

THAILAND

Montessori Association of Thailand (MAT)

Highlights

In the course of last year, we saw the first group of experienced AMI Thai teachers, school directors and supervisors go into the Professional Development/Training of Trainers programme with Shannon Helfrich. This should help to secure local AMI training in Thailand.

AMI Elementary is in the planning stages for the 2nd course for teachers working with children aged 6 to 12 years with Greg MacDonald, as the Director of Training. Almost 150 AMI teachers in Elementary are working in Thai public schools. This growth adds strength and conviction and is seen as a key factor in the future of Montessori in Thailand by the Thai Government.

Events and Activities

- Assistants to Infancy module workshops were conducted in Bangkok by Jessica Scrimmes.
- Mentoring Workshop for teachers was led by Kannekar Butt.
- School, teacher and administrator mentoring and workshops were given in July 2016, by Bill Conway and Christine Harrison with Chitra Acher.
- AMI Professional Development/ Training of Trainer commenced in 2016.
- In July 2016, candidates for training were interviewed by Rita and Shannon; 8 school Directors and supervisors were accepted for Professional Development and 22 teachers were accepted for Training of Trainers.
- In October 2016, the first 22 classroom visits & workshop seminars were conducted by AMI Trainer, Shannon Helfrich.
- Visits to schools in Australia by 11 members of MAT were organised.
- Volunteer, Lesley Ann Patrick observed and mentored in various schools, providing MAT with a report in June 2016.
- Sydney school, Montessori East sent student volunteers to support a Montessori programme at a government orphanage in July 2016.
- Refresher programme was held on the topic Normalisation, conducted by Shannon Helfrich.

Collaborations and Partnerships

Montessori movement in Thailand is supported within the country by the Ministry of Education under direct line of authority through the Office of Basic Education Commission, the Office of Permanent Secretary, the Office of Private Education and the Office of Compulsory Education.

Regarding international support, there were many individuals interested, and groups such as the Australia Thailand Montessori Support committee (ATMs), which assists with professional development, strategic planning, and assisting volunteers/ mentors coming from outside of Thailand.

Nienhuis/ Heutink International has supported Thailand on a quality materials outreach accessible program.

Volunteers from overseas continue to provide much needed support for the teachers and administrators in Thailand. MAT, the Montessori Association of Thailand is pleased to offer Thai hospitality and support to volunteers who would like to further the work of AMI in Thailand.

Publications and Media

The website for MAT is widely used and there is a live media connection amongst the teachers and students. There is on-going work in translation in Thailand of Dr Montessori's work.

The number of AMI Montessori programmes in schools in Thailand has grown to 350 Schools, with 3-6 programmes in 300 and 50 schools with 6-12 programmes. Thousands of public and private schools have been influenced and wish to be able to implement at deeper level of understanding to children.

The official website for Montessori Association of Thailand is www.montessoriassothailand.org and our social media site is: www.facebook.com/MontessoriAssoThailand.

Memberships

Membership in MAT is approximately 680.

Board and committees

The MAT Board and sub committees consists of the following people:

- President Kannekar Butt,
- Vice for Finance Tounjai Nantakit,
- Vice for Public Relation Preyanuch Satavornmani,
- Vice for Administration Somruck Kitdech,
- Vice for Government Liaison Boontin Lamson,
- Secretary Charurat Suksamran,
- Treasurer Wanpen Techapalokul ,
- Committee Jiraporn Eiamrahong,

We are grateful to the tireless work of Kannekar Butt, as she reaches another milestone in her work, as she completes 13 years and successfully organises our current course offerings. We are also indebted to the generosity of local supporters of Montessori education, who have created an excellent training centre to house our students in training.

Congratulations to all the remarkable Thai teachers who have taken part in the PD/ ToT program. The future of Montessori is in their hands, their minds and their hearts.

Bill Conway
Principal to Montessori East School