

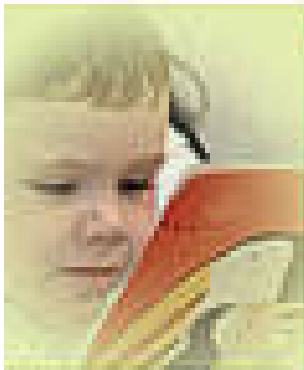


NEWS & EVENTS > Celebrating International Mother Language Day

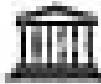
POSTED ON
21 FEB 2012

Celebrating International Mother Language Day

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012



UNESCO



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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.

www.unesco.org/education



Culture 360 invites its readers to celebrate

International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2012. It has been celebrated every year since being established by UNESCO in February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

This year the theme of the International Mother Language day is “Mother tongue instruction and **inclusive education**”. UNESCO highlights the importance of mother tongue as part of **the right to education** and encourages its member states to promote instruction and education in the mother tongue.

A world without words? - Celebrating International Mother Language Day

Have you ever heard of kalkoti? An endangered language identified in 2011 by the **UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger**, it is spoken by only around 4000 people in a village on the north-western border of Pakistan. It is estimated that nearly half of the approximately 6,000 languages spoken in the world could die out by the end of the century, with 96 percent of these languages spoken by a mere 4 percent of the world's population. "Languages are who we are. By protecting them, we protect ourselves", - said UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova in her message on the occasion of the International Day.

Linguistic and cultural diversity are of strategic importance for people around the world in strengthening the unity and cohesion of societies. To recognize the importance of linguistic diversity, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed International Mother Language Day (IMLD) in November 1999. The International day has since been observed every year throughout the world on 21 February to promote linguistic and

cultural diversity and multilingual education. It aims to help develop better awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

UNESCO is working every day to protect linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote equality, development and social inclusion. For example, in the Republic of Korea, following the inclusion of the jeju in the critically endangered group of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, in 2010, several projects are helping inhabitants of the Jeju island preserve the vitality and long-term survival of the jeju language.

[Read more](#) about the initiative

SIMILAR CONTENT

POSTED ON
21 MAR 2023



NEWS

ASIA AUSTRALIA CHINA EUROPE INDIA IRELAND LITHUANIA NETHERLANDS
SINGAPORE UNITED KINGDOM

POSTED ON
04 FEB 2019

2019 Year of Indigenous Languages launched



BY JORDI BALTA PORTOLÉS
07 DEC 2016

New International Fund for the Protection of Endangered Cultural Heritage



BY ANUPAMA SEKHAR
15 OCT 2009

Young cultural leaders for diversity of cultural expressions

UNESCO

FEATURES
FRANCE GERMANY

POSTED ON
21 MAY 2023



NEWS
INTERNATIONAL

DEADLINE
06 OCT 2023



OPEN CALLS
INTERNATIONAL

COUNTRY
INTERNATIONAL

THEME
CULTURAL POLICY

ABOUT ASEF CULTURE360

culture360.asef.org brings Asia and Europe closer by providing information, facilitating dialogue and stimulating reflection on the arts and culture of the two regions.

[MORE ABOUT ASEF CULTURE360](#) | [FAQ](#) | [f](#) [X](#) [@](#)

This website was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



[About us](#)

[Team](#)

[Partners](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Brand guidelines](#)

[How to partner with us](#)

[Contact us](#)

[#ASEFCulture](#)