



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the award ceremony of the *UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing
the Effectiveness of Teachers***

UNESCO, 7 October 2014

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum,

Excellency Abdullah Alneaimi, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the United Arab Emirates to UNESCO,

Honourable Dignitaries of United Arab Emirates,

Members of the *Hamdan Award Board*,

Members of the Jury,

Dear Laureates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to welcome you to UNESCO for the award ceremony of the *UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers*.

This is the third edition of the Prize, and the first held at UNESCO headquarters, as an integral part of the events to celebrate *World Teachers Day*, whose 20th anniversary we celebrate this year.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum -- for his presence today, for his vision of the importance of quality education, for his commitment to sharing examples of excellence across the world.

I see this vision and commitment as expressing the spirit of all UNESCO's action, to promote quality education for all, to put education first on national and global agendas.

These goals guide all our efforts to support countries in reaching the Education for All objectives by 2015, and they were embodied in the *Muscat Agreement* of the Global Education Meeting held in Oman last May, with its focus on the need for "qualified, professionally trained, motivated and well-supported teachers."

The same objectives underpin UNESCO's stewardship of the *Global Education First Initiative*, launched two years ago by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, and steered forward by UNESCO.

The message on quality education was powerfully relayed by Heads of State and Government, as well as Ministers, on 24 September, at the High-level event on the *Global Education First Initiative*, held at the United Nations in New York.

This is the same message of the *Unite for Quality Education* campaign, launched here a year ago, and spearheaded by our special partner, *Education International*.

Putting education first means putting teachers first.

It means recognizing the importance of their role.

It means supporting their recruitment, training and development.

It means backing them with all necessary means and resources.

Because, as we all know, nothing can substitute for a good teacher.

A good teacher encourages parents, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, to send their children to school.

A good teacher holds the keys to quality learning.

A good teacher inspires and shows children the way, bolstering new forms of global citizenship for tolerance and respect.

We know the importance of teachers, but, across the world, we are falling short.

We are falling short in numbers.

According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, some 1.4 million extra teachers are needed in classrooms across the globe to achieve universal primary education by 2015, and 3.4 million more teachers will be needed by 2030.

We are also falling short in quality.

Far too often, teachers teach without the right training, without the resources they need.

The results are bleak.

We face today a global learning crisis, with 250 million children failing to learn basic skills, whether they are in school or not.

This cannot stand – we need to take action to support teachers in every way, in the run-up to 2015 and in the new agenda that follows, to ensure strong conditions of employment, a good working environment, high-quality training and development, as well as effective management.

This is why teachers stand at the heart of all UNESCO's work, guiding our *Teacher Strategy (2012-2015)*, to bridge the teacher gap and to improve teaching quality, through global advocacy and capacity-building at the national level.

Son Altesse, Mesdames et Messieurs,

En permettant d'identifier des pratiques d'excellence pédagogique, et de les faire connaître à travers le monde, le Prix UNESCO-Hamdan est un soutien direct au travail des enseignants.

Ce soutien est important pour la communauté enseignante, l'une des plus innovantes du monde, et c'est important également pour l'UNESCO – comme source d'inspiration, et comme moyen de renforcer les capacités nationales, de soutenir les instituts de formation, de développer des normes de qualité.

Cette année, le Jury international a examiné 99 projets en provenance de 64 pays.

Je tiens à saluer les membres du Jury pour leur professionnalisme. Ils avaient la tâche la plus difficile, départager des candidats de très grande qualité – ce qui témoigne du dynamisme de la communauté enseignante.

Les trois projets récompensés aujourd'hui sont :

Le projet de Oxfam Novib et de l'Internationale de l'éducation (Belgique) : « *Des éducateurs de qualité pour tous : chaque enfant a besoin d'un bon enseignement* »

Le « *programme de formation des enseignants* » de SOS Villages d'Enfants » (Madagascar).

Le projet de la Fondation ProEd (Panama) : « *Des enseignants forment d'autres enseignants – Une communauté d'apprentissage professionnelle* »

Nous pouvons les applaudir chaleureusement.

Ces projets font avancer l'éducation, et avec elle, tous les garçons et les filles, tous les hommes et les femmes qui aspirent à devenir des citoyens libres, informés, pleinement capables de construire le monde de demain.

Grâce à eux, nous allons faire connaître d'autres pratiques, d'autres modèles d'enseignement, plus efficaces, mieux adaptés aux situations diverses de l'école, pour une éducation de qualité pour tous.

Mes sincères remerciements aux responsables de la coordination du prix à Hamdan Award – vous savez à quel point nous sommes attachés à la gestion rigoureuse des Prix UNESCO, qui sont des éléments importants de notre plaidoyer et de notre action.

Au nom de l'UNESCO, j'exprime notre sincère gratitude à son Altesse, qui nous a informés de sa décision de continuer à soutenir ce prix, c'est une belle marque de confiance et d'encouragements pour l'avenir.

Je vous remercie.