

# International Literacy Day

Literacy in a digital world  
8 September 2017

## Agenda for the International Conference and the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes Awards Ceremony

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

Friday, 8 September 2017	
08:00 - 08:45	<p><b>Registration</b></p>
09:00 – 09:30	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO</li> <li>Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development</li> <li>H.E Ms Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Learner's voice:</b> Mr Oscar Vargas Castillo, learner from the prizewinning adultICoProgram, Colombia</p>
9:30 - 11:00	<p><b>Session 1: Rethinking literacy in a digital world</b></p> <p>Literacy is an essential part of a set of knowledge, skills and competencies required to benefit from the myriad number of services of today's digitized economy and to fully participate in our increasingly digitally-mediated societies. As the skills demand evolves in the digital world, so does what it means to be literate. This session will explore conceptual understandings of literacy(ies) in this digital era, focusing on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are knowledge, skills and competencies required in digital economies and societies?</li> <li>What kinds and levels of literacy skills are required in an increasingly digitally-mediated world?</li> <li>How can such literacy skills be related to a broader set of knowledge, skills and competencies, for example the so-called 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Koumbou Boly Barry, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, OHCHR</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Dan Wagner, UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy</li> <li>Ms Katarina Popovic, Secretary General of the International Council for Adult Education, Professor of the Belgrade University</li> <li>Mr Yves Punie, Senior Scientist, Directorate Innovation and Growth, European Commission</li> <li>Mr Willy Ngaka, National Coordinator for the Centre for Lifelong Learning, Makerere University, Uganda</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Discussion / Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p> <p>UNESCO International Literacy Prizewinners, UNESCO institutions and partners will showcase their projects and digital solutions designed to advance literacy and create literate environment (Foyer of Salle I)</p>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Promising programmes that advance literacy in a digital world</b></p> <p>The rapid expansion of digital technologies has implications for literacy programmes broadly in three aspects: the increasing demand for enhanced literacy skills as part of a broad set of skills required in a digital world; the effective use of digital technology to improve literacy teaching and learning; and the creation of literate environments, in which acquisition, use and advancement of literacy skills is supported. This session will explore five programme-level responses to increased digitization by the Laureates of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do digital technologies help literacy programmes in reaching out to those who are in need and in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning?</li> <li>• How does digitization help literacy programmes to promote the use of mother language, multilingual approaches to learning and cultural diversity in local contexts?</li> <li>• How can digital technology help enrich literate environments and create a space for lifelong learning?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Raafat A. Radwan, senior consultant to the Arab Labour Organization for Human Development</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p>Laureates of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Philip C. Abrami, Director &amp; Honorary Research Chair, Centre for the Study of Learning &amp; Performance, Concordia University, Canada</li> <li>• Ms Rana Dajani, Founder and Director, We Love Reading, Jordan</li> </ul> <p>Laureates of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Bernardo Arango Restrepo, Secretary, Secretariat of Information and Communication Technologies, Colombia</li> <li>• Ms Amna Waheed Khalid, Executive Advisor, The Citizens Foundation, Pakistan</li> <li>• Ms Mignon Hardie, Executive Director, Fundza Literacy trust, South Africa</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion / Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Knowledge Share: Findings of a Landscape Review of Digital Solutions for Low-skilled and Low-literate people</b></p> <p>A key output from the <i>UNESCO-Pearson Initiative for Literacy: Improved Livelihoods in a Digital World</i></p> <p>13:30 – 14:00, Room IV</p>
<b>14:00 – 15:15</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Literacy in a digital world: Risks and responses</b></p> <p>Despite steady progress in the past few decades, literacy progress has been not only inadequate but also uneven across countries and populations, mirroring persistent and widening inequality in our societies. The skills gap persists also among those who are proficient in reading and writing but are not sufficiently digitally literate. Given the important roles that digital technologies play in peoples' lives, their participation in the world of work and their learning, the stakes for inclusion of people into the information society are</p>

	<p>becoming higher. This session will look into the question of literacy in the digital world through the equity lens, considering both issues and opportunities for inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways is increasing digitization deepening the digital divide, seen from a literacy perspective? In what ways are technologies alleviating such divides, and leading to greater participation?</li> <li>• What kinds of multi-stakeholder responses are needed to increase the benefits and the reaping of digital dividends, and minimize the risks?</li> <li>• Participation includes issues around privacy, security and cultural and linguistic diversity. What responses are needed to protect people and promote diversity?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Borhene Chakroun, Chief, Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Maximiliano Salvadori Martinhão, Secretary of the Secretariat for Informatics Policy, Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications, Brazil</li> <li>• Ms Camilla Croso, President, Global Campaign for Education</li> <li>• Mr Hechemi Ardhaoui, Education Specialist, ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization)</li> <li>• Ms Emilie Colker, VP of Global Marketing Campaigns, Director of Project Literacy Campaign, Pearson</li> </ul>
15:15 – 16:15	<p><b>Session 4: Literacy monitoring and assessment in a digital world</b></p> <p>Digital technologies are already changing the ways in which literacy skills are assessed and measured and in the way progress is monitored. By facilitating data collection including the real-time data, analysis and dissemination, digital technologies provide valuable tools for decision-making. This session is dedicated to exploring the potential of digital technology to improve literacy assessments, as well as monitoring and evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can digital tools be used to better measure literacy levels?</li> <li>• How can digital skills best be assessed?</li> <li>• How can real time data and data analytics advance the monitoring of literacy skills acquisition and management of national information systems?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Manos Antoninis, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD</li> <li>• Ms Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics</li> <li>• Mr John Gitabi Kimotho, Senior Deputy Director, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, Kenya</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
16:30-16:45	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Closing remarks:</b> Mr David Atchoarena, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning, UNESCO</p>
16:40 - 17:00	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
17:00 - 18:00	<p><b>Awards Ceremony: UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy – Literacy in a digital world</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremony:</b> Ms Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, Founder and Managing Director, Women’s Worldwide Web (W4)</p> <p><b>Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H. E. Mr Lee Byong Hyun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO</li><li>• H. E. Mr Shen Yang, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate, People’s Republic of China to UNESCO</li><li>• Ms Maria Aurora Carrillo Gullo, Jury member, UNESCO International Literacy Prizes, Colombia</li></ul> <p><b>Awarding the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to the five laureates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Philip C. Abrami, Director &amp; Honorary Research Chair, Centre for the Study of Learning &amp; Performance, Concordia University, Canada</li><li>• Ms Rana Dajani, Founder and Director, We Love Reading, Jordan</li><li>• Mr Carlos Mario Alvarez Morales, Mayor of the City of Armenia, representing the Secretariat of Information and Communication Technologies, Colombia</li><li>• Ms Amna Waheed Khalid, Executive Advisor, The Citizens Foundation, Pakistan</li><li>• Ms Mignon Hardie, Executive Director, Fundza Literacy trust, South Africa</li></ul>
<b>18:15</b>	<p><b>Reception</b></p> <p>UNESCO International Literacy Prizewinners, UNESCO institutions and partners will showcase their projects and digital solutions designed to advance literacy and create literate environment (Foyer of Salle I)</p>

