

76th OMEP World Assembly and Conference
“Right from the Start for ECCE: Step Beyond All Together”
Bangkok, Thailand: July 15–19, 2024

“We want EARLY CHILDHOOD everywhere to have everything they need, everything they are ENTITLED to protection, but also EDUCATION.”

Suzanne Herbinière Lebert, the second World President of OMEP, Vienna 1950

1. CONCEPT NOTE OF THE CONFERENCE

The world is currently confronted with a greater number of challenges arising from the escalating severity and frequency of conflicts, emergencies, and unprecedented crises. Notably, the impacts of events like COVID-19 pandemic and climate change are significantly affecting the resilience of communities and families, the well-being of young children, the accessibility and quality of early childhood care and education, and the opportunities for enrollment in early childhood programs. It is evident that these factors are severely impeding the nurturing care and fundamental learning experiences crucial for young children.

Moreover, there are persistent obstacles that need to be addressed. These include fragmented policies, limited regulation and coordination among ECCE providers, insufficient public provision of resources, and chronic underfunding. These issues further contribute to the challenges faced in ensuring comprehensive and effective early childhood development.

Access to inclusive and quality ECCE is an important enabler of well-being and holistic development, foundation and lifelong learning, gender equality and social equity, and sustainable development where all children can have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The latest message from the second WCECCE, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in November 2022, the first high-level intergovernmental education event following the September 2022 Transforming Education Summit (TES), informed that there has been relative neglect of ECCE in many national and international policy agendas on education, and inadequate progress made in achieving commitments adopted at the first WCECCE in 2010, as well as those adopted in 2015 in the SDG4, specially, SDG target 4.2 which aims to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality pre-primary care and education to enable them to be ready for primary school.

For more than seven decades since its founding in 1948, World OMEP, as an international non-governmental and non-profit organization joined now by more than 60 countries in five regions of the world, has been advocating and promoting early childhood care and education (ECCE). OMEP has a vision of ECCE as right and tool to attain integral development, citizenship, well-being, and dignity for all girls and boys. Its involvement in shaping key international and regional initiatives within the early childhood field is notable. For instance, OMEP delegates actively contributed to the working group responsible for formulating the Global Partnership Strategy for Early Childhood (2021). Participation

was also extended to significant events like the 2nd Asia- Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC II) in 2022 and as Programme Committee of the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE) in the same year.

OMEP Annual World Assembly and Conference has become an important mechanism of communication and mission campaigns to create cooperation among members, partners and stakeholders that place ECCE high with similar goals to promote children's rights in education, disseminate new knowledge from research, debates and share important ideas and issues in this field. Accordingly, this mechanism has been used by our organization as power to pave the way for mutual agreement and reaffirm the commitment to safeguard children's right and to the goal of quality and sustainable early childhood care and education in line with the SDG 4.2 and the Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action.

By this mechanism, OMEP has pursued its mission, and continues to do so into the year 2024. Thailand has been granted the honor of hosting a significant event, the 76th OMEP World Assembly and Conference, symbolizing OMEP's ongoing dedication to its cause. The event, with the theme "Right from the Start for ECCE: Step Beyond All Together," is scheduled to take place from 15th to 19th July 2024 in Bangkok, organized by OMEP Thailand and the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University, with supporting partnerships of national governments, the Ministry of Education, the Equitable Education Fund (EEF) and international organizations including UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok.

2. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of OMEP World Assembly and Conference are to:

- 2.1 Share, discuss and analyze the current situations of care and education for children 0-8 years from different regions of the world.
- 2.2 Exchange knowledge on key features of good practices, innovations, and research results to effect changes in attitudes and policies of stakeholders on enhancing quality ECCE.
- 2.3 Strengthen the commitment on the right for every child to quality ECCE which lays the foundation for lifelong learning and connects to other human rights.
- 2.4 Reach mutual understanding and agreement to declare strategies for overcoming the obstacles and problems in ECCE and to support the right of all children for quality care and education.
- 2.5 Scale up the determination for success toward reaching the goal of SDG4.2 in sustainable development.

3. SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The following preliminary themes and subthemes consist of:

- 3.1 Curriculum and Pedagogy:** curriculum decision making, learning frameworks and research, methodologies of working with children, learning environments, play-based pedagogy, social and

emotional learning, language learning, bilingualism and multilingualism, children’s literature, mathematics, science literacy, social studies, physical education, sport pedagogy, motor skills learning, art and music, assessment and evaluation, reflective practice, transitions, and practices.

3.2 Programs Innovation: model programs, best practices, EdTech, artificial intelligence, creativity, metacognition, exploring and experimenting, STEM, STEAM, coding, hybrid and remote learning and care services, preparation for emergency situations: health/pandemics disaster and conflicts, abduction/hostage crisis, natural disasters, climate impacts.

3.3 Child’s Rights, Inclusion, Well-being: child’s rights in education, refugee crisis and education, ECCE for a sustainable future, inclusive teaching and learning, differentiated pedagogy, special educational needs, special education policy and support services, gifted education, identity development, diversity and strength, multicultural education, democracy and citizenship in ECCE, early stimulation, early socialization, caregiving education and parental supports, early detection and referral care, nutrition, health and sanitation, health and resilience, integrated early childhood intervention services.

3.4 ECCE Workforce, Families and Communities: pre-and in-service training, early childhood teacher/caregiver competency, professionalization, employment, and deployment, working conditions and valorization, initial and continuous teacher’s education, lifelong learning, teacher’s professional learning and development, professional learning communities, families and communities in ECCE.

3.5 Leadership, Investment, Policy, and Governance: leadership for learning, structures of educational planning and support, quality management, quality assurance, ECCE policy, reform and governance, comparative, cross-national, cross-cultural research, public expenditure, innovative financing and funding, public expenditure, ECCE multisectoral action, legal frameworks, governance structures, integration into education and learning systems, accountability, ECCE equity.

4. Conference format, participants and working languages (onsite only)

4.1 Assembly: special presentation, plenary sessions, parallel sessions.

Approximately 100 participants attending the World Assembly, including OMEP Executive Committee, presidents and representatives of national committees, invited speakers (from UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.), and observers.

4.2 Conference: keynote speeches, symposiums, plenary sessions, parallel sessions, poster sessions, workshops, school visits, special events (OMEP award ceremony, international night)

Approximately 600 participants attending the conference, including delegations from OMEP members, government and non-government agencies related to ECCE, civil society organizations at national and international levels, practitioners, academicians, ECCE related professionals, parents, etc.

4.3 Working languages: three official languages of English, French and Spanish will be used for all sessions of the Assembly, including opening, keynote speeches, plenary and closing sessions for the Conference. English will be used for parallel sessions, school visits, and special events.

5. Abridged Program Agenda and Venue

5.1 WORLD ASSEMBLY

July 15-16, 2024 –

Venue: Chulalongkorn University

World Assembly: Monday, July 15th 2024	
07:30-08:00	World Assembly Registration
08:00-08:30	Opening session, roll call and appointment of scrutineers, and adoption agenda
08:30-09:00	Annual report 2023
09:00-09:30	Minutes 2023 Virtual World Assembly, Treasurer’s report, World OMEP Budget
09:30-10:00	Membership: New Preparatory Committees
10:00-10:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
10:30-11:30	Report of the strategic plan by areas/projects
11:30-12:30	Elections
12:30-14:00	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
14:00-16:00	OMEP regional meetings
16:00-17:00	World declaration
World Assembly: Tuesday, July 16th 2024	
08:00-08:15	Opening World President
08:15-09:00	Special presentation speaker
09:00-10:00	Discussion in parallel sessions: upscaling the strategic plan
10:00-10:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
10:30-11:15	Special presentation speaker
11:15-12:30	World declaration: presentation and voting process for approval
12:30-14:00	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
13:30-15:30	Plenary: OMEP strategic plan: reports of parallel sessions and discussion
15:30-16:00	Future meetings
16:00-16:20	Closure of World Assembly

5.2 WORLD CONFERENCE

July 17-19, 2024

Venue: Centara Grand Bangkok

July 17	07:30-12:30	School Visits
	12:30-14:00	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
	12:00-15:00	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
	15:00-16:30	Conference Opening Ceremony
	16:30-18:30	Keynote Speeches
	18:30	Welcome Reception
	08:00-08:30	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
July 18	08:30-10:00	Keynotes Speeches
	10:00-10:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
	10:30-13:00	Symposium/ Individual presentations/workshops
	13:00-13:45	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
	13:45-16:00	Symposium/Individual presentations/workshops
	15:00-15:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
	16:00-17:00	OMEP ESD Project – Global and Student Award Winners
	17:00-18:30	OMEP Young Scholar Award
	19:30	International Night/Gala Dinner
July 19	08:00-08:30	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
	08:30-10:00	Symposium/Individual Presentations
	10:00-10:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
	10:30-12:00	Symposium/Individual Presentations
	10:30-12:30	Poster Presentation
	12:30-13:30	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>
	14:00-15:30	Keynotes Speeches
	15:30-16:00	Presentation of the World Declaration
	16:00 -16:30	Conference Closure

