



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire  
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

Declaration of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of OMEP in Kyoto, Japan, 2019  
Quality of ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care)

During the OMEP Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan in September 5- 7, 2019, all participants representing the Asia Pacific Region and the world, agreed that we must uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to ensure every child has a right to access and participate in programs and services of Early Childhood Education and Care of good quality without discrimination.

Recent studies show that high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is essential for young children's life-long well-being. However, we recognize that there are still struggles and challenges in the region and the world; too many children are living under conditions of poverty, discrimination, exclusion, and exploitation. Therefore, providing high-quality ECEC is indispensable for our region in pursuit of equity and social justice, which supports Education for Sustainable Development, and to protect the rights of every child. The regional community is accountable and must immediately take action to improve the quality of ECEC to meet the needs in the best interests of every child throughout the region. Failure to act is unethical and a violation of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Rights of the Child.

Therefore, the members of OMEP Asia Pacific Region are committed to participating, collaborating, evaluating, monitoring, and enforcing the regional and global commitments made to ECEC. At the same time, OMEP Asia Pacific Region calls on our local, national, and global leaders to take immediate action for providing high-quality ECEC to

1. Work to reach the SDG, 4.2, which states that, by 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

2. Guarantee that every child has a right to live, to be nurtured, to be protected, and to participate as she/he gains access to educational programs and systems being guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child
3. Provide young children with safe places and time to play and learn; ensure their freedom of expression and their voices to be heard
4. Respect teachers and caregivers' cultural, economic and well-being status. And support, protect and provide sufficient time and opportunity to engage in professional development to deepen their knowledge, skills, attitudes and capacity to provide high-quality ECEC
5. Recognize the essential contribution parents, caregivers, and families make to ensure that children attain their rights to play and learn
6. Increase financial investment in ECEC to improve quality and expand access of programs and services for young children
7. Practice ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) to ensure all children and adults work together to promote a culture of peace and democratic society

We ask all our governments to protect and restore every child's right to live and develop to their full potential, and leave no one behind.

OMEP is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization concerned with all aspects of early childhood education and care. OMEP was founded in 1948 and has consultative status with UN, UNESCO and UNICEF. OMEP has 72 national committees in all regions of the world, [www.worldomep.org](http://www.worldomep.org)

From the OMEP APR Assembly in Kyoto, Japan, September 7, 2019