

Galina Dolya at the 14th International Conference on Thinking in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia June 2009



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Galina

The 14th International Conference on Thinking was held in Kuala Lumpur and formally opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor on June 22nd 2009. Galina was an invited speaker and presented a one-and-a-half-hour workshop to delegates of the conference.

Keynote speakers at the conference were Howard Gardner, Tony Buzan, David Perkins, Edward de Bono and many other well-known experts on thinking. The conference was attended by over 1000 delegates from 42 countries. Galina met most of these experts who were very interested in the Vygotskian Developmental Curriculum



Prof. Nikolay Veraksa, Prof. Howard Gardner

The conference organiser invited Galina to meet with the Prime Minister of Malaysia's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor who had opened the conference. Her significant interest is in providing early years education in Malaysia. She is particularly concerned that the poorer children in the country have access to an early years programme. Under her initiative 14 pre-schools/k kindergartens known as Permata Centres98 (Special Jewels have been developed in many parts of the country. Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor wanted to meet Galina because of the Key to Learning programmes. During the meeting she invited us to visit one of the pre-schools in a remote area. The visit itself was extremely interesting and we met teachers and children from the Permata Mempaga, Pahang. The centres were extremely well set up and well-equipped. Teachers all had some formal training and parents had to make a commitment of time to the school in order to secure her place of the centre. After the visit Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor asked her advisers to come to Galina's presentation.



Galina storytelling with 2-3 yr olds in a Permata



Galina storytelling with 2-3 yr olds in a Permata

As a consequence we are currently preparing to go back to Malaysia in the Spring to train the teachers from the Permatas in order to implement Key to Learning in these centres and any new ones.

The Conference was also an opportunity to meet many people from the Far East who were interested in Key to Learning and as a result we are now planning conferences in Singapore Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan with several centres indicating that they wish to consider the possibility to implement Key to Learning as their early years' curriculum.