Vice President for Asia Pacific Region
Eunhye Park, Ph. D
Department of Early Childhood Education
Ewha Womans University
Seoul, Korea

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1. **Greetings**

The year of 2014-2015 has been really busy for OMEP-Asia Pacific not only in the region but also in the world. Invitation and participation to World Conference on Decade of Education for Sustainability in Nagoya, Japan and World Education Forum in Incheon, Korea raised up OMEP’s visibility. Collaborations between ARNEC (Asia Regional Network for Early Childhood) and OMEP-AP region have been actively extended through presentations in the conferences and joint policy project. Activating national committees from Philippines and Malaysia will be reported in Washington. Finally, I am so proud to announce to have a regional conference in November thanks to hard works from New Zealand and Pacific Island Nations Committees. Please enjoy reading all the exciting news from the region and look forward to meeting you all in Washington.

2. **Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**

1. **2015 World Education Forum in Incheon, Korea 18-22 May, 2015**

   2015 World Education Forum (WEF) has been held in Incheon, Korea from 19th to 22th May. OMEP has been very actively participated in this event. First Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, as a representative of OMEP at the UN Economic and Social Council, was one of the working group members to compose framework for Action 2015-2030 and the WEF 2015 Final Declaration, which has been done during NGO Forum in WEF. Second OMEP’s World President Maggie Koong, Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Eunhye Park and Ingrid participated in the side event of NGO Forum. Third, ARNEC and OMEP participated in the floor discussion in ECCE seminar in WEF.
The WEF 2015 Final Declaration is as below and site’s URL address is as below


As usual, OMEP declared “OMEP 2014 Resolution on the important of Early Childhood as an Unambiguous priority in both policy and practice” in Cork on 5th July 2014. The related contents are as below.

**OMEP has had consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO since its founding in 1948. We, OMEP take pride in our contributions to the creation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).**

**In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, the 66th OMEP World Assembly calls upon the world community and its leaders to make early childhood an unambiguous priority in both policy and practice and to vigorously protect and promote the rights of all young children, their parents, their teachers and caregivers,**
and the institutions that serve them at the local, state, and global levels.

OMEP calls upon the world’s leaders at all levels to first to ensure equal rights to education and care for all children, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable, including those living in conflict areas and refugee situations. Second to enact policies and practices for comprehensive, high quality early childhood education and care. Third to ensure all children’s rights to a childhood that includes play and leisure. Fourth to encourage children’s active participation in matters that concern them and their future.

Also OMEP encourages all efforts to promote Education for Sustainable Development in homes, childcare programs, preschools, schools, universities, and communities to accomplish these goals.

3. Asia Pacific Regional Activity

1. 2014 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development Nagoya, Japan, November 2014

OMEP’s Immediate Past President Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Eunhye Park, and Co-leader of OMEP ESD World Project John Siraj-Blatchford participated in the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which took place from 10-12 November 2014 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. After the conference OMEP called for an action for world’s leaders to initiate Decade of Early Childhood Education.

2. China-Shanghai: ANJI Study Tour 16-19 November, 2014
OMEP’s World President Maggie Koong, Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Dr. Eunhye Park, General Secretary Jessie Wong and Representative at UNESCO Lisbeth Gouin participated in the Shanghai Play Carnival 2014. Maggie and Jessie then visited various kindergartens in cosmopolitan Shanghai and went to rural Anji county to study how children played in different Chinese classrooms and playgrounds.

3. Visitation to OMEP Myanmar, 22-25th December 2014

Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Eunhye Park visited Myanmar OMEP and several sites relevant to ECEC for further collaboration between OMEP AP region and Myanmar. We have visited Yinthway Foundation which is a local non-government organization (LNGO) for children’s development and education in Myanmar, Myanmar Early Childhood Teacher Training Center and also to Yangon University of Education in Myanmar in order to understand better about the current status of ECEC in Myanmar. It was a meaningful experience for further development of OMEP Asia Pacific Region.

4. Hong Kong: World Principal’s Leadership Institute Conference on 25th April 2015

OMEP’s World President Dr. Maggie Koong, Deputy World President Dr. Judith Wagner, World treasurer Prof. Nirmala Rao, Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Dr. Eunhye Park, World General Secretary Dr. Jessie Wong and many early childhood experts gathered in Hong Kong for the World Principal’s Leadership Institute conference organized by Victoria Educational Organisation.
4. Collaboration with ARNEC

1. 2014 ARNEC Conference (Early Childhood Development on the Global Agenda: Building partnerships for Sustainability and Harmony), Manila, Philippines December 2014
   1) The Asia-Pacific Regional ECD Conference took place from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Manila, Philippines. Vice President for Asia Pacific Region, Dr. Eunhye Park participated in the concurrent session 3 in the first day of the conference. The presentation was made in relation to issues and challenges in early childhood education and care workforces, possible collaboration between ARNEC and OMEP Asia Pacific region.
   2) Deligations from OMEP Myanmar National Committee and OMEP Pacific Islands National Committee has participated.

2. Participating in ‘Documentation of Innovative and Effective Pedagogical Approaches and Tools in Early Childhood Care and Education’

   The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office(EAPRO) and Regional Office for South Asia(ROSA), the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood(ARNEC) and the World Organization for Early Childhood Education(OMEP) are going to collaborate on the initiative to document various innovative and effective pedagogical approaches and tools used in diverse pre-primary/ early childhood care and education settings in Asia and the Pacific region in the forms of reports and videos. The purpose of this collaborative research is to
contribute to the improved equity and quality of ECCE in Asia and the Pacific through two lines of action: a) increasing the political commitment of the Asia-Pacific countries to improving the equity and quality of ECCE and b) providing pre-primary teachers and teacher educators access to tools to integrate effective and innovative pedagogies in teaching and learning practices.

Since about 10 innovative and effective pedagogical approaches will be searched within Asia Pacific area, it is recommended to participate actively in the documentation for OMEP member countries.

5. Welcome
   1. Preparatory Committee
      In 2014, we welcome two new preparatory committees to OMEP, which are Myanmar and Pacific Island Nations.
   2. New national presidents of OMEP elected.
      Dr. Eunhye Park was elected as a new national president for the OMEP Korea National Committee. Congratulations!!

6. 2015 World Assembly and Conference of OMEP in Washington
   1. The 67th OMEP World Assembly and International Conference is going to be held at Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, USA from 27th through 31th of July, 2015. The conference theme is ‘Early Childhood Pathways to Sustainability’
   2. Asia Pacific Regional Featured Session will be held and the theme for this year is ‘National Curriculum in Asia Pacific Region’. The purpose of this session is to share basic structure, critical learning areas and pedagogical practices encouraged for teachers to practice in their classrooms in Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand and Korea. It is more than welcome that have all of the national committee members join the featured session and make active discussions regarding this important issue.

7. 2015 Asia Regional Conference in New Zealand
   The 2015 Asia Regional Conference is going to be held at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) in South Auckland, New Zealand on 27th to 29th November 2015. The conference theme is “Connecting the Pacific with Asia – Weaving Links across the Ocean” which highlights shared geographic place in the world and diverse cultural, historical, political and economic contexts and impact on education and care of young children. For more information,
the detailed information is on the world OMEP homepage, the website address is as below.

8. **International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC)**

   Volume 46, Issue 2, August 2014 of IJEC is available at
   [http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/46/2/page/1](http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/46/2/page/1)

   Volume 46, Issue 3, November 2014 of IJEC is available at

   Volume 47, Issue 1, April 2015 of IJEC is available at
   [http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/47/1/page/1](http://link.springer.com/journal/13158/47/1/page/1)

   In the volume 46, issue 2 of IJEC, there are nine original research articles on diverse topics including childhood program assessment instrument utilization (Italy), current perceptions of educational philosophies and practices of kindergarten teachers (China), nature of 3-year-old children’s physical activity levels in childcare settings (Finland), barriers and facilitators in participating in early childhood education and care service (Australia) and effectiveness in Montessori early education (Taiwan).

   Volume 46, issue 3 of IJEC dealt a special issue on the negotiations of gender in early childhood settings. This special issue focuses on how representations of gender are performed/constructed in different national contexts and in different early childhood settings, authors from Sweden, Australia, Japan and Estonia. The research reported in this issue not only points at differences in gender negotiations across global contexts but also indicates similarities across contexts.

   In volume 47, issue 1 of IJEC, authors from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden, USA represented the national contexts and raised important and actual questions connected to children’s existence and identity.