



**The World Organization for Early Childhood Education
(OMEPE - Hong Kong) and
Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)**



Reorienting the Curriculum in Korean Early Childhood Education: Examining the Experiences of Kindergarteners with Education for Sustainable Development

Professor Eunhye Park
Professor of Early Childhood Education
The Ewha Womans University

22 February 2013 (Friday)
18:00 - 19:30
T4, Meng Wah Complex, HKU

Abstract:

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a vision of education that seeks to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future (UNESCO, 2002). ESD is more than a knowledge base related to environment, economy, and society; it also addresses learning skills, perspectives, and values that guide and motivate people to seek sustainable livelihoods, participate in a democratic society, and live in a sustainable manner. ESD also involves studying local and global issues. In short, it is important to adopt the concepts put forth by ESD in schools throughout the world, instilling a sense of responsibility in children, even at a young age. However, integrating ESD into existing curricula can be a complex process; simply adding to an existing, full curriculum is not feasible, as there is a limit to children's attention span and learning capability. Instead, curriculum must be re-conceptualized if ESD is to be successfully included. Therefore, the purpose of this presentation is to reorient the current early childhood education curriculum in Korea to address ESD concepts, with a focus on the experiences of young Korean learners.

About the speaker:



Professor Eunhye Park is currently Professor of Early Childhood Education at the Ewha Womans University and the Director of the Ewha Institute of Early Childhood Education and Care in Seoul, Korea. She is also the World Vice President of the Asia Pacific Region for the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEPE). Professor Park received her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education in Arizona State University. She has won a number of awards, both within and outside of Korea, and has published numerous papers in the field of early childhood education. Her current work focuses on the newly-implemented NURI system and on curriculum development in Korea.

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