

Literacy Hub Regional Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting notes (draft), July 16, 2008

Submitted by Elizabeth Sturtevant, International Editor

Overview:

The meeting was opened by Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Qarizada, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education, Afghanistan, who welcomed participants and described the purpose of the meeting. He was joined in his welcome by Mr. Aminullah Adel (Afghanistan), Regional Editor of the Literacy Hub. Mr. Qarizada and Mr. Adel were joining the conversation through telecommunications.

Mr. Sakil Malik, International Reading Association, then provided an overview of the history of the Literacy Hub project and discussed issues related to the process for transferring ownership of the Hub to the BMENA region. Dr. Elizabeth Sturtevant, U.S.A., (International Editor) provided a demonstration of the Hub and discussed the philosophy behind the selection of documents. In particular, she defined the terms “Basic Literacy,” “Everyday Life and Work Literacy,” and “Academic Literacy.” She also described the peer review process and showed several documents currently on the Hub to illustrate the many different types of documents that are available.

Discussion:

The Steering Committee then discussed the next steps required to sustain the Literacy Hub and help it become a valuable resource for the BMENA region.

The following were results of this discussion:

General agreements – the Steering Committee should:

- Meet at least once per year.
- Arrange a literacy conference for Literacy Hub users in the region at least once per year.
- Develop a six year plan (see draft next page).

Six Year Plan (DRAFT as of July 16)

Three Stages

- Stage 1: July 2008-September 2010 – Establishment Phase
 - a. Develop a general strategy for involving each country
 - b. Decide on an action plan for locating and training reviewers
 - c. Decide on an action plan for locating documents for the Hub.
 - d. Develop an action plan for funding the Hub
 - e. Decide on new features of the Hub, such as possible country-specific pages and translation into multiple languages
 - f. Discuss the meaning of the word “literacy” and a possible adaption of the title “Literacy Hub” to make it more consistent with terminology used in the region.
 - g. Conduct Stage 1 evaluation

- Stage 2: Sept 2010 – Sept 2012 Coordination Phase
 - a. Work on initiatives of each country including building the necessary technology infrastructure.
 - b. Establish linkages among the Hub countries.
 - c. Train educators and policy makers for use of the Literacy Hub in specific countries or regions.
 - d. Discuss promotion of the Hub – possibly to involve publishers and the private sector
 - e. Possible creation of country-specific sites/pages.
 - f. Other tasks indicated by the Stage 1 evaluation.
 - g. Conduct Stage 2 evaluation

- Stage 3: Sept 2012-Sept 2014
 - a. Continue with Stage 2 initiatives
 - b. Other tasks indicated by the Stage 2 evaluation.
 - c. Conduct Stage 3 and Six Year evaluation
 - d. Create plan for next six years

Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee, Doha, Qatar

Summary of Group Discussion, Thursday, July 17:

1. What types of documents do you think should be added to the Literacy Hub?
Documents related to each country; documents for teachers; documents in Arabic and possibly French and Farsi.

2. What are some ways the Hub could be funded?
Seek funding through donors; countries make contributions depending on resources available.

3. How can you or someone in your country assist in the Hub development?

- a. Are there individuals you can recommend as reviewers?

Yes

- b. What documents are available that could be contributed from your country?

Various representatives mentioned specific documents – they noted there are many documents available.

- c. Is there another way in which you would like to help?

Several representatives mentioned that this is an important project and that they would like to emphasize the importance of it to others in their own countries; also they would like to encourage countries that were not represented to participate.

4. What are specific “next steps” for the Literacy Hub so that it will become a valuable resource for the BMENA region?

To hold a meeting as a follow-up in October in Morocco. To find reviewers. To increase the number of documents from the BMENA region. To locate additional funding.

Annex: A

No	Name of country	Full name	Position
	Bahrain	Dr. Abdul Majeed M. Mufeez	Director, Continuing Education, Ministry of Education
	Yemen	Ahmed Abdullah Ahmed	Director Department of Adult Education, Ministry of Education
	Mauritania	Khadija al-Sheikh	Director of Programming of statistics and Cooperation, Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Education
	Pakistan	Muhammad Akram	Joint Educational Advisor, Ministry of Education
	Jordan	Mohamad Juma Okour	Managing Director, General Education and Students Affairs, Ministry of Education
	UAE	Ali Mehad Ali Al-Suwaidi	Educational Advisor, Ministry of Education
	Iran	Ardeshir Gheysar	Manager of planning and statistics, Ministry of Education
	Morocco	Mrs. Kaoutar SOUSSI AHMADI	Chief, Mapping and Planning Department. State Department of Literacy .
	Oman	Dr. Salim Rashid Sulaiman Al-Sakiti	Educational Researcher, Office of the Minister of Education
	Qatar	Ali Yousef AlMahmoud	Director of Adult Education, Ministry of Education
	Afghanistan	Shafiq Ahmad Qarizada	Senior Adviser to Minister of Education
		Aminullah Adel	Regional Editor
	USA	Sakil Mohammad Malik	Project Manager
		Elizabeth G. Sturtevant	International Editor for Literacy Hub