



*I learned, laughed, and made new friends and commitments to work harder with the children we assist. Virginia Vargas, México*

## Program and Participants

The fifth World Forum on Early Care and Education took place May 13-16, 2003, in Acapulco, México, with the largest attendance of any World Forum . . .

- Over 670 delegates from 73 nations registered for the World Forum. Unfortunately, 36 delegates from 18 nations were denied entry visas by the Mexican government. Nations excluded were Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Krygyzstan, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zambia.
- Most delegates were center directors, NGO leaders, and trainers. However, this year the Forum was enriched by the active participation of the Mayor of Bogota, Colombia, and the Ministers of Education from Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, and Singapore.
- Delegates participated in over 60 plenaries and workshops on such varied topics as leadership, advocacy, HIV/AIDS, media violence, infant/toddler care, managing creativ-



ity, staff development, curriculum models, indicators of quality, and worldwide early childhood trends.

## First Hand in Cuernavaca, México

First Hand in México provided guests the opportunity to experience Mexican education, hospitality, culture and community during our two day visit. Lourdes Aguilar and the hosts schools gave us tours to various public and private schools in the area. On May 9, 2003 we were given the special treat of visiting schools the day before Mother's Day. This allowed us to see how the Mexican children and community honor mothers with music, dance, flowers, stories, and celebrations! A special treat during our exchange was that we had a private meeting with the Mayor of Cuernavaca. Gloria Guzman, from California, was extremely helpful as translator for the English speaking guests and provided us with valuable insight into the history and culture of our Mexican friends.

Report by Karen King





## Bookstore

As in previous years the World Forum Bookstore was an outstanding success. The Bookstore was once again managed by The Book Garden from Australia that displayed and sold a broad range of appropriate resources with expert advice provided by Carmel Kenner and Deborah Zavelsky. This

year we were delighted to share our space with a major Mexican publisher, Editorial Trillas, that sold a wide range of Spanish language teacher resources. With the Bookstore centrally located, it again proved to be an ideal meeting place for delegates.

Report by Rodney Kenner



## First Hand in Los Angeles

East meets West and North meets South!

Delegates from Malaysia and Australia came together to meet up with and visit Californian early childhood colleagues in their programs and to share their international early childhood experience with their hosts. The two-day event was packed with international flavours of early childhood sharing, learning, and networking. Delegates' days were filled meeting children, parents, and US colleagues. New programs were encountered, talking and sharing time abounded, resources were shared and a wealth of experience and knowledge exchanged — all from a "First Hand" opportunity. We look forward to ongoing international professional relationships and personal friendships, until we meet again.

Report by Selena Fox

## EC eTeaching Institute

The second annual EC eTeaching Institute was held in Acapulco, México during the three days prior to the World Forum. Twenty-three participants and presenters from five countries and 11 states gathered to explore effective strategies and promising practice in teaching and learning online for early childhood professionals. A spirit of collaboration in a community of learners described the Institute experience including virtual field trips into each other's online courses and training resources, a discussion with Project CONTACT researchers in North Carolina, and the Time Out! discussion forum with online teachers and learners from across the United States, hosted at the Center for Early Childhood Leadership in Illinois. It really is a small world, after all!

Report by Chip Donohue

## National Representatives

The global network of World Forum National Representatives, a community brought together through computers, e-mail, and the Internet, came together excitedly for the first time — eyes putting faces to names and e-mail addresses at the fifth World Forum on Early Care and Education.

World Forum National Representatives are nominated voices for the World Forum in their nations. These committed World Forum delegates take on to share the news of the World Forum within their countries to colleagues. Their roles encompass distributing World Forum materials, encouraging other colleagues to be a part of the World Forum, guiding the World Forum on their nations' early childhood endeavours so the World Forum, in turn, is able to support them. Now these people are close colleagues bound together the world over, by a common cause, to share, to communicate, to advocate, and to make a difference in their nations with the support of the World Forum.

Report by Selena Fox



## Academic Credit

### Participants Take Home More Than Memories

Students who signed up for academic credit for their participation in the World Forum took home enhanced professional credentials in addition to warm memories. Three prestigious universities (Muskingum College, National Louis University, and University of New England [Australia]), offered credit. Faculty included Rhonda Forrest, Ph.D., Rolf Schmitz, Ph.D., and Kay Albrecht, Ph.D.

*I cannot tell you how inspiring this entire experience has been for me, and what doors it has opened already.*

Kathleen Seabolt, 2003 student

Report by Kay Albrecht

## Community Project

The Community Project was once again a relaxing and fun addition to the World Forum. The annual project sponsored by Lakeshore Learning Materials provides a wonderful opportunity for attendees from around the world to sit down

together and to take a constructive break from the rigors of the sessions. This year we sat down to create an international assortment of People Color paper dolls which were decorated in an array of beautiful and creative ways. The finished products

lined the hallways hand in hand symbolizing the coming together of people throughout the world for a common goal. Each year we notice that the community project, whether it's making quilt squares, puzzle pieces, or picture frames, gives valuable and memorable moments for the movers and shakers from the world of early education to get together and make meaningful contacts, while doing something very simple . . . a world community art project.

## Community Art Gallery

The community art gallery was once again one of the things that makes the Forum such a special event. Started three years ago in Athens, the gallery grows each year. Participants bring artwork from the children of their country that fills the hallways of the World Forum meeting areas. Bright colors and imaginations from children around the world add a special touch and acts as a focal point at the conference.

Report by Kevin and Julie Carnes



## Center Tours

On the opening day of the World Forum 160 delegates paid visits to 18 varied early childhood programs in Acapulco. The tour was organized by Guadalupe Navarro

from Editorial Trillas. Centers visited included:

- Colegio Simon Bolivar
- Jardin de Ninos, "Estefania Castaneda y Nuñez"
- Jardin de Ninos, "Rosaura Zapata"
- Jardin de Ninos, "Amado Nerovo"
- Colegio Español "Juan Ruiz de Alarcon"
- Montessori Kinder House
- Montessori Elementary School
- Estancia de Bienestar y Desarrollo Infantil #9
- Instituto "Guajardo"
- Jardin de Niños "McGregor"
- Jardin de Niños "Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon"
- Colegio La Paz
- Colegio "Viena"
- Escuela Primaria Indigena Emperador Cuauhtemoc
- Emperador Cuauhtemoc Indigenous Primary School
- Colegio Nautilus
- Jardin de Niños "Jean Piaget"
- Centro de Desarrollo Infantil #2 (CENDI)  
"Solidaridad" Child Care





## **World Forum Sponsors**

Once again a great group of sponsors made significant contributions to the World Forum Fellowship Fund, making it possible for early childhood leaders from 35 nations to attend the World Forum. This year's sponsors included:

### **World Forum Leadership Circle**

- Community Playthings
- JohnsonDiversey
- Lakeshore Learning Materials

### **World Forum Champion**

- Editorial Trillas

### **World Forum Benefactor**

- High/Scope Educational Research Foundation
- IBM Corporation
- Johnson & Johnson
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### **World Forum Donor**

- Bright Horizons Family Solutions
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### **World Forum Friend**

- Children's Creative Learning Centers
- Kalsamcare Consultants
- School-Age NOTES
- Stepping Stones Children's Centres
- Teaching Strategies, Inc.



## **International Organizing Committee**

On Thursday night members of the International Organizing Committee met to discuss future plans for the World Forum. At the conclusion of the meeting, the following IOC members whose terms were expiring were thanked for their contributions: Barnabas Otaala from Namibia, Vijaya Murthy from India, Causis Brandão from Brazil, Ken Jaffe from the United States, Lily Rodrigo-Canlas from the Philippines, and Selena Fox from New Zealand.



*The Forum is one of those authentic, spell-binding events that helps all lovers of children live in hope.*

Joseph Hunt, Philippines