
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

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UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

Institut de l'UNESCO pour
l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

International Literacy Day 2006: UIL's Activities

In the context of International Literacy Day 2006, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning will – as in past years – hold an information seminar on literacy for journalists. This year, the event will be held on 6 September in Leipzig, the capital of Saxony. Literacy is a relevant issue in the “new Länder”, a region with high drop-out and unemployment rates. Partners of this event are the Federal Literacy Association and the Ernst Klett Publishing House and, for the first time, a regional literacy project in Saxony called PASS alpha.

On 8 September, Adama Ouane, Director of UIL, will speak at an event organized in Berlin by the German Adult Education Association and the Federal Literacy Association, to celebrate International Literacy Day. The German Minister for Education and Research, Annette Schavan, will be one of the speakers and will present awards to the winners of a national writing competition for literacy learners.

UIL is a cooperating partner of the Frankfurt Book Fair – the world's biggest book fair – in organizing the “Frankfurt Book Fair Literacy Campaign/LitCam” (www.litcam.org), a new initiative establishing a focus on a new area: Education for the Future. The initiative will be launched at an international opening event on 2 October under the patronage of the Indian author and UN-Undersecretary-General Shashi Tharoor. The keynote speech will be given by Vimala Ramachandran from the Educational Resource Centre, India. Other speakers will be H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, Chair, Stichting Lezen & Schrijven (Reading & Writing Foundation), Adama Ouane, Director of UIL, and Abdul Aziz Bin Habtoor, Vice-Minister for Education, Yemen. Literacy and basic education projects from India (Nirantar), Brazil (Alfasol), Senegal (ARED) and England (Booktrust) will be presented. The programme will also include a panel discussion and an exhibition of various international organizations working in the field of literacy and basic education. One of the highlights of the event will be a discussion with learners from all world regions about their learning experiences.

UIL is currently carrying out a series of in-depth studies on literacy policies, strategies, innovative pedagogical approaches and costs. At the end of November 2006 an international seminar on “International Pedagogical Approaches in Literacy” will be held in Hamburg. Both will feed into the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) for the coordination of which UIL has now taken the responsibility.

Another major activity is a Forum of African Ministers on literacy which UIL is currently preparing, in cooperation with BREDA (Bureau Régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Éducation en Afrique) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

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