

REPORT OF THE READING TENT DURING THE ADEA TRIENNALE 2017

CICAD - DAKAR SENEGAL, 15 and 16 MARCH 2017

(Lily Nyariki and Aliou Sow: Focal Points, ADEA WGBLM)



Ushirika wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika
الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في إفريقيا
Association for the Development of Education in Africa
Association pour le Développement de l'Éducation en Afrique
Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Educação em África

Introduction

The ADEA Working Group on Books and Learning Materials (WGBLM) had the opportunity to organise a reading tent during the ADEA Triennale 2017 - a flagship event of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

Partners

Several organisations combined their efforts, helping to ensure that this was a lively, beneficial activity. The WGBLM partnered with The Global Book Alliance; UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL); The Africa Storybook Project; The Molteno Institute, the Kenya National Library Service, represented by Mr. Moses Imbayi; ARED; and the flamboyant storyteller, Ms. Coumba Toure, who together provided a show that was both enjoyable and interesting. Visitors to the tent included a group of school children who were invited by the Senegalese Ministry of Education.

Activities

The reading tent was open during the ADEA Triennale on the 15th and 16th of March 2017, from 9 am to 5 pm, and was situated at the entrance of the conference venue, where it was accessible to all participants. Activities in the tent demonstrated how much fun children can have with books, and included storytelling, reading (print and digital) and drawing, along with various games, all of which the children who participated greatly enjoyed. The tent also managed to entice in some adults who came in to browse and read. Promotional materials were prominently displayed and handed out.

Although we did not have the opportunity to launch the Global Book Alliance (GBA) in Africa, as earlier envisaged, we did have the opportunity to hear from Ms. Marcia Davidson and Dr. Sandy Ojikutu from the USAID, Global Book Alliance Team, regarding the importance of the work they are doing to ensure that children in lower primary schools have adequate reading materials, especially in local languages.

Importance of the Reading Tent

In an era when quality education is a pertinent issue, it is essential to recognise that reading is a foundational skill, upon which many other skills depend. The WGBLM, therefore, together with its various partners, served to showcase good practice in reading promotion. Hopefully, all those who attended the Triennale learnt something new regarding the importance of reading. Additionally, books acquired by the WGBLM in French and local languages were given to the Ministry of Education of Senegal and to Ms. Coumba Touré for exhibition and usage.

Given the success of the event, we can truly say that this kind of activity should be a feature in similar ADEA activities to demonstrate both the potential of local reading materials and how to encourage children to nurture the habit of reading for lifelong education.

Appreciation

The two focal points in charge of the WGBLM truly appreciated the united spirit exhibited by all those who took part in ensuring that the reading tent was a success. It was a learning experience for all of us and we sincerely thank the ADEA Secretariat for ensuring that all the materials required to set up the tent were made available in good time. To all who participated in one way or another, we say thank you so much. To our esteemed partners, The Global Book Alliance, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), The Africa Storybook Project, The Molteno Institute, the Kenya National Library Service, ARED and Ms. Coumba Toure, we look forward to working with you again in the future.

PICTORIAL



Oley Dibba-Wadda addressing participants during a plenary session



Lily Nyariki introducing Marcia Davidson from the GBA-USAID



Coumba Toure reading aloud for children



A section of the children at the reading tent



A cosy arrangement of the reading tent



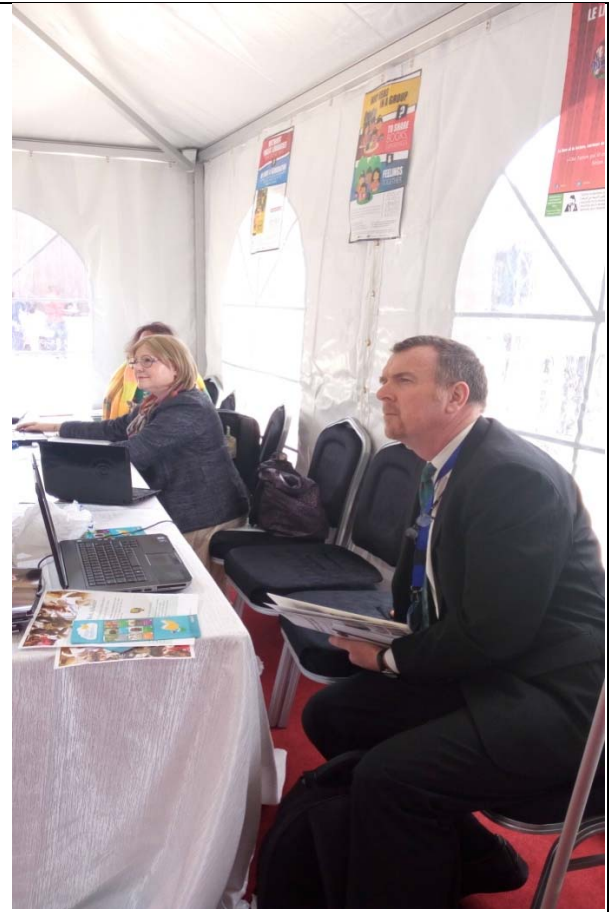
Attentive children listening to a story by Coumba Toure



Partners busy teaming up doing final touches of decorations of the reading tent



Marcia Davidson talking about the GBA



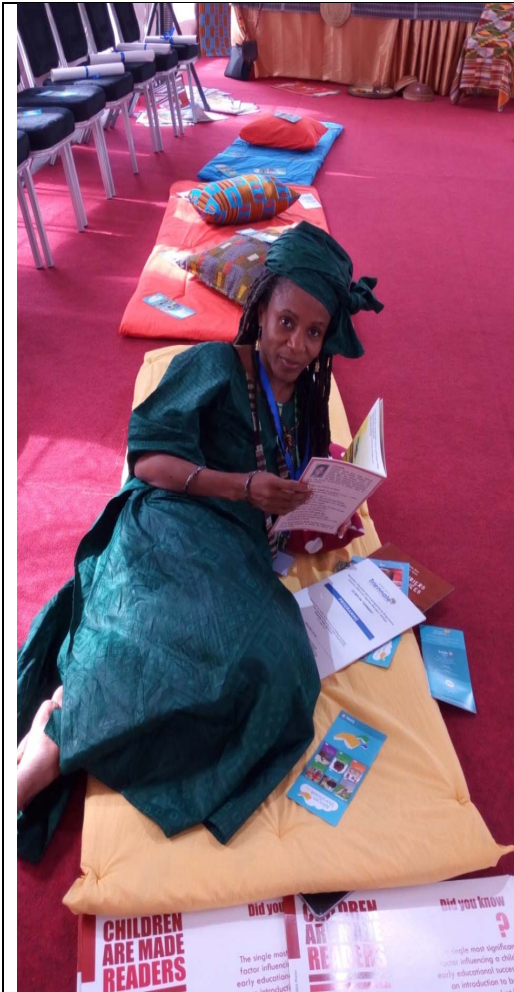
Participants keenly listening to the talk



Aliou Sow and Lily Nyariki proudly posing at the reading tent



Moses Imbayi demonstrating reading on a tablet



Coumba Toure in a relaxed reading mood



Children getting interested in writing and drawing