

Multilingual Education Newsletter

Issue 5 | Asia Multilingual Education Working Group

International Mother Language Day 2012

Welcome to MLE e-Newsletter!

This issue of MLE e-Newsletter would like to celebrate International Mother Language Day (IMLD), which was on 21 February 2012. To mark the day, many advocacy activities have been organized in the Asia Pacific region.

Here at UNESCO Bangkok, we organized a pre-event to promote International Mother Language Day at Darakam School in Bangkok, Thailand. Students' names writing in different languages along with postcard writing and drawing activities got children to think about the importance of their mother languages. [Read more...](#)



UNESCO/R. Manowalailao

- **Global:** "A world without words? - Celebrating International Mother Language Day" by UNESCOPRESS
- **Cambodia:** "Cambodia recognised as role model in Asia-Pacific region for mother tongue-based bilingual education" by KHAN Sophirom on Agence Kampuchea Presse Phnom Penh
- **China:** "Languages matter for learning and harmonious development" by UNESCO Beijing on China Daily
- **Cook Islands:** "Revival of Maori Language Commission in the Cook Islands" by UNESCO Apia
- **India:** "Languages are vehicles of understanding, tolerance" by UNESCO New Delhi on The Asian Age
- **Iran:** "Let us treasure and value each person's mother language" by UNESCO Tehran on Islamic Republic News Agency and UNIC Iran
- **Iran:** "Treasuring each person's mother language" on Iran Daily
- **Nepal:** "Nisha's right" by UNESCO Kathmandu on the Kathmandu Post
- **Pakistan:** "Watching the tongues slip into extinction: UNESCO documents around 28 endangered

MORE INFORMATION

Multimedia



[Teaching Them in a Language They Understand - Save the Children UK](#)



[Speaking in Tongues](#)

languages" by UNESCO Islamabad on The Express Tribune

- **Thailand: "The importance of a mother tongue"** by Kirk Person and Sena Lee on the Bangkok Post

MLE in the News

- **Digital tools 'to save languages'** - BBC; 18 February 2012
- **Linguistic imperialism alive and kicking** - The Guardian; 13 March 2012
- **The return of the mother tongue** - Philippine Daily Inquirer; 15 March 2012
- **A boost for mother-tongue learning** - Mail & Guardian Online; 16 March 2012
- **Why bilinguals are smarter** - The New York Times; 17 March 2012
- **Timor-Leste: When do mother tongues divide?** - IRIN Asia; 26 March 2012
- **Majority of Turks support education in mother tongue** - Today's Zaman; 26 March 2012
- **Understanding mother tongue** - The Hindu; 27 March 2012
- **Mother tongue most effective to the children: Jora** - Scoop News; 27 March 2012
- **Mother tongues: Education in mother-tongue stressed** - The Express Tribune; 29 March 2012
- **British Council holds policy dialogue on language in education** - The News; 29 March 2012

Resources

- **Equity and Quality in Education - Supporting Disadvantaged Students and Schools** by OECD
- **Special Issue: Quality Multilingual and Multicultural Education for Lifelong Learning**, International Review of Education. Volume 57, Number 5-6
- **Language and Superdiversity** by Jan Blommaert and Ben Rampton
- **Languages in a Global World: Learning for Better Cultural Understanding** by OECD
- **Multicultural Diversity and Special Needs Education** by European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education



© UNESCO

- **Multilingual Education in Nepal: Hearsay and Reality? A report** by UNESCO
- **Towards a Language Rich Europe: Multilingual Essays on Language Policies and Practices** by British Council
- **Why Language Matters for the Millennium Development Goals** by UNESCO
- **Workshop on Bilingual Education: Creating Learner Friendly Environment for All** by MoEYS, ICC, UNESCO and JFIT

Past & Upcoming Events

2012

- **Asia Multilingual Education Working Group Meeting**, Thailand; 30 January 2012
- **2nd Philippine Conference-Workshop on Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education EFA and MTBMLE 2015 and Beyond**, Philippines; 16 - 18 February 2012
- **International Mother Language Day**, Worldwide; 21 February 2012
- MLE Advocacy Conference in Chiangrai, Thailand; 23 - 25 February 2012
- **Workshop on bridging between languages in mother tongue-based multilingual education programs**, Thailand; 19 - 30 March 2012
- **Asia Multilingual Education Working Group Meeting**, Thailand; 26 March 2012
- **Sustaining a Global Society: Languages of the Wider World**, The UK; 29 - 30 March 2012
- **EFA Global Action Week Photo/Drawing Contest**, Worldwide; until 15 April 2012
- **2nd International Conference on Law, Language and Discourse: Multiculturalism, Multimodality and Multidimensionality**, China; 20 - 22 April 2012
- Asia Multilingual Education Working Group Meeting, Thailand; 28 May 2012
- **9th International Conference: Language, Development and Identity**, Indonesia; 26 - 28 June 2012
- **CESA 2012-Education at the dawn of the new decade: When the Quality and Sustainability Movements Converge**, Thailand; 8 - 11 July 2012
- **Language Rights, Inclusion and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflicts**, Thailand; 13 - 17 December 2012

**INTERNATIONAL
MOTHER LANGUAGE
DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012**



Learning in a language they can understand is vital for children to enjoy their right to quality education. Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education are key to reducing discrimination, promoting inclusion and improving learning outcomes for all.

© UNESCO

Asia-Pacific
Photo & Drawing Contest 2012
What is a good early childhood?
Contest closes: 15th April 2012
Global Action Week 2012
Theme: What is a good early childhood?

MLE Mapping Survey!

Currently, MLE WG is conducting a MLE Mapping Exercise in the Asia-Pacific region to document key issues, actors and activities shaping the context for ethnolinguistic communities. Please fill out the linked MLE Mapping questionnaire and return to MLE WG Secretariat. [>>Download MLE Mapping Exercise Questionnaire](#)

© UNESCO 1995-2012



Welcoming MLE Updates

All members are invited to contribute related news, feature articles or recommend publications, websites, or other information sources as well as provide feedback to enrich the MLE E-Newsletter. Please use the template provided at [UNESCO Bangkok MLE eNewsletter webpage](#) send an email and attachments (if any) to k.bang@unesco.org

Website: <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/multilingual-education/>

920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the authors and editors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNESCO. All rights remain with the respective copyright owners, as indicated for each resource.