



IDEC in Israel – April 2010

The Big Dance – Education of the Third Wave

From the 6th to the 13th of April, 2010, IDEC – the 18th International Conference on Democratic Education - will take place in Israel. It will be hosted by the Institute for Democratic Education in cooperation with the Seminar HaKibbutzim College in Tel Aviv.

Background

IDEC - International Democratic Education Conference - is meant for students, teachers, parents, schools, social activists, organizations, government bodies and private individuals who are interested in discussing and sharing their ideas and experience in democratic education and related areas. The conference reflects the spirit and ideas of democracy, as expressed in the schools and organizations participating in the conference.

Today there are over 200 democratic schools in over 30 different countries, with over 40,000 students. The first conference, held in Hadera in 1993, was an Israeli initiative. Since then, till today, the conference has wandered around the world, taking place in a different country every year. Among our traditional participants are Japan, Korea, Thailand, Australia, Germany, Holland, France, the USA, Canada, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, India, South Africa and more.....

How the Conference Is Conducted

Each year, beginning with 1993, a school or organization from one of the participating countries volunteers to host the following year's conference. The decision regarding the venue of the next conference is made during the conference, and as soon as the choice has been made, the entirety of the responsibility for that conference belongs to the organization/school chosen. That school/organization determines the dates, contents and character of the conference, as well as seeing to the necessary funding and logistics for producing this event.

The length of the conference varies, from two days (the first conference) to two weeks (1997), and some 300 people from throughout the world participate. Some of the conferences have included days of tours and cultural events. At some, there was a preplanned, structured program of lectures and workshops, whereas in others the entire program was determined by the conference participants upon their arrival; at some conferences there was a combination of these two approaches. Some of the conferences were funded entirely by the hosting school and supporting groups, while at others the organizers had to take payment from participants. All decisions regarding these subjects are made by the hosting school/organization.





Goals of the Conference

The conference has various goals, including:

1. Creating a platform for regular, periodic discourse among all those involved in democratic education around the world;
2. an opportunity to clarify issues and raise problems in a supportive atmosphere
3. spreading the ideas of democratic education around the world
4. formulating a pluralistic, communicative learning network
5. adoption of democratic values as central values for the advancement of educational initiatives

In any event, the unique goal of each conference is determined by the organizers.

Characteristics of the Conference

1. It takes place each year on a different continent.
2. It unites a community of schools/educational organizations, involved in democratic education, and promotes discourse among them.
3. The hosting school/organization is responsible for the content, economic and organizational aspects of the conference and for all activity in the community from the end of the previous conference till the end of the hospitality.
4. Every conference is conducted by its hosts. Usually the conference is conducted in Open Space fashion, and in addition there are organized workshops, activities and discussions, alongside lectures by key figures in this area from around the world.
5. The social aspect of the conference is most significant and includes evenings with entertainment and cultural events, as well as social gatherings of the hundreds of guests from the different countries.
6. The conference serves as an opportunity to clarify issues and raise difficulties, and to promote democratic education throughout the world in general and in the hosting country in particular.

The Conference in Israel

At the conference held in Canada in August 2008, Israel received the agreement of the assembly to conduct the 2010 conference in Israel. The main goal of the conference in Israel is to expose and be exposed to the educational ideas of the "Third Wave" (see Alvin Toffler) and to leading schools throughout the world that represent various models of this stream.

The Conference will have three parts:





1. The first part – from Tuesday to Thursday – a widely-attended conference including lectures by leading educators from around the world, an exhibition of unique schools, and various tours.
2. Part two – the weekend – dedicated to the community of democratic schools.
3. Part three – Sunday through Tuesday – educational field trips in Israel

Part One			Part Two	Part Three
yadseuT 6/4/10	yadsendeW 7/4/10	yadsruhT 8/4/10	Friday-Saturday 9-10/4/10	Sunday-Tuesday 11-13/4/10
Arrival and Gathering during the morning <u>15:00-20:00</u> Opening conference in the presence of the Minister of Education Speakers – representatives from leading “Third Wave” schools High Tech school Met school Summerhill and more	niteem gninroM <u>10:00-13:00</u> “Schools Fair” fo snoitatneserP fo yteirav a morf sloohcs dlrow eht dnuora <u>14:00-16:00</u> fo sgniteeM spuorg tseretnl <u>16:00-18:00</u> fo dnuor dnoceS "riaf" snoitatneserp 19:00 Educators respond to the events of the past two days	<u>8:00-17:00</u> A variety of tours in the center of the country. Each tour will combine a visit to a school and to a learning town. (On this day classes resume at the college). <u>19:00</u> gnidulcnoc ytivitca gnineve	Open Space days for the community The weekend is devoted to activities initiated by the conference participants	Three different three-day tours: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in the Jerusalem area 2. In the center and Sharon area 3. In the north The tours will combine various aspects of Israeli society with an introduction to unique educational frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Social involvement * Jewish-Arab relations * Holocaust Remembrance day activities (Monday) * Democratic Education * Education cities

More details

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