



# Conference Report

## World Forum on Early Care and Education Athens, Greece

April 24 - 27, 2001



*"After our golden days together, I can now say that I have been around the world in three days — three days that will stay in my mind and my heart forever."*

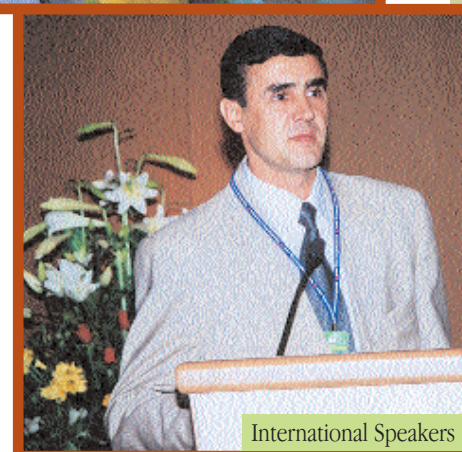
Maha Taibah, Saudi Arabia

*"It has been truly inspirational — a melting pot of practitioners, trainers, researchers, advocates, policymakers, and of course, dreamers!"*

Patricia Teh, Malaysia



Center Visits



International Speakers

The 2001 World Forum on Early Care and Education was indeed a memorable and inspiring event. Over 500 delegates from 80 nations gathered in Athens, Greece, in April for this, the third World Forum organized by *Child Care Information Exchange*. Locally, the World Forum was co-hosted by the Greek Association of Owners of Private Early Childcare Centres and the Greek Chapter of OMEP.

One factor in the great success of the World Forum was the broad range of issues addressed and the great diversity of perspectives from which these issues were discussed. As you can see from the list of sessions following, over 150 early childhood professionals from 70 nations shared their insights.

A second important factor was the community spirit that developed over the course of the Forum. Delegates mingled and shared ideas, not only in sessions, but also in discussion groups, luncheons, receptions, and thousands of informal conversations. Friendships developed as delegates toured centers in Athens, danced to music from around the world, worked on an art project, observed the children's art exhibit, and took walking tours of Athens.

The text of selected speeches made at the 2001 World Forum can be found on our web site, [www.ChildCareExchange.com](http://www.ChildCareExchange.com).

# The 2001 Program

**Reflections on the World Forum** – Unaisi Vasu Tuivaga, Fiji Islands. **Our Dreams for the Children** – Ilse Elisabeth Plattner, Namibia; Roberto Barocio Quijano, México; Dina Aidzhanova, Kazakhstan. **Nutrition, Poverty, Health** – Joseph Hunt, Philippines; Ibod Sharifi, Tajikistan; Moderator: Amelia Gambetti, Italy. **What Is Peace?** – Lourdes Quisumbing, Philippines; Moderator: Lily Rodgrio-Canlas, Philippines; Discussion Moderator: Leo Prendergast. **Teamwork** – Chantal Duerinckx, Tasmania, Australia; Annette Heng, United States;

Rabiatul-Adawiah, Singapore; George Stathopoulos with Emily Koulouvaris, Greece; Adam Shaw, United Kingdom; Moderator: Tere Holmes, United States. **Creative Dramatics** – Olga Sidlovskaya, Russia; Alkistis Kondoyianni, Greece; Vishaka Subodh Deshpande, India; Moderator: Phyllis Weikart, United States. **International Organizations Showcase** – UNESCO, Yoshie Kaga, Japan; International Step by Step Association, Cornelia Cincilei, Republic of Moldova; UNICEF, Margaret Akinware, Nigeria; OMEP, Elena Markeviciene, Lithuania;

Turkey; Moderator: Kay Albrecht, United States. **Financing Child Care Programs in Developing Nations** – Rosamunde Renard, West Indies; Unaisi Vasu Tuivaga, Fiji Islands; Caius Brandão, Brazil; Abhiyan Jung Rana, Nepal; Moderator: Radziah M. Daud, Malaysia. **Becoming and Being a Leader in Times of Change** – Nadine McCrea, Australia; Roberto Barocio Quijano, Ivan Galindo Herrera, México; Moderator: Selena Rolfe, New Zealand. **Developing Early Literacy** – Yoshie Kaga, Japan; Judith Loh, Malaysia; Sue Hobbs, Australia; Moderator: Leah Curry-Rood, United States. **Peer Group Discussions** – Facilitated by:

*“It was truly a life-changing event for me. Each time I reflect on the experience, another beautiful image emerges. These images will fill my mind, heart, and spirit until next year in Auckland when I will surely be inspired once again.” Ellen Hall, United States*



Artistic Presentations



Moderator: Sue Farmer, Australia. **Comparison of Official Curricula** – Maria Victoria Peralta Espinosa, Chile; Ksenija Bregar, Slovenia; Seham Alsuaigh, Saudi Arabia; Moderator: Margaret Akinware, Nigeria. **National Perspectives on Early Care and Education** – Janja Cotic, Slovenia; Gudrun Alda Hardardottir, Kristin Dyrfjörð, Iceland; Larry Railton, Canada; Moderator: Yasmina Vinci, United States. **How to Run a Child Care Business** –

Asia Development Bank, Joseph Hunt, Philippines; Consultative Group, Nilgun Aydogan, Turkey; Christian Children’s Fund, Stephen Lenaiyasa, Kenya; International Child Resource Institute, Ken Jaffe, United States; Moderators: Shamani-Jeffrey Shikwambi, Namibia; Abhiyan Jung Rana, Nepal. **The Role of Curriculum in Teacher Education** – Diane Dodge, United States; Vera Krejcova, Czech Republic; Elsie Doliopoulou, Greece; Moderator: Bess Kypros, United States. **How to Create Nurturing Interactions with Infants and Toddlers, Parents, and Staff** – Pam Wilder, United States; Ebru Aktar Kerem,

Ken Jaffe, United States; Yasmina Vinci, United States; Angelo Ferrario, United States; Deborah Teh, Australia; Bonnie Storm, United States; Edna Ranck, United States; Carole Logie, Trinidad; Mark Ginsberg, United States; Karen King, United States; Barnabas Otaala, Namibia. **The Impact of Violence on Children** – Ali Nashat Shaar, Palestine; Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Northern Ireland; Alan Cohen, Israel; Duane Dennis, United States; Moderator: Magela Guimaraes, Uruguay; Discussion

Moderator Sharon Lynn Kagan, United States. *Advocating for Young Children* – Carole Logie, West Indies; Carol Allen, Australia; Moderator: Ken Jaffe, United States. *Establishing a*

United States; Pat Tarr, Canada; Moderator: Kevin Carnes, United States. *Developing On-line Learning Communities* – Chip Donohue,

Zealand; Moderator: Evelyn Wajcer, Canada. *Media Culture and Media Violence* – Wayne Eastman, Canada; Kishor Shrestha, Nepal; Diane Levin, United States. *Training and Motivation*

“It was great pleasure for me to participate in the World Forum and make a real contact, friends with colleagues from all over the world, to represent my country and our program.” Enkhbaatar Demchig, Mongolia



Informal Discussions

*Dialogue with the Reggio Approach* – Ellen Hall, United States; Amelia Gambetti, Italy; Moderator: Paola Ricc6, Italy. *IEA Preprimary Project Update* – David Weikart, United States; Reaction Panel: Leonard Saul, South Africa; Nancy Simon, Malaysia; Moderator: Peter Fitzsimmons, New Zealand. *Parent and School Collaborations* – Kathy Thornburg, United States; Heather Conroy, Australia; Ruzanna Tsarukyan, Armenia; Ulviya Mikailova, Azerbaijan; Moderator: Eteri Gvineria, Georgia. *Art* – Katherina Danko-McGhee,



Community Art Project

United States; Satoshi Yamamura, Japan; Moderator: Bonnie Storm, United States. *Indicators of Quality* – Barnabas Otaala, Namibia; Jacqueline Hayden, Australia; Karen Walker, United Kingdom; Moderator: Susan Whitaker, Australia. *Countries in Transition* – Cornelia Cincilei, Moldova; Rosline Sandai, Malaysia; Milena Milhajlovic, Yugoslavia; Moderator: Pam Wilder, United States. *Employer Supports for Families* – Martina Murphy, Ireland; Roni Lior, Israel; Lindsay-Rae McIntyre, United States; Moderator: Helle Niit, Estonia. *Research and Reality: How and Why Children Learn* – Amelia Gambetti, Italy; Barbara Jordan, New

*of Staff* – Julia Rowland, Australia; Vijaya Murthy, India; Margarita Gutiérrez Talamás, México; Moderator: Charlotte Hollarn, United States. *High Quality Programs in Difficult Situations* – Konsul Peter Hesse, Germany; Agatha Thapa, Nepal; Moderator: Nadine McCrea, Australia. *Parent Education* – Amara Amarasinghe, Sri Lanka; Sarnia Butler, New Zealand; Anna Lambini, Greece; Janis Paterson, New Zealand; Maria



Networking

Kostantopoulou, Greece; Moderator: Roslyn Duffy, United States. *Stimulating, Respectful, and Creative Spaces for Children’s Well-Being and Development* – Roxana Salazar, Bolivia; Lella Gandini, Italy; Suzana Kirandziska, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Moderator: Ken Jaffe, United States. *Program Showcase* – Kristine Liepina, Latvia; Regina Rimkiene, Lithuania; Sasa Milic, Montenegro; Sanja Handzar, Bosnia; Moonja Oh, Korea; Deborah Teh, Leo



Plenary Sessions

Prendergast, Laurie Tabart, Australia; Lily Rodrigo-Canlas, Preciosa Soliven, Philippines; Yvonne Soderlund, Ulrica Ericson, Yvonne Holmgren, Sweden; Rosario Villasana-Ruiz, United States; Pam Wilder, United States; Natalia Federova, Brazil; Evelyn Margron, Haiti; Moderator: Michael Kalinowski, United States. **The Future of Child Care** – Roger Brown, Judith Rogala, United States; Rosemary Murphy, United Kingdom; Antoinette Le Marchant, Australia; Moderator: David Gleason, United States. **Creative**

**Ways Young Children with Disabilities Can Participate and Learn** – Kirsten Haugen, United States; Natalia Sofiy, Ukraine; Moderator: Sue Begg, Australia. **Is Quality and Accreditation Global?** – Lily Wong, Singapore; Mark Ginsberg, United States; Moderator: Wanda Newell, United States. **Grass-roots Participation in Early Childhood Education** – Diane Adams, United States; Margaret Kabiru, Kenya; Andrew Ikupu, Papua New Guinea; Moderator: Nilgun Aydogan, Turkey.



**Understanding the Value of Play** – Dimitar Dimitrov, Bulgaria; Diane Levin, United States; Elena Sonnikova, Russia; Moderator: Magela Guimaraes, Uruguay. **Keeping the Faith: Hope in the Face of Realities** – Valora Washington, United States.

*“These were exciting days as well as a very fruitful time in a professional sense. And so many interesting and extraordinary people that I met, so many fresh ideas!”*  
*Elena Markeviciene, Lithuania*



Folk Dancing



Children's Art Exhibit



We invite you to join us next year, April 9 - 12, 2002, in Auckland, New Zealand.

## World Forum 2001 Sponsors

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