



Vice President for Asia Pacific Region

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In this eNEWS

1. Greetings
2. OMEP-ARNEC(Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood) Collaboration
 1. Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development at Singapore
 2. Participating in Global Petition on ECD
3. Activities
 1. ESD in ECEC(March, 2013, Japan)
 2. New national president of OMEP elected.
4. 2014 World Assembly and Congress in Cork.
5. International Journal of Early Childhood(IJEC)

1. Greetings

It's a month away till we meet at the OMEP World Assembly and conference in Cork. I'm looking forward to meet you all.

It's been nearly 6 month since the last Asia Pacific newsletter issued. Meanwhile there have been a lot of issues going on in Asia Pacific Region which I would like to share with you.

2. OMEP-ARNEC Collaboration

1. Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development at Singapore

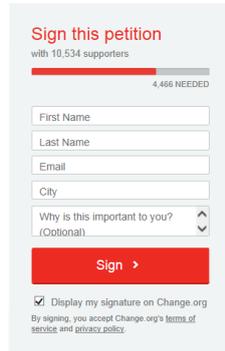


Photo: World president Maggie Koong participating in panel session at the conference

Collaboration between ARNEC and OMEP has been strengthened this year. The 2013 ARNEC conference was conducted in November, 2013 and focused on giving all children equal opportunities to lifelong learning, health and success. Particular emphases was given to promote ECD on the global agenda “One voice” as the post-2015 Millennial Development Goals are re-visioned and revised. Three of our OMEP executive board members were invited.

- Maggie Koong, the world president of OMEP, she participated as a panel member for underscored the importance providing equitable access to quality education, in giving all children their best start in life and in providing support to the poor and the most vulnerable. She urged the early childhood community to advocate for EC outside of the ECE community to build and increase political support and alliances and work with different sectors to develop the whole child.
- Eunhye Park, introduced world ESD projects children’s play as an important role in shaping a sustainable future. She also looked for a future collaboration between ARNEC and OMEP Asia Pacific Region.
- Nirmala Rao, the world treasurer of OMEP, delivered a keynote speech on ESD policy through impact evaluations. Impact evaluation provides the evidence necessary for on-going support of a programme. Professor Rao remarked the importance of advocacy and reasons why early childhood community needs to speak with unified voice.

2. Participating in Global Petition on ECD



The ARNEC asked us to participate in the global petition on ECD to be the new post-2015 development framework for giving all children the best start in life, led by Tessa Jowell in UK. Now the signatures have reached 10,495 and 4,505 signature are still needed.

The petition will be continued till the end of June, 2014 at the website below. Please do participate for our children's best interest.

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/un-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-and-un-member-states-put-early-childhood-development-at-the-heart-of-the-new-post-2015-development-framework-to-give-all-children-the-best-start-in-life?utm_campaign=petition_message_no

3. Activities

1. ESD in ECEC and OMEP(March, 2013, Japan)



Eunhye Park was invited by OMEP Japan. The national committee held a general meeting on 29th, March, 2014. She introduce ESD world projects from 1st to 4th phases and the ESD rating scale as well.

2. New national presidents of OMEP elected.

I'm happy to inform you that two new national presidents were elected in Hong Kong and Japan. Dr. Amelia Lee was elected for the OMEP Hong Kong National Committee and Mr. Osamu Fujii was elected for the OMEP Japan National Committee. An information about the new national presidents are as follows.

HONG KONG – CHINA	
National President	Dr. Amelia Lee
Institution	OMEP National Committee for Hong Kong
Address	P.O. Box 38223, Hing Fat Street Post Office, Hong Kong
E-mail	amenylee@hkbu.edu.hk
Web	http://www.omep.org.hk/

JAPAN	
National President	Mr. Osamu Fujii
Institution	Japanese National Committee of OMEP
Address	c/o Nihon Hoiku Gakkai 3-2-2 Kudan-Kita, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 102-0073 Japan
Telephone	+81-75-332-3780
E-mail	greenfingerchild@yahoo.co.jp hoikuen-takatsukasa@coffee.ocn.ne.jp
Web	http://www.gakkai.ac/omepjpn/

4. 2014 World Assembly and Conference of OMEP in Cork.

1. The 66th OMEP World Assembly and International Conference is going to be held at University College Cork in Cork Island from 1st through 5th of July, 2014. Conference theme is ‘Children’s cultural world’.
2. Asia Pacific Regional Symposium will be held and the theme for this year is ‘Issues and challenges for early childhood education and care workforce in Asia’. As a key element toward providing quality services, the staffing of early childhood provision is moving more into focus. In order to discuss current workforce issues and challenges in Asia Pacific Region, 4 countries will provide the information on the basis of the following structure.
 - 1) The early childhood system in context
 - 2) Profiles of early education/ care provision
 - 3) Professional education/ training and workforce issues

I invite all of the national committee members to joining the symposium and make active discussions regarding this important issue.

5. International Journal of Early Childhood(IJEC)

Volume 45, Issue 3, November 2013 of IJEC is available at

<http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/45/3/page/1>

and Volume 46, Issue 1, April 2014 of IJEC is now available at:

<http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/46/1>

In the volume 45, issue 3 of IJEC, authors from Australia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Sweden, Thailand and New Zealand represented the national contexts and raised important and actual questions connected to children's existence and identity.

The IJEC continues to deal with special issue on national policies in globalized world. Volume 46, issue 1 brings contributions from Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Ireland, Malawi, New Zealand, Scotland and the United Kingdom. In this issue, the emergence of common policy themes across national borders. Collectively, as in the previous issue, the articles reveal the influence of world policy institutions upon the shaping of early childhood education and care systems and global flow of policy ideas and objectives.

