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**OME<sup>P</sup>**

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## F rom the OMEP Vice President for Europe

**Dear colleagues and friends,**

welcome to the autumn issue of 2011 *OMEP Europe Newsletter*. As you know, another OMEP World Assembly took place this July, hosted by our colleagues from Hong-Kong. As usual, a professional congress was held simultaneously with this important event. The theme this year was *Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*.

This *Newsletter* is thus bringing mainly reflections on this important event but also further information on the recent UN conference for NGOs held in Bonn, Germany, at the beginning of September, and announcements of other events ahead of us.

The World Assembly was attended by participants from 26 countries, which means that counting the 14 votes by proxy in, 40 member states were represented at the Assembly. As usual, reports by the OMEP World President (Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson), the Treasurer (Maggie Kong), the regional vice-presidents and our UN (UNICEF) and UNESCO representatives were presented. The transcripts of these reports are a part of the minutes from the World Assembly.

With Madeleine Balliargeon and Victoria O. Bilewu having completed their second term of service as vice-presidents for North America and Caribbean and Africa, elections to these positions were held. The ascending vice-president for NA and Caribbean is Judith T. Wagner (US), having been elected as the only candidate; the election of the vice-president for Africa was rather more dramatic: Abimbola Are from Nigeria beat her contestant Endurance Idenyi from Benin. I would like to congratulate the new members of the Executive Committee and wish them all the best in their future work. All participants gave their warm thanks to Madeleine and Victoria for their contributions to OMEP's activities in their respective regions and in the Executive Committee.

OMEP was joined by another three countries with the status of a Preparatory Committee: Cameroon, Kenya and Croatia. All three countries have demonstrated their readiness to carry on working towards their full OMEP membership, which was greatly appreciated by all participants of the Assembly as a new boost to the OMEP world-wide family.

The good traditions of the organization were upheld again, by awarding an honorary membership to Pirjo Hoonkavara from Finland, to mark the years of her good work. I am sending to Pirjo my congratulations and thanks for her achievements within OMEP.

The World Assembly and the congress were also occasions where the results of the second stage of the ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) OMEP project were presented. A number of OMEP member countries contributed to the effort and as other countries expressed their wish to join them, it was agreed that the next

stage will not open next year yet but the participating countries will be given an opportunity to carry on and new countries to join the project.

It is my pleasure to emphasize that both the proceedings of the World Assembly and the outcomes of the congress *Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens* were received with great appreciation. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the organizers once more, on behalf of all of us who attended the events. The organizers must have been very busy because domestic participants and participants from China attended the assembly in great numbers.

It has been a good tradition for the schedule of the World Assembly to include time slots for regional assemblies to be held. Those of us who represented Europe have naturally seized the opportunity and discussed issues important to us. The minutes of the meeting, by Janet Morris (UK), are included in this *Newsletter* as usual.

The reflection of the recent World Assembly and Congress in this *Newsletter* concludes with the Hong-Kong impressions by Dorothy Selleck, who has herself translated her text into Spanish.

As I have mentioned at the beginning, this September has also been the month when The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference called *Sustainable Societies – Responsible Citizens* was held in Bonn. OMEP was represented by 4 participants as one of the 26 NGOs which were given the opportunity to prepare an exhibition on their activities. We have presented especially our activities in connection with the *Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Development* project, which has been keeping us busy for the recent 3 years. The exhibition was received with true interest on the part of other

NGOs. This issue of the *Newsletter* is bringing a brief report of this conference, supplemented with some photographs.

The issue concludes with information on several interesting books and documents.

The next European Regional Meeting, as many of you already know, is going to take place in Warsaw on April 18-20, 2012, together with the conference entitled “Respect for a Child”. An invitation to this event and another one to participate in a competition prepared by our Polish colleagues can also be found in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

I am looking forward to meeting you in spring 2012 and, even before that, to your comments, proposals and messages to be shared with other OMEP Europe members.

Milada Rabušicová  
OMEP Vice-President  
for Europe

### Chers amis et collègues,

Vous venez de recevoir le Newsletter pour la région européenne - Automne 2011.

Comme vous savez, en juillet de cette année, l'Assemblée mondiale de l'OMEP a eu lieu à Hong Kong. Comme d'habitude, on a organisé à cette occasion aussi le Congrès professionnel intitulé „*Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*“ („Répondre aux besoins d'apprentissage et de développement de nos jeunes citoyens“).

Il est logique alors que l'information principale de ce numéro est la réflexion de cet événement aussi important, de même que d'autres informations qui concernent le Congrès de l'ONU pour les organisations non gouvernementales qui a eu lieu récemment, au début de septembre, à Bonn, Allemagne, et vous allez trouver dans ce numéro aussi l'avis des activités qui seront organisées au futur proche.

Cette fois-ci, les représentants de 26 pays ont participé à l'Assemblée mondiale et avec les pouvoirs de vote délégués par 14 pays, au total 40 pays membres ont été représentés à l'Assemblée. Le rapport détaillé de leurs activités a été présenté pendant cette Assemblée par Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, en fonction de présidente de l'OMEP, Maggie Kong en tant que trésorier de l'organisation, les vice-présidents régionaux de l'OMEP et nos représentants à l'ONU (UNICEF) et l'UNESCO. Ces rapports font partie du procès-verbal de l'Assemblée mondiale.

Étant donné que Madeleine Balliargeon et Victoria O. Bilewu ont conclu leur deuxième durée de mandat en tant que vice-présidentes pour l'Amérique du Nord et les Caraïbes et pour l'Afrique respectivement, les élections ont été organisées pour ces

postes. La nouvelle vice-présidente pour l'Amérique du Nord et les Caraïbes est Judith T. Wagner (Etats-Unis), la seule candidate pour cette région. La nouvelle vice-présidente pour la région africaine a été choisie parmi deux candidates (Endurance Idenyi, le Bénin et Abimbola, Nigeria), dans des circonstances un peu dramatiques, on a voté Abimbola Are. Je donne mes félicitations aux nouvelles vice-présidentes, membres du Comité exécutif et je leur souhaite du courage dans leur travail. Tous les participants ont exprimé leur gratitude à Madeleine et Victoria pour leur travail sur le développement de l'OMEP dans leur région et leur formidable travail pour le Comité exécutif.

En fonction des comités préparatoires on a accepté trois pays: Cameroun, Kenya et Croatie. Les trois pays ont prouvé qu'ils sont prêts à continuer à travailler et à devenir membres réguliers de l'OMEP, le fait que les participants ont beaucoup apprécié car cela représente l'augmentation de la famille OMEP.

Cette fois encore, dans notre organisation on garde la bonne tradition de conférer le titre de membre honoraire pour son travail de grand mérite à Pirjo Hoonkavara, Finlande. Je tiens à exprimer mes remerciements à Pirjo pour son travail à l'OMEP pendant de nombreuses années et de lui donner mes meilleures félicitations.

L'Assemblée a également présenté les résultats de la deuxième étape du projet de l'OMEP l'Éducation pour le développement durable auquel un grand nombre de pays membres de l'OMEP se sont intégrés. Étant donné que plusieurs pays sont intéressés à participer à ce projet, il a été convenu que l'année prochaine on n'allait pas ouvrir de nouvelle étape, mais on allait donner l'occasion aux pays participants de continuer à travailler et aux nouveaux intéressés de rejoindre ce projet.

Je tiens à souligner que l'Assemblée et le Congrès sur „*Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*“ („Répondre aux besoins d'apprentissage et de développement de nos jeunes citoyens“) ont été évalués très positivement par les participants et j'aimerais exprimer, au nom de tous qui se sont réunis là, mes remerciements aux organisateurs. Sans doute, ils ont fait un travail formidable parce qu'il y avait beaucoup de participants du pays même et aussi de Chine.

Pendant l'Assemblée mondiale on prête toujours un peu d'espace pour tenir des Réunions régionales. Les représentants de la Région européenne, nous avons profité de cette occasion à travailler des questions qui sont importantes pour l'OMEP dans notre région. Le rapport détaillé de cette réunion est rédigé par Janet Morris (Royaume-Uni) et fait également partie de cette édition du Newsletter.

Vous allez aussi trouver dans ce numéro du bulletin une réminiscence et des impressions de l'Assemblée mondiale et le Congrès qui ont eu lieu récemment à Hong Kong, écrites par Dorothy Selleck qui est également auteur de la traduction espagnole de ce texte.

Comme je l'ai mentionné au début, au mois de septembre a eu lieu à Bonn, la 64e édition du Congrès de l'ONU pour les organisations non gouvernementales sous le titre „*Sustainable Societies Responsive Citizens*“ („Sociétés durables – citoyens responsables“). Nous avons participé quatre représentants de l'OMEP à ce congrès. En outre, notre organisation a été choisie par les organisateurs comme l'une des 26 organisations non gouvernementales auxquelles on avait offert la possibilité de présenter une exposition de leurs activités. Nous avons fait une présentation de nos activités liées au projet l'Éducation préscolaire pour le développement durable lequel nous travaillons depuis

trois ans. L'exposition a attiré une grande attention d'autres ONG. Dans cette édition du Newsletter vous pouvez trouver une brève information sur le Congrès, accompagnée de quelques photos. A la fin de ce numéro du bulletin il y a aussi un avertissement de plusieurs publications.

Comme vous savez déjà, notre prochaine rencontre européenne aura lieu à Varsovie, Pologne, entre 18 et 20 avril 2012. Ensemble avec la Réunion européenne, on organisera également le Congrès avec le titre „Le respect de l'enfant“. L'invitation à cette manifestation et des appels d'offres, préparés par nos collègues polonais, font également partie de ce numéro du bulletin.

En attendant notre prochaine rencontre au printemps 2012, 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-présidente de l'OMEP  
pour l'Europe

### Estimados colegas, queridos amigos:

He aquí la nueva edición del Newsletter para la Región europea – Otoño de 2011. Como saben, este julio se celebró la Asamblea Mundial de la OMEP cuyos anfitriones fueron esta vez nuestros colegas de Hong Kong. En el mismo tiempo que la Asamblea Mundial, como ya es buena costumbre, tuvo lugar también el Congreso profesional bajo el título „*Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*“ („*Satisfaciendo necesidades de aprendizaje y desarrollo de nuestros jóvenes ciudadanos*“).

Es lógico que la información principal de este número sea la reflexión de este acontecimiento tan importante. Igualmente les facilitamos otra información que se refiere al Congreso de la ONU para las organizaciones no gubernamentales, celebrado hace poco, a principios de septiembre, en Bonn, Alemania y el aviso de las actividades que nos esperan en un futuro cercano.

En la Asamblea Mundial participaron representantes de 26 países y junto con los poderes a voto delegados por 14 países, en la Asamblea fueron representados en total 40 países miembro. El informe detallado de sus actividades lo presentaron en esta Asamblea Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, en función de presidenta de la OMEP, Maggie Kong como tesorera de la organización, vicepresidentas regionales de la OMEP y nuestros representantes en la ONU (UNICEF) y en la UNESCO. Estos informes forman parte del acta de la Asamblea Mundial.

Debido a que Madeleine Balliargeon y Victoria O. Bilewu concluyeron su segundo período de ejercicio como vicepresidentas para América del Norte y Caribe y África respectivamente, se celebraron elecciones para estos puestos. La nueva vicepresidenta

para América del Norte y Caribe es Judith T. Wagner (EEUU), la única candidata para esta región. La nueva vicepresidenta para la región africana fue elegida de entre dos candidatas (Endurance Idenyi, Benin y Abimbola Are, Nigeria), en unas circunstancias algo dramáticas se votó por Abimbola Are. Quisiera darles mi enhorabuena a las nuevas vicepresidentas, miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y les deseo mucho coraje en su trabajo. Todos los participantes les expresaron sus agradecimientos a Madeleine y Victoria por su trabajo en el desarrollo de la OMEP en sus regiones y su enorme labor para el Comité Ejecutivo.

Se adoptaron tres países nuevos en función de comités preparatorios: Camerún, Kenia y Croacia. Los tres países han demostrado que están listos para seguir trabajando y convertirse en países miembros regulares de la OMEP, hecho que los participantes no tardaron en apreciar porque significa un crecimiento más de la familia OMEP.

Esta vez también se ha conservado en nuestra organización la buena tradición de otorgar el título de miembro de honor que se le concedió por su trabajo de gran mérito a Pirjo Hoonkavara, Finlandia. Quiero expresarle a Pirjo mis agradecimientos por su trabajo de numerosos años para la OMEP y darle mi enhorabuena más sincera.

En la Asamblea Mundial se presentaron igualmente los resultados de la segunda etapa del proyecto de la OMEP Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible a la que se incorporó un gran número de países miembro de la OMEP. En vista de que hay más países que tienen interés en participar en este proyecto, se ha llegado a un acuerdo de que el próximo año no se abrirá una nueva etapa sino que se dará la

oportunidad a los países ya participantes de seguir trabajando y a los nuevos interesados de incorporarse en el proyecto.

Me gustaría subrayar que tanto la Asamblea Mundial como el transcurso del Congreso „*Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens*“ (*Satisfaciendo necesidades de aprendizaje y desarrollo de nuestros jóvenes ciudadanos*) han sido valorados de manera muy positiva por los participantes y quisiera, en nombre de todos los que nos reunimos allí, expresarles mis agradecimientos a los organizadores. Sin lugar a dudas han hecho un enorme trabajo porque en el Congreso participaron muchos miembros del país mismo y también de China.

Durante la Asamblea Mundial siempre se presta algún espacio para celebrar Reuniones Regionales. Los representantes de la Región Europea hemos aprovechado esta oportunidad para trabajar cuestiones que son de importancia para la OMEP en nuestra región. El informe detallado de esta reunión lo ha redactado *Janet Morris* (Reino Unido) y es también parte de esta edición del Newsletter.

Asimismo van a encontrar en este número del Newsletter una reminiscencia e impresiones de la Asamblea Mundial y el Congreso recientemente celebrados en Hong Kong, escritas por *Dorothy Selleck* (Reino Unido) que es también autora de la traducción de este texto al español.

Como ya he mencionado en el principio, en el mes de septiembre se celebró en Bonn la 64<sup>a</sup> edición del Congreso de la ONU para las organizaciones no gubernamentales con el título „*Sustainable Societies Responsive Citizens*“ („*Sociedades sostenibles – ciudadanos responsables*“). En este Congreso participamos cuatro representantes de la OMEP. Además, nuestra organización fue elegida por los organizadores como una de las 26

organizaciones no gubernamentales a las que se les había ofrecido la oportunidad de presentar una exposición de sus actividades. Hicimos una presentación de nuestras actividades unidas al proyecto La educación prescolar para el desarrollo sostenible al que nos dedicamos ya desde hace tres años. La exposición llamó una gran atención entre otras organizaciones no gubernamentales. En esta edición del Newsletter pueden encontrar una breve información del Congreso, acompañada de un par de fotos. En el fin de este número del Newsletter hay igualmente un aviso de varias publicaciones de interés.

Como es bien sabido, nuestro próximo encuentro europeo tendrá lugar en Varsovia, Polonia, entre el 18 y 20 de abril de 2012. Junto con la Reunión Europea se celebrará también el Congreso con el título „Respeto al Niño“. La invitación a este evento y la convocatoria de un concurso, preparado por nuestras colegas polacas, son también parte de este número del Newsletter.

En espera de nuestro encuentro en primavera de 2012, les agradecería cualquier tipo de comentario, sugerencia e información que los demás miembros de la región europea podamos compartir.

Milada Rabušicová  
Vicepresidenta de la OMEP  
para Europa

## B rief Impressions of the 63<sup>rd</sup> OMEP World Conference

7 – 9 July 2011

The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Hong Kong was hot, humid and heaving with eager children and people in July. I was privileged to have worked there in 1975, when it appeared similar to Liverpool, as a busy free port, with its many ups and downs. When we arrived at Lantau airport, this time, I was amazed at the tremendous developments in this highly sophisticated metropolis. The famous deep harbour now reminds me of Manhattan, with its massive sky scrapers, its lively buzz and its fascinating neon 'light show' each night. Shatin, where we stayed, is amongst the most modern hotel and shopping plazas in Asia. The available land is little more than the size of greater Manchester. By building upwards, and carefully using all its islands and territories, with linked bridges and tunnels, Hong Kong is able to cope with the conundrum of housing and transporting its eight million people. There are precious parks and open sports areas, which are fully used.

Here, each morning, older people do their exercises (Tai chi) in slow motion. Among many people there is a strong sense of discipline and purpose, with many younger people treating older citizens with courtesy and care. They are proud of their heritage, and are positive in their efforts to improve their lives. In the systems of education and transport, one sees strong British influences gained, from over a hundred and fifty years of colonial rule. Now people are adapting to a new order. They are highly resilient, having faced many vicissitudes.



Our stay in Hong Kong was exciting; we received much help and support from strangers. I was delighted to renew friendships, with those whom I had known there long ago. The whole experience was enriching and a fitting tribute to the tremendous

efforts made by Dr. Maggie Kong and Dr. Hazel Lam and their superb team in organising and running the OMEP World Council, Assembly and the sixty third World Conference on 'Meeting the Learning and Developmental Needs of Our Young Citizens'. This was a most memorable experience for delegates, with world renowned educationists addressing the large audience in several languages.

The modern Institute of Education at Tai Po proved an excellent venue with lovely views, generous resources, effective large and small spaces and pertinent placement visits: all were well used. The two special dinners were most enjoyable at a downtown Shanghai restaurant and at The Jumbo Floating Restaurant in Aberdeen (H.K.). The opening and closing ceremonies were brilliantly staged with lively, well disciplined children's choirs and teams of dancers and athletes. All depicted the energy and colourful culture of Hong Kong.

*Dorothy Selleck/Eiddona (UK)*



## Brief Impressions of the 63<sup>rd</sup> OMEP World Conference (translation to Spanish)

### Hong Kong

6:7:2011 – 10:7:2011

Mi viaje a Hong Kong en julio, 2011 por La conferencia de OMEP (El Mundo). Hong Kong estaba muy caliente, muy húmedo y muy ocupado. Yo trabajé en Hong Kong en 1975 –cuando era un puerto ocupado similar a Liverpool con muchas vicisitudes. Pero ahora Hong Kong es una metrópolis muy sofisticada. El puerto de Hong Kong es similar a Manhattan, Nueva York, con muchos rascacielos, e muy animado, y espectaculares iluminaciones espectaculares cada nocheShatín,donde nos quedamos,es una plaza muy moderna con muchas tiendas comerciales y redundante con un hotel cinco estrellas.

Hong Kong es similar en dimensiones a gran Manchester.Los edificios son muy altos y grandes (90 niveles).Todos los espacios son utilizados. Las personas mayores hacen Tai chi todos los días. Son muy resistentes y están muy orgullosos de la cultura de China – es muy antigua.

Nuestra estancia en Hong Kong fue emocionante recibimos mucha ayuda y apoyo de extraños. Estaba contenta de renovar amistades con aquellos a quienes había conocido hace mucho tiempo. La experiencia completa fue enriquecedora y un tributo apropiado a los esfuerzos hechos por la Doctora Maggie Kong.y la Doctora Hazel Lam y su súper equipo al organizar y llevar a cabo la reunión del Concilio Mundial de OMEP, La asamblea y la conferencia.



Fue la experiencia más memorable, para los delegados, con educadores renombrados mundialmente dirigiéndose a una audiencia grande en varios idiomas.El Instituto de Educación de Tai Po es un lugar excelente con vistas encantadoras, recursos generosos, espacios efectivos grandes y pequeños y lugares escuelas de visitas, todos bien usados. Las ceremonias de apertura y cierre fueron

ejecutadas brillantemente, con coros de nov entusiastas y bien disciplinados realizadas y equipos de bailadores y atletas. Todos mostraron la energía y el colorido de la cultura de Hong Kong.

*Dorothy Selleck/Eiddona*



## M inutes of the OMEP European Regional Meeting

OMEP European Regional Meeting held in Hong Kong  
July 6<sup>th</sup> 2011

**11 Member Countries Present:** Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Latvia, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

1. **Welcome:** The Vice-President, Milada Rabusicova, warmly welcomed all members present.  
**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was unanimously approved.
2. **OMEP World President Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson's words:** Ingrid expressed how pleased she is with the work and progress of the OMEP countries in Europe. She is sure that they will all be even more active in the future.

3. Minutes Review: The review of the European meeting held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 were passed unanimously.

### 4. Information and Announcements from the European Member Countries:

- Dorothy Selleck (UK) spoke about the financial situation in many European countries. This is leading to children not receiving what they are entitled to. For example, in the UK Children's Centres are closing. She asked the question, "Who is fighting for their cause?"

There followed a general discussion on how countries in Europe were reacting to financial crisis and it was felt that, in general, each country had to negotiate with the government which it had. However, it was pointed out that the European Parliament had placed a very high level of importance on investment in early childhood education. It was felt that it would be helpful to gather statistics and examples. Stig Lund (Denmark) offered to compose a letter on the states' responsibilities.

- Ingrid Engdahl (Sweden): Spoke of the Project which Sweden is undertaking in collaboration with China on antibiotic resistance in children.
- Stig Lund (Denmark): Reported that he is now the President of OMEP Denmark, as Henny has resigned. He brought greetings from Henny, who has had a good time travelling around the world recently. He is optimistic about the future of OMEP in his country.

### 5. Report of the regional Vice-President:

- Newsletter: Antonio Ponces de Carvalho (Portugal) has not been receiving Milada's Newsletter. Milada asked anyone else who does not get it to let her know. She said that we should read it and circulate it to our committees and membership.
- Serbia and Slovenia expressed their interest to join OMEP as preparatory committees.
- The Annual UN Conference is taking place in Bonn, Germany, September 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>. This is entitled, "Sustainable Societies; Responsible Citizens." Milada invited members to apply, as eight places are available. Two should be aged between 18 and 24. Ingrid Engdahl said she could find a young Swede and the two students who were observing from the UK were invited to consider attending.

### 6. Current stage and continuity of the World Project on ESD and the European Project:

- Elin Odegaard (Norway): They have a project which is trying to capture good practice with a Case Study. There is a problem with ethics, i.e. with photographs and videos, as parents do not want children's faces shown, and there is difficulty in finding other methods which are effective.

- Marlene Brissard (France): It is very important to video children from the back in France, as anything else is forbidden. They have made some strong images of saving the planet, where teachers were trained how to video without showing children's faces.

### 7. European Agenda for World Assembly, Hong Kong, July 2011:

- Improvement in visibility issues: Possibility of using Face-book was discussed, it is now known to be used in Norway, Turkey and Cote d'Ivoire at least.

Ingrid P-S: Thinks we should go ahead and try to co-ordinate it.

Arif Yilman (Turkey): We need to have increasing visibility.

Stig Lund (Denmark): We should spend more effort and time in e-mails and the website. Students would not go to the OMEP Face-book page for information – they would go to the website. It was agreed that both could be done.

Bibi Karlsson (Sweden), Arif Yilman (Turkey), Stig Lund (Denmark) agreed to coordinate, and Janet Morris (UK) will enquire of the UK website manager about what possibilities there could be.

- Elections for Vice-Presidents: North America and Caribbean region: There is only one candidate – Judith Wagner

Africa: Two candidates: Endurance Idenyi ( Benin) and Abimbola Are (Nigeria). Ingrid P-S advised the representatives to listen to the presentations at the assembly and come to their own decisions. Honorary Member: We were pleased to accept unanimously the recommendations put to us by Lasse Lippinen, representing the Executive Committee of Finland, that Pirjo Honkavaara should receive Honorary Membership of OMEP Next European Regional Meetings and Conferences:

2012: Warsaw, Poland

2013: Croatia has volunteered, and it is anticipated that they will be accepted into preparatory status membership at the Assembly.

### 9. Any Other Business:

Japan appeal: More money is needed.

Sisterhood Scheme: This project does not have very much money in it.

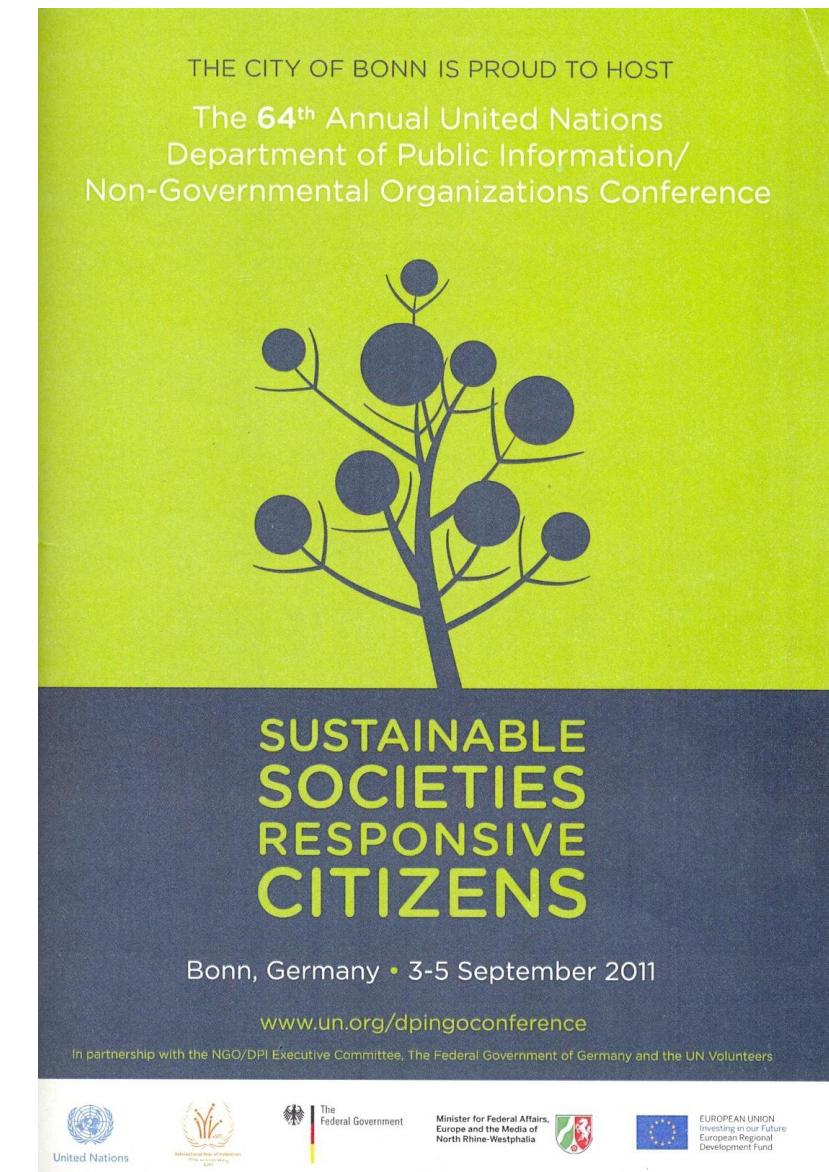
Children's Fund: This fund also needs more support.

Milada appealed to all member countries to consider making donations.

As there was no other business, Milada thanked all who had attended and the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Minutes keeper: *Janet Morris ( UK)*

## The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual United Nations Department Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference *Sustainable Societies – Responsive Citizens*



### CONNECTING THE DOTS

#### SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES AND THE ROLE OF RESPONSIVE CITIZENS

*"We have to be prepared to make major changes... in our lifestyles, our economic models, our social organization, and our political life."*

(Ban Ki-moon, Davos, Switzerland, 28/01/2011)

These were the remarks of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he addressed business leaders in Davos, Switzerland, in January this year. Mr. Ban talked of "tearing down the walls between the development agenda and the climate agenda." Most importantly, he asked his audience to "connect the dots" between climate change, water, energy and food; and "recover that sense of living harmoniously for our economies and our societies."

#### What Makes Sustainable Societies?

But what does creating sustainable development mean? What makes sustainable societies? Is it just about switching to efficient light bulbs, recycling waste and drinking organic or fair trade coffee? Or is it more than that?

We know that sustainable development is about "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Balanced development lifts people out of poverty, while protecting the natural systems that support economic growth.



#### We must Connect the Dots!

But as we look forward to Rio+20 – and also look back on decades of stalemate since the original 'Earth Summit' – we all know it's not a simple task. We must connect the dots between protecting the planet and giving people a chance for a better life. We need to ensure access to clean water for all while at the same time saving water. We must stimulate global economic growth while building inclusive political systems for the benefit of all the people on Earth.

#### Responsive Citizens

The "change" Ban Ki-moon spoke of in Davos includes a change in both thinking and action on the part of individual citizens wherever they may be. And as we continue to see in North Africa and the Middle East, social change starts on the streets. It comes from responsive citizens, who think outside the box and take action to make change happen. By taking action to ensure sustainable development, even the most marginalized citizens can become agents for change, and active participants in deciding their own futures.

#### Sustainable development - Individual and Collective Action

Sustainable development is about individual and collective action. It's about empowering people to get involved and when civic engagement is harnessed to its full potential, it is a genuine force for social cohesion and sustainable societies. It's not just the United Nations and Governments around the world that are responsible for achieving the Millennium Development Goals alone, ordinary citizens too must play their part in making this possible and popular mobilization does make a big difference.

This is the job of NGOs and civil society: to connect the dots between sustainable development and the role of responsive

citizens and engage communities to not only respond to the challenge of building a green economy but to unite around the goal of building truly sustainable societies.

#### Commit! Encourage! Volunteer!

Encouraging this kind of voluntary action is a core value of those organizations working for sustainable development. They inspire, engage, and build on the capacity of people to create change from the grassroots level upward. As their mandates evolve, this spirit grows ever stronger.

Citizens gain a sense of well-being through their personal choices, and the choice to stand up, step forward and volunteer is a powerful one. One individual changing his or her thinking or lifestyle makes a small difference. But when individual action becomes a collective force then you can expect the walls between the development and environmental agendas to crumble. The path to true sustainability is rooted in the ability of citizens and organizations to respond to the call to action.

We call on all citizens and volunteer organizations everywhere to respond, commit, encourage and volunteer so each of us can do our part to build a sustainable future.

### Invitation to European Regional meeting and Conference 2012 to Warsaw, Poland

On behalf of the Polish Committee of OMEP, the members of the Organising Committee, the Scientific Programme Committee and the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education (APS) in Warsaw we would like to invite you to the Regional Meeting and European OMEP Conference which will take place in Warsaw, Poland, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2012.

The theme of the European OMEP Conference in 2012 is *Respect for a child* and the main topics are:

- I. The most important and the not important children matters.
- II. Children's education and personal development in an institution – in cooperation with or in contrast to it?
- III. Responsible adults in child's space.
- IV. Childhood on the margin of civilizations.
- V. Ideas of contemporary multiculturalism.

The important point of the debate will be the issue of multicultural education and the ideas of contemporary multiculturalism. We plan to present the results of the

realisation of the Project to Support Students from Minority/Ethnic Groups and Foreign Students *Let's Meet – Let's Respect Each Other* including the results of the International Contest for teachers for a *Presentation of Good Practice in the Field of Cultural Education* and the International Art Gallery for Children "Me-You-Us". Moreover, the Conference will be accompanied by presentation on the topic: *Perspectives of Creativity and Knowledge in the Contemporary Childhood* (Students Scientific Associations, nurseries, kindergartens and primary schools).



The Honorary Patrons of the Conference are: Anna Komorowska – the First Lady, Katarzyna Hall – the Minister of National Education, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz – the President of the Capital City of Warsaw.

The academic part of the Conference will take place in the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in Warsaw which is also the academic partner of the Conference and one of the Coordinators.

Our aim is to bring closer the academic community and the teachers in order to

exchange knowledge, present the examples of a good practice and the research findings in the field of children education and their personal development.

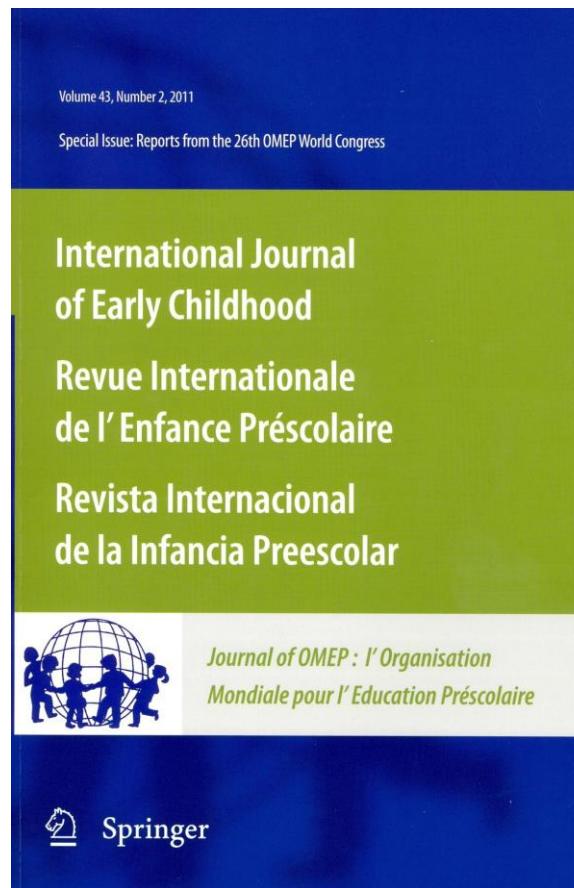
The host of the Conference is Warsaw, the capital city of Poland. Warsaw is a scientific, cultural, political and economic centre that represents the European standards. It is a seat of parliament, the President of the Republic of Poland, the government and other organs of the central administration. It is the biggest city in Poland situated in the middle-east part of the country over the Vistula river. The history of the city dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The historic buildings of Warsaw were repeatedly being destroyed during wars. The city was severely damaged during the Second World War. The capital city was reconstructed with the great effort of the whole Polish society. The reconstruction of the Old Town in Warsaw is given as an example and it was listed as the UNESCO World Heritage Site on 2 September 1980 to illustrate the complete reconstruction of a historical site.

The details concerning the programme of the Conference will be posted on the website: [www.euroconf.omep.org.pl](http://www.euroconf.omep.org.pl) Here the participants can find information about the dates and deadlines, the fees, the accommodation and other necessary information concerning this international meeting. If you have any questions, please send them to [zarzad@omep.org.pl](mailto:zarzad@omep.org.pl) or the secretary office [sekretariat@omep.org.pl](mailto:sekretariat@omep.org.pl). We are waiting for you in Poland!

*Anna Wrobel  
President of OMEP Polish Committee*



### I nteresting publications and documents



#### Special Issue: Reports from the 26th OMEP World Congress.

Eva Johansson. *Letter From the Editor.*

Ingrid Engdahl. *Children: Citizens in a Challenged World. Introduction to the 26th OMEP World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, August 11–13, 2010.*

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson. *Why We Should Begin Early with ESD: The Role of Early Childhood Education.*

Bronwyn Davies. *Open Listening: Creative Evolution in Early Childhood Settings. OMEP XXVI World Conference, August 11–13, 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden.*

Sylvie Rayna. *Enfances en transition dans le préscolaire de plusieurs cultures.*

Ingrid Engdahl and Milada Rabušicová. *Children's Voices About the State of the Earth.*



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2010-12-17



### Taking children seriously

– How the EU can invest in early childhood education for a sustainable future

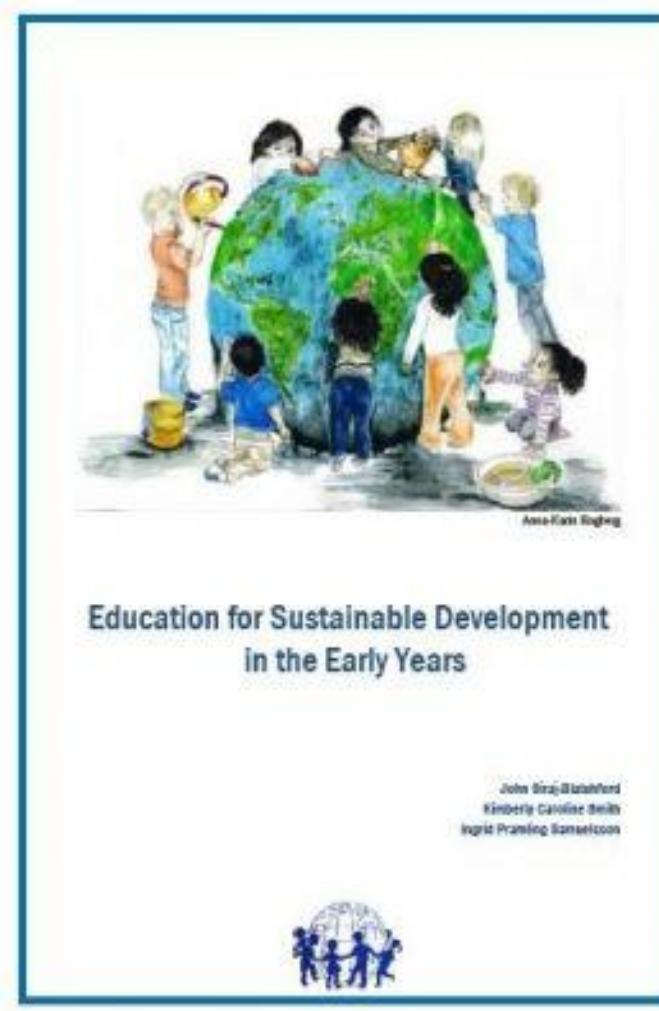
### Taking children seriously

#### - How the EU can invest in Early Childhood Education for a Sustainable Future

Young children are much more capable in acting, thinking, reasoning and understanding than is commonly recognised. If these capabilities are to emerge there is a need to provide access to quality early childhood education, for all citizens throughout the European Union. Unfortunately, the quality and accessibility of early childhood education currently varies in EU member states. Young children have rights and shared responsibilities in achieving a sustainable future. Investments in high quality early childhood education, combined with education for sustainable development, represent a necessary component in promoting children's rights within the EU.

The report, "Taking Children Seriously", presents the research evidence on children's interest and ability to understand questions on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It also maps early childhood education within EU and in the world regarding quantity and quality. A number of clear recommendations for the future development of Early Childhood Education within EU will be presented.

(Report available at <http://www.omep.org.gr/se/publications>)



## Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction to Sustainable Development

The Environmental Pillar

The Social and Cultural Pillar

The Economic Pillar

Developing good practice

Supporting Organisations and Associations

References, further reading and support

OMEP World Congress 2010

(Book available at <http://www.327matters.org/Docs/ESD%20Book%20Master.pdf>)