

Languages matter!
Языки важны! ! لغات شأن!
¡Los idiomas sí que cuentan!
Les langues, ça compte !
语言至关重要!

2008



International Year of Languages 2008

GLOBAL SEMINAR
Linguistic Diversity,
Globalization and Development

17-18 December 2008, United Nations Headquarters, New York

International Year of Languages 2008

GLOBAL SEMINAR

LANGUAGES MATTER!

**Linguistic Diversity, Globalization
and Development**

17-18 December 2008

Co-organized
by
UNESCO
and
the Department of Public Information, United Nations



Special thanks to
Linguamón House of Languages
for their gracious support

“As 2008 is the International Year of Languages, this International Day is also an opportunity to recognize the silent crisis confronting many of the world’s languages, the overwhelming majority of which are indigenous peoples’ languages.

The loss of these languages would not only weaken the world’s cultural diversity, but also our collective knowledge as a human race. I call on States, indigenous peoples, the UN system and all relevant actors to take immediate steps to protect and promote endangered languages, and to ensure the safe passage of this shared heritage to future generations.”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

on the occasion of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People,
9 August 2008

“Languages are indeed essential to the identity of groups and individuals and to their peaceful coexistence. They constitute a strategic factor of progress towards sustainable development and a harmonious relationship between the global and the local context. They are of utmost importance in achieving the six goals of education for all (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on which the United Nations agreed in 2000 (...) Our common goal is to ensure that the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in educational, administrative and legal systems, cultural expressions and the media, cyberspace and trade, is recognized at the national, regional and international levels. The International Year of Languages 2008 will provide a unique opportunity to make decisive progress towards achieving these goals.”

Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Languages



17 December 2008

**DAY
1**

**Conference
Room 1**

OPENING

10:00 – 10:15

H.E. Mr. Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann

President of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Kiyo Akasaka

UN Under-Secretary-General for
Communications and Public Information

Ms. Hélène-Marie Gosselin

Representative of UNESCO to the UN,
Director, UNESCO New York Office

10:15 – 10:20

Film on Multilingualism

10:25 – 10:35

**UNESCO Summary of the International Year
of Languages, Ms. Rochelle Roca Hachem,**
Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO

10:35 – 10:40

Message of H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf

Secretary-General of the International Organization
of La Francophonie



17 December 2008 (*continued*)

DAY
1+

Conference
Room 1

SESSION 1

Towards a Global Culture — Multilingualism, Opportunity and Development

10:45 – 12:15

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Adama Samassekou
Executive Secretary (a.i.) African Academy
of Languages, Former Minister of Education of Mali

Mr. Antoni Mir
Director, Linguamón House of Languages, Spain

Mr. Olexiy Solohubenko
Executive Editor for Europe, Americas & Europe Region,
BBC World Service

Mr. Hou Minggu
UN Bureau Chief, CCTV, China

Dr. Jai Menon
Vice-President of Technical Strategy and
Vice-President of Global University Programs, IBM

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas
Ambassador of Luxembourg to the United Nations,
Vice-President of ECOSOC

12:15 – 13:00

Questions and Answers



Languages matter!

17 December 2008 *(continued)*

DAY
1+

Conference
Room 1

SESSION 2

Language Initiatives by Governments and Public Authorities — How it Works in Practice

15:00 – 15:10

Film on Endangered Languages

15:15 – 16:45

Panelists:

Mr. Erima Henare

Maori Language Commissioner, New Zealand,
supported by Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre

Mr. Graham Fraser

Commission of Official Languages, Canada

Dr. Luis Enrique López

Universidad Mayor de San Simón,
Cochabamba, Bolivia

Dr. Ali Bin Tamim

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage,
Project Manager for KALIMA, United Arab Emirates

Message of Mr. Leonard Orban

European Commissioner for Multilingualism, delivered
by **H.E. Mr. Fernando Valenzuela**, Ambassador of
the European Commission to the United Nations

Moderator: Dr. Mary Louise Pratt

Department of Arts and Sciences, New York University, USA

16:45 – 17:30

Questions and Answers



Date: 18 December 2008

**DAY
2**

**Conference
Room 1**

SESSION 3

Multilingualism on the Move — Successful Inclusive Language Policy and Practice

10:00 – 10:10

Radio Okapi, United Nations Mission in the
Democratic Republic of the Congo

10:15 – 11:45

Panelists:

Mr. Hugo Barreto

Secretary-General, Roberto Marinho Foundation, Brazil

Dr. Joseph Lo Bianco

Professor of Language and Literacy Education,
University of Melbourne, Australia

Dr. Udaya Narayana Singh

Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages,
Mysore, India

Ms. Rebecca Lucre

Manager, Communications, and Executive Director,
Bayer USA Foundation, Bayer Corporation

Mr. Warren McClurg

Lingua International,
in house consultant to Bayer Corporation

Mr. Chris Salzberg

Japanese Editor, Global Voices

Moderator: Ms. Alane Salierno Mason

Vice President and Senior Editor,
W.W. Norton & Company,
Founder, www.wordswithoutborders.org

**DAY
2+**

**Conference
Room 1**

18 December 2008 (*continued*)

11:45 – 12:30

Questions and Answers

12:30 – 12:35

**Video Message of Mr. Paulo Coelho,
UN Messenger of Peace**

12:40 – 12:50

Close of Conference

Mr. Eric Falt, Director, Outreach Division,
UN Department of Public Information

Ms. Hélène-Marie Gosselin,
Representative of UNESCO to the UN,
Director, UNESCO New York Office





2008 - International Year of Languages

2008 - Année internationale des langues

2008 - Año Internacional de los Idiomas

2008 - Международный год языков

2008 - السنة الدولية للغات

国际语言年 - 2008 年