

IECD NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Letid lo Servis Vey Zanfan (Childminding) dan Sesel

IECD ti ganny demande par Gouvernman pou antreprann en letid lo servis vey zanfan an Zilyet 2013. Apre en long parkour sansibilizasyon avek bann 'childminder' e lezot partener, formasyon ek kolekte lenformasyon lo teren, sa letid in konplet dan kat mwan avek sikse. Rezilta sa letid ti ganny prezante avek Komite O Nivo pour Pti Lanfans, Konsey Minis, bann Sef Egzekitiv konsernen e bann Ladministrater Distrik. Bann 'Childminders', paran ek lezot partener ti osi ganny sans diskrit bann rezilta dan en konferans ki ti fer resaman. Plis detay lo sa konferans pour ganny pibliye dan prosen 'newsletter' IECD.



Miting avek bann 'childminder'



Formasyon bann kolekte lenformasyon

Cooperation with SEED Institute, Singapore



Dr. Siat second from left and Ms. Tan second from right

The SEED Institute's vision is to give children the best head-start possible, by grooming early childhood professional to provide the best care and education to young children. Two of the Institute's representatives Ms. Mona Tan and Dr. Siat Yeow met with IECD management in September 2013 to forge new ties and explore possibilities for cooperation on matters relating to early childhood development.

Nwel avek bann Zanfan



IECD an kolaborasyon avek Fondasyon Zanfan Sesel ti enplimant en proze kart nwel ansanm avek bann pti zanfan lo Vilaz Prezidan. Desen bann gannyan ti servi lo kart nwel 2013 pour IECD. Bann zanfan ti ganny rekonpanse dan en pti seremoni an Desanm 2013.

IECD Says 'Thank You'



IECD ended the year on a cheerful note in the company of partners and children who have assisted the Institute throughout 2013. Christmas carols were sung by the National Children's Choir. The ceremony also saw the presentation of certificates to children and tokens of appreciation to relevant partners and staff.

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EDITORIAL

Arising from the national and international drive to adopt a holistic approach to child development and promote early childhood care and education as the foundation for nation building, IECD was born. While at this early stage IECD has been concerned with setting up the organization, it has also accomplished a range of child-related projects and developed critical collaborative linkages. We present to you, **Children 1st**, a first for early childhood Children.

In this inaugural issue, we wish to reach out to our partners, associates and friends, and share information on our organization, progress and activities, and spread the IECD news to parents, caregivers and children. **Connect and welcome to the IECD Newsletter.**

Shirley Choppy
Mrs. Shirley Choppy
CEO

Introducing Institute of Early Childhood Development

Following the Cabinet approval in August 2012, IECD was established and it became operational in January 2013. This entity is part of the governance structures for the implementation of the 'Seychelles Framework on Early Childhood Care and Education' (ECCE) a multi-sectoral policy document for stakeholders. IECD is an autonomous organization responsible for providing strategic direction for developments in early childhood. Its roles can be subsumed under four main functional features: coordination, monitoring and evaluation of ECCE programme, projects (including research); advice and support to parents, practitioners and partners and relevant authorities on policy matters; advocacy and promotion of national standards and best practise in ECCE, and regulation of childminding services. These will ensure improvement in quality and accessibility of ECCE so that each child develops holistically and builds a strong foundation for success in school and lifelong learning.

The vision of the Institute is for 'Seychellois children to enjoy quality early care and education through the shared commitment of all partners'. Its mission is to be known as the leading authority on ECCE in the country while the work it co-ordinates is recognized as a model of good practice in ECCE regionally and beyond.

The IECD functions according to shared values which recognize:

- The holistic development and value of young children
- The central importance of parents and families in the child's life
- The importance of the community in the development and well-being of children
- The importance of mutual respect, shared commitment and collaboration of all partners in ECCE

Logo and Motto

The five petals of the flower depict all partners collaborating for the benefit of the child who is the centre of everyone's attention and actions. The national colours (blue, yellow, red, white and green) symbolize the involvement of all. The purple petal represents the international connection.

The motto, **'A winning start for all'** - It stresses the importance of each child being afforded, within the capacity of society, the required environment, care and education for his or her holistic development from the very beginning. A child having a **winning start** means that as they grow into young people and adults, and also in later years, they will enjoy a high degree of good health; they will be responsible, caring, determined and well-educated individuals who appreciate the value of working together and contributing to their own and others' wellbeing and happiness.

'A winning start for all' means that all parents, the community, society as well as those who contribute directly and indirectly to the child's care and education through their work are winners.

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SECOND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

The second biennial conference on ECCE under the theme 'From Policy to Action' was held in May 2013 at the ICCS Auditorium. The main purpose of the conference was to launch the National Action Plan 2013-2014 on Early Childhood Care and Education and share achievements since 2011. In response to the Seychelles Framework on Early Childhood Care and Education, the plan was developed in partnership with key sectors concerned with ECCE.

In the presence of guests of honour, Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope from UNESCO and Ms. Mona Tan from SEED Institute in Singapore, the Vice-President, Mr. Danny Faure delivered his opening address. He reiterated the need to establish a national vision for children in Seychelles. This was followed by Dr. Marope's keynote address. She recalled, the promise that member states made to children of the world regarding the facilitation of their holistic development through the 'Moscow Framework for Action and Collaboration: Harnessing the Wealth of Nations'. The highlight of the first day of the conference was the launch of the National Action Plan 2013 - 2014 on ECCE. Mrs. Shirley Choppy, in her capacity as the chairperson of the National Coordinating Committee presented copies of the Action Plan to the Vice President, members of the High Level ECCE Policy Committee, and representative from National ECCE Trust Fund, Advisory Council, LUNGOS and other relevant partners.

During the second day of the conference a series of papers by local and international experts on progress and challenges in ECCE were presented. These were:



Mrs Shirley Choppy presenting the Vice President Mr Danny Faure with a copy of the ECCE Action Plan

- *Strengthening the monitoring of holistic early childhood development by Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope*
- *Early childhood education in Singapore and Mathematics and the Young Child by Ms. Mona Tan*
- *An overview of the National Action Plan 2013 -2014 on ECCE by Mrs. Shirley Choppy*
- *The Systems Approach Towards Better Education Results - Early Childhood Development (SABER-ECD) in Seychelles by Dr. Andre Leste*
- *Mother-language Reading Project: Establishing Standards in Early Childhood Education by Mr. Egbert Benstrong*

Partners in ECCE will convene again in the third biennial conference early 2015 to explore relevant ECCE issues.



Guests at the opening ceremony



IECD meet with Partners to Assess Progress in the National Action Plan 2013 -2014 on ECCE

Nearly one year in the implementation phase of the 'National Action Plan 2013-2014 on Early Childhood Care and Education', IECD and the Vice President's Secretariat met with Technical Teams from the Ministry of Education, Community Development Department, Social Affairs Department and the Ministry of Health to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of activities for the year 2013.

During the half-day working sessions held in November and December 2013, each sector had the chance to present their major achievements for the year and discuss difficulties impacting on the implementation of the activities in the Plan. It was found that many of the actions planned had been successfully implemented whilst others

were in the implementation process.

True to the principles of integration and collaboration set out in the policy document, the Technical Teams for the main ministries having a stake in early childhood care and education have, in the process of implementing their plans, worked in close partnership and involved parents and other stakeholders. The working sessions provided an opportunity for team members to share their experience working on the plan and discuss how to bridge the gaps and improve on collaboration, monitoring and reporting. The high level officers, chairpersons and members of the Technical Teams appreciated the initiative and opportunity for professional development.



Working session with Social Affairs Department Technical Team, Unity House



Working session with Community Development Department, Oceangate House

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Celebrating Children's Day: Tree Planting Campaign

IECD responded to the call by President James Michel to contribute to the national campaign entitled '20,000 Trees for Life', launched on the 1st of June 2012. The activity was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, 'Mum and Dad' Day Care Centre, and the Baie Lazare District Administration Office.

The Day Care was chosen for its beautiful grounds that would provide ample space for the trees to thrive and also as part of IECD's effort in decentralising its activities. Twenty local fruit trees were donated by the Seychelles Agricultural Agency through the District Administration Office. The trees were chosen for this occasion in response to the Ministry of Health ongoing campaign of promoting a healthy diet and reducing obesity amongst young children. IECD extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Environment and Energy for the support received for this innovative project.

A parent giving his child a helping hand



Children watering their newly planted sapling