

- 1 Welcome to the New e-Bulletin
- 1 Educateurs sans Frontières
- 1 Welcome to New Board Members
- 2 AMI Launches New Strategic Plan
- 2 26th International Montessori Congress
- 4 2008 Biennale on Education in Africa
- 4 Yes Minister
- 4 AMI Membership Renewal

EsF UPDATE:

In response to many requests, we are delighted to inform you that the EsF assembly (August 1-23) is now also opening its 'doors' to participants who are unable to come for the full three weeks. Registrations will be accepted per week (arrival August 1, or 8, or 15).

With host lecturers Renilde Montessori, Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, Silvia C. Dubovoy and an interesting line-up of international speakers on social themes this should be a wonderful opportunity to enrich your understanding of Montessori philosophy and her commitment to "empowering" the children of this world.

Welcome to the New e-Bulletin

We keep on trying to improve our lines of communications with you, our membership. In order to ensure that news reaches you expediently and swiftly, we are migrating the AMI bulletin to a digital version.

We will be talking to you more often, in shorter editions! We will keep on refining the look and the user friendliness of this e-Bulletin. Your feedback will be most welcome. Please contact us at publications@montessori-ami.org.

We realize that at the "birth" of this e-Bulletin, we will probably not yet be able to reach all of our members - simply because we do not have their email details ready to hand. Please send on this message to colleagues and friends, asking them to let us know where they can be reached by email, so we can step up our communications with all our constituents.

Educateurs sans Frontières

The much awaited third Assembly of Educateurs sans Frontières (EsF) will be held in Girona, Spain, from 1 August - 23 August, 2008. The three-week programme is open to AMI diploma holders at all levels of training.

AMI established the Educateurs sans Frontières (Educators without Borders) to champion the cause of all children and to revisit Montessori principles and practices from the perspective of society at large. When Montessori principles are applied in the wider context of society, their possibilities are vast and all-encompassing. They can be of incalculable help to parents, social workers, child-care workers, family counsellors, in short, to any person involved with the developing human being; they can be, and have been applied with children undergoing lengthy hospitalisation, maladjusted children,

physically impaired children, children victims of violence, children abandoned, children at risk.



An application form can be downloaded from AMI's website at www.montessori-ami.org.

In view of the limited number of places available (35) applications will be dealt with on first come first served basis!

Participants of past EsF Assemblies can join the third week of the 2008 Assembly if they wish. Please contact educateurs@montessori-ami.org for details.

Applications close in two weeks. Please submit your application as soon as possible.

Welcome to New Board Members

We are pleased announce that four new members have been elected to the Board of AMI. We welcome Maria Teresa Vidales, Kamini Sundaram, Peter Davidson and Mary Caroline Parker. (Kamini, Peter and Mary Caroline are pictured right with AMI President, André Roberfroid.)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing board members for their contribution to AMI: Felix Bednarski, Takako Fukatsu, Alexander Henny, Rinze Hoekstra, Harald Ludwig and Ulla Wikefeldt.



AMI Launches New Strategic Plan

In recent years AMI has been undergoing a strategic planning process looking to the future of the Montessori Movement and a more proactive role in championing the cause of all children.

During its recent annual meetings AMI adopted its new strategic plan. Following are the Mission, Vision and Goals of AMI as articulated by the strategic plan.

Mission

The mission of the Association Montessori Internationale is to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity enabling children to become the transforming elements leading to a harmonious and peaceful world.

Vision

AMI will be recognised internationally as an authoritative voice regarding the unique nature of childhood, natural human development and the rights of the child:

- informed via Montessori philosophy and pedagogy; and
- evidenced via well-established examples of Montessori practice and training internationally.

AMI will be identified and sought after nationally and internationally as the custodian and cultivator of Montessori philosophy and pedagogy.

AMI will be invited to assist international and national humanitarian and government authorities in addressing social and educational problem situations where positive change can be effected through the education of children.

Goals

To propagate and develop wider and deeper knowledge and understanding of Dr Montessori's pedagogy and programs for human development.

To establish an effective and supportive culture, organisation and management structure for advancement of the worldwide AMI Montessori movement.

To nurture the growth, retention and welfare of AMI's professional body of qualified Montessori Teachers and Teacher Trainers.

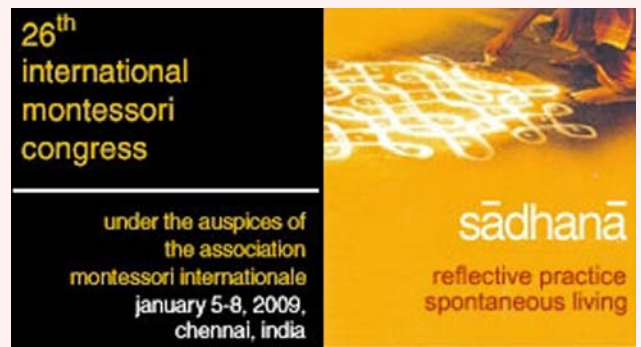
To establish and promote an identifiable presence for AMI as the embodiment of quality Montessori standards and expression.

To establish an effective funds development program.

To engage in and to support advocacy on behalf of all children.

To build the resources and capacity to support significant outreach initiatives on behalf of AMI.

To increase access to the benefits of Montessori education for significantly larger numbers of children globally.



International Montessori Congress

5-8 January 2009, Chennai, India

Congress Theme

Sādhanā - the mind and body coming together to perform complex multi-level tasks, initially with awareness but eventually lived, and carried out without effort; mindful action; conscious practice within and without; effective communication through example; a caring demonstration; good work done well with internal guidance; inner and outer accomplishment; a quest for perfection; an act of self mastery; achievement through self control; being in the moment; touching the human spirit; a disciplined state of inner harmony.

Congress Venue

Kalakshetra Foundation, Thiruvannamur, Chennai, India

Kalakshetra literally means a holy place of the arts (Kala: Arts, Kshetra: Field or Holy place). Deriving inspiration from this ideal, Kalakshetra was established in 1936 by Rukmini Devi, "with the sole purpose of resuscitating in modern India recognition of the priceless artistic traditions of our country and of imparting to the young the true spirit of Art, devoid of vulgarity and commercialism."

Rukmini Devi was instrumental in bringing the Montessori movement to India when she and her husband Dr G.S. Arundale (President of the Theosophical Society, Adayar, at that time) invited Dr Montessori to Chennai in 1939. This led to Dr Montessori's ten-year stay in India, during which time she conducted sixteen courses.

Located in a seaside setting in southern Chennai, Kalakshetra, with its emphasis on self-awareness and quest for perfection in artistic expression, complements perfectly the theme of Sādhanā. Its 100-acre campus includes a music and dance institute, two high schools, student hostels, many thatched classrooms and public performing spaces, both indoor and outdoor.

Congress Programme

Mornings

Delegates may choose to arrive at Kalakshetra before breakfast* where traditional, cooked Indian breakfast will be served in the sylvan setting of the Kalakshetra campus. After breakfast, delegates could walk through the campus or reflect quietly before taking their place in their seating area. The sessions for the day will unfold as per the outline indicated below.

Plenary Sessions

During each session, in addition to having guest speakers address the delegates, there will also be presentations that augment the topic under discussion.

Breakout Sessions

Each delegate may choose to join any of the various breakout groups. These breakout groups are intended to operate/function at four levels:

Observation

Delegates may choose to view various demonstrations by skilled practitioners to give a glimpse of Sādhanā in daily life.

Participation

Art forms and skilled everyday activities will provide an experience of the traditions from the past, still alive today. At these sessions, delegates may choose to participate in drawing of kolams (decorative floor patterns), stringing flower garlands, preparing food, spinning and weaving, kite-making and so on.

Reflection

Readings from texts which highlight Sādhanā and reverberate with the theme of the Congress and subsequent discussions will be led by group leaders. The readings will encompass the works of educationists and social reformers from the past and the present.

Panel Discussions

This will be an opportunity to meet experts and discuss matters of relevance to education and society today. The panelists will be eminent educators, AMI teachers and trainers and experienced professionals from various fields. The details related to specific breakout sessions will be intimated to you as the experts confirm their participation.

End of the Day

At the end of the day's plenary sessions, participants will be served dinner at Kalakshetra and treated to a variety of cultural programmes at the Kalakshetra Auditorium.

Congress Speakers

Dr Krishna Kumar, Director, NCERT, National Council of Educational Research and Training, India

Dr Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, AMI 0-3 Trainer, Italy

Ms Lynne Lawrence, AMI 3-6 Trainer, Maria Montessori Institute, UK

Ms Judi Orion, AMI 0-3 Trainer, The Montessori Institute, USA

Smt Jaya Row, Founder, Vedanta Vision, India

Mr David Kahn, Executive Director, North American Montessori Teachers' Association, USA

Ms Sandra Giralto, AMI 3-6 Trainer, Foundation for Montessori Education, Canada

Ms Irene Fafalios, AMI Diploma for three age levels – 0-3, 3-6, 6-12, AMI Lecturer, Greece

Ms Baiba Krumins Grazzini, AMI 6-12 Trainer, Fondazione Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani, Italy

Dr Mrityunjaya Athreya, Chairman of the Sri Sringeri Institute of Management, India

* Participants availing of accommodation options as a part of their Congress registration package would have breakfast included as a part of their hotel package. Based on their personal preferences, they may either choose to have their breakfast at the hotel or at Kalakshetra.

3

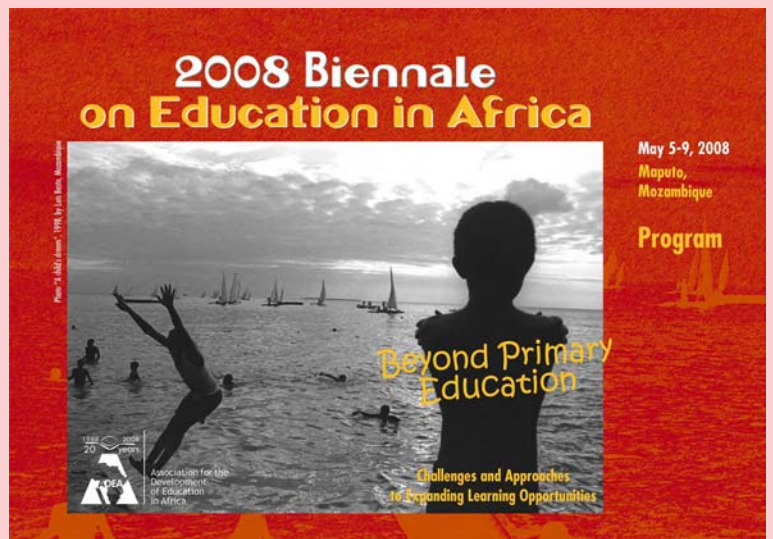
Online Registration Now Open

www.montessoricongress.com



AMI President to attend 2008 Biennale on Education in Africa

We are proud that André Roberfroid, AMI President, has been invited to attend the Biennale on Education in Africa, the most important educational event in the region, in terms of both participation and content of the discussions, bringing together in a single venue all the stakeholders working on behalf of education in Africa. The meeting is attended by ministers of education and training of all countries in Africa, senior representatives of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, academics and practitioners from foundations, research networks, NGOs and civil society organizations. The last Biennale, held in Gabon in March 2006, was attended by nearly 500 participants, including 41 ministers and deputy ministers.



4



Yes Minister

The Montessori Association of New Zealand (MANZ) was honoured to have the Minister of Education, Hon Chris Carter open their recent national conference, "Montessori – Personalised Learning in the 21st Century" held in Napier from 19 – 22 April 2008.

The Minister is pictured here with AMI Trainers Pamela Nunn and Cheryl Ferreira, MANZ President Jan Gaffney and MANZ Executive Officer Ana Pickering.

André Roberfroid, Rukmini Ramachandran and Megan Tyne met with Thiru Thangam Thennarasu, Minister for School Education, Tamil Nadu, during their recent visit to Chennai, India. The Minister provided an update on the success of Activity Based Learning which has been implemented in schools throughout Tamil Nadu. The programme utilises many features of the Montessori approach to education including three-year age range, individualised learning programme for each child and the Montessori mathematics programme.



Renew
your AMI
membership
ONLINE

Membership Fees

Have you already renewed your membership for 2008? You can renew online via the AMI website which offers a secure credit card payment option. Click on the following link to renew: <http://www.montessori-ami.org/members/member2.htm> A very big thank you to all our members and their continued support. For more information on membership in AMI, or donating for special projects please contact: info@montessori-ami.org.

Publishers:
AMI Head Office
Koninginneweg 161
1075 CN Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: (31) (20) 679 89 32
Fax: (31) (20) 676 73 41
info@montessori-ami.org
www.montessori-ami.org

