

ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

Dr MARIA MONTESSORI - FOUNDER PRESIDENT 1929-1952

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AMI Open Forum

Dear Friends,

During the period of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the AMI in Amsterdam, an exciting and unprecedented event took place. At the initiative of the Human Resources Committee of the AMI Board, the Affiliated Societies, Training Centres, Advisory Council Members, Material Manufacturers, Board Members, Schools, Teachers, and Parents were all invited to attend a three-day Open Forum. First the participants were updated on AMI's overall strategic plan and Centenary activities, and then they were asked to brainstorm the following five questions:

1. If there were no boundaries or restrictions, where would we want the Montessori Movement to be in 10 years' time? What are our aspirations and dreams? What will the Montessori Movement look like? What will its impact be?
2. What are the challenges and obstacles facing the Montessori Movement?
3. What is AMI's role in leading the Montessori Movement?
4. What capacity, services, capabilities and resources will we need to carry out our leadership role and achieve the goals we envisage?
5. How can we maximize the contribution of the various stakeholders and what steps can we take to harness the individual efforts of all those working for the Montessori Movement?

Based on these discussions, the group worked on the two main tasks of the Forum: (1) to draft ten-year Goals; and (2) to develop an Action Plan. Eight draft Goals and preliminary Action Plans emerged from the meeting and were presented to the AGM.

We want to thank the participants of the Open Forum because these Goals and Action Plans will now become a part of the AMI Strategic Planning process and will enable the organization to move forward into the next century in an effective way, so as to Champion the Cause of All Children. A professional planning consultant will be engaged to facilitate the development of the Strategic Plan devised by the participants of the Open Forum and the members of the Organizational Development Planning Committee (ODPC). The final wording of the Association's strategic Goals and Actions will emerge from this process.



Open Forum participants had planned to hold a second Open Forum in November 2007. However, to allow adequate time for the above process, a series of Open Forum meetings will now be held around the world culminating in Open Forum II to be held in April 2008 which will coincide once again with the Annual General Meeting. To facilitate this process material from the Open Forums will be available and downloadable from AMI's website at the following address: www.montessori-ami.org/openforum.

We therefore encourage you to organize local "Open Forums" in your own communities and to give us feedback via the website. All input will become part of the Strategic Planning process and will be passed on to the professional consultant employed by the AMI.

Open Forum II will then be able to focus on how we can all best work together to fulfil Montessori's mission, namely, "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". All our collaborative work will help "organize and mobilize the Montessori Movement to this end".

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "André Roberfroid".

André Roberfroid
President
Association Montessori Internationale