International Literacy Day 2022
Transforming literacy learning spaces
8 - 9 September 2022
Speakers’ biographies
H.E Ms Dominique Ouattara

H.E Ms Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d’Ivoire had a brilliant career as a real estate business executive. As a result of her commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Côte d’Ivoire in all spheres of economic life, Ms Dominique Ouattara was named President of the National Oversight Committee of actions to fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labour (CNS), on November 3, 2011 by the President of the Republic. To this end, she works with national and international partners for the elimination of this scourge in Côte d’Ivoire and in the West African sub-region.

Ms Stefania Giannini

Ms Stefania Giannini was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2018, becoming the top UN official in the field. In this position, she provides strategic vision and leadership in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encompassed in Sustainable Development Goal 4. During her term, she has given fresh impetus to multilateral and bilateral partnerships, increased global focus on education’s ethical role in providing learners with the skills to respond to 21st century challenges; heightened attention to the responsibility of universities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and fostered closer relations between education, culture and the social and natural sciences. She affirmed UNESCO’s leadership in the context of the COVID-19 response, the most profound disruption to education in recent history, through global evidence, guidance, policy dialogue and collaborative work with UN partners to support countries and jointly advocate for prioritizing education in the recovery. She has encouraged mission-oriented approaches with public and private partners to build resilience and reimagine education, including through the Global Education Coalition. With an academic background in the Humanities, Ms Giannini has served as Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (2004 – 2012), being one of the first and youngest women to hold this position in Italy. As Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 – 2018) and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014 – 2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centred on social inclusion and cultural awareness.
Dr XIE Zheping

Dr XIE Zheping has a PhD in political science and has post-doctoral experience in education. She is an Associate Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, and Deputy Director of Policy Research Office at Tsinghua University. She serves as an Academic Board Member for Undergraduate Education Committee of Tsinghua University, Board Member of the Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability, Jury of UNESCO International Literacy Prize, and Advisory Board Member of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. She was a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2014. Between 2014 and 2020 she served on the jury for UNESCO’s Prize for Girls and Women’s Education. She has published over 20 papers, six books, and several book chapters on education and international cooperation. Her current research focuses on education and global governance.

H.E. Mr Dong Gi Kim

H.E Mr Dong Gi Kim has considerable experience in diplomatic missions, having worked for the Korean Embassies in Canada, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, and the United States. With a background in English language and literature as well as international law, Mr Dong Gi Kim was the Director-General for Cultural Affairs for the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being appointed Korea’s Ambassador to UNESCO in July 2019.

H.E. Mr WAN Li

H.E Mr Wan Li was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in 2019. Before that, he was a Deputy Director General of the Department of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Mr Borhene Chakroun

Mr Borhene Chakroun is an engineer, with a PhD in Education Sciences from Bourgogne University in France. Borhene worked during the 1990s as a trainer, chief trainer, and project manager. He has also worked as a short-term consultant for the EU, World Bank and other international organisations before coming to the European Training Foundation (ETF) in 2001. At the ETF, Borhene worked as a Senior Human Capital Development specialist. He is now Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO-HQ. Borhene has conducted a range of policy reviews and skills systems diagnosis in different contexts. He has authored and co-authored various articles and books in the field of skills development and lifelong learning. Much of his most recent work focuses on global trends in reforming education and training systems and global agenda for skills development in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Session 1: Leveraging learner-centric spaces

Mr Omar Diop (Moderator)

Mr Omar Diop is Head of Office and Acting Representative of UNESCO in Côte d'Ivoire. He is a senior education specialist and as such has carried out major projects in various fields of education. He has a holistic vision of educational ecosystems that he draws from a varied experience in Africa, Asia, and Europe.
Dr Li Jiacheng

Dr Jiacheng Li is the Deputy Director of Shanghai Municipal Institute for Lifelong Education (SMILE) and Professor at East China Normal University. Dr Jiacheng Li’s research interests include intergenerational learning, community education, elderly education, and learning cities. He is the author of over one hundred of journal papers, book chapters and books. He is working with thousands of Chinese teachers, principals and parents in the projects of school, family and community collaboration, and is collaborating with adult educators for elderly education and community education in Shanghai. As SMILE is working for Shanghai government, Dr Li and his colleagues are working with UNESCO Globe Network of Learning Cities too because Shanghai is a member city of the network, especially on the Project of ESD. He has the relationship with the scholars from a few countries too.

Ms Sonja Belete

Ms Sonja Belete is a consultant specialising in the fields of adult learning and education, development, sustainable livelihoods, good governance and systems building. Her career with international NGOS such as DVV International, ActionAid, CARE and also the UN provided her extensive exposure to several African countries. As former regional director for DVV International she was instrumental in the conceptualization, piloting and up-scaling of CLCs in the East/Horn of Africa region. She holds a MA degree in Adult Education and has authored several manuals, guidelines and articles. The latest are a series of booklets on building sustainable Adult Learning and Education Systems (ALESBA) for DVV International, and a guideline on CLCs in Africa for the UIL.
H.E. Mr Nos Sles

H.E. Mr Nos Sles is a Secretary of state, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). He also focuses on the implementation of National Policy on Lifelong Learning (LLLP) and development of master plan for long term and short term planning including converting Community Learning Center (CLC) to be Lifelong Learning Center (LLLC). He is also vice President of National Scout Association of Cambodia as well as Member of National Youth Council of Cambodia. He has a master degree in law and political science from Build Bright University (BBU), Cambodia.

Mr Christer Gundersen

Christer Gundersen works as senior advisor at the Norwegian Agency for development leads the development of the Global Digital Library (GDL). The goal of the GDL project is to increase the availability of high-quality reading and numeracy resources in underserved languages worldwide. The platform currently offers resources in more than 90 languages. Christer is a developer and technology enthusiast working to unlock the full potential of the internet by promoting a free and open web. The vision for the future is a version of the internet, where everyone can participate – safely! As product design lead for The Global Digital Library and Christer has experience leading human-centered design processes — through conversation, observation, and co-creation with children and youth in 7 countries in Africa and Asia.
Session 2: Adapting Learning Spaces for All

Ms Rana Dajani (Moderator)


Ms Nasseneba Touré Diané

Since April 2021, she was appointed as a Minister for Women, Family and Children, Côte d’Ivoire. Prior her appointment, she was an Advisor to the Prime Minister Amadou GON COULIBALY, in charge of business, social security and Universal Health Coverage (CMU). Then She was a General Manager of Cote d’Ivoire Tourism from 2020 to 2021. Since 2013- Mayor of the Commune of Odienné and 2nd Vice-President of UVICOCI.
Ms Diane Richler

Diane Richler is Chair of Inclusion International’s Catalyst for Inclusive Education, former chair of the International Disability Alliance and past president of Inclusion International. Diane was a civil society leader in the negotiation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and was a Visiting Academic of the European Union Erasmus Mundus project on inclusive education. She coordinates the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation International Policy Fellowships and has been an invited speaker and consultant in over 50 countries.

Dr Rola Naeb

Dr Rola Naeb is an expert members for Literacy and Second Language Learning for the Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants (LASLLIAM). She completed her BA in English Language and Literature from Aleppo University in Syria in 1998. She then went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Linguistics in 1999 and another in Translation and Interpreting in 2001. In 2004, she finished her MA in Applied Linguistics at Durham University with focus on English language teaching and educational technology. In 2015, she got my PhD from Newcastle University.

Mr Marco Martinez

Mr Marco Martinez is a Founder and coordinator of Kumoontun A. C., an organization that seeks to generate spaces and teaching materials that allow the strengthening and dissemination of the Ayöök language, one of indigenous languages in Mexico. He himself speaks Ayöök language. He studied a Bachelor of Business Administration and a master’s degree in Social Action in Global Contexts and he involved in different projects related to indigenous languages. He is also a member of the Network of Digital Activists of Indigenous Languages in Latin America and currently collaborates with Rising Voices. He has given different presentations on the use of technological tools for the strengthening of indigenous languages.
Special Session on the 2022 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes Laureates

Mr Vikas Sabata

Mr Vikas Sabata is Joint Director, International Relations of KIIT University and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences - an ecosystem of its kind that includes the world's largest indigenous organization located in Bhubaneswar, the state capital of Odisha, India. For more than a decade, he has campaigned and worked at the grassroots for poverty reduction, human rights and involuntary displacement. He has also raised funds for various programmes and research work for KIIT University & KISS from International organisations, Corporate Houses, Individual donors, Banks, Government agencies etc. Established linkages and strategic partnerships with external organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, US Department of State, British Council, Various diplomatic Missions working in India, Government Departments, Sports Organisations and have also signed MoUs with many Universities in India and abroad.

Mr Waleed Al Ali

Dr. Waleed Al Ali – is the secretary general and board member for The Digital School Initiative, He also holds responsibilities in a number of leading initiatives including senior advisor at Mohammed Bin Rashid Global Initiatives (MBRGI), the general coordinator for Madrasa.org e-learning initiative and the coordinator for Dubai Future Council for Humanitarian Aid. Dr. Waleed has extensive experience in the areas of strategic planning, social & humanitarian innovation, digital transformation and digital learning.
Ms Joana Alves Moscoso

She is a co-founder and Director Native Scientist, a non-profit organisation connecting scientists with children underperforming in science; and Chaperone, an online marketplace of personalised career support for scientists. She has been selected as Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise by Euclid Network.

Ms Carina Alves

Ms Carina Alves is a Doctor in Education, psychologist, writer, entrepreneur and social activist. Founder of Instituto Include. Creator and author of the Accessible Literature Project books. Nationally and Internally awarded for the ‘Accessible Literature project.’

Mr Hamid Bugo

Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Hamid Bugo Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Hamid Bugo, a Malaysian, graduated from Canterbury University, New Zealand with a Bachelor and a Master of Arts in Economics. He also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (NZ) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Business Studies from Harvard Institute of Development Studies, U.S.A. He was honoured with a Ph.D. (in Commerce) by Lincoln University, New Zealand. For his involvement in conservation in Sarawak, he was awarded an Excellent Award from The American Society For Conservation Biology in 2000. His working experience includes Administration Manager, Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd, the first General Manager of Land Custody and Development Authority, Sarawak, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resource Planning, and State Secretary of Sarawak. As State Secretary, Tan Sri represented the State Government in various companies and statutory bodies including Malaysian Airline System Bhd, Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd, Employees Provident Fund, University Malaysia Sarawak and University Pertanian Malaysia.
Mr Edison Anak Ricket

Edison Ricket has worked as a librarian for 25 years and has managed state libraries, academic libraries and specialist libraries during this time. He is passionate about promoting literacy and using technology as a medium of knowledge sharing and transmission.

Mr Masenny P. Dikotla

Masenny is a teacher by profession. He taught for seven years at Nkoshilo High School and trained teachers for eight years at Setotolwane College of Education, South Africa. He worked for Limpopo Department of Education as Senior Deputy Education Specialist for Teacher Education. He later worked for RTI International as Deputy Education Director (DED) where he led the implementation of the USAID-sponsored District Development Support Programme (DDSP). He is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer at Molteno institute for Language and Literacies in Johannesburg since 2004. As CEO he led Molteno to winning the UNESCO Confucius International Literacy Award twice in less than ten years, i.e., 2014 and 2022) as well as the AL-Sumait Prize for African Development in 2020. He has a Bachelor’s degree with University of South Africa (UNISA) as well as Honour’s and Master’s with University of Johannesburg. Masenny has written and published several academic papers with reputable publications both in South Africa and internationally on the subject of Instructional Coaching for teachers.
Session 3: Governance of Literacy Learning Spaces

Mr YAO YDO (Moderator)

Mr YAO YDO is the Director of UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE) in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Ydo holds a PhD in Education Sciences (Linguistics and Didactics) from the University of Grenoble (France) and a Post graduate Diploma in Diplomacy and Strategy, from the Centre d’Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (CEDES), Paris. With over 25 years of experience in UNESCO, Mr. Ydo has proven expertise and extensive experience in the field of education. He began his career at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, before serving in several countries (Mali, Cameroon, DR Congo, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria) as an Education Program Specialist, UNESCO Representative, and UNESCO Regional Director for West Africa.

Ms Gnahoré Hile Ester Michelle

Born in 1979 in Bouaké, Gbêkê Region, Ivory Coast, West Africa, she is the eldest of 7 siblings. She is the mother of 4 children including 2 girls and 2 boys. His father, Mr. Gnahoré Babou Alexandre is a retired medical representative, his mother Mrs. Fayé Sophie is a business trader. Currently unemployed and following digital literacy courses with the NGO GA-TIC for 2 years, she aspires to work as a nurse because she has received training as a health assistant.
Ms Tifitri El Asri

Ms Tifitri El Asri is in charge of the Capacity Building Service for actors at the Agence Nationale de Lutte Contre l’Analphabétisme – ANLCA, a position she has held since April 2017. She is in charge of planning, implementing and the evaluation of any capacity building and training activity for the benefit of the various stakeholders in literacy programs. She is the coordinator of the IFMA project within the Agency, she is in charge of the coordination of all the activities of implementation of the IFMA with the institutional partners, UNESCO and the EUD. Before joining the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy, Ms El Asri was a project manager with the International Organization Humanity and Inclusion (Handicap International) Maghreb program, international organization for the promotion of Inclusion and human rights. Ms. El Asri holds a Diploma of Specialized Higher Studies “DESS” in economics from the University Mohammed V of Rabat.

Mr Yombo Paul Diabouga

Dr. Yombo Paul Diabouga is Director General of National Literacy Fund, Burkina Faso. He is a specialist in educational planning. He was a doctoral student at the Institute for Research in Economics and Sociology of Education (IREDU/University of Burgundy, France). He is particularly interested in the changes in the teaching profession in the process of achieving Education for All (EFA) in sub-Saharan Africa.
Ms Minosa Anjaratiana Elia Razafindrianaina

Ms Minosa Anjaratiana Elia Razafindrianaina is the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Technical Education and of Professional Formation Madagascar. She is a teacher-researcher at the Higher Institute of Regional Technology of Atsinanana of the University of Toamasina. She holds a Doctor in Economics from the University of Antananarivo.

Mr Martin Gill

Martin Rodrigo Gill has extensive experience in both the academic and political fields. Lawyer, university professor, former rector of the National University of Villa María (UNVM), former Secretary of University Policies of the Nation, former president of the National Interuniversity Council (CIN), former Secretary of Public Works of the Nation, former National Deputy (2013). He is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the Municipality of Villa María (period 2019-2023), Cordoba province, Argentina. He also held the position of Government Secretary at the municipal level, was a member of the Public Services Control Entity and of the Municipal Electoral Board for the elections of Neighborhood Centers, elected Councilman.
Ms Corina Buzoianu

Ms Corina Buzoianu is an associate professor at SNSPA, teaching communication for BA and MA students. She has worked in public and international relations and the education sector for more than 16 years. Since 2019, Corina Buzoianu has been involved in a national project to test adult key skills in Romania. In this respect, she is coordinating the implementation of a national study looking to evaluate Romanian adults' cognitive skills by using MiniLAMP and other scales.

Panel on Literacy for Africa: Partnerships

Dr Willy Ngaka (Moderator)

Dr. Willy Ngaka is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Adult, Community & Lifelong Learning of Kyambogo University. He is the coordinator of a multi-country and multi-university UNESCO/UNITWIN research network on “Literacies, green skilling and capacity development for sustainable communities in Africa”. Before joining Kyambogo University, Prof. Ngaka was the Head/Chair of the Department of Adult and Community Education at Makerere University. He was the founding Coordinator of Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and the Dean of the Graduate School at Uganda Technology and Management University from October 2017 to September 2019. He holds a PhD, 3 Masters’ degrees, BA, 3 diplomas, and several certificates.
Mr Akinwumi Adesina

Mr Akinwumi "Akin" Adesina is a Nigerian economist who is currently serving as the President of the African Development Bank. He previously served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Until his appointment as Minister in 2010, he was Vice President of Policy and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was elected as the President of the African Development Bank in 2015 and re-elected for a second term in 2020. He is the first Nigerian to hold the post.

Mr Jawara Gaye

Prior to joining the IsDB, Mr. Jawara Gaye was Manager of the Project Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in The Gambia where he handled education sector projects financed by AfDB, EU, IsDB, WB and other bilateral donors. Mr. Gaye served as Principal Education Planner in the Ministry of Education as well. His experience spans strategy, policy, and operational program development in education, and in project management. While at IsDB, Mr. Gaye has been involved in the design of projects and programs in the education sector and has worked mainly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As Lead Education Specialist, he led the preparation of the first IsDB Education Sector Policy and the Sector Strategy to guide IsDB investments in the education sector. He led the Education Sector team prepare the Out-of-School Children program and the ACG Smart Financing for Education (SmartEd) facility.

Mr Thomas Caso

Thomas Jeffrey Caso is Managing Director at Nestlé Côte d’Ivoire SA. He hold a master of public administration from New York University and JD Law from University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.
H.E. Mr Amadou Coulibaly

H.E. Mr Amadou COULIBALY, Ambassador and Ivorian politician, is a member of the Government, as Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Spokesman of the Government. He is a former resident of the Technical Preparatory Military School, EMPT and he is a graduate of Modern Letters from the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Abidjan, ENS and from the Center for Study and Research in Communication, CERCOM, from the University of Cocody , for the cause of Communication and its businesses. It was with his diploma that he began to practice, from 1990, as a middle school teacher at the Lycée Municipal de Koumassi, before joining the Ministry of State, Ministry of Agriculture, as Chief communication and public relations service with the rank of Director of Central Administration from 2003 to 2008.

Mr Abdel Rahamane Baba-Moussa

Mr Abdel Rahamane Baba-Moussa is Secretary General, CONFEMEN. He is also a professor of Universities (CAMES) in Education Sciences. He has a good experience as a teacher-researcher in France and Benin and proven skills in the animation of international scientific networks and the organization of international conferences and congresses. He is also a specialist in the evaluation of education and training systems and lifelong learning. He has acquired international expertise in supporting educational policies in African and developing countries. (several missions carried out for UNESCO and the OIF). Recently published: Foundation and philosophy of adult education in Africa (published in 2014 by UNESCO and DVV International).
Mr Hervé Huot-Marchand has worked at UNESCO Headquarters since October 2019 as Chief of the Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development in the Education Sector. He has nearly 20 years of international experience in the field, notably in education and training in sub-Saharan Africa. He has worked for UNESCO and other bilateral partners. He was responsible for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) at the UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar (BREDA), acting first as an expert and then as the regional adviser for sub-Saharan Africa from 2006 to 2016. In this capacity, he was actively involved in research, publications, policy support, and continuous development, monitoring, evaluation and coordination of TVET programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. From 2016 until his appointment to UNESCO Headquarters, he served as the Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Mali.
UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO’s top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations’ specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners. UNESCO also leads efforts to respond to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.

The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations’ specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.

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