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International Mother Language Day

Local languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science

FEBRUARY
21



Local languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science

UNESCO's position towards multilingual education is strengthened as part of its efforts to promote global citizenship education.

According to UNESCO, "Education for Global Citizenship aims to enable learners to play an active role in both the local and global levels to address global challenges and, ultimately, contribute proactively in creating a more just, peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable world".

In connection to this, multilingual education has a role to play: "Multilingual education" refers to the use of at least three languages, the mother tongue, a regional or national language and an international language in education."

In the fields of education and science, much remains to be done with regard to the development and use of mother tongue in most cases a local language; while grasping global challenges benefits from an understanding of international languages.

The Mother Tongue Day in 2014 will examine issues related to local languages and science. Experts will discuss the role of local languages in the promotion of traditional and indigenous knowledge and its contribution to addressing major issues related to global citizenship.

Mother tongue education

UNESCO advocates for mother tongue instruction in a bilingual or multilingual education approach in the early years because of its importance in creating a strong foundation for learning: the use mother tongue with young children at home or in pre-school prepares them for the smooth acquisition of literacy in their mother tongue and eventually, the acquisition of the second (perhaps national) language at a later stage in their schooling.

UNESCO defines bilingual and multilingual education as "the use of two or more languages as mediums of instruction. The Organization adopted the term 'multilingual education' in 1999 to refer to the use of at least three languages in education: the mother tongue; a regional or national language and an international language.

The importance of mother tongue instruction in the early years of schooling is emphasized in the findings of studies, research and reports such as the annual UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report.

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"Local languages constitute the majority of languages spoken across our world in the field of science. They are also the most endangered. Excluding languages means excluding those who speak them from their fundamental human right to scientific knowledge."

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General

PROGRAMME

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris France

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- Opening (10 a.m.) - Room IV
- Presentations a(10.30 a.m)
- Celebration by Bangladesh (11:30 am)



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- CONFERENCE: Role of local languages in promoting science - OIF, Paris - Salle Senghor (3:00pm-5:00pm)

POSTER 2014



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RELATED INFORMATION

MESSAGES

- Message from the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova (PDF)
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PAGES

- UNESCO Language in Education
- Languages of Snow
- Endangered Languages
- Living Heritage and mother languages
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- Linguistic diversity and multilingualism on Internet
- Local and Indigenous Knowledge

The Language of Snow



- Infographic: UNESCO Bangkok

INTERVIEWS

"Interculturality is built with respect, tolerance, friendship and solidarity" - Nevenka Beatriz Cerna Cayullan (UNESCO Santiago)

Colette Grinevald : "Speaking your mother tongue is not a disability!"

Professor Andrew Ikupu: Papua New Guinea's hugely rich linguistic heritage alive

RESOURCES

UN-UNESCO RESOLUTIONS

Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)

Report by the Director-General on a strategy concerning the role of languages in achieving Education for All (EFA) in the context of sustainable development (2009)

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008)

Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992)

BACKGROUND

Previous Editions: 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010

- UN International Mother Language Day 2014



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