



## **Mission Report**

**The International Conference on 'Literacy in a Digital World and UNESCO International Literacy Prizes Awards Ceremony'  
8 September 2017  
Salle IV Room, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

Prepared by

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### **A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission**

1. Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto  
Director, SEAMEO

Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela  
Deputy Director for Programme and Development

### **B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity**

- Literacy is an essential part of a knowledge, skills, and competencies required in our increasingly digitally- mediated societies.
- Over the past decades, different approaches to understanding literacy have been proposed. Literacy as skills- especially cognitive skills of reading, writing and calculating that are independent of one's context; literacy as applied, practiced and situated in specific socio-economic, political, cultural and linguistic contexts; and literacy as lifelong learning process for individual and social transformation, including critical literacy.
- UNESCO has offered some concepts of Literacy which were presented in the meeting. However, the meeting focuses on Literacy in a digital world, defined as follows:
  - a. Digital Literacy is a set of basic skills which include the use and production of digital media, information processing and retrieval, participation in social networks for creation and sharing of knowledge, and a wide range of professional computing skills.
  - b. Information Literacy which is concerned with to 'empower people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate use and create information effectively to achieve personal,

social, occupational and educational goals.

- c. ICT Literacy is concerned with “using digital literacy, communication tools, and or networks to access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information in order to function in a knowledge society.

**The objectives of the International Conference is to:**

1. Deepen our understanding of what kind of literacy skills people need to thrive in this digital world;
2. To share and analyze promising programmes that advance literacy in a digital world
3. To better understand the emergent risks- such as inequality, privacy, concerns and threats to diversity- and develop associated responses in promoting literacy in a digital world.
4. To explore digital developments for monitoring and assessing literacy, both nationally and regionally, including new opportunities presented by big data.

The International Conference has 4 sessions:

1. Session 1: Rethinking Literacy in a digital world
2. Session 2: Promising programmes that advance literacy
3. Session 3: Literacy in a digital world: risks and responses
4. Session 4: Literacy monitoring and assessment in a digital world

The highlight of the International Conference is the Awards Ceremony of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize and the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy.

**C. Participants**

- (1) UNESCO Director General and Officials of UNESCO Headquarters
- (2) The Global Alliance for Literacy composed of International, regional and country representatives.
- (3) UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
- (4) Winners of Literacy Award
- (5) Teachers, researchers and member countries

**D. Organizer/s**

- The UNESCO, GAL and UIL
- UNESCO Partners ( Korean and Chinese Embassy)
- Global and bilateral partners

**E. Highlights of the Activity/Summary Points**

1. The meeting was convened on September 8, 2017 at Salle IV Room at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

**2. Session 1 was presented by ILO and Jordan.** The session presented the many interpretations of literacy as well as the evolution of the concepts of literacy. Examples of derived literacy were shared.

3. Promising programmes on literacy were the sharing of the winners of the Literacy Prize, as follows:

- Canada – The Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance at the Concordia University is the winner of the 2017 UNESCO KING SEJONG LITERACY PRIZE for its project – “Using educational technology to develop essential educational competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Jordan – We Love Reading programme is awarded the 2017 King Sejong Literacy Award which involved using a grassroots models for regular read-aloud programmes in public community spaces with books that are attractive neutral in content and in local languages.
- Colombia- The Secretariat of the Information and Communication Technologies in the city of Armenia in Colombia is awarded the 2017 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy de its Adult IT Co Program.
- Pakistan- The Citizens Foundations in Pakistan was awarded for the 2017 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy for its AAGAH! Literacy Programme for Women and Out of School Children
- South Africa- The Fund DZA Literacy Trust in South Africa is awarded the 2017 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy for the Programme “growing Fun DZA Fanz readers and writers.

#### **F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO**

1. SEAMEO Secretariat was invited to be part of the International Conference.
2. Dr Gatot moderated session 3 while DDPD attended as a member of the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) working committee.

#### **G. Follow-up Actions Needed**

- Develop SEAMEO Roadmap to help promote youth and adult literacy in Southeast Asia (priority no 4 and 7)

#### **H. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs**

- Annex1: Session highlights
- The 2017 UNESCO Award Winners

#### **I. Photos**

