



The World Literacy Summit will be held in Oxford, United Kingdom, from the 1st-4th April 2012. As a global event, the Summit will provide leaders in the developed and developing world, the opportunity to come together, and form an action plan which will build long term, sustainable solutions to reduce the global crisis of illiteracy.

Key messages

- Through the Summit theme **“From Poverty, to Literacy, to a Future”**, the key literacy issues that are faced in both the developed and developing world will be addressed
- As a **significant international event**, the Summit will endeavour to raise the issue of literacy on the world media stage
- A **unique opportunity** for delegates, to build a practical collaborative approach to support the **796 million illiterate people worldwide**
- The outcome will result in a **greater impact- globally, nationally and locally-** in addressing the high rates of illiteracy in our communities

Introduction: the global literacy crisis and World Literacy Summit

The global literacy crisis is perhaps the most urgent dilemma facing our world today. Education is proven to be imperative to tackling poverty, yet over **67 million** primary school aged children do not have access to an education, and over **796 million** adults cannot read or write.

Each year of primary school increases the wages people earn later in life by **5-15%** for boys and even more for girls. But despite the importance of education being well-known, progress in improving literacy standards worldwide has been painfully slow.

The World Literacy Summit aims to change this once and for all. The event will bring together key delegates from all around the world, in order to actively address the literacy crisis, and to build long-term, sustainable solutions to provide a quality education for everyone around the world.

A unique event

Never before in the field of literacy and education has there been a chance such as this; for key individuals, from all sectors, to come together and collaborate towards the one, shared goal.

This unique event will build greater awareness of the literacy crisis and create a platform for delegates to collaborate, share ideas, learn from one another and be united. At the Summit leaders in the global literacy community, together with delegates from up to 60 countries, will be able to take a virtual four-day trip around the world, providing real insights into the best strategies and tactics for greater success. It will allow the global literacy family to build a new world of opportunities beyond the 2015 millennium development goals in education.



Approximately 220 delegates are expected to attend from a variety of fields and sectors, including:

- Presidents, CEOs and leaders of literacy and development organisations and NGOs
- Literacy practitioners and experts
- Academics and educators
- Business leaders engaged in the cause of literacy
- Government representatives
- Youth representatives and leaders of tomorrow, active in literacy and development issues

The Opening Ceremony will bring together VIPs and special guests, including:

- Country ambassadors
- Ministers of Education
- Government figures
- Prominent Oxford figures

Key objectives

- Bring together leaders from around the world in the fields of literacy, development, government and business and provide them with a unique opportunity to network and collaborate
- Address the key literacy issues facing both the developing and developed worlds
- Raise the issue of literacy on the world media stage
- Formulate an action plan to address global illiteracy post 2015, after the timeline for the Millennium Goals has completed
- Form *'The Oxford Declaration'* to build long term, sustainable solutions to improve literacy rates amongst the world's most disadvantaged
- Provide an opportunity for delegates and presenters to share their research, findings and experiences with others
- Enable delegates to learn from others through the wide range of key note addresses, presentations and break out groups
- Increase in the impact of work, achieved by working with and through others
- Enable avenues to discuss how organisations from different sectors can interact and work with one another on the future in fighting illiteracy



Key themes of presentations and break-out groups

- Progress of the Millennium Goals
- Work in Education, post-2015
- New technologies in learning
- Recent research in the fields of literacy and education
- Policy changes to improve literacy levels
- What works: Reports on successful past work by NGOs
- Investigation into how NGOs and the Government relate with one another in the literacy sector
- Illiteracy in specific areas of the developing world
- Illiteracy in urban areas of the developed world
- The effects of poor literacy levels on the economy
- Social impact of poor literacy in urban areas
- The link between illiteracy and health
- Breakout groups for literacy organisations and people from related countries and regions
- Youth stream discussing the future of literacy
- International benchmarks of adult literacy

World Literacy Summit steering committee

Dr Tony Cree, CEO of the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation, Australia

Dr Donald Green, Vice President, Ferris University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Mr Andrew Kay, Chairman of the World Literacy Foundation, Australia

Mr Lachlan Macindoe, Youth Ambassador & Advocate, Australia

Mr Keith Hutchence, Broadcaster, author and journalist, UK

Mr Peter Ma, Director, Chi Fat International, Hong Kong

Ms Trish Patel, Event Management, New Zealand

Staff of the World Literacy Foundation and Aboriginal Literacy Foundation