

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

### First Early Childhood Exhibition Atelier and Conference in Singapore

# REACH, Singapore and Reggio Children, Italy present Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material

Singapore, 7 November 2024—In a groundbreaking event for early childhood education, Singapore will host the first-ever Reggio Children Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material Exhibition and Conference from Italy this November. Organised by Reggio Emilia in Asia for Children (REACH) and Reggio Children, together with municipal preschools and infant-toddler centres of Reggio Emilia, Italy, this prestigious gathering marks the start of a three-country international exhibition tour. Following its Singapore debut, the exhibition will travel to Harbin, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Nanjing in China before moving to Australia in 2025.

From 22-23 November 2024, at the Orchard Hotel Singapore, world-renowned experts from Reggio Children and municipal preschools and infant-toddler centres of Reggio Emilia, Italy, will lead educators from over 14 countries in exploring the acclaimed Reggio Emilia Approach to education. This exclusive event, the first Reggio Children conference in Singapore since 2018, will be conducted in English, Mandarin, and Italian. It will also feature a unique exhibition showcasing the extraordinary creativity of young minds.

Ms. Sun Xueling, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development, will be the Guest-of-Honour and will address the delegates, including leaders, educators, trainers, and policymakers representing key stakeholders in the early childhood profession.

Conference delegates will also be invited to view the world-renowned Reggio Children exhibition Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material, which has previously travelled to ten countries.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on 21 November by His Excellency Dante Brandi, the Italian Ambassador to Singapore, who said, "Italy's contribution to the educational landscape is profound, offering new perspectives and approaches that complement Singapore's vision of education as a cornerstone of societal growth and development. The Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education pioneered in Italy stands as a testament to the power of creativity, exploration, and holistic development in young minds. This approach aligns beautifully with Singapore's commitment to fostering creativity and critical thinking, as well as nurturing the potential of every child. This event



is a unique opportunity to strengthen the bonds between Italy and Singapore, fostering collaboration and mutual learning. Together, we can continue to inspire and support the educators who shape the future of our children, ensuring they receive the best start in life."

"Children are our future, and they have only one childhood. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are always learning and committing ourselves to the highest standards of practice in the learning and development of children in our care. This is especially important as the training, development, and well-being of educators directly impact the safety, care, and learning of children, which in turn affects families and society as a whole. The Reggio Emilia Approach to education has inspired educators worldwide for the last 65 years, and it continues to do so. We are excited to bring this landmark exhibition to Singapore to offer educators for the first time in Singapore and the region a firsthand opportunity to connect and learn from this groundbreaking approach." said Bipasha Minocha, CEO of REACH.

### **Key Event Details:**

Conference: Listening to Children's Languages through the Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material

• Date: 22-23 November 2024

• Location: Orchard Hotel Singapore, 442 Orchard Rd, Singapore 238879

 Guest of Honour: Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Social and Family Development

• Language: English, Italian and Mandarin

## Exhibition and Atelier: Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material

• Date: 21st November to 20th December 2024

• Location: REACH centre of excellence, 6A Stevens Road, Singapore

Guest of Honour: Italian ambassador to Singapore His Excellency Dante Brandi

Language: English and Mandarin

### Key highlights:

- International experts: Distinguished speakers from Reggio Children, Italy, will lead the dialogue on the Reggio Emilia Approach. We will also have a panel discussion with representations from Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and China on the interpretations of this approach in their own contexts
- Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material Exhibition: A unique showcase of children's creativity from Reggio Emilia infant-toddler centres and pre-schools, providing valuable insights for educators.



- Interactive Atelier Sessions: Hands-on exploration of mark-making tools and materials, helping educators translate experiences into practical applications.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with educators from Asia and beyond, sharing best practices and finding inspiration.
- **Exclusive Networking Reception:** Join fellow professionals on the evening of November 22nd for relationship-building.

For more details on the Reggio Emilia Exhibition and Conference in Singapore

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## About REACH-Reggio Emilia in Asia for Children

Founded in 2013 by EtonHouse International Education Group, REACH is a proud Reggio Children International Network member and represents Reggio Children in Singapore and China. REACH is committed to innovation, collaboration, and dialogue among educators across Asia while protecting and advocating the Reggio Emilia Approach to Education. Through international conferences, professional development programmes, publications, webinars, study groups etc, REACH advocates for children's rights and potential, celebrating their '100 languages' of expression.

As a beacon of the Reggio Emilia philosophy in Asia, REACH is committed to transformative education practices that value lifelong learning, reflective practice, and contextual change. It invites educators to join in its journey of growth, innovation, and advocacy for children's rights in early childhood education.



### **About EtonHouse International Education Group**

EtonHouse International Education Group, headquartered in Singapore, operates more than 100 schools across 9 countries, including over 40 campuses in Singapore, catering to a diverse spectrum of students in both premium and affordable educational spaces.

The collective efforts impact the lives of over 25,000 children worldwide, reaffirming the commitment to delivering exceptional education on a global scale. With a legacy spanning nearly three decades, EtonHouse has consistently led the way in the realm of international education, offering innovative pre-schools and K-12 schools that nurture a close-knit family environment.

The educational philosophy, rooted in inquiry-based learning inspired by the renowned Reggio Emilia approach, is encapsulated in the "Inquire-Think-Learn" curriculum. EtonHouse International Schools are celebrated for their bilingual programmes and proudly offer internationally recognised qualifications such as IBPYP, IGCSE, and International A-Level certifications.

Its commitment to excellence has earned the Group numerous accolades, including:

- E-Bridge successfully earned multiple accolades for teaching excellence and innovation from the ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development from 2019-2023
  - E-Bridge Pre-School Bukit Panjang clinched the "Outstanding Centre for Teaching and Learning Award" in 2019.
  - E-Bridge educators were commended with "Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Award" in 2021
  - Clinched "Promising Infant Educator Award & Early Childhood Innovation Award" in 2022.
  - E-Bridge Pre-School SengKang Square won the "Outstanding Centre for Teaching and Learning Award" in 2023
- EtonHouse International School Suzhou, an IB K-12 school, garnered recognition as one of China's top international schools, according to a research firm based in Washington, DC.
- In 2024, EtonHouse received the esteemed HoneyKids Singapore Education Awards, achieving Gold for "Best Bilingual Programme", Silver for "Best Small School in Singapore" and clinched both Gold and Silver for "Principal of the Year (Kindergarten).
- In 2023, EtonHouse China won the Forbes China Best International Education Group Award.
- Middleton International School is the only international school in Singapore to be in the top 3 of the World's Best School Prizes 2024

REACH
Reggio Emilia in Asia for Children

At EtonHouse, collaboration with governments is a cornerstone of its mission. The partnerships include:

• Participation in Singapore's Anchor Operator (AOP) Scheme, launching E-Bridge Pre-School in 2014 to deliver top-notch infant care and pre-school education for children aged 2 months to 6 years across a network of 24 centres.

• The expansion of EtonHouse's presence in Suzhou and Nanjing, China came at the invitation of the Jiangsu provincial government, reinforcing its commitment to global education.

 Won an Economic Development Board tender in 2017 and introduced Middleton International School, offering an affordable schooling option for expatriate families.

In 2015, the EtonHouse Community Fund (ECF) was established, dedicated to enhancing the lives of underserved children and youth through education.

The Eton Academy (TEA) was launched in 2020, providing English, Maths, and Science academic programmes for Nursery 1 to Primary 6 in centres across the island.

EtonHouse International Education Group remains unwavering in its commitment to shaping futures and making a meaningful impact on the world through education.

#### **About REGGIO CHILDREN**

Reggio Children – International Center for the Defence and Promotion of the Rights and Potential of All Children – starting from 1994 promotes and disseminates through professional development initiatives, research projects, consulting work in the educational field, ateliers, exhibitions and publishing the pedagogical and cultural heritage of Reggio Emilia's Municipal Infant-Toddler Centres and Preschools, known in Italy and throughout the world as the Reggio Emilia Approach®.

The Reggio Children International Network was established in 2006 and is made up of references in the countries which have collaborated longest and in stable ways with Reggio Children on the realisation of initiatives and activities.

www.reggiochildren.it

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