**OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development**



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire  
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

**Interviewing children about the OMEP 2010 Congress logo**

OMEP has appointed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as the major project for the next coming years. The OMEP World Assembly in Lagos in August 2009 started this project as one way for OMEP members and countries to work with children on ESD, and at the same time giving it a worldwide spreading.

**We invite OMEP members** all over the world to organise informal interviews with children 1-8 years. The idea behind the project is to introduce and invite children and professionals to discuss Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

**The aim of the project** is to collect information about young children's thoughts, comments and understanding of the OMEP 2010 Congress logo and to enhance the awareness of ESD among OMEP members. For some ESD could be a tricky concept, not yet recognised or well known.

**OMEP National Committees** who wants to participate appoint project leader(s) and discusses the national framework for the project: Who? Where? and How?



Anna-Karin Engberg

**Timetable:**

August, 3-4, 2009	Decision made at the World Assembly, Lagos, Nigeria
September, 2009	Confirmation by OMEP National Committees that they will join the Project. (Please use attached Form)
Sep – Dec 2009	Interviews are carried out, see Interview Guide
Jan – Mar 2010	Time for analysing the interviews, writing a Summary of the results, following a certain structure, see attachment.
March 31, 2010	Last date for sending the Summary to OMEP World Project Leader
Apr – Aug, 2010	Time available for national or local conferences on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and presenting the Child Interviews and for writing articles about the project and highlighting ESD
August 9-13, 2010	Presentation of the World Project at the OMEP World Assembly and OMEP World Congress in Göteborg



To OMEP National Project Leader(s)

August, 2009

### OMEP World Project on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The National Project Leader(s) shall, with support from the national OMEP Committee, plan how to spread information about the project to OMEP members, the invitations to participate and collecting addresses to the participants.

As this is a coordinated OMEP World Project, participants must work within the same framework. They must be given instructions and they shall use the Interview Guide. It is very important that the interviews are made in a similar fashion. Thus, we can compare and bring forward answers from children from all over the world.

**Start by making a Timetable** for the work within your country, **adapting to the following:**

Sep – Dec 2009	National planning and spreading of information, appointing interviewers
	Interviews are carried out
Jan – Mar 2010	Time for analysing the interviews, writing a Summary Report, following a certain structure (see Attachment)
March 31, 2010	Last date for sending Summary to OMEP World project leader
Apr – Aug, 2010	Time available for national or local conferences on (ESD), presenting the Child Interviews and for writing articles about the project and ESD
August 9-13, 2010	Presentation of the World Project at the OMEP World Assembly and OMEP World Congress in Göteborg, Sweden

### Data analysis

- Collect all the interviews from your appointed interviewees
- Write a short description of organisation and procedure. Tell about background data, number of girls, boys, age, place et cetera
- Look for similarities and differences between the children's answers
- Sort out and give a heading to the most common answers
- Choose some meaningful or expressive quotes for the different groups of answers
- If relevant, add photos or drawings, (make sure you have permission from the child)
- Translate into English (preferably), French or Spanish
- Use the Summary Report Structure, starting with a short summary (See Attachment),

**Send your Summary Report to OMEP World, not later than March 31, 2010.**

**Questions** – contact World project leaders [ingrid.engdahl@buv.su.se](mailto:ingrid.engdahl@buv.su.se) or [milada@phil.muni.cz](mailto:milada@phil.muni.cz)

### Read more about ESD:

Pramling Samuelsson, I. & Kaga, Y. (Eds.) (2008) *The contribution of early childhood education to a sustainable society*, Paris, UNESCO.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001593/159355e.pdf>

The Gothenburg Recommendations on Education for Sustainable Development (2008)

<http://www.chalmers.se/gmv>

**Invitation to the European Regional meeting and  
Conference to Chester and Manchester, UK**

European Conference and Meeting 2010

*"Enjoying and Achieving"*

This will be held in the U.K. from Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be based in Chester which is within easy reach of Manchester and Liverpool Airports. (Both are served by cheap airlines.)

Full details including booking form and how to submit papers will appear on the web site at the beginning of October.

The outline **timetable** is as follows:

Wednesday evening April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday morning & afternoon April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday evening April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday morning April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Welcome  
Presentation of papers  
Reception at Chester Town Hall  
Visits to Early Years provision  
around Chester

Friday afternoon April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Regional Meeting  
Time to explore Chester &/or prepare for the evening  
Dinner and entertainment

Friday evening April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday morning & afternoon April 24<sup>th</sup>

Conference at The University of Manchester  
speakers: Linda Pound, Ros Bailey and John Siraj-  
Blatchford and Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson  
Evening free to spend in Manchester or Chester  
(options will be provided) or to start your journey  
home

Saturday evening April 24<sup>th</sup>

Sunday morning April 25<sup>th</sup>

Open-top bus tour: a further opportunity to explore  
Chester for those who have time before starting their  
journey home.

The Conference effectively closes at 4:00 pm on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>.

A link from the web site will provide a range of options for accommodation in  
Chester – all close to the rail station and Chester University.

The fee for the conference will be 280GBP, but 250GBP for those booking before  
January 31<sup>st</sup>.

*The UK Committee hopes to welcome as many as possible to this  
interesting part of the country – especially as the pound is particularly  
cheap at the moment!*



## Invitation to the Conference

ISSA Conference in Riga, Latvia – July 2010

# Save the Date

EMBRACING INCLUSIVE APPROACHES  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

11-14 JULY 2010 | RIGA, LATVIA

The Division of International Special Education and Services, the Council for Exceptional Children, the Center for Education Initiatives, and the International Step by Step Association invite you to participate in an international conference on inclusion and special education. Practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and NGOs from Europe, Central Asia, and North America will be joined by colleagues from around the globe to engage in lively and informed discussions about the current state of the expertise in meeting the needs of children and youth with special educational needs. This event will serve as the 2010 Annual Conference for ISSA.

### Cutting-edge topics include:

Assessment    Behavior supports    Supportive instructional strategies  
Advocacy    Life transitions    Policy

### Highlights of the conference will include information on how to:

- Integrate research into practice and create stronger links with stakeholders
- Share innovations in creating inclusive schools
- Learn about creative, comprehensive approaches
- Showcase evidenced-based practices with an emphasis on access, quality, and equity
- Explore opportunities to align inclusive special education implementation with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and UNESCO's Education for All
- Social Programs – Site Visits – Baltic Region Travel

Contact **Mr. Gints Kronbergs** at  
+371 67812624 or e-mail [riga2010@kalevatravel.lv](mailto:riga2010@kalevatravel.lv)  
Web site: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)



## **N**ew DVD from UK

### **The Developing Child**

The UK Committee have produced a new DVD for training purposes. It includes two hours of observations of children between birth and five. The material has been grouped together using the Early Years Foundation Stage document – current guidance for those working with this age in England. All of the material is available without comment or interpretation, but for those who wish to relate the observations to the themes and commitments of the EYFS subtitles can be revealed which help with this. The cost to members of this DVD is 25GBP to which should be added 2GBP to cover the cost of postage. To place an order, and for detailed information on how to pay, please contact [hughmorris@ntlworld.com](mailto:hughmorris@ntlworld.com) or an order form can be downloaded from [omepuk.org.uk](http://omepuk.org.uk)

