

Special Invitation: *AMI Open Forum*

Over the last year and a half AMI has been working to make the most of the Centenary of the Montessori Movement. Simultaneously AMI has also been undergoing an extensive strategic planning process and has begun to implement structural changes. The aim is to fulfill Montessori's core mission "to place all the children in our world at the centre of society and to assist them in becoming the transforming elements leading to a harmonious and peaceful humanity" and to organise and mobilise the Montessori Movement to this end.

Momentum is building and great progress has been made. Now that the Centenary year is underway we want to focus our attention on how this momentum can be sustained into the future.

For this reason AMI will convene an Open Forum which will be held in conjunction with the Centenary and Affiliates meetings planned for Amsterdam on the following dates and times. (This was felt to be the ideal time for the AMI Open Forum because many people will be in Amsterdam for the AGM.)

Thursday, 12 April 2007, 10:00am to 6:00pm Centenary Meeting / AMI Open Forum

Friday, 13 April 2007, 10:00am to 6:00pm For those who do not have other meetings on Friday (eg. AMI Board meeting) the Open Forum discussions will continue to further work on some of the ideas and strategies discussed on the previous day.

Saturday, 14 April 2007, 10:00am to 12:00noon AMI Affiliates Meeting / AMI Open Forum (continued)

We are sending a special invitation to AMI Affiliates, training centres, material manufacturers, staff, board members, schools, teachers, students and parents to attend. ALL ARE WELCOME.

The purpose of the meeting will be to:

- seek input from all AMI's constituents
- strengthen communication and harness the capacity of all the constituents of AMI
- continue the work of the Centenary
- explore ways the momentum can be sustained into the future
- explore ways and means for the Parent Support Program
- identify ways in which connections between AMI and the grassroots can be strengthened
- identify specific aims, objectives and targets for the next 10 years
- identify strategies to fulfill these aims, objectives and targets

VENUES: The AMI Open Forum will be held at the following venues:

Thursday, 12 April 2007 Industriele Groote Club, 27 Dam Square, Amsterdam

Friday, 13 April 2007 The Gresham Memphis Hotel, De Lairessestraat 87, Amsterdam

Saturday, 14 April 2007 Industriele Groote Club, 27 Dam Square, Amsterdam

ACCOMMODATION: We recommend participants of the AMI Open Forum stay at the Memphis Gresham Hotel or the Hotel Piet Hein. Please see the attached Hotel List for contact details of these and other hotels in Amsterdam.

OTHER EVENTS: For details of AMI's AGM and other events please visit <http://montessori-ami.org>.

SOCIAL EVENTS: There will be several social events held in conjunction with the AMI Open Forum and AGM. Participants of the AMI Open Forum will be sent details closer to the time.

RSVP: To assist us with planning please let us know if you will be attending the AMI Open Forum by email to montessoricentenary@bigpond.com. Please indicate your name, organisation and country (for nametags) when replying.