

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

July 2007

Site of the Month

ISCI CONFERENCE

This newsletter is somewhat of a departure from the others that I have written because it is about a conference that I recently attended in Chicago—The International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) inaugural conference. It was supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, Child Watch International, Foundation for Child Development, Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life at Clemson University, Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Springer Publishers. Indeed, it was an international conference with about 50 of the presentations by speakers from countries other than the U.S. The opening plenary speakers were Asher Ben-Arieh from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, and Ivar Frones, from the University of Oslo, Norway. The ISCI Web site states that 22 countries and 5 continents were represented.

For being an inaugural conference, the presentations were quite good and the topics varied enough to give attendees a taste of the research being conducted globally on child indicators. Of the 88 sessions/workshops offered, the following are a few that I attended:

- ◆ “Social Competence among Children and Adolescents: Development of an Indicator”
- ◆ “Defining the Cultural Context of Aboriginal Children’s Development and Well-Being”
- ◆ “How to Study Vulnerable Groups of Children? Experiences from Studies on Street Children and Child Beggars in Mali, Ghana, and Senegal”
- ◆ “Making Children Count: Using Child-Centered Data to Monitor the Realization of Children’s Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa”
- ◆ “International Demography of Youth Spirituality”
- ◆ “What Indicators Would We Use to Study Childhood in the Center of Social and Economic Transformation in China?”
- ◆ “The Child Indicators Movement: Past, Present, and Future”

Those who did not attend the conference may be able to access the presentations as the ISCI steering committee is exploring the possibility of posting them on their Web site. For future reference, and in case you would like to learn more about ISCI, go to <http://www.childindicators.org>.