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Global Leaders for Young Children
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Global Leaders for Young Children, a project of the World Forum Foundation, gathered in Reggio Emilia, Italy, September 12-15, 2010, to share stories of leadership and progress on advocacy projects in their countries and to continue their training and community building. This opportunity was owned by these Global Leaders and is only the beginning of their work together and in support of each other.

Time for dialogue with advocates from Reggio Emilia included conversations with Mayor Graziano Deirio; Luna Sassi, Commissioner to Education; Carla Rinaldi, President Reggio Children; Claudia Giudici, President Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d'Infanzia; Amelia Gambetti, International Network Coordinator. A highlight was the visit to the Bruno Munari School and the opportunity to meet with teachers and staff.

Turn to page 102 to read insights on advocacy from these Global Leaders.



2010 GLOBAL LEADERS

Gustavo Freitas Amora, **Brazil**
 Maria Thereza Olivia Marcilio, **Brazil**
 Analesi C. Delailoa Tuicaumia, **Fiji**
 Milika Tamaniceva M Waqanisau, **Fiji**
 Hannah Odjenma Botchway, **Ghana**
 Indu Capoor, **India**
 Joyeeta Sengupta, **India**
 Jigisha Shastri, **India**
 Priyanka Zutshi, **India**
 Maggie Kamau-Biruri, **Kenya**
 Janet Ndeto Mwitiki, **Kenya**
 May Abou Ajram, **Lebanon**
 Ana Maria Gonzalez Garza, **México**
 Maria A. Morfin Stoopan, **México**
 Betsy van de Grift, **Netherlands**
 Anna Blumsztajn, **Poland**
 Bonita Birungi, **Uganda**
 Monica L. Duncan, **United States**
 Lisa Marie Sams, **United States**



Welcome to Montenegro!



Sasa Milic and Biljana Maslovaric welcomed the World Forum to Montenegro, with visits to four early childhood programs and an orphanage, as well as a meeting with Deputy Minister Vesna Vucurovic and Councilier Tamara Milic. The World Forum hosted a dinner for early childhood advocates and enjoyed scenic and cultural experiences in this beautiful country.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY BONNIE NEUGEBAUER

Speaking Together

by Bonnie Neugebauer and Ellen Hall

"I look back and one of the recurring memories is of our walks to and from the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre. There was so much learning, bonding, sharing during these times — we discussed football, marriage, symbols of marriage, how men view women, strengths of Reggio, slums in different countries, and architecture of different eras. Somehow every time I was talking with different people and about different issues and each discussion was enriching and meaningful."

Joyeeta Sengupta, Global Leader, India

Global Leaders for Young Children, cohort 2009/2010, gathered in Reggio Emilia, Italy, in September, to share progress on their advocacy projects. In powerful ways they owned being Global Leaders and leveraged their connections to the World Forum and to past Global Leaders. They also owned their connections to each other, the opportunities within their own countries to sustain and grow their ideas, and their ongoing skill-building.

Those of us who were privileged to hear about their work and their dreams learned about advocacy and leadership. We share some of the highlights:

"We should focus less on people inside the network and try to reach people outside the network."

Gustavo Freitas Amora, Global Leader, Brazil

"You need to be consistent, persistent; you can't change your mind in the middle or you will confuse people."

Analesi Tuicaumia and Milika Waqanisau, Global Leaders, Fiji

“We learn from our failures; however, what I’ve learned most is the fact that advocacy is a never-ending task, each victory or failure is a starting point to new actions and projects.”

Maria Theresa Olivia Marcilio de Souza, Global Leader, Brazil

“Collective work is always a challenge; it takes more time. But at the end of the day, no one can criticize your work because they’ve been involved.”

May Abou Ajram, Global Leader, Lebanon

“Educate the people who you will be speaking to and encourage business leaders to share with others the importance of early care and education — make them the champions.”

Monica Duncan and Lisa Sams, Global Leaders, United States

“We cannot share what we have not experienced. Being a teacher is being myself.”

Ana Maria Gonzalez Garza, Global Leader, México

“Expect help from unexpected people.”

Maria Morfin Stopen, Global Leader, México

“Determine who to advocate to and what to advocate — the idea, the version of the idea, a concrete proposition.”

Anna Blumsztajn, Global Leader, Poland

“It’s not about you. When they hear it from others, they can see that it’s about us.”

Hannah Botchway, Global Leader, Ghana

“There’s always someone willing to listen. You just need to find that person. Understand and reach out to the gatekeepers — the visible and invisible powers.”

Bonita Birungi, Global Leader, Uganda

“If you focus, people come with you and things will happen.”

Indu Kapoor, Global Leader, India

“We are all in this together, but we are not aware of how to help each other. I heard the shift happening in their heads. Both groups are advocating the same message, using different perspectives. By bringing voices from both groups together we created shared synergy. You are an advocate all the time.”

Jigisha Shastri and Joyeeta Sengupta, Global Leaders, India

“Not everyone can do everything, so do your thing and someone else can do theirs.”

Janet Mwitiki and Maggie Kamau-Bird, Global Leaders, Kenya

“Leadership is not about getting people to do what you want them to do. It’s much more about them allowing you to do what you want.”

Betsy van de Grift, Global Leader, Netherlands

We thank these powerful advocates for sharing their experiences and their wisdom with us, for teaching us about leadership and advocacy and about the amazing things set in motion when you own an opportunity.

Global Leaders for Young Children is a project of the World Forum Foundation, created by Joan Lombardi. Global Leaders Coordinators are Judith Evans and Youssef Hajjar.

To learn more about Global Leaders and the World Forum Foundation, visit:

www.WorldForumFoundation.org

