

World Forum AT WORK

World Forum Travels to Fiji

Late October 2007 the World Forum traveled to Auckland to make plans for the Working Forum for Teacher Educators (see page 81) and then on to Fiji to meet World Forum friends there and learn about their work.

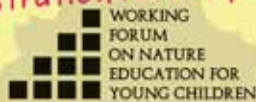
The warmest of welcomes was extended by Unaisi Vasu Tuivaga, WF National Representative; Ruci Kididromo, WF International Organizing Committee; Ufemia Camaitoga, Working Forum on Nature Education; Ledua Cava and Indra Singh, Global Leaders for Young Children; and World Forum attendees Purnima Chandra, and Glen Palmer, as well as Adi Davila Toganivalu, Mohammed Rasheed, Sangeeta Prasad, Nalini Kumar, Sereima Bogitini, and others.

The World Forum was honored at Saunaka Village with a special Fijian ceremony of welcome, speeches, music, food, conversation, and dancing. Andrews Primary School and Kindergarten, Nadi Methodist Kindergarten, Saunaka Kindergarten, Nadi Airport Playcentre and Namaka Methodist Kindergarten were among the pre-schools visited. Meetings with members of the Fiji Early Childhood Association and a day at Lautoka Teachers College, talking about World Forum initiatives, and meeting ECE students were highlights.

Learning about work on the national curriculum, work happening within programs, and teacher training initiatives was valuable dialogue for all. The work of the World Forum has impacted what is happening in Fiji, just as these remarkable advocates have made such a difference to the World Forum through their support and participation. We anticipate the collaborations ahead.



Registration Now Open!



**Nature Action Collaborative
for Children**

July 21 – 23, 2008

Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska, USA

www.worldforumfoundation.org/nature

Registration Open!



**Working Forum
for Teacher Educators**

April 30 to May 2, 2008

Auckland, New Zealand

www.worldforumfoundation.org/educators

Registration
Now Open!



**Working Forum on Men
in Early Childhood Education**

May 20 – 23, 2008

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

www.worldforumfoundation.org/MECE



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World Forum Foundation Leads European Study Tour

The World Forum Foundation, in partnership with the Economic Opportunities Institute, recently led a delegation of politicians, business leaders, and educators from the State of Washington on a study tour of early childhood practices in the United Kingdom and Finland in October 2007. The purpose of the tour, funded by the Gates Foundation, was to inform a new initiative to upgrade early childhood services in Washington state. The group took back these impressions from the tour . . .

One Size Fits All — The United States child care non-system consists of a patchwork of a myriad of programs, projects, and funds. The Finnish early childhood system is designed for all families (and the UK system is moving in this direction). All families, regardless of income level, are entitled to the same services: low-income families receive services free, all others pay on a sliding fee basis.

Home Sweet Home — The Finnish and British social welfare systems are designed to have children cared for by their parents at home during infancy. In Finland, a combination of maternity, paternity, and parental leave guarantees paid parental care for children through their first year of life — and up to three years of unpaid leave with guaranteed job security.

Teaching As a Profession — A fundamental concept in the UK and Finland is that for early childhood services to be effective, the early childhood workforce needs to be structured at a professional level. Much emphasis is given to professional pay and professional training for all workers.

Play's the Thing — Brits and Finns see no need to rush academics. In Finland, for example, formal schooling begins at age seven. Until then, early childhood experiences are play based. Does this mean lower academic results? Not at all. By age 12, Finnish children outperform children in all other industrialized countries in reading, math, and science skills.