



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.® Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead



May 15 – 18, 2007
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia





The World Forum on Early Care and Education gathered advocates for young children and their families from around the world 1999 to 2003 in Honolulu, Singapore, Athens, Auckland, and Acapulco. The community was incubating: learning from and about each other, enjoying culture and diversity, sharing mission. During the World Forum in Montreal in 2005, the World Forum community began to see possibilities and make plans. In Malaysia at World Forum 2007, the community got to work.

As you will see in the images and stories on these pages, the work of the World Forum is happening all the time, all around the world through Working Forums and Working Projects. This work reflects the particular missions and interests of participants. We invite everyone to participate in this work by contributing to a project that is already in place or by creating a new project. Please visit www.WorldForumFoundation.org to learn more about the World Forum at work.



HIV/AIDS and Young Children Action Tank

Connected grassroots action to systemic change

"This 18-month old boy, he was supposed to be getting bigger, but he was getting smaller" . . . one of the participants in the HIV/AIDS and Young Children Action Tank described one of the many children affected by the pandemic who are among the children and caregivers that her grassroots action program was trying to help. At the meeting, grassroots activists from six continents and 18 countries described their work and explored practices and strategies for community mobilization and rebuilding that are focused on the principles of healthy early childhood development. Consistent themes emerged. They included the enormity of the orphaned and vulnerable children problem with the grandparents and older children as the remaining caregivers; the serious need for policies and funding, which support scaling of effective practices; and the concern that grassroots voices and experiences are not considered in the design and implementation of funding and policies.

The Action Tank will continue as a global network dedicated to connecting grassroots action to successfully mobilize communities devastated by HIV/AIDS through the principles and practices of early childhood development. To join colleagues from around the world and learn more about the work of Action Tank participants, please visit www.WorldForumAIDSproject.org



The Global Leaders for Young Children Project Grows

"Every little act I do is a drop in the ocean of childhood, and if my drop is missing, the ocean will be less."
Global Leader, 2007

The Global Leaders for Young Children project celebrated a new milestone at the World Forum in Kuala Lumpur as a new class of 36 leaders from 25 countries joined the movement to become more effective change agents on behalf of young children and families at home and around the world. Two days of meetings prior to the World Forum included presentations on the status of young children around the world and resources to make the case for early investments. Small group discussions focused on advocacy



strategies, leadership, and quality issues. All participants are planning special advocacy projects to be carried out during the course of the program. As one participant put it:

"This will keep the visibility of ECD growing as we take the experience and activities back home."
The next meeting will be held at the International Step by Step Conference in Budapest in October 2008.

The number and diversity of partnering organizations reflect the vote of confidence the project has received as it continues to encourage advocacy for early childhood development. Along with IBM Global Work/Life Fund, sponsoring organizations now include the Arab Resource Collective, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, the Christian Children's Fund, Community Playthings, Creative Children's Learning Centers, International Child Resource Institute, International Step by Step Association, NAECCEM, Pacific Preschool Council, Plan International, and Save the Children.

For more information:
www.WorldForumFoundation.org/Leaders

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing





Peace Building with Young Children

International Working Group on Peace Building with Young Children is a global initiative by early childhood practitioners, researchers, and civil society organizations, initiated by World Forum Foundation in collaboration with NIPPA – The Early Years Organisation, to make visible the role of early childhood development as a force for reconciliation and peace building in regions experiencing or emerging from armed conflict.

We are committed to be a meeting place for early childhood development activists with an interest in building networks of knowledge, support, and advocacy for early childhood practice and policies in regions experiencing or emerging from armed conflict. Our goals include: transformation, breaking through silences, reconciliation, healing, and building capacity. Ongoing work will focus on information dissemination, sustained linkages, advocacy, mobilization, and programmatic development.

During World Forum 2007, we were proud to launch our first publication, *From Conflict to Peace Building: The Power of Early Childhood Initiatives – Lessons from Around the World*. For more information on this book, please visit www.ChildCareExchange.com

To participate in this work, please visit www.PeaceBuildingWithYoungChildren.org



because he could do only a little. Edmund Burke



You don't have to reinvent the wheel; you just have



Working Forum on Men in Early Care and Education (MECE) Leadership Team Planning Event

The Working Forum (WF) on Men in Early Childhood Education (MECE) reflects the global surge of interest in changing roles for men and women in the care and education of young children. MECE WFH 2008 creates a global meeting place where women and men from many cultures and nations will reflect on the value of gender balance in ECE, the benefits and barriers to men's full participation, and identification of actions to promote this important issue worldwide. We have come such a long way in the two years since the Men in the Lives of Young Children session generated "a great deal of interest" among delegates to the 2005 World Forum in Montreal. When an early attempt to assemble a WF MECE in 2006 fell through, representatives of the World Forum Foundation, MenTeach.org, and the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) stretched out our timeline and initiated a series of events to build momentum toward holding the WF MECE in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2008.

Articles on men in early care and education (ECE) and promotions for the WF MECE 2008 appeared in the pages of *Exchange* magazine in 2005 and early 2006; a United States all-day symposium on "Men in the Lives of Young Children" took place in the Fall of 2006 in collaboration with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Men in Education Network (M.E.N.) Interest Forum; and in early 2007, the World Forum Foundation took up the WF MECE as an ongoing Working Forum project.

For more information: www.WorldForumFoundation.org/MECE



to get connected. Tony Meloto, Gawad Kalinga



EC eTeaching Symposium 2007: Extending Early Education with Technology

In the two days prior to the World Forum, Chip Donohue and Selena Fox hosted the *EC eTeaching Symposium 2007: Extending Early Education with Technology*. The Symposium brought together distance learning leaders from 13 countries to address the opportunities and challenges in supporting early childhood education with technology. Participants shared promising practices and resources with each other through presentations and virtual tours from the perspective of the learner, the teacher, and the organization, based on the New Zealand *eLearning Guidelines* framework.

Lydia Foong from Segi College in Malaysia captured the feelings of the Symposium participants best when she said of online learning, *"It's virtual, but it's so real and concrete. It's distance, but so close."*

The world of early childhood care and education is literally at our fingertips when we use technology tools to link us to information, resources, and our worldwide network of colleagues. Following the World Forum Symposium, participants will continue to exchange ideas and share resources in the eCommunity.

To view the program profiles, participant roster, New Zealand *eLearning Guidelines* and other resources for effective practices in eTeaching and eLearning, visit www.worldforumfoundation.org/ECeTeaching



Nature Action Collaborative for Children

Throughout the Forum, the enthusiasm of the NACC Leadership Team was contagious. Friendships were formed or strengthened, new understandings of the work of each of the three professions (environmental groups, landscape architects, and educators) were developed, and passion and commitment for our mutual work was deepened. Leaders have pledged to spread the word in their own countries, to share ideas and information about ongoing work with the other members of the Leadership Team, and to continually invite others to join the widening circle. Work to be completed soon includes:

- Develop Nature Action Collaboration section on World Forum web site.
- Create information brochure about NACC for download and distribution.
- Strategize possibilities about NACC GLocal Leaders initiative.

This quote from Enos A. Mills perhaps sums up one of the dreams of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children: *"It may be that some time an immortal pine will be the flag of a united and peaceful world."* We all left the Forum more convinced than ever that each child needs a chance daily to be reminded of how our connection with the natural world unites us as human beings, provides us with ongoing joy and wonder, and reassures us that no matter what challenges we face, beauty and goodness will always endure.

For more information:
www.WorldForumFoundation.org/nature