

Dear Everyone,

Please send this message to as many people as you can and remember to have a good play yourself. Freda Kim

WORLD PLAY DAY MESSAGE 2009

WPD was accepted as an activity of ITLA (International Toy Library Association) in 1999, therefore it can be said that we are 10 years old. For ten years I have been sending out “Reminders” about WPD which falls on 28th May each year. From now on I shall send a “Message”. It would seem almost an insult to remind everyone because so many countries and so many individuals are planning their WPD Activities from year to year way ahead of a “reminder”

I am honoured to be able to tell you that I shall be in Singapore this year to help launch their WPD Activities and visit with members of the newly formed Toy Library Association This will also provide an opportunity to talk about the 3rd Asian Toy Library Conference which is in Singapore next year.

The 11th International Toy Library Conference was held in Paris last October (2008) and WPD was given a prominent position in the programme. The large auditorium was packed with enthusiastic Toy Librarians and we managed to sing the WPD Song loudly in our various languages all at the same time! I had discussions with the ITLA Board before the conference and with many individuals during my week in Paris We were also allotted a space to have a Poster session to help promote more awareness about producing SAFE TOYS (A full report of this is under WPD at www.itla-toylibraries.org)

A major development recently has been the approach to ITLA from other global organizations wishing to participate in WPD and, with the increasing numbers of countries having a WPD we are beginning to feel that we are at a fork in the road. If we choose the right course this can lead to an expansion in our work (PLAY) and perhaps help in our efforts to be included in the yearly calendar of the UN. However our top priority remains to encourage as many people as possible to celebrate WPD in order to show the importance of PLAY in all our lives.

Please play wherever you are, whether you are young or old, at work or at home; especially this year in the current world economy this is something we can do to make the world a better place without spending money! Find a hat, a scarf, an apron, a flower, a piece of wood – anything to get your imagination going. What goes on inside you, and what goes on between you is more important than what you play with. If you do not know how to play – watch a child and then join in. There is so much to learn about play and the ITLA website can help you. If you have questions please write to our webmaster at ainakhor@gmail.com

While in Paris a new coordinator for WPD was appointed to the Board of ITLA. Her name is Gabrielle Rennoir and I am sure she will be in touch with you soon. Meanwhile if you have reports or pictures of your activities you can continue to send them to me or straight to the website.

Whatever you do on May 28th find some playmates, small or large and play, play, PLAY!

Freda Kim,.

Founder of WPD.