



MONTESSORI NEWS TODAY

-----THE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER-----



Nestled in a plot of land of 22,000 square feet, the new preschool campus was built with an initial investment of US\$2 million. MMI Vietnam first started operations in March 2016, with an initial intake of 100 students.

Modern Montessori aims to expand into Asian emerging markets

Pre-school education provider earmarks Indonesia, Vietnam for expansion plans

----- DR T. CHANDROO (CEO)

[SINGAPORE] Modern Montessori International (MMI), a provider of preschool services, wants to increase its presence in the region's developing nations, particularly Vietnam and Indonesia.

Its first school in Vietnam, with a 15,000-square-foot campus in the Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park (VSIP) in the province of Binh Duong near Ho Chi Minh City, plans to enroll 350 to 400 pupils when it is finished, most likely at the end of this year. It will primarily serve the young people of the numerous foreigners living and working in the VSIP.

MMI will establish a teacher-training facility in Jakarta in four to six months. According to MMI chairman and chief executive officer T Chandroo, it is one of the few pre-school operators with a license to operate as a franchise and is already operating two pre-school centers there under its franchise program.

Explaining MMI's move into these markets, he said they hold "huge potential". In Vietnam, for example, seven in 10 people are under the age of 35, which points to strong demand by young couples for the best education for their pre-school-age children. As Vietnam and Indonesia are among the most populated countries in Asean, Dr Chandroo believes that they offer significant growth opportunities for MMI.

The intent to expand is reflective of MMI's commitment to opening as many centres as possible in Asia. MMI presently has a network of about 100 pre-school centres in Asia, of which 28 are in Singapore. Plans for an initial public offering are also in the pipeline.

Dr. Chandroo is aware firsthand of the difficulties of introducing MMI to a developing market like Vietnam. For instance, the organization had to wait over three years for its license to function as a foreign supplier of pre-school instruction there.

Finding local partners - a requirement for foreign companies, as is also the case in countries such as Cambodia and Myanmar - was also not easy. Dr Chandroo said: "One must be prepared to accept these challenges when you want to cross borders. Nothing comes free."

Despite current challenges including employee retention and renting expenses, Dr. Chandroo remains upbeat about the pre-school industry in his own country, Singapore. He said that the government's grants and schemes such as the Anchor Operator scheme are helping the sector along. "The landscape is transforming. Given another five years, 10 years, I think Singapore's pre-school programme delivery will be one of the best in the world," he said.



Fun with Rainbow!

By MMI Preschool, Pinnacle Branch, Singapore



----- MMI FUNTASTIC FRIDAY

Did kids put in a lot of effort all week long? Do they merit a special commendation for their hard work? The purpose of the lesson plans and project ideas is to provide Friday fun and education. Some are straightforward games or exercises that provide a pleasant diversion from formal education while also serving to strengthen abilities. Look for more creative ways to make learning enjoyable. Make it work for you. Enjoy your Friday and have fun!



Nature Education

----- MMI LITTLE EXPLORERS

Dr. Montessori stressed the interconnectedness between humanity and nature. “The land is where our roots are,” she wrote. “The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth.” Montessori stresses that children should comprehend that they are a part of a larger cosmos in her concept of cosmic education. This deep comprehension can be attained by walking outside and taking in the natural world. “When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them up in cupboards.”



How you can apply it at home:

As Montessori parents, you can continue this nature education outside of the classroom, too. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Take your child on nature walks in or around the woods or beach (depending on where you live).
2. Visit the nearest botanical garden or zoo together and encourage them to keep nature journals and take photos of anything they see that catches their interest.

Your child's understanding of their place in the cosmos and their connection to nature will grow as a result of these activities.



Memorable Moments!

By ANC MMI, Sri Lanka



----- MMI CELEBRATIONS

"Our SRI LANKAN centers were filled with the lively spirit of Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations, featuring traditional customs, energetic dance performances, and classic games. It was a day filled with memorable moments at ANC MMI!"



FAQs:

Q: How do Montessori educators incorporate cultural diversity?

A: Montessori classrooms celebrate cultural diversity by integrating global themes, multicultural activities, and exploring traditions throughout the year.

Q: How do Montessori classrooms address social development?

A: Montessori classrooms emphasize social development through collaborative activities, conflict resolution skills, and fostering a sense of community among peers.

Q: How does Montessori education incorporate traditions into the curriculum?

A: Montessori educators seamlessly integrate traditions by introducing culturally diverse activities, themed materials, and collaborative projects. These celebrations not only enrich the curriculum but also foster an appreciation for global diversity and traditions.



Multisensory Learning Through Festive Activities



----- MMI FESTIVE LEARNINGS

Multisensory experiences are essential to Montessori education, and the celebration of various customs provides an excellent setting for these kinds of activities. A Montessori classroom can become an immersion learning center by creating traditional decorations or tasting delicacies that are important to the culture. Including all of the senses not only makes the celebrations unforgettable, but it also fits in perfectly with the Montessori approach of practical, kid-led learning. Through these joyful pursuits, kids might gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for their classmates' traditions



Graduation Ceremony of the Kindergarten Class



By MMI Preschool, India

The Graduation Ceremony of the Kindergarten Class at MMI was a heartwarming and memorable event, celebrating the achievements and milestones of our young Montessorians, as they transition to the next phase of their educational journey. The ceremony was filled with pride and joy as children donned their graduation caps and gowns, symbolizing their readiness to move forward. Inspirational speeches, musical performances, and heartfelt farewells added to the significance of the event, leaving everyone with cherished memories of this important milestone in the children's lives.



1st Exchange Programme

----- MMI PRESCHOOL



MMI DLF Phase 1 children engaged in a virtual exchange program with schools in Singapore. This unique initiative cultivated cultural understanding and enriched learning experiences for all participants.

The Benefits of Global Education and Cultural Exchange Programs:

- 1. Cross-Cultural Understanding Programs** for cultural exchange and global education provide meaningful encounters between people with diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- 2. Language Acquisition**
Participating in a cultural exchange program provides an immersive language learning experience. It allows children to practice and improve their language skills rapidly.
- 3. Global Citizenship**
Programs for global education foster a feeling of social responsibility and global citizenship. Youngsters learn about the world's interdependence and their part in solving global issues.