

**IN HONOUR AND TO THE MEMORY OF OUR LATE PRESIDENT,  
PROFESSOR JOSEPH LAUWERYS**

The passing of Professor Lauwerys from our midst is indeed a sad blow to all participants and members of the Association Montessori Internationale. The high eminence of his intelligence with the simplicity and earnestness of heart with which he has shared in the interests and concerns of the work of the AMI made him a valuable and honourable member and leader of the AMI Council.

His involvement in our work was not only at the head of affairs and with those in high places, but he always had a word for those who carried the brunt of the everyday work. I remember in one of his first discourses at one of our international gatherings (in the early sixties I think) where he as Chairman was summing up the proceedings and as usual giving expressions of thanks to all those who contributed to its organization and success in the most beautiful words of appreciation. And then he went on to thank all those who participated in the Congress especially the teachers to whom he said the AMI was especially indebted as being the workers without whom the fabric of this kind of organization could not continue and flourish.

For, he said, in all of the epochs of civilization whatever stands now as monuments of their greatness could not exist but for the work of the hands (and the hearts that move them) of those who laboured as sawyers of wood, heavers of water, builders of stone, carvers of sculptures, glass-blowers, painters, etc. So too, it is in the hands, minds and hearts of the teachers who worked in fashioning the fabric of each society by helping the children, that we can see the fruits of the Montessori Movement.

We have lost a friend and an inspiring leader, but his memory must live with us as an incentive to carry on our worthy cause. We give our deep-felt sympathy to Mrs. Lauwerys in her bereavement.

*Dr. Lena Wikramaratne*

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