

ICIP NEWSLETTER



February 2010

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From the Editor

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As ICIP anticipates our 4th Conference in April 2010 I am very pleased that our newsletter comes with a special attachment feature on the situation with intergenerational relationships and initiatives in our host country Singapore. Thanks to our colleagues at the Council for Third Age in Singapore for giving this timely insight into their work and plans.

The conference will be a fantastic opportunity of those who attend to share insights from around the world. However I know that flying to Singapore is just not possible for many ICIP members and keen intergenerational practitioners and researchers; it is therefore good to be able to report on the growth of other ways to keep in touch and learn from others practice.

The EMIL initiative is bringing together partners from across 25 European countries. Sign up for Long distance learning possible through the University of Pittsburgh, or contact Generations United who are offering 'webinars' on shared sites that offer care for young and older generations in the same facility.

I look forward to meeting some readers at the conference in April and to reporting to others in our next newsletter,

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For producing the newsletter.

Visit www.icip.info for more information about ICIP or to view past editions.

Volunteers to translate into any other language should contact the editor.

Want to contribute?

Please send articles (usual maximum size, 500 words, i.e. one A4 page) news, events, discussion points to:

susanlangford@magicme.co.uk

Please type articles, with no formatting (no indents, bold headings etc) in Arial 12pt

Do not wait for the deadline. It helps our volunteer translators to get pieces over the months, not all in one go!

Next deadline: June 1st 2010

From the Chairs

The ICIP conference is fast approaching! We hope many of you are planning to join us in Singapore for the 4th ICIP Conference "Linking Generations: Family, Work, Community - Intergenerational Solidarity for a Sustainable Society" which takes place April 26-29, 2010. Details are below.

On behalf of ICIP's Management Committee we extend our warm gratitude to the Council for 3rd Age for hosting the conference. Because of their hard work, we know the conference will be educational and thought provoking while providing an excellent opportunity to connect with other practitioners and researchers from around the globe. If you have not yet registered, we encourage you to do so now.

Interest in intergenerational practices and public policies continues to grow across countries and continents. Last spring the European Commission released the findings from a Gallop poll reporting on intergenerational solidarity in and among European Union countries. Among the findings were that the majority of those surveyed believed there were not enough opportunities for older and younger people to meet and work together via associations and local community initiatives. In addition at least 85% of respondents agreed that local authorities should support associations and initiatives that foster stronger relations between young and older people. A similar poll could be helpful in other countries. Efforts are already underway to engage a similar poll in the United States. The entire poll can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm.

As the intergenerational sector expands, we have much to learn from each other. ICIP provides a key mechanism to support the connections between all of us who are committed to building a better world that values and engages people of all ages.

We look forward to seeing you in Singapore!

Donna Butts & Susan Feldman
Co-Chairs of ICIP

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Also follow this link to read a recent article by Donna, published in the Washington Post on Martin Luther King Jr Day
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2010/01/15/AR2010011503179.html>

4th ICIP Conference 2010

Linking Generations: Family, Work & Community - Intergenerational Solidarity for A Sustainable Society

26-29 April 2010

Pan Pacific Singapore

Co-organisers: Council for Third Age, National University of Singapore and International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes

Building upon the objectives and achievements of previous ICIP conferences, the 4th ICIP Conference 2010 gathers stakeholders from around the world to advance a shared understanding of how intergenerational policies, research and programmes act as agents of change to impact the sustainability of ageing societies.

Coinciding with the 2nd European Union (EU) Day of Intergenerational Solidarity on 29 April 2010, the 4th ICIP Conference 2010 also aims to further dialogues on intergenerational issues beyond EU to other parts of the world.

Key Discussion Areas

- Retraining and retention policies
- Managing multi-generational work teams
- Promoting interactivity across generations

Communication strategies to link generations

Conference Highlights

- Experiential learning segments, including site visits to notable organisations to enhance understanding of multi-generational programmes
- Presentations and hands-on workshops with industry luminaries
- Roundtable discussions with European and Singaporean panellists on cross-generation interaction and support

Keynote Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. (emer.) Juhani Ilmarinen, Former Director, 'Life Course and Work' in the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), Helsinki, Finland
- Associate Professor Rhonda Parker, Aged Care Commissioner, The Office of the Aged Care Commissioner, Australia
- Dr Sandra Timmermann, Director, MetLife Mature Market Institute, USA
- Professor Sarah Harper, Director, Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford

Early Bird Registration: S\$267.50 (inclusive of 7% goods and services tax)

Register and pay by 17 February 2010 to qualify

Regular fees: S\$535 (inclusive of 7% goods and services tax)

Register at: www.c3a.org.sg/icip2010

For further enquiries, email us at brenda@eventslineup.com or call +65 6513-8798.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, MULTIGENERATIONAL SOCIETY, IN SINGAPORE

Please see the attached file

If you have problems opening the file please go to <http://icip.info/>

European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL)

EMIL is a collaborative network working together to support Intergenerational Learning across Europe.

Intergenerational Learning (IL) is a way that people of all ages can learn together. IL is an important part of Lifelong Learning, where the generations work together to gain skills, values and knowledge. It has been suggested that IL is a process of addressing some of the significant demographic changes in society and as a way of enhancing intergenerational solidarity. With this in mind, 'European Map of Intergenerational Learning' (EMIL) will provide a general overview of the role and status of IL by developing a more sustainable method for collecting, exchanging, and distributing ideas and resources in the field.

Funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, EMIL is an innovative project that will use existing expertise of partner organisations already working in the field to create a learning network for others involved in intergenerational programmes across Europe. Representing numerous European organisations, from over 25 European countries, EMIL will collectively have the ability to influence the intergenerational practice debate.

Over the course of the 30 month programme, EMIL will design a European-based website and write an e-newsletter in order to circulate relevant research and share lessons learned, such as case studies and local initiatives in the field. Furthermore, EMIL intends to create an 'Intergenerational Learning Co-Laboratory' that will become a knowledge base that supports further development of IL policy initiatives and practice. Finally, EMIL aims to plan/host a conference where a final report on the project and formal launch of our proposed plans for a European Intergenerational Network will coincide with the European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity between the Generations.

We are happy to report that this work is already under way – an initial session was recently held in Berlin where 23 participants from 18 countries had the opportunity to exchange learning, ideas and existing resources. Everyone was involved in 2 days of workshops and interactive learning cafes to determine the main focus of EMIL and form a working partnership in order to create an effective European network.



FUNDAÇÃO CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN

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SHARED SITES: BUILDING A TRULY INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY

Every morning, Max and the rest of the 2-year-olds in one of the toddler group at Mount Kisco Day Care Center in Mount Kisco, New York walk down the hall to visit the older adults at the Senior Wellness Room of My Second Home for dance and exercise. The children love visiting with their adult friends. When the time came for Max to leave the toddler group and join a preschool group, he was not happy. The transition was very difficult. Max missed his friends and cried every morning.

One day, the teacher asked Fred, one of the adults from the Senior Wellness Room, if he would meet Max for breakfast in the preschool classroom. Fred agreed, and the next morning he was waiting in the classroom for Max when he arrived. When Max saw Fred, he ran into his arms, ate breakfast and then played with his friends. This continued for several days until Max made a successful transition. The following week, the teachers thanked Fred and told him that he could go back to the senior dining room for breakfast, to which he replied, "No way, I'm staying with Max!"

WHAT ARE INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES?

Every day across the world, younger and older people, like Max and Fred, thrive in intergenerational shared site programs. Shared sites are programs where children, youth and older adults receive services at the same site. They interact regularly during the day in scheduled intergenerational activities, as well as informally when their paths cross. Intergenerational shared sites vary in structure and include models like a senior center in a public school, co-located adult and child day care or an after school program in a continuing care retirement community.

WHY SHARED SITES?

Intergenerational shared sites are ideal for building bridges between the generations since:

- More frequent interaction can lead to stronger relationships and better understanding between the generations;
- Transportation between the programs is not an issue due to the co-location or close proximity of the programs
- Informal interactions are possible through routine elements such as shared indoor and outdoor spaces, a common entrance for both generations, and ease of movement between the adult programs and children programs; and
- Scheduling activities is easier since space is shared, staff are cross-trained, and many sites have an intergenerational coordinator to facilitate activities.

GU'S SUPPORT FOR SHARED SITES

Generations United is a resource to those interested in or currently operating shared sites. Many of our materials are available on the Internet. From GU's Web site, <http://www.gu.org>, click on "Resources," then "Intergenerational," then "Shared Sites." Research, videos, plans, suggested activities and more are available at no charge. GU operates a quarterly e-mail newsletter about shared sites; e-mail Roxana Martinez at rmartinez@gu.org to subscribe. Also, thanks to the support of MetLife Foundation, GU runs a yearly Intergenerational Shared Site Excellence Award program. Our 2008 and 2009 award recipients are documented on our Web site as examples of successful programs.

UPCOMING FREE WEBINARS

GU is hosting a series of webinars on strengthening intergenerational shared site programs. These free online trainings are open to all and will take place throughout the coming year. Space is limited; for the schedule, and to register, contact Roxana Martinez at rmartinez@gu.org.

SHARED SITES: STRONGER TOGETHER

The town of Swampscott, Massachusetts adopted a unique approach to addressing the community's need for a new senior center – they incorporated it into the design of the new high school. At the high school, the senior center occupies 6,500 square feet on the ground floor of the building. Older adults have access to school facilities or equipment, including the gym, weight room, auditorium, a pottery kiln, and computers. By merging the two projects, they were not only able to increase the support of older adults for building a new school but were able to garner additional community support for financing the construction of a larger senior center and field house instead of the typical high school gym.

Intergenerational shared sites work on many levels. They foster community, conserve resources, stimulate creativity and provide participants with a sense of belonging at every age. They save dollars, while making sense. In the words of Margaret Mead, "Somehow, we have to get older people back close to growing children if we are to restore a sense of community, a knowledge of the past, and a sense of the future."

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