



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Education Sector
Division for the Coordination of United Nations Priorities in Education

10 July 2008

To: Dir, FO, RB and Institutes

Via: ADG/ED *WPH*

From: Dir, ED/UNP *MR*

Subject: International Literacy Day 2008

Dear Colleagues,

This year, International Literacy Day (ILD) has a special focus on the vital relationship between **literacy and health**, which is also the thematic emphasis of the 2007-2008 biennium of the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD). Therefore, I strongly encourage you to concentrate your ILD-related activities on this particular topic, according to the specificities and needs of the context within which you operate.

I would be grateful if you could inform your respective National Authorities and encourage them to celebrate ILD and to revitalize their commitment to the UNLD. A well-coordinated effort is key to using the great opportunity offered every year by ILD to advocate for literacy for all. In particular, we should make sure that the links between literacy and health are given special emphasis in your outreach to the pertinent audiences and stakeholders.

In order to facilitate this, and to ensure ILD 2008 is a big success, a resource toolkit is being assembled. The toolkit will offer relevant information for policy-makers and civil society with regard to the links between literacy and epidemics, illustrated by effective literacy programmes and policies. Your contribution to the toolkit would be invaluable; in particular, any relevant materials (stories, reports, video or audio resources) that you could share will be most welcome. Please send your contributions to the team in charge of ILD at literacy-day@unesco.org by 10 August 2008 at the latest.

The slogan collaboratively chosen for ILD 2008 and which will appear on the poster is: "**Literacy, the best remedy**".

The international celebration of ILD will take place on 8 September 2008 at UNESCO headquarters and will feature a roundtable on literacy and epidemics, which will be podcast through the Education website.

We would be very grateful to receive from you any relevant information or material about the activities and celebrations undertaken at the country, cluster or regional levels on the occasion of International Literacy Day. Given the thematic focus, countries engaged in LIFE and/or EDUCAIDS are particularly invited to actively participate in this year's ILD activities.

For any further information, please contact literacy-day@unesco.org.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Richmond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark Richmond