



World Gifted

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

VOL. 4, No. 3

OCTOBER 1983

MANILA CONFERENCE DRAWS 500 FROM 26 NATIONS

The Fifth Biennial World Conference on the Gifted and Talented drew approximately 500 persons from twenty-six countries to Manila, August 2-6, to celebrate and advance the cause of education of the gifted and research on giftedness. The first World Conference in a developing country, and the first in the Far East, represented a gamble that paid off in securing the participation of many persons from countries which previously had not been able to participate in world gifted conferences.

IT'S HAMBURG IN 1985

The city of Hamburg will host the Sixth World Conference on the Gifted and Talented, August 5-9, 1985. Wilhelm Wiczerkowski of the Psycholisches Institut at the University of Hamburg chairs the Conference Organizing Committee which has already begun the planning process. Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the World Council, the conference will place emphasis on developments of the past ten years in education of the gifted. A call for papers will be issued early in 1984. Further details will be published in *World Gifted* as they become available.

THE SECRETARIAT'S FIRST FOUR YEARS --Report from Executive Secretary

This summer marks the end of the second biennium since formation of the Secretariat of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. While there are still mountains to climb and rivers to cross, some achievements have been made, and the Secretariat would appear to be established on semi-firm ground.

In the period of operation, membership has climbed from approximately 100 to more than 500 at the close of the last dues-paying period. Successful conferences were held in Montreal in 1981, and in Manila this year we penetrated into a region where we have had few members, offering the first international conference on the gifted in one of the world's developing countries. This has been an adventurous undertaking of high risk for the conference organizers to whom we are grateful. In all conferences, the local committee assumed major responsibility, both programmatic and administrative. The Secretariat played a

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Stimulating keynote presentations kept an exciting flow of information and inspiration right through the final standing ovation. In her opening remarks, **Dr. Aurora Roldan**, International Chairperson of the Manila Gifted Conference, addressed the conference theme, "Gifted and Talented Children, Youth and Adults: Their Social Perspectives and Culture." She invited conferees to explore the problems, issues and practices of both developed and developing countries involved in crossing socio-political, economic, cultural and educational lines in an evolving commitment to the identification, recognition and development of all gifted and talented children, youth and adults. Conference highlights included keynote addresses by **James Gallagher**, **Lucrecia Kasilag**, **Leticia Ramos-Shahani**, **Harry Passow**, **Eliezer Shmueli**, **Paul Torrance** and **Jean Houston**. These addresses are reported upon briefly elsewhere in this special conference issue.

More than 50 seminars provided opportunity for presentation and discussion of a diversity of topics including cross-cultural comparisons of children and programs in many different countries, multi-faceted identification of gifted, leadership, disadvantaged gifted, handicapped gifted, the arts, humanities and music education, teacher education and credentialing of teachers for the gifted, advocacy programs, creativity, productive thinking and higher level thinking, pre-school and early childhood programs, social needs of the gifted, science education, extra-curricular and summer programs, ability grouping, junior high school and college level programs, problem finding, reading, writing, bilingualism, multi-disciplinary programs in high schools, learning styles--and lots more! Selected topics will be reported in the volume of Proceedings to be mailed to all attendees.

World Council President, **James Gallagher**, commented that the meeting in Manila demonstrated that we are a truly world-wide organization addressing issues of importance in all sections of the globe. He also observed that the recent disturbances in the Phillipines are one more reminder of the need to maximize our human potential for problem solving.

THE SECRETARIAT'S FIRST FOUR YEARS
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supportive role.

Perhaps the most gratifying development has been the appearance of **Gifted International**, our official journal, under the editorship of Dorothy Sisk. Three issues have appeared with a wide representation of countries.

The newsletter, **World Gifted**, has appeared three to four times each year and has been the major channel for communicating with members. **Proceedings** of the Third and Fourth World Conferences are a creditable addition to the literature on the gifted and talented.

In cooperation with the United States' National Association for Gifted Children, the World Council sponsored its first regional conference - an International Strand at the NAGC Conference in New Orleans in 1982. It helped widen the horizons of the national organization, brought in a speaker from abroad who addressed the topic of gifted programs world-wide and attracted favorable attention. It also stimulated participation from other countries in the conference. Consideration should be given to broadening this kind of cooperation with national organizations, perhaps in the form of charging Delegates and Executive Committee members with negotiating such arrangements with their national associations.

The Secretariat has also served a clearinghouse function, responding to requests for information on

the gifted and arranging visits to school programs and with researchers.

Many members responded to the Consultant Project, offering services as volunteer consultants for countries in the planning phases of developing programs. Unfortunately, requests for such services have not surfaced to date.

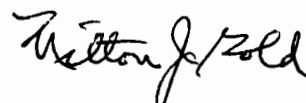
The World Council has also earned some recognition for its efforts. President James J. Gallagher accepted a Distinguished Service Award from the G/C/T Foundation for "efforts to meet the educational and psychological needs of gifted children everywhere by providing a forum for professionals from throughout the world to share their knowledge and expertise."

Financially, the World Council has been paying its own way. While a grant was necessary to publish the 1979 **Proceedings**, no grant funds have been utilized in the past biennium--although such grants would be both useful and welcome! A proposed budget indicates need for increased funding in the coming biennium, not all of which will be covered by the recent increase in dues. For the World Council to be financially viable, membership of 1,000 is essential, approximately double the present number, unless other sources of funds can be realized.

One shortcoming has been our lack of success in getting research or development activities off the ground. There is need for a suitable mechanism for generating proposals and following them up with efforts to secure support. The Secretariat needs fuller participation of the membership in this process. Also, both publications depend upon voluntary submission of information and articles.

So, the stage is set for retirement of the first Executive Secretary who has played his role with interest and found recompense for some of the more tedious tasks in the contact with persons in the World Council. A smooth transition is seen to the new Executive Secretary, and assurance is given of continued interest and participation in the activities of the Council.

Respectfully and affectionately submitted,


Milton J. Gold

Newsletter of the	
WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN	
Published at	
University of South Florida	
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Editor - Milton J. Gold	
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Dorothy Sisk	Executive Secretary

MANILA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Plenary Sessions

Dr. James Gallagher, World Council President, challenged the concept of a "normal psychometric curve" in his dynamic opening plenary session. According to him, there never was a "normal curve" because society tilts that curve--positively or negatively--through supportive familial and educational environments or poverty, malnutrition and cultural deprivation.

Warning that the creation of a healthy environment where boys and girls can be given equal chances to develop gifts to the fullest "to blossom and significantly improve" will demand pain and hard work, he addressed himself to those in the schools who can make the difference. Dr. Gallagher called for renewed efforts in research, the systematic development of curriculum, demonstration of exemplary programs, leadership training and the utilization of technical assistance.

The afternoon plenary session detailed the identification, recognition and development of exceptional abilities in gifted children as a primary commitment of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). **Lucrecia R. Kasilag**, CCP President, presented the methods by which that commitment is fulfilled through seven different organizations.

Young Artists Foundation aims to discover and support the education abroad under master teachers of outstanding talents. Unique in all of Asia is the Philippine High School for the Arts in which 75 resident scholars, ages ranging from twelve to fifteen, spend mornings in academic studies and afternoons exploring various artistic fields of concentration. The famed Interlochen National Music Camp and Arts Academy in Michigan, USA, provided the model for the school. Regional winners of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists meet annually in Manila to interpret contest pieces commissioned by well-known Filipino composers in yet another effort to discover musical talent. The CCP Student Cultural Development Program holds summer workshops for drama and the visual arts. The Ballet Philippines of CCP offers yearly summer music and dance seminars. Other CCP Outreach Training Programs touch upon various culturally-oriented activities conducted beyond the physical complex of the CCP such as the Philippine Youth Orchestra. The Children's Communication Center is producing a show similar to Sesame Street for the benefit of children who

may not be able to go to school.

Two other plenary session speakers on August 3, were Assemblywoman and Minister of State for Social Services, **Carmencita Reyes**, who read a speech from Madame Imelda Marcos underlining the need for concerted effort in the development of the gifted, and former United Nations Ambassador, **Dr. Leticia Ramos-Shahani**. Dr. Ramos-Shahani spoke extemporaneously and directly to the concern in the United Nations with First and Third World membership. Stressing the difference in roles of the gifted in developed and underdeveloped countries, she raised stark and real issues. Dr. Ramos-Shahani asked, "Where will their lives be spent, toward what purpose and in what cultural context shall their talents be used? When their gifts have been developed, are they prepared to make the act of giving a special part of their having what has been given?"

World Council Honorary Director, **Dr. A. Harry Passow** of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, presented a "Universal View of Gifted and Talented Programs" to the entire assembly on August 4. Using an international survey and search of the contemporary literature in the field, Dr. Passow examined the goals, rationale, conceptual and curriculum framework for gifted/talented education from an international perspective. His highlights of similarities and differences between developed and developing countries both intrigued and informed the audience.

The question of whether gifted/talented education is an educational or political issue was one of many he raised. Others dealt with concepts of "excellence"; national, regional and local policies guiding identification and education of gifted/talented children; kinds of programs and educational opportunities in various nations; and areas involved in teacher training.

On the next to the last conference day, highlights of a ten year longitudinal study on the gifted disadvantaged of Israel were delivered by **Eliezer Shmueli**, Director General, Ministry of Education and Culture, Israel. The presentation described a forward-looking educational and societal experiment among capable disadvantaged students in boarding schools. Due to continuous waves of immigration from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, a complex

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MANILA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Plenary Sessions

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problem of cultural diversity and educational disadvantage emerged to which boarding schools offered a possible solution.

Director Shmueli's analysis of the study results suggested that a structured change of environment can be a means of betterment for scholastic achievement in potentially capable students. Results also indicated that the advantage is retained over six years after graduation from secondary school, even when no additional fostering efforts are made. An eager audience sought additional information on the role of home parents and biological parents, the students' relationship to the community and to the family and implementation details for the program.

E. Paul Torrance presented the analysis of a "Scenario Project" which he has been conducting in seventeen countries with the cooperation of local groups. Students involved write an imaginary scenario to describe the future. Analysis of the scenarios revealed differing strengths among young people in the various countries, and a correlation appeared between the creativeness of the young people and the number of inventions reported in their countries. Dr. Torrance asserted that these statistics can be changed by helping individuals see themselves as inventors and creators.

Presenting characteristics of outstanding scenarios written in Brazil, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, United Kingdom and United States, Dr. Torrance pointed to differences in emphasis in these countries on intelligence, emotional sensitivity, persistence, assertiveness, attempting difficult tasks, industriousness, confidence, energy, altruism, creativity and risk-taking.

To help fulfill the scenarios presented by these young people, Dr. Torrance identified the following areas which require curriculum changes: research methods and techniques, methodology for inventing, negotiating skills, self-direction and experiential learning, expertise in validating, and skill in "walking away from expectations others hold of them in playing their own game."

An electrified audience rose to a standing ovation for the final plenary session speaker, Dr. Jean

Houston, Director of the Foundation for Mind Research, New York, USA. Dr. Houston involved the attendees in her active philosophy of "see more, hear more, remember more and draw on more of your inner resources in order to be more of what you were meant to be" during her talk with a convincing audience participation example of the philosophy at work.

Dr. Houston stated that, "Never before have we had so much ability and responsibility for the remaking of ourselves and our world." She called for "people with faith in the future of our planet who are willing to develop richer, deeper scenarios of life that involve a new image of a human being and a new style of being human." Her final challenge was applied to the hope that the gifted and creative children of the world might attain that new humanity with the caring and guidance of enlightened adults.

Exhibits

Philtrade, the Philippine Trade Center, was the site of special exhibits. A book display at the Manila Gifted Exhibit included not only various resource materials for gifted and talented children, and a number of university displays but a mini exhibit of children's art work from an On-The-Spot Art Contest involving 98 students from public and private schools around Metro Manila. Using crayons, watercolors and oil pastels, the children depicted the theme, "What Would I Be If I Were Alive 100 Years From Now?" Also at the Philtrade was an exhibit of handicrafts and Philippine goods. An afternoon *merienda* refreshed attendees with native foods and entertainment.

Visitations

Visits to an elementary school, specialized science high schools, teachers colleges and INNOTECH, a regional center for educational innovation and technology, were scheduled choices. Originally sponsored through UNESCO, INNOTECH's active members include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand with Australia, France and New Zealand as associate members all dedicated to the promotion of "cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations through education, science and culture..."

Summary

New views, new ideas, new friends; the best yet!

SISK AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ASSUMES SECRETARIAT ROLE

Dorothy Sisk will take office as the new Executive Secretary of the World Council and the Secretariat will move to the University of South Florida at Tampa in September, marking the change from the initiation of the Secretariat with Milton Gold as Secretary at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City. This is the last issue of *World Gifted* that Dr. Gold will edit with the assistance of Beverly Goodloe-Kaplan.

Dr. Sisk brings to the office her vast experience in education of the gifted as a Professor at USF and as former Director of the United States Office for Gifted and Talented in Washington, D.C. She is the author of numerous articles in the field and a consultant with international experience. Her service with the World Council since its inception has been in various capacities: as a member of the Executive Committee, Vice Chairperson, Acting Chairperson, and Editor of *Gifted International*.

The University of South Florida has made a generous offer to the World Council by way of personnel support and office services. In addition to the professional expertise that accrues from this offer, there is a substantial contribution in terms of personnel support to the World Council budget. Appreciation is expressed to the six other institutions that offered to host the World Council.

A. Harry Passow, Jacob Schiff Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, will lend continuity to the organization in the continuing capacity of Honorary Director of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. Mail to Dr. Passow should be sent in care of Box 218, Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 West 120 Street, New York, New York 10027 USA.

NEW DELEGATES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

Conference participants, voting in national groups, elected a new Assembly of Delegates who, in turn, elected four members of the Executive Committee. The new Assembly of Delegates is named in the accompanying table. Newly elected members of the Executive Committee are Elizabeth Adesokan (Nigeria) and Aurora H. Roldan (Philippines); re-elected are Elena Konstat (Mexico) and Klaus Urban (Federal Republic of Germany). Dra. Konstat will serve as Secretary and Dra. Roldan as Treasurer. Continuing members of the Executive Committee are James J. Gallagher (USA), President; Dan Bitan (Israel), Vice President; and Jean-Charles Terrassier (France). Wilhelm Wiczerkowski (Federal Republic of Germany) serves ex officio as Chairman of the 1985 Conference Committee.

ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES 1983-85

Argentina	Federal Republic of Germany	Philippines
Lidia Sartori-Baldis	Gisela Dahme	Cleofe M. Bacungan
Adriana Frenchia	Harald Wagner	Pacita Habana
Australia	Indonesia	Inday Melencio
Ron Day	Yaumil Aboes Achir	Estrellita G. Liboro (alt.)
Michael Quinn	S.C. Utami Munandar	Republic of South Africa
Evelyn Tinsdale	A.E. Sinolungan, SH	G. Eriksson
Robyn Allom (alt.)	Israel	J. Neethling
Brazil	Blanka Burg	J. Nel
Luiz Ponde Barretto	Nava Butler	J. Cawood (alt.)
Joao Bina Machado	Eliezer Shmueli	Taiwan (Republic of China)
Maria Helena Novaes Mira	Mexico	Hsin-Tai Lin
Canada	Estela Barrego	Jing-Jyi Wu
Gilles Cloutier	Nidia Sanchez	Wu-Tien Wu
Jacinthe Bedard Menard	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Carolyn Yewchuk	Elizabeth Beard	Frieda Painter
Don Simpson (alt.)	Jim Havill	Phyllis Pickard
Colombia	Neil Reid	United States of America
Luis Alberto Casiblanco	Nigeria	Alexinia Baldwin
Doria Emma Gauria	Olu Makinde	Sandra Kaplan
Gladys J. Uhl		Irving Sato
		Emily Stewart (alt.)

CONFERENCE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

A host of activities was designed to encourage the relaxed meeting of minds and spirits after the many stimulating informational sessions. Cultural and social events in Manila began with a warm **mabuhay** of welcome at the dinner and reception hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. After an outstanding presentation of Filipino folk songs and dances by the Barangay Dance Troupe of the Philippine Normal College, plaques of appreciation were awarded to Dr. Aurora H. Roldan and Dr. Milton Gold. A cocktail party the next night, hosted by the World Council, inspired many members to display a variety of talents and Dr. Klaus Urban played his original song about a gifted child.

A special musicale in honor of delegates to the conference was held on August 4, in the strikingly designed Cultural Center of the Philippines. Performers from several leading singing groups and from the Ballet Philippines of the CCP shared songs and dances portraying the rich heritage of the country.

Finally, a formal banquet Friday night allowed conference participants one more opportunity to enjoy Philippine cuisine. Entertainment for the closing activity included musical selections by the Himig Pilipino and a panorama of native dances by the world famous Bayanihan Troupe of professional dancers.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: Dorothy Sisk, Executive Secretary, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children
HMS, Room 414, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620

I enclose a check for \$40 (US) to cover my subscription to the World Council for the Biennium ending June 30, 1985. Fee includes issues of *Gifted International* (Journal of the Council) and *World Gifted* (newsletter).

Name (printed or typed) _____

Occupation and title _____

Mailing address _____

Renewal ____: New membership ____



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