



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Global Conference on Literacy
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of International Literacy Day
'Reading the Past, Writing the Future'

UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV, Fontenoy Building, Paris, France

8 and 9 September 2016

Provisional Agenda

This year marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day which was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1966, on the recommendation of the World Congress of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy (Tehran, 1965). Moreover, 2016 is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'.

Main expected outcomes:

- 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day celebrated and literacy progress, made by countries and partners, shared.
- 2030 vision of literacy within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Education 2030 Framework for Action and UNESCO's 2015 Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education promoted.
- The Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL), within the framework of lifelong learning launched.
- UNESCO King Sejong and UNESCO Confucius Prizes for literacy awarded to the five winners.
- Third edition of the *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE III)* launched.

Thursday, 8 September 2016: Morning

08:15 – 09:15	Registration/Coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Opening ceremony Moderator: Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO Opening remarks: Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Special Envoy on 'Literacy for Development'
10:00 – 11:00	Ministerial Panel: Sharing experience about policies and strategies within the 2030 vision of literacy <i>Strong political will and commitment is essential to achieve the 2030 vision of literacy within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this session, Ministers responsible for literacy from various regions will share their experiences about policies and practices and debate major challenges being faced by their countries to achieve the 2030 vision. Ministers will also present key strategies their governments are adopting.</i> Facilitator: Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Ms Kandia Camara, Minister of National Education and Technical Education, Côte d'Ivoire• H.E. Ms Ena Elsa Velázquez Cobiella, Minister of Education, Cuba• H.E. Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Education, Senegal• H.E. Mr Upendra Kushwaha, Minister of State for Human Resource Development (School Education & Literacy), India
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break

11:30 – 12:45

SESSION 1: High-level panel: Reading the past, writing the future: literacy progress made since 1966

This session will take stock of literacy progress made over the last five decades. Going beyond a picture based on conventional statistics, such as the adult literacy rates, this session will illustrate the evolution made over the past 50 years in our understanding of literacy, approaches to policies, governance and practices. Taking a multi-stakeholder's perspective, it will also highlight key factors which have led to literacy gains, lessons learnt and outstanding issues.

Moderator: Mr Venkata Subbarao Ilapavuluri, Chief Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Presentation

Reading the past to write the future: A global view of literacy gains and lessons learnt, Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

Panel discussion

- **The role(s) played by the public sector in the promotion of literacy:** Mr Hervé Fernandez, Director, National Agency Combating Illiteracy (ANLCI), France
- **An example of what a country has achieved:** Mr. Irreneous Nyambwari Kinara, Director, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, Ministry of Education, Kenya
- **The role(s) played by NGOs and their networks in the promotion of literacy:** Mr Francisco Cabrera Romero, Council of Popular Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL)
- **The role(s) played by universities in the promotion of literacy:** Ms Suwilai Preamsirat, Professor of Linguistics, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University, Thailand

Questions and answers

12:45 – 14:30

Lunch (7th Floor, Fontenoy Building)

8 September: Afternoon

14:30 – 15:30

SESSION 2: Promoting an inter-sectoral approach to literacy - Launch of GRALE III

This is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'. Literacy is embedded within the SDG4 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole. In this session, the third edition of the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE III) will be launched and the High-level Panel will identify interrelations between literacy and other SDGs and will explore effective, mutually-beneficial inter-sectoral collaboration and possible ways of promoting such collaboration.

Moderator: Mr Borhene Chakroun, Chief of Section, Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO

Presentation on findings of GRALE III: Mr Arne Carlsen, Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Panel discussion

- **Literacy and decent work:** Mr Cyril Cosme, Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Office for France
- **Literacy and Women:** Ms. Patience W. Stephens, Director/Special Advisor on Education, UN WOMEN
- **Literacy and Agriculture:** Mr PV Abdul Wahab, Chairman Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Malappuram, India
- **Literacy in the life contexts of individuals and communities:** H.E. Mr Noel Aguirre, Vice Minister of Education, Bolivia

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 16:45

SESSION 3: Writing the future - Launch of Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL)

Recognizing the need for sustaining long-term collective efforts for the promotion of literacy after the end of the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012), the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution A/RES/69/141 at its 69th session (2013). The Resolution recognized the scale of remaining literacy challenges and the importance of collective efforts of countries and partners. UNESCO was requested to strengthen its coordination role through putting an effective multi-stakeholder partnership in place. Against this backdrop, Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) within the framework of lifelong learning, as detailed most recently in the Paris Communiqué on Literacy and Sustainable Societies (Paris, 8-9 September 2015), has been established and will be launched during this session.

Moderator: Ms Benita Somerfield, Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), USA

Panel discussion:

- Mr Arne Carlsen, Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
- HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Special Envoy on 'Literacy for Development'
- H.E. Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Education, Senegal
- Mr Abdullah Hamad Muhareb, Director General, Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

Discussion

16:45 – 17:00

Launch of Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO

17:00 – 18:00

AWARDS CEREMONY: UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy – Innovation in literacy

The Literacy Prizes are the longest standing UNESCO prizes in education. Since 1967, more than 470 programmes undertaken by governments, NGOs and individuals have been awarded these Prizes. Currently, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes consist of UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize (1989 – present) supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (2005 – present) supported by the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

The theme for the 2016 edition of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes is ‘Innovation in literacy’.

Master of Ceremony: Mr Vincent Defourny, Director, Division of Public Information, UNESCO

Remarks

- Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO
- H.E. Mr Lee Byong Hyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO
- Mr Qing Chao Fang, Deputy Permanent Delegate of the People’s Republic of China to UNESCO
- Ms Helen Abadzi, Chair of the International Jury of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes

Awarding the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to the five laureates

- Ms Suwilai Pemsrirat, Professor of Linguistics, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University, Thailand
- Mr Nguyen Quang Thach, Director, Center for Knowledge Assistance and Community Development (CKACD), Vietnam
- Mr PV Abdul Wahab, Chairman and Mr V. Ummer Koya, Director, Jan Shikshan Sansthan Malappuram, India
- H.E. Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Education, Senegal
- H.E. Mr Rapu Molekane, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to France, representing the Department of Basic Education, South Africa

18:00

Reception (Restaurant, 7th. Floor, UNESCO)

Friday, 9 September 2016: Morning

09:00 – 10:30

SESSION 4: Literacy and Sustainable Development agenda

This is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which addresses literacy through Target 4.6: 'By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy' as well as Targets 4.4 on skills and 4.5 on gender disparities and equal access to education and training. This session will examine the involvement of partners in international development, including donors, NGOs and the private sector, in the field of literacy, and highlight the contribution of literacy interventions to the achievement, not only of Target 4.6 per se, but to all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderator: Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

Panel discussion

- **Literacy as a driver of progress towards the SDGs: Bilateral donor perspectives:** Ms Chiho Ohashi, Chief Advisor Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Advancing Quality Alternative Learning (AQAL) and Ms Nazia Seher, JICA-Pakistan Office
- **The private sector as a development partner for literacy:** Mr Steven Duggan, Director, Worldwide Education Strategy, Microsoft Corporation
- **Towards greater mobilization of resources and stronger support for literacy: NGO perspectives:** Ms Katarina Popovi, Secretary General, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)
- **Challenges, obstacles and ways to enhance the quality of literacy.** Mr Dennis Sinyolo, Senior Coordinator, Education International

Questions and answers

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30	<p>SESSION 5: Enhancing an evidence base for literacy: data, statistics and research</p> <p><i>Fifty years ago, around 60 percent of adults could read and write globally. Today, it is estimated that 85 percent of adults are able to 'read and write a short, simple statement on his or her everyday life.'¹ Yet, the world is still home to at least 758 million illiterate adults, and about two thirds of them are women. Going beyond a picture based on conventional statistics, such as the adult literacy rates, this session will illustrate the availability of high quality and timely data through improved assessment of literacy skills. The session will present efforts for monitoring and evaluation of literacy progress, within the framework of the Education 2030 Agenda.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Dan Wagner, UNESCO Chair in Literacy and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring and Evaluation of Literacy progress within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Mr Aaron Benavot, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report Team ■ Key findings and issues raised in new factsheet on literacy and Sustainable Development data digest by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and introducing new initiatives for measuring literacy skills: Mr Albert Motivans, Director, Education Indicators and Data Analysis section, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) ■ Measuring and assessing adult skills accurated on a continuous scale: Mr William Thorn, Senior Analyst in the Directorate for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ■ Literacy skills assessment: Mr Mahmoud Abdessamih, Director General, National Agency for the fight against illiteracy (ANLCA), Morocco <p>Questions and answers</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Closing remarks by Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO</p>

Side events:

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day as well as international and national literacy efforts, achievements and lessons learnt over 50 years of engagement towards more literate societies, in line with the Education 2030 Framework for Action, will be exhibited by Member States and partners.

- Exhibition – UNESCO International Literacy Prizes
- Exhibition – History of literacy/UNESCO
- Spaces for Member States and partners to present their work

1. UN (2008) Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. Revision 2. UN: New York

