

International Literacy Day 2018

Literacy and Skills Development

International Conference on ‘Literacy and Skills Development’

7 September 2018, Salle IV, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France

The International Conference on ‘Literacy and Skills Development’ (Paris, 7 September 2018) will explore ways to make effective connections between literacy and technical and vocational skills in policies, practice, systems and governance. It will do so by bringing together representatives from governments, multilateral and regional organisations, bilateral donors, non-governmental and civil society organisations, private sector, experts, and teachers and learners. Their knowledge, experiences and multiple perspectives, together with a set of background papers to be made available by the Secretariat, will feed into the deliberations during the Conference.

The main objectives of the International Conference are as follows.

- ***Drawing lessons from the past experiences and charting new elements and territories for integrated approaches that link literacy acquisition and skills development?***
- ***Learning from examples of effective integrated approaches that combine learning of literacy, job-specific, transferable and digital skills.***
- ***Exploring implications of digital technology for integrated approaches: How digital technology can enhance the effectiveness and relevance of integrated approaches that link literacy acquisition and skills development?***

The main output of the International Conference will be:

- ***A summary of discussions, highlighting key messages that emerge.***

The working languages of the International Conference are Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

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International Conference on 'Literacy and Skills Development' and UNESCO International Literacy Prizes Awards Ceremony

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

Agenda (Draft)

Friday 7 September 2018

08:00 - 08:45

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Opening session

The International Conference will be opened by a UNESCO's new leader and will be honoured by the presence of special guest(s) who will present their views of effective linkages between literacy and technical and vocational skills in the current landscape in education and development.

Chair:

- Mr David Atchoarena, Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Opening remarks:

- Mr Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General, UNESCO
- Mr. Noel Aguirre, Deputy Minister of Alternative and Special Education, Plurinational State of Bolivia

<p>9:30 - 11:00</p>	<p><i>Session 1: Revisiting integrated approaches that connect literacy and skills required for the world of work: new trends and issues</i></p> <p>For more than half a century, integrated approaches that connect literacy and skills in policies and interventions have brought about positive transformation to people’s lives, be it better literacy skills, income, well-being or self-confidence. The idea of functional literacy has particularly inspired integrated programmes, managed not only by the education sector but also by other sectors such as agriculture, labours, and health. Literacy and skills challenges, however, still persist. To meet these challenges, this session will look into new features and emerging issues related to integrated approaches at the system and policy levels to make such approaches more effective in the current context characterised by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, digitisation and globalisation.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Mari Yasunaga, Programme Specialist, Youth, Literacy and Skills Development Section, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning, Education Sector, UNESCO <p>Keynote speech on ‘Literacy and skills development: trends and issues’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Borhene Chakroun, Chief, Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning, Education Sector, UNESCO <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate of Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Mr Srinivas B Reddy, Chief, Skills and Employability Branch, Employment Policy Department , International Labour Organization (ILO) <p>Questions and Answers (Q & A) and discussion</p>
<p>11:00 - 11:30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11:30 – 12:30</p>	<p><i>Session 2: Evidence from effective integrated approaches</i></p> <p>Focusing on the programme level, this session will unpack integrated approaches that link literacy learning and skills development in the current context, drawing from examples of the five Laureates of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2018. It will explore how they respond to skill demands, gaps and mismatch, as well as new features and success factors of these integrated approaches.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Anna Robinson-Pant, Professor, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom; and UNESCO Chair holder on Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation

	<p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laureates of UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize • Laureates of UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (To be announced on 31 August, 2018) <p>Q&A</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 3: <i>Effective governance and partnerships for integrated approaches</i></p> <p>Integrated approaches to literacy and vocational skills learning require a solid base in effective governance and partnerships. Such governance and partnerships can facilitate intersectoral collaboration which involve governments and a broad array of actors and stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector) who have diverse degrees of responsibilities, authority, power, and accountability at different levels. This session will explore major factors of effective governance and partnerships for integrated approaches, paying particular attention to institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and regulations.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dan Wagner, UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy, and Professor of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, United States of America <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Martin Rodorigo Gill, Mayor of Villa Maria, Argentina • Ms Katerina Popovic, Secretary General, International Council for Adult Education • Mr Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh • Mr Ahmed Bachir Diop, Administrateur Director General, Société de Développement et des Fibres Textiles (SODEFITEX), Senegal <p>Q&A</p>
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session 4: <i>Exploring implications of digital technology for integrated approaches</i></p> <p>This session will reflect on how integrated approaches that connect literacy and skills development could achieve better education and development outcomes through effective adoption of digital technology. It will especially focus on ways in which digital technology supports the delivery of inclusive integrated programmes that are responsive to current skill demands.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ronghuai Huang, Director, International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education

	<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Luisa Gockel, Social Impact Programs and Partnerships Manager, Pearson, and Mr Mark West, Associate Project Officer, UNESCO • Ms Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami, CEO & Co-Founder, CELL-ED Learn Skills on the Go, United States of America • Mr Tiago Borges Coelho, Co-Founder, Biscate, Mozambique <p>Q&A</p>
16:30-16:45	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Svein Osttveit, Director, a.i., Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector, UNESCO
16:45-17:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
17:00-18:00	<p>Awards Ceremony: UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy</p> <p>Master of Ceremony: tbd</p> <p>Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General, UNESCO • H. E. Mr Lee Byong Hyun, Ambassador, Republic of Korea to UNESCO • H. E. Mr Yang Shen, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate, People's Republic of China to UNESCO • Mr Willy Ngaka, Chair, International Jury of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes <p>Awarding the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to five laureates</p>
18:15	<p>Reception</p>