



IFUW BLOG DISCUSSION: ADULT LITERACY, A WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM

The UNESCO Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2009 shows that illiteracy and low literacy rates are not confined to poor countries. According to the report, some 1.5 million adults in the Netherlands are classified as functionally illiterate, roughly one million of them native Dutch speakers. In metropolitan France, 9% of adults of working age (18-65) had attended school but still had literacy problems. How big a problem is illiteracy in your country? What can schools, governments and civil society do to remedy the problem? Share your views in the current IFUW Blog - <http://www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/2009/07/23/adult-illiteracy-a-world-wide-problem/>.

REMINDER - EXTENDED CALL FOR PAPERS FOR ID SEMINAR 2B - 31 AUGUST 2009

The Call for Papers for the Interdisciplinary Seminar 2B "Moving Women into Decision Making: Achieving Equality" has been extended to 31 August 2009. The seminar looks at roles, barriers, opportunities, perceptions and experiences of women in leadership roles. Are we making progress with programmes for enabling women to exercise power and decision making? The Status of Women Committee is specifically looking for papers that deal with the exercise of power and decision-making outside the sphere of education, for example in politics, religion, the economy, and the environment. All other seminars are full and no further proposals will be accepted. For further details on how to submit a paper for Seminar 2B, please see <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/seminars/>.

UWE CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 3 TO 6 SEPTEMBER 2009

The annual meeting of the University Women of Europe (UWE) will take place in Vienna from 3 to 6 September. Registration is still open. The programme includes a one-day conference on "Empowering Women for Leadership and Decision-making", the general assembly, and a choice of a visit to Linz, European Capital of Culture 2009, or site-seeing in Vienna. For the registration form and conference documents go to <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe>.

VGIF 40th ANNIVERSARY FRIENDSHIP TOUR AND JOINT VGIF/IFUWA CONFERENCE - DEADLINE 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

There is still time to register for the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund's 40th Anniversary Friendship Tour. The unique itinerary combines the treasures of Nepal and India with an opportunity for cultural exchange and sharing of ideas in VGIF's mission to empower women and girls in developing countries. One highlight will be a visit to Project Five-O Calcutta, one of VGIF's earliest projects. Also featured is a day-long conference "Women, Water, and Food Security", co-sponsored by VGIF, the Indian Federation of University Women (IFUWA), and the American Center in Calcutta. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with project directors from organizations that VGIF has funded in India over the last few years. For travel package details, including cost and registration, see <http://faf.org/Individuals/vgifconference/travel2india.htm>.

Barbara Carey, VGIF

UPCOMING UNESCO HIGHER EDUCATION EVENTS IN AFRICA

As a follow up to the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education, the UNESCO Bamako Cluster Office and its partners have announced two events to be held in Mali later this year. The First International Conference on Building Research Capacity in Africa (ICBRECA) will take place in Bamako 9-11 November.

A Training Workshop on Development and Use of Virtual Facilities for Quality Teaching and Research will be held in Segou 13-14 November. These follow a very successful Conference on Girls and Women in Science and Technology in Africa and a Capacity Building Workshop on Teaching of Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology, both held in Mali in July 2009. For more information, see <http://www.unesco-bamako.org/conferences/>.

Françoise Sauvage, IFUW Representative to UNESCO

GENEVA ASSOCIATION OFFERS HUMAN RIGHTS SERIES

The Geneva section of the Swiss Association of University Women is organizing a four-part series on human rights starting in September, which will be open to the public. The first session will present the evolution of human rights concepts and the structure of the UN's human rights bodies. Subsequent sessions will look at the various human rights conventions and discuss some of the more pressing issues covered, such as racism and the elimination of discrimination against women. The goal of the series is to promote a human rights culture and to encourage a human rights approach to political decision-making and implementation.

Arielle Wagenknecht, Swiss Association CIR

2010 FACULTY FOR THE FUTURE FELLOWSHIPS

The Schlumberger Foundation in Paris, France offers Faculty for the Future Fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue advanced PHD or postdoctoral study in the physical sciences, engineering and related disciplines at top universities in their disciplines abroad. Recipients are selected as much for their leadership capacity as their scientific talents and are expected to return to their home countries to continue their academic careers and inspire other young women. Fellowships range from USD 25000 to 50000 per year. Candidates may apply for the next competition from 5 October to 30 November 2009. Sample forms will be on-line for consultation as of 1 October so candidates can start preparing their application content. For more information, see <http://www.foundation.slb.com/fftf>.

IRISH UNIVERSITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA AND NGOS RECEIVE USD 900,000 GRANT

The University College Dublin (UCD) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD), in partnership with the University of Rwanda, Trócaire, the Ethical Globalisation Initiative, and Kimmage Development Centre, have been awarded \$900,000 (€640,000) by the MacArthur Foundation to develop a new Master's degree programme in Development Practice. Nine other universities in Australia, Botswana, China, India, Nigeria and the USA received similar grants. The programmes will bridge the natural, health and social sciences and management, combining classroom study with field training experience. The goal is to train the next generation of development experts and provide them with the knowledge and skills required to tackle the challenges of global poverty and environmental sustainability. For the full press release, see http://www.ucd.ie/news/2009/07JUL09/010709_macarthur.html.

Ann Budd, Irish Federation CIR