The 13th Bi-Annual Pan-African Literacy For All (PALFA) Conference

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, POSTERS & EXHIBITIONS

Dates: 23rd - 25th August, 2023 | *Venue:* Nairobi, Kenya.

THEME: *Remediating the Global Learning Poverty Crisis through Innovative Literacy Practices*

> *Education is a fundamental human right. Throughout history, it has been a source of personal dignity and empowerment and a driving force for the advancement of social, economic, political and cultural development* (Transforming Education Summit 2022).

There is need to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provision of lifelong learning opportunities for all, as articulated in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. The SDG 4 advocates that every child should be facilitated to complete primary school and achieve at least minimum proficiency in reading and numeracy, among other essential 21st Century skills. The endeavor to ensure good progress on this literacy commitment has however, faced significant hurdles that have further been exacerbated by the abrupt closure of schools for long periods across the world due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Pandemic worsened an already bad situation with a learning poverty crisis estimated at 57 percent by 2019 in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), before the onset of COVID-19.

The proportion of children unable to read a simple text with comprehension by age 10 is now estimated to be at 70% in LMICs (Learning Poverty Report, 2022). The situation is worse in sub-Saharan countries given that the learning poverty estimates were at 86% before the pandemic. Achievement of SDG 4 thus remains a pipe dream for many African children, if no drastic measures are taken to re-think and re-imagine the purpose, content and delivery modes of education, including literacy education.

That is why Association of Reading of Kenya (ARK) together with Rift Valley Reading Association (RVRA), in conjunction with the International Development Committee - Africa (IDC-A) and the International Literacy Association (ILA), are looking forward to hosting the 13th PALFA, 2023 International Conference to share cutting-edge literacy knowledge, experiences, evidence-based findings, practices and innovative strategies for augmenting literacy development. Stakeholders expected at the conference include, among others: literacy advocates (digital, financial, health, climate, gender, governance); literacy administrators, early childhood educators, adult literacy educators, curriculum specialists, multilateral partners, policy makers, researchers, academicians and librarians.

Conference outputs will include a suite of literacy best practices for mitigating the global learning poverty crisis and documentation of strategic actions aimed at producing citizenry who are able to contribute meaningfully to a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable future for humanity and the planet.

You cannot afford to miss this opportunity to share your invaluable knowledge, skills, values and attitudes with enthusiasts in the literacy space. You are thus requested to submit an abstract on any of the following sub-themes.

Sub-themes

1. Literacy curricula for alleviating learning poverty crisis beyond 2023.
2. The role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in redressing the learning poverty crisis.
3. Early childhood literacy teaching and learning.
4. Leadership for equitable student achievement.
5. Literacy for equitable gender relations.
6. The role of librarianship in enhancing literacy development.
7. Literacy for equity outside the framework of formal education.
8. Rethinking literacy and inclusion in mitigating the learning poverty crisis.
9. The role of mother tongue in promotion of the diversity of African cultures within the literacy framework.
10. Remediating learning poverty through sexual and reproductive health literacy.

Submission Guidelines

1. Email your abstract of not more than 250 words to: palfa2023@gmail.com
2. The abstract should describe the objectives/questions addressed, methodology and/or approaches; key results or findings; educational or scientific importance; and three to five key words or descriptors (*key words are not part of the 250-word count*). It should also include the title, author's name, institutional affiliation, email address and sub-theme.
3. Please indicate the mode of presentation.
   a. Individual Paper Presentation.
   b. Panel Presentation.
   c. Poster Presentation.
   d. Exhibition.
   e. Other: _____

Conference Registration Fee

The conference registration fee for the various categories is as indicated below:
- Participants from Kenya: **USD 100.**
- Participants from Africa: **USD 150.**
- Participants from Other Continents: **USD 200.**
- Students (*discounted rates*): *Kenya:* **USD 50**; *Africa:* **USD 75**; *Other Continents*: **USD 100.**

More information regarding registration, accommodation, hotel reservations and airport transfers will be communicated at a later date.

Important Dates

1. Submission of Abstracts Open: 25th November, 2022.
2. Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 24th February, 2023.
3. Notification of Acceptance: 5th April, 2023.