



**Global Conference on Literacy
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the International Literacy Day**

‘Reading the past, writing the future’

*UNESCO Headquarters, 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 (Islamic Republic of Iran, 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 winners.
- Third edition of Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE III) launched.
- Communiqué, which highlights areas of future action including of the GAL.

Thursday, 8 September 2016: Morning	
8:15 – 9:15	Registration/Coffee
9:30 – 10:30	Opening ceremony Ministerial Panel: Sharing experience about policies and strategies within 2030 vision of literacy
10:30-10:45	Voices of a learner and educator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A learner who benefited from a programme that won the UNESCO International Literacy Prize. • A teacher from a programme that won the UNESCO International Literacy Prize.
10:45-11:15	Coffee break

11:15-12:30	<p>Session 1: Reading the past, writing the future: literacy progress made since 1966 High-level panel: <i>This session will take stock of literacy progress made over the last five decades. Fifty years ago, around six out of ten adults could read and write globally. 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 understandings of literacy, approaches to policies and practice, as well as major developments made in governance, monitoring and measurement of literacy skills. It will also highlight key factors which have led to the literacy gains, lessons learnt and remaining issues.</i></p>
12:30-14:30	Lunch
8 September: Afternoon	
14:30-15:30	<p>Panel discussion 1: Promoting an inter-sectoral approach to literacy and the launch of GRALE III <i>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. The third edition of 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.</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:45	<p>Session 2: Writing the future - Launch of Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) <i>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 importance of collective efforts of countries and partners and requested UNESCO to strengthen its coordinating and catalysing role through putting an effective multi-stakeholder partnership in place. Against this background, 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.</i></p>
16:45-17:00	Launch of Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL)
17:00-18:00	<p>Awards Ceremony: UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy – Innovation in literacy <i>The UNESCO International Literacy Prizes are the oldest UNESCO prizes in education. Since 1967, more than 475 programmes undertaken by governments, NGOs and individuals have been awarded the 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 2016 edition of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes is 'Innovation in literacy'.</i></p>
18:00	Reception (Restaurant, 7th Floor)

Friday, 9 September 2015: Morning	
09:00-10:30	<p>Session 3: Literacy and Global Agenda</p> <p><i>This is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, youth and adult literacy has a specific target, 'By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy' (Target 4.6). Literacy is also related to Target 4.4, 'Substantially increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship' and Target 4.5 regarding elimination of gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<p>Session 4: Enhancing an evidence base for literacy: data, statistics and research</p> <p><i>Fifty years ago, around six out of ten 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'. Yet, the world is still home to 758 million illiterate adults at least, and about the two third 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, monitoring and evaluation of literacy progress within the framework of the education 2030.</i></p>
12:30-13:00	Closing session

Side events:

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

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