



Montessori Association of Thailand



"Nurture the Child and Advance the Nation"

Presented by the Montessori Association of Thailand

October 24th to 26th, 2010 at the Rose Garden Riverside, Thailand

Day 1: 24th October

- 9:00am – 10:30am **Official Opening and Welcome**
Mrs Kanekar Butt President, Montessori Association of Thailand
- Ceremony - Royal protocol**
*Presentation of Nienhuis materials to HRH
Acknowledgment of Donors & Contributors*
- 10:30am - 11:00am **Break**
- 11:00am – 12:30pm **Displays and Exhibits**
View the Prepared Environments and Exhibitions including DVD of Thai Montessori environments
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm **Lunch**
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Special Remarks - Education: A Reconciliation for Thailand**
*Royal Thai Government Representatives; Minister of Interior, Minister of Health
Minister of Social Development and Human Security and Minister of Education*
- 3:00pm - 3:30pm **Break**
- 3:30pm – 5:00pm **Forum - Nurture the Child and Advance the Nation**
*Dr Chinnaphat Bhumirat Secretary General of Basic Education (3.30 to 4.00pm)
Mr André Roberfroid President of AMI (4.00 to 4.30pm)
Mrs Lynne Lawrence Executive Director of AMI (4.30 to 5.00pm)*



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Day 2: 25th October

(Optional: 8 to 9am tour exhibitions and speak to Exhibition Presenters and Montessori Directresses)

9:00am -10:30am **Asia Forum** (all welcome)

Focusing on support for the growth and expansion of Montessori in Asia.

10:30am to 11:00am **Break**

11:00am – 12:30pm **Seminar Session 1 (your choice of three options)**

12:30pm – 1:30pm **Lunch**

1:30pm – 3:00pm **Seminar Session 2**

3:30pm – 5:00pm **Seminar Session 3**

Seminar Options

Seminar A: Ms Maria Teresa Vidales (0-3)
Joining the Multicultural World

A key objective of Montessori is to foster understanding of the Montessori pedagogical principles and practices in families and communities. Expanding on the idea of Montessori as a way of life, becoming part of a multicultural world is an important skill to develop at an early age. As educators, we can assist parents in helping their children become part of this world and to be prepared for the 21st century. Join Maria Teresa Vidales in exploring how to use language as a vehicle to help parents understand the child and the importance of embracing Montessori as a way of life. Areas of discussion will include: How to work with parents so we can “Bring Montessori to the Home”

Seminar B: Dr Annette Haines (3-6)
Practical Life: The Centrepiece of the Montessori Approach

The area of Practical Life is perhaps the most maligned and least understood of all the areas of the Montessori pre-primary environment. It is also, perhaps, the most important. “Children,” Montessori said, “as they are ordinarily known-unstable, lazy, disorderly, violent, stubborn, disobedient, etc.-are functionally ill. But they can be cured by a hygienic form of psychic life.” The means by which the child is offered a hygienic psychic life is the area of Practical Life. The whole Montessori method revolves around this point.

Seminar C: Ms Carol Hicks (6-12)
Cosmic Education: Nurturing the Child by Exploring the Universe

For the children from six through twelve years of age Dr. Montessori developed Cosmic Education. This plan nurtures the children who are interested in exploring the reasons behind things. The children’s developing imaginations and reasoning minds take them beyond their immediate world so they are able to envision how the world has come to be the awesome place that it is. They also explore their own roles in this world. On this day hear how Cosmic Education can touch the child’s “imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core.”



Day 3: 26th October - Morning

(Optional: 8 to 9am tour exhibitions and speak to Exhibition Presenters and Montessori Directresses)

9:00 am– 9:15am **Opening remarks and official launch of Commemorative book**

9:15am – 9:45am **Montessori around the World: Ms Megan Tyne**

For over one hundred years Montessori principles have been applied throughout the world in virtually every socio-economic, educational and cultural setting to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity. This presentation will highlight the scope, diversity and renown of the Montessori approach around the world revealing at its heart the universal nature and dignity of the child.

9:45am -10:30am **Montessori: Now More Than Ever: Dr Annette Haines**

Dr Haines will look at the realities of modern life and the many challenges facing the natural development of children. As a remedy for the many deviations of modern childhood, Montessori said we must “give them another chance, another form of life. We must not attempt to correct their deviations, but we must give them a more normal life in which their bodies and minds can be active.” When we create the right kind of environment, we discover the true nature of childhood, and this simple and profound truth can help redress many of the ills facing our world.

10:30am - 11:00am **Break**

11:00am - 11.45am **The Child’s Innate Love of Nature: Ms Maria Teresa Vidales**

From the very beginning of life it is vital to maintain the link between the child and nature. The child from birth becomes a part of nature, is fascinated by it and absorbs it. We need to support and nurture the child’s love of nature by surrounding the child with nature. If we respect and love nature so too will the child. We can learn from the young child’s innate love of nature. The child sees nature as a source of wonder, awe and beauty. Come to see the world through the eyes of the child and experience how we can grow with the child, respecting, appreciating and caring for our natural environment.

11:45am – 12:30pm **The Four Planes of Development** Ms Carol Hicks

Dr. Montessori said, “Our method has been based on the fact that we have been guided by the manifestations of children at different phases of growth. Each of these may be considered a level or plane.” Carol Hicks will explain the Four Planes of Development described by Dr. Montessori and touch upon how these guide our work with children.

12:30pm – 1:30pm **Lunch**



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Day 3: 26th October - Afternoon

12:30pm – 1:30pm **Lunch**

1:30 – 2:30pm Forum: **The Future of Montessori in Thailand**
Dr Chinnaphat Bhumirat Secretary General of Basic Education
Mr André Roberfroid President of AMI
Mrs Lynne Lawrence Executive Director of AMI

2:30 - 2:45pm DVD **Passages**
Dr. Maria Montessori's own written passages take the viewer through a lyrical presentation of the successive planes of education, intended to inspire a holistic understanding of Montessori education, which unfolds as separate stages of development. The uniqueness of each stage is portrayed, along with a sense of the flow and continuity of the child's growth and the unity of the prepared environments.

2:45pm - 3:15pm **Break**

3:15pm - 4:45pm **Graduation of the 2nd Thai AMI Pre-primary Course**
Director of Training: Mrs Ulla Wikefeldt
Auxiliary Trainer: Ms Elina Rustasalo

4:45pm - 5:00pm **Closing Remarks**

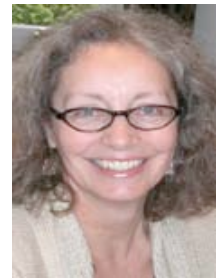


Honoured Guests and Speakers



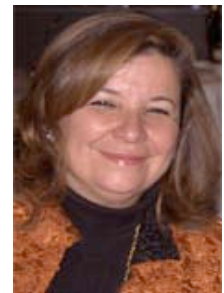
André Roberfroid was UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for programme and strategic planning, in charge of developing the overall UNICEF strategies in the field of child health, education, nutrition and child protection until his retirement in 2003. His past work involved work for children in Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon. In 1984 he became senior planning officer in the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, and advised governments on policies for children in all countries of the Middle East (from Morocco to Iran). André has been President of AMI since 2005.

Lynne Lawrence has been the Executive Director of AMI since June 2008, and prior to this held the position of AMI General Secretary as-interim (2007). She was also head of the AMI Human Resources Committee. Lynne was Director of Training of the 3-6 AMI Course at the Maria Montessori Training Organisation (MMTO), now known as the Maria Montessori Institute, since 1990. In her role as AMI Executive Director, Lynne actively promotes AMI's involvement in Montessori educational projects in developing countries, alongside the many other areas of the association's work, including teacher training programmes globally and ancillary Montessori programmes, research and development, in cooperation with the AMI Board and committees.



Dr Annette Haines, an internationally recognized AMI lecturer, examiner and trainer, is the Director of The Montessori Training Centre of St Louis. She has been involved in the field of Montessori education since 1972, has extensive background in the Children's House classroom, and has been training Primary teachers since 1982. She holds both AMI Primary and Elementary Diplomas, a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis, an M.Ed from Cleveland State and an Ed.D from S.I.U Edwardsville. Currently, she is chairperson of the AMI Scientific Pedagogy Committee and a member of the Executive Committee and Board of the AMI.

Maria Teresa Vidales (Chacha) is Director of Training for the Assistants to Infancy Course in Dallas Texas; Vancouver, Canada; and Hangzhou, China. She also serves as an AMI examiner, consultant, lecturer and workshop leader. Previously Chacha was the Director of the Assistants to Infancy Course in Mexico where she also ran a school from 1980 to 2006. Past appointments also include co-directing Assistants to Infancy Courses in Japan and San Diego, and work on the A to I course in Denver. Chacha has worked with children for 25 years. She also holds an AMI Primary Diploma.



Carol Hicks holds both Primary and Elementary AMI Diplomas. Ms. Hicks is an AMI Elementary Teacher-Trainer, an AMI Elementary School Consultant and Examiner. She has fourteen years of experience in teaching and administrating at the elementary level in both public and private Montessori schools. Currently she is director of Training at the Kansas City campus of the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee.



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Megan Tyne holds the AMI 3-6 Diploma and a BA Dip Ed and has been involved in Montessori education since 1985. With a professional background in computers, finance and marketing she has assisted numerous Montessori associations and was a founding board member and project coordinator of the Montessori Association of Australia. She is a website designer for several Montessori organisations including the Association Montessori Internationale. Megan also assists with Indigenous Montessori projects in Australia and attended the 2004 Educateurs sans Frontières assembly held in Burgos, Spain. She is currently Executive Director of the Montessori Children's Foundation and the Montessori Australia Foundation and Project Coordinator for the Association Montessori Internationale.



Kannekar Rakkomkaew Butt was Principal/Directress of a Montessori Kindergarten in Sydney for many years. She has high interest not only in Education but also in welfare and culture of the Thai community. Being President of the Thai Welfare Association and the Thai Cultural Council of Australia, the Australia Trade Commission awarded her recognition as the Best Thai Community Leader which represented her spirit of care for people. Kannekar and her daughter Mahli-Ann's portrait have been showcased among the Asian Pacific Countries. Kannekar started working with the Office of Basic Education in voluntarily setting up a trial model to solve a serious problem in small government schools since 2004. The development of Montessori programs in schools in Nakorn Pathom Education Service Area 3 has been noted both in and outside the country. The demand for knowledge of Montessori Education influenced her to work towards the establishment of a Teacher Training Program for Thailand. She is currently AMI Thai Director of Programme and President of Montessori Association of Thailand.



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Exhibitions and Sponsors

View the Prepared Environments & Exhibitions & talk to Montessori Directresses each day from 8am.

Nienhuis Montessori – Official Supplier of Montessori Materials

Nienhuis

MONTESSORI

Christian Willemsen studied International Marketing and Languages and is a Bachelor in Economics. In his working life he served in several jobs varying, from International Marketing Consultant in a Consultancy firm, Operational Manager in a printing company, Commercial Manager in a IT company and International Account Manager in a trading company. After this experiences he applied for a job at Nienhuis Montessori without any knowledge of Montessori education. However, soon after he was hired by Nienhuis Montessori he was infected with the Montessori virus. Next to his role as an Export Manager he did the Montessori teacher training programme in The Netherlands. As a result he now holds both primary and elementary Diplomas from the Dutch Montessori Association (NMV). At Nienhuis Montessori he is responsible for International Sales and Marketing and Product Development



Rose Garden - local craftspeople.

Daily cultural shows at 10am and 2.30pm and the opportunity to experience the Rose Garden Village open between 10am and 4pm daily.



MAT Books

On sale will be Children's Books and Reference Books in Thai, a selection of Montessori texts, and the official commemorative book.



Montessori Directresses

Pam Staton was involved in Montessori education from 1979 to 1990 as a mother of three Montessori children, and founding member, council member and representative of Southside Montessori School in Sydney. Pam's Montessori training is AMI 3-6 (1990) and AMI 0-3 (2000). She joined the staff of Inner City Montessori School in early 1992 in the pre-primary and since 2004 has directed the Under 3 programme for the school. Pam has also contributed to the wider Montessori community on a state and national level as a board member of several key Montessori organisations. Pam attended the 2004 EsF Assembly in Spain and has supported AMI teacher training and projects in Thailand since 2004.



Sue Birdsall is married with three grown up children who attended Montessori schools at the preschool and elementary levels. She is an AMI trained Montessori teacher at the 0-3, 3-6 and 6-12 levels with more than 17 years experience as a Montessori teacher. Sue also holds a Masters degree in Education. Sue is a founding member of two Montessori schools and two AMI Montessori Teacher Training Institutes in Australia. She has also been involved in Montessori administration at the Board level in Australia and more recently as a Principal of a Montessori school catering for children aged from 3 to 12 years. Sue participated in the first AMI Educateurs sans Frontières assembly in Italy in 1999 and is a past member of the AMI Board. In 2009 and 2010, Sue visited Thailand to provide support for Montessori programmes.

Jenny Williams has been involved in Montessori education since 1975 as a parent and educator. She took the first 3-6 training course in Australia in 1983-84, and worked in 3-6 classrooms until taking the Assistants to Infancy course in 2005-6. In 2004 she attended the second Educateurs sans Frontiers assembly in Burgos, Spain. Jenny was involved in offering teacher in-service in Sydney, serving on the teachers' workshop committee for a number of years.

She now runs Parent-Toddler programs in Sydney, and began working in Thailand in 2009 to support the establishment of 0-3 programs and training there. She has now made three visits, travelling to several parts of Thailand giving talks and workshops.



Maxine Swensson has an AMI 3 to 6 Diploma from Hyderabad, India and has over 10 years experience in Montessori 3 to 6 from when she joined the staff of Inner Sydney Montessori School in 1999. For the past 20 year Maxine has also has been involved in Christian religious education in India and Australia. She has trained in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd diplomas for 3 to 6 and 6 to 9 in Sydney. Beginning from 2004, when the project began, Maxine has travelled to Thailand many times to support the Montessori work there in the schools of Nakom Pathom and Bangkok and with the first AMI training in support of the students at their graduation. Maxine has found another Montessori endeavour of high interest. She is also now working with the elderly in Sydney in the training of volunteers to offer a Montessori approach to residence in community nursing homes.



John Butt was Principal of the Australian College of Physical Education, holds a M.Sc. in Physical Education and Recreation Management from the University of Oregon U.S.A. after completing early teacher training at Sydney. He directed the first Diploma course in Recreation Management in Australia when four students from Thailand attended on King's Scholarships, leading to many later visits to Thailand and his marriage to Kannekar. He started a Montessori school with Kannekar and has been supporting the Thai Montessori Project since its inception. He is a member of Board of Advisor for Montessori Association of Thailand.