



Organisation Mondiale pour L'Éducation Précoce
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

EXCO COMMUNICATION 02: March 15th, 2021

From the OMEP World Presidency, we wish to express our **solidarity and affection** to the OMEP Committees of Haiti, Myanmar and Nigeria and, through them, to the people and children of those countries. Inhuman acts of violence have been perpetrated against the Rohingya community in **Myanmar**, causing more than 600 000 people (58% of which are children) to flee their homes and seek refuge in Bangladesh. In **Haiti**, the political and social crisis has led the country to ungovernability and violence, after the attempted coup, which aggravates structural poverty and the tragedies derived from climatic disasters. In **Zamfara, Nigeria**, almost 300 girls were abducted, although they were released shortly thereafter. This is the fourth attack in 3 months in the west of the country, which affects the well-being, schooling and daily lives of many children and teenagers.

Unfortunately, in many countries there are threats against peace and democracy, which add long-lasting suffering to the hardships, discrimination and inequality children living in poverty have to go through. All these events that contain enormous cruelty and violence deeply affect the development and well-being of young children, as well as the possibility of response by governments, communities, families and schools to ensure their human rights to care and education.

Many years ago, James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, said that *“Democracy is good for children”*. Let us continue fighting for the construction of democratic societies committed to the protection of human rights and justice for all children from birth.

Kind regards.

Mercedes

EXCO MEETINGS

During the month of February, two meetings of the World Executive Committee (EXCO) were held, during which the following topics were discussed:

a- 2021 WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE: because the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be very serious and unpredictable, the OMEP Executive Committee (EXCO) has decided to **postpone the 72nd OMEP WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE**, to be held in Athens, for the **July 11th to 15th, 2022**.

The program and venue will remain the same.

Website: <https://www.omep2022.org/es/>

b- IJEC (International Journal for Early Childhood): Due to the retirement of our editor, a new call for Editor in Chief has been issued. Likewise, the agreement with Springer Publishing House has been renegotiated and all OMEP members will be able to access IJEC online through the OMEP's website: www.omepworld.org



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c- New OMEP Logo: During the month of March, the new logos and the OMEP Brand Manual will be sent to the National Committees in order to standardize the brand identity.

In case of doubts, please contact: communication@worldomep.org

d- 2020 Annual Report: The Annual Report must be completed before **March 31st, 2021**. The year 2020 was particularly challenging and, in this report, we will show OMEP's capacity to respond to this difficult situation. For this reason, certain questions will focus on gathering information about the activities and projects of each Committee, in order to know the strategies adopted for the fulfillment of the Strategic Plan during the pandemic. As in previous years, data on the structure of each Committee will also be collected.

e- OMEP Theory into practice N°4: You have been invited to participate in this edition that will address the theme of play in early childhood. Articles in English, French and Spanish will be accepted. Due date: **March 31st, 2021**.

Articles should be sent to: worldsecretary@worldomep.org

f- Proposal for the Decade for Early Childhood: We continue to make progress in defining the strategy so that this EMBLEMATIC INITIATIVE comes to life. As we reported in the January 2021 Newsletter, we have already presented the proposal at UNESCO in the framework of the inclusive Innovative Dialogue towards a Global Partnership Strategy (GPS) for early childhood. We will soon hold specific meetings for OMEP's internal debate.

February 2021 News

1. PARTICIPATIONS OF THE WORLD PRESIDENT

- **UNICEF: "Innovations in household surveys: MICS Plus as a longitudinal real"**. February 11th.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwpBtV97Crs>
- **UNICEF: "Cycle of Virtual Workshops on Comprehensive Development of Early Childhood"**. February 12th, 2021. La Paz (Bolivia).
- **UNICEF: "Scaling Pre-Primary Education: Launch of Global ECE Accelerator"**. February 16th.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko409m5ScjQ>

2. REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- **Session co-organized by OMEP, within the framework of the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD59)**. United Nations Headquarters, New York. February 17th, 2021.
Organization and coordination: María Pía Belloni. News: <https://omepworld.org/omep-in-the-a-59th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csocd59-un/>

3. VP for EUROPE: Ingrid Engdahl

Presents the first 2021 European newsletter, with information on:

- The Virtual Café on March 9th, which focused on the Annual Report for 2020, the new OMEP website and the logo. The meeting is a space in which the European region can discuss important issues related to ECCE in the region and the world.
- The rescheduling of the OMEP 2021 World Conference.
- Congratulations to Italy and its new category of OMEP National Committee.



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- OMEP's active participation in the "Inclusive and Innovative Dialogue towards a Global Coalition Strategy", both in the drafting process and in various technical meetings and discussions. Even though an agreement regarding the views on ECCE has not always been reached, OMEP was able to include the initiative for the declaration of a Decade for Early Childhood. To be successful, OMEP's National Committees need to join the campaign and address, for example, UNESCO and UNICEF, as well as Ministries and Governments.

- Important dates during 2021

OMEP European Newsletter 1 – 2021 (English) available at:

<https://omepworld.org/omep-european-newsletter-1-2021/>

4. VP for AFRICA: Nyamikeh Kyiamah

The OMEP African Region had a Regional Meeting and a Virtual Coffee with the World President on Thursday, February 24th, 2021. Four National Committees were present: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The National Committees reported on the situation in each country.

The World President reported on the work that EXCO has been doing and on the 2020 Annual Report, and highlighted how important it is to continue working in the midst of the pandemic and to give visibility to regional work.

The Cameroon Committee reported that it had connection problems and, therefore, could not join, but accessed the recording and the corresponding report to be informed and updated on the news.

Furthermore, as this is Sierra Leone's third year as a Preparatory Committee, it is preparing to run for National Committee status.

5. VP for NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: Christiane Bourdages Simpson

Although the pandemic has put the whole world on pause, the 3 national committees are being restructured both in their form and in the composition of their boards.

For Canada, this implies new members, particularly in the treasury. Some of the current initiatives are the gathering of different files, as well as the implementation of a large archiving project of the documents from the last 20 years.

OMEP USA, with a new president, is also undergoing an important reconstruction of the national committee considering the renewal of the members on the board of directors.

As for OMEP Haiti, as shown in the news, the pandemic is causing terrible damage to a country with an already complicated political, social and economic context. In addition, it is difficult to communicate with the president and her members because of internet connection problems. In spite of everything, social media helps to try and keep in touch.

Despite all these obstacles, the Vicepresident is convinced that this setback will allow to take steps forward and come back stronger, with mobilized and energized members ready to propose innovative projects around the rights and needs of children.

6. VP for ASIA PACIFIC: Udomluck Kulapichitr

The OMEP Asia Pacific 2021 Regional Conference will be held both online and on-site due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on November 5th to 7th, 2021. It will be organized by OMEP Asia Pacific Region and OMEP China. The central topic is: "Strong children today, better tomorrow in Asia and the Pacific" and the 10 subtopics are:

- Challenges under COVID-19 and the response of early childhood education.
- Early learning and development in the information age.



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- Games and toys in children's learning.
- Social culture incorporated into the early childhood curriculum.
- Evaluation and quality assurance in early childhood education and care.
- Policy and practice on care and education from birth to the age of three.
- Early Childhood Workforce Preparation and Professional Development.
- Association between day care centers, families and communities.
- Inclusive early education for disadvantaged and vulnerable children.
- Multidisciplinary perspectives for early childhood development and education.

The conference aims to promote the quality of early childhood education and development and enhance mutual learning in early childhood education and care in the Asia Pacific region.

Web: <http://www.cnsece.com/>

E-mail: omepchina@163.com

7. CAMPAIGNS AND NETWORKING

→ ABIDJAN AND OMEP PRINCIPLES "RIGHTS FROM THE START" (video 2)

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4fdhobflbm/>

→ ABIDJAN AND OMEP PRINCIPLES "RIGHTS FROM THE START" (video 3)

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4fcGOX3YvS/>

→ International Mother Language Day "Promoting multilingualism for inclusion in education and society"

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4fd3HnBGhd/>

→ Child and family Blog: Approximately 33 million children around the world are displaced or in refugee camps, and many lack any form of education due to the pandemic.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/1906226879529689>

8. WEB PAGE

The new OMEP website will be available soon at: www.omepworld.org

OMEP BLOG "Rights from the start"

It is a space to reflect upon early childhood education and defend it, with the voices of great leaders around the world.

SUBSCRIBE AND SHARE!

→ "Inclusive education in early childhood", escrito por Margarita Cañadas. Valencia (Spain). Early childhood education is a right for all children, and disability cannot be a reason to deprive them of it. To read more:

<https://omepworld.org/inclusive-education-in-early-childhood-margarita-canadas/>

→ "The construction of identities in early childhood education", escrito por Beatriz Zapata Ospina. Medellín (Colombia). Early childhood education must consider children as social subjects with rights, instead of passive recipients of products and services, this vision implies their recognition, resignification and participation to contribute to their integral/multidimensional development and the construction of identity. To read more:

<https://omepworld.org/identity-construction-in-early-childhood-education-beatriz-zapata-ospina/>



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NEW PRESIDENTS FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEES

We welcome the new Presidents:

- ★ Ghana: Lydia Sarfo Anno (2020)
- ★ Japan: Nobuko Kamigaichi (2020)
- ★ Korea: Soonhwan Kim (2020)
- ★ USA: Ebony Cray (2020)
- ★ Ukraine: Tatiana Kovaleva (2020)
- ★ Ireland: Mary Moloney (2020)
- ★ Hong Kong-China: Amelia Lee (2020)
- ★ Bulgaria: Rozalina Engels- Kritidis (2021)

IMPORTANT DATES

Call for papers for OMEP: Theory in Practice N° 4 - 2021

Due date: March 30th, 2021

- ★ Communication of approved proposals: [April 30th, 2021](#)
- ★ Theme of the 4th edition: **childhood play**
- ★ Articles in English, French and Spanish will be accepted
- ★ Send articles to: worldsecretary@worldomep.org

COLOR YOUR RIGHTS

→ **CALL FOR PROJECT: COLOR YOUR RIGHTS - NEW DUE DATE UNTIL June 30th, 2021**

In case of doubts, please contact: vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy

OMEP INTERNAL CALL: World Team of Volunteer Translators

To improve our ability to share and exchange OMEP's ideas and actions on our website, blog and social media, we are creating a group of volunteers to help with the translation of posts, short articles, statements and videos.

If you would like to be part of the **World Team of Volunteer Translators**, please register here:

<https://forms.gle/xho1EKfvCk7qv7mQ9>