

BIENNIAL REPORT 2018-2019

UNESCO International Research and
 Training Centre for Rural Education



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Foreword

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED) continues to serve as a beacon of research, training, and collaboration. This Biennial Report for 2018-2019 offers a comprehensive reflection on our diligent efforts to bridge the urban-rural education divide and to create a world where every individual, regardless of their geographical location, has equal access to quality education.

During these two years, our commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders has been unwavering. The report highlights a range of research and knowledge production projects, conferences and events, and capacity building sessions on education for sustainable rural development, under the framework of Education 2030.

We recognise that the path to 2030 is paved with collaboration, and we are immensely grateful for the robust partnerships we have forged with various stakeholders around the globe. Together, we harness diverse strengths, insights, and resources, magnifying our ability to effect meaningful change. As we journey towards 2030, UNESCO INRULED pledges to nurture these invaluable alliances, seek to build new partnerships, and dedicate ourselves wholly to the realisation of the SDGs for the benefit of all humanity.

We are grateful to our partners, and all individuals who have walked alongside us in this journey. Your support and belief in our mission have been instrumental in the milestones we've achieved.

I invite you to engage with this report, to reflect on our achievements, and to join us in our ongoing quest to ensure that every learner, no matter where they are, is equipped with the tools and opportunities to thrive in the 21st century.

Director, INRULED



Conferences and Events

INRULED is working closely with UNESCO's member states and related agencies. To disseminate programme information and research findings, we have organised and attended several conferences and activities to facilitate mutual sharing among stakeholders.

Annual Events

Dujiangyan International Forum

Date: 2010-2019 Venue: Dujiangyan, Sichuan, China

2018 Dujiangyan International Forum

Balanced Urban and Rural Development in the Framework of Education 2030

Date: 30-31 August 2018

Participants: Around 300 researchers, practitioners and policymakers from over 10 countries



The 2018 Forum, co-organised by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO IITE, the Chengdu Municipal People's Government and INRULED, focused on "Balanced Urban and Rural Development in the Framework of Education 2030". Participants discussed topics like vocational and technical education and skills development; bridging urban-rural education gap through innovative ICT solutions; and eco civilisation and education for sustainable development.

2019 Dujiangyan International Forum

Education for Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Development

Date: July 2019

Participants: Around 220 researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from over 10 countries



This year, it revisits its 9-year achievements, highlighting “Poverty Alleviation through Education and Sustainable Development”. It showcases China’s educational strategies against poverty. The forum also delves into the role of information technology in enhancing education quality and skills. Discussions encompass development plans for vocational education in the context of learning cities and poverty eradication, and effective strategies for integrating artificial intelligence in future education.

Annual Events

International Forum on Literacy and Skills Development

Date: September, 2011-2019 Venue: Qufu, China

The International Forum is an annual event held during the Award Ceremony of UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy

International Seminar on Literacy and Skills Development under the Framework of Education 2030

Date: 26-28 September 2018

Venue: Jining, China

Participants: researchers, educators, and practitioners from over 8 countries



In 2015, the UN adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” with 17 goals. Education is central to these goals, emphasising literacy as key for human rights and a sustainable society. In this context, INRULED and the Jining Municipal People’s Government held this International Symposium, promoting educational development and fostering global exchanges. Winners of the 2018 Confucius Literacy Award shared their practices.

International Seminar on Literacy and Skills Development in Rural Areas for a Digital Age

Date: 27 September 2019

Venue: Jining, China

Participants: representatives of international organisations and government officials, as well as education experts and young scholars from about 30 countries



The seminar was co-organised by INRULED, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, and the Jining Municipal People’s Government, and brought together the three recipients of the 2019 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy. Its goal was to discuss global literacy and skills development within the context of Education 2030. The event aimed to share successful experiences in education and training, literacy and skills development, community education, and rural transformation, while also fostering an international platform for collaboration.

Other Events

Seminar on “Education 2030 and Rural Development in the Context of Education for All”

Date: 25-26 June 2018

Venue: Jiande, Zhejiang

Participants: More than 30 experts and scholars from various institutions



The Seminar focused on the Education 2030 Agenda and discussed the role of community education in rural sustainable development in the context of China’s “Community Learning Centres” (CLC) initiative. Experts and scholars at the seminar also presented and discussed various topics related to Education 2030, including China’s contributions, development challenges, education in impoverished regions, and sustainable development in education.

International Seminar on Community Education-Based Skills Development, Lifelong Learning and Education for Sustainable Development

Date: 20-21 November 2019

Venue: Ningbo, Zhejiang

Participants: Officials from UNESCO and Chinese government, experts, scholars, and practitioners from home and abroad



Lifelong learning has always been a concept strongly advocated and promoted by the international community. How can community education facilitate lifelong learning for all and promote social development? INRULED, in collaboration with multiple partners, organised this seminar to create a platform for dialogue and cooperation networks, and to delve into the development strategies for community education.

International Seminar on Education for Rural Community

Date: 1-3 August 2018

Venue: Vientiane, Lao PDR

Participants: More than 20 experts and scholars from over 7 countries



Collaborating with SEAMEO CED, UIL, and DVV International, INRULED organised this international seminar, to advance education for rural and marginalised communities in the Mekong Sub-region. It offered stakeholders an opportunity to converse about community learning centres, exchange experiences, and initiate educational programmes to the distinct needs of rural areas, furthering sustainable regional development.

The International Seminar on “Education for Ethnic Groups” and MOA Signing ceremony between Research Institute for Languages and Cultures

Date: 29 January-2 February 2019

Venue: Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Participants: More than 20 experts and scholars from five Lancang-Mekong countries



The seminar, co-organised by INRULED, the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia at Mahidol University, and UNESCO UIL, focused on “Education for Ethnic Groups”. It delved into exploring the policy environment, knowledge base, and capacity building needed to realise the “Lifelong Learning for All” goal within the framework of the Lancang-Mekong Sub-region Ethnic Minority Education Study.

Asian Regional Forum on Rural Education, Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development

Date: 16 May 2019

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: More than 100 experts and scholars, students from universities, international



As a sub-forum of the Conference of Dialogue among Asian Civilisations, it seeks to explore the relationship and interaction mechanisms between rural education, local culture, and rural development in the context of globalisation, urbanisation, and Asia's diverse natural environment and cultural environments.

Seminar on Developing Support System for Rural Teachers for ASEAN Countries

Date: 12-13 June 2018

Venue: Beijing, China



Co-organised by INRULED and Beijing Normal University's Centre for Teacher Education and Research, this event aimed to bolster teacher development in ASEAN countries in alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda. It addressed global teacher education trends, examined education policies in Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and delved into effective teacher support systems, offering insights relevant to governments, educators, and teachers.



Academic Salon on Rural Education in China under “SDG 4”

Date: 3 April 2018

Venue: Beijing

Co-hosted by INRULED and the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University, the Salon aims to elucidate the significance of SDG4, examine the evolution of rural education in China through the SDG4 lens, and create a platform for participating students to engage with international education topics. Additionally, it seeks to underscore the strong correlation between education and rural development on the global stage, convey the mission and values of international organisations.

Expert Seminar on “Building an Ecological Civilisation Education System”

Date: 30 May 2018

Venue: Beijing

Co-organised by INRULED and the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University, the Seminar gathered experts from diverse fields, including academia, research institutions, social organisations, media, and entrepreneurs. Its aims to establish an ecological civilisation education system that fosters comprehensive, interconnected ecological thinking in individuals. Ultimately, the aim is to address the multifaceted challenges in today’s world, encompassing economics, society, culture, and education.

Dialogue between Chinese and American Scholars on “How to Cultivate People with Ecological Awareness”

Date: 10 July 2018

Venue: Beijing

This dialogue, organised by INRULED and Beijing Normal University’s Faculty of Education, explored how to nurture individuals with ecological awareness. Topics included defining ecological awareness and transforming self-centred individuals into ecologically conscious ones to build a future-oriented ecological civilisation.

Capacity Development

International Workshop on Building a High-Quality Teacher Team in Rural Schools

Date: 22-27 October 2018

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: 25 deans and vice-deans from 19 National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka

This five-day international workshop, aligned with UNESCO's 2030 Education framework, centred on 'Enhancing Quality Rural School Teacher Force'. It catered to the specific teacher education requirements of Sri Lanka and brought together experts from various education-related institutions to provide valuable guidance.





Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Africa – Dean’ s Forum Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in Ethiopia

Date: 13-15 December 2018

Venue: Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Participants: 35 deans or vice deans from TEIs in Ethiopia

INRULED and IICBA co-organised this Dean’s Forum under the UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust Project framework. During the forum, a workshop on “Rural Teacher Support Systems: Insights from Developing Nations” was organised for the capacity building of teacher education institutions in Ethiopia.



2018 Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) Construction in Dujiangyan Sansheng Valley

Date: August-September 2018

Venue: Chengdu

The four-week Academy was jointly organised by INRULED, Global Ecovillage Alliance, and Sansheng Valley. It featured domestic and international instructors who conducted in-depth discussions on community, ecology, economy, and culture. The course employed participatory approach, fostering mutual inspiration among students to devise solutions. It balanced three dimensions of learning - intellectual, practical, and emotional - through visits and by merging Eastern wisdom with Western eco-village building methods on a global scale.

Headteacher ICT Leadership Enhancement Programme in “Three Regions”

Date: August, October 2019

Venue: Xizang, Yunnan, Sichuan

The training, conducted in collaboration among INRULED, the National Engineering Laboratory of Beijing Normal University and the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, consisted of two phases. It targeted school headteacher in Xizang, Yunnan and Sichuan. The goal was to improve their educational technology skills, create tech-driven educational plans, catalyse reforms, and establish digital campuses. The training utilised various methods, including expert lectures, site visits, group discussions, salon seminars, case analyses, and online research.





Research and Publications

Lifelong Learning for Ethnic Minorities in the Lancang-Mekong

Guided by SDG 4 for Quality Education, INRULED conducted a research project on “Lifelong Learning for Ethnic Minorities”, spanning six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River Region. The project aimed to share policy frameworks and practical lifelong learning examples among ethnic minorities, promote the preservation of cultural heritage, strengthen exchanges and cooperation, and formulate a vision and action plan for sustainable development in the Lancang-Mekong subregion.

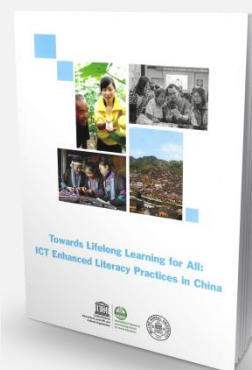
Research on Enhancing Education Quality through Teacher Support

This research project used a case study approach to highlight teacher support examples in China, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. It analysed the factors affecting teacher development and explored successful support methods and their outcomes in different settings. The project, conducted from 2018 to 2019, will result in a forthcoming publication.

Research on Rural School Development Practices in Developing Countries

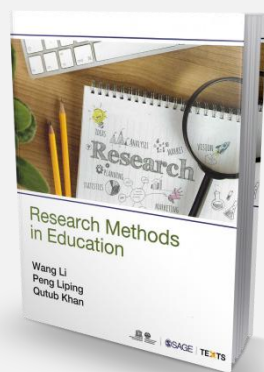
INRULED launched a research project focused on rural school development. The project aimed to pinpoint critical success factors in global school improvement, particularly within rural settings. It gathered cases from China, Myanmar, Kenya, and Uganda, aiming to extract reform elements applicable to rural education on a global scale.

Towards Lifelong Learning for All: ICT Enhanced Literacy Practices in China



This report aimed at promoting and showcasing China's experiences in using information technology to advance literacy and skill development, through case studies. These case studies spotlight China's notable achievements in literacy within the digital era.

Research Methods in Education



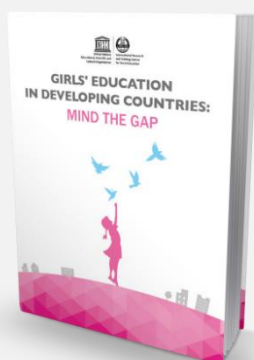
The book is designed to introduce postgraduate and doctoral students to the process of scientific research in the social sciences, business and related disciplines in general and in education in particular. The book is based on the authors' lecture materials developed over a decade of teaching postgraduate and doctoral-level classes. It acknowledges the international efforts and gives recognition to the contributions of interdisciplinary research studies commissioned from around the globe by UNESCO and INRULED in particular.

Report on Rethinking and Transforming: Building an Education System for Ecological Civilisation



Through research methods such as case study, field research, literature review, comparative analysis, etc, this study examines the role and function of education in the process of transformation to ecological civilisation constructionism, and conducts in-depth discussions on how to promote worldwide educational reform and build an educational system that matches ecological civilisation.

Girls' Education in Developing Countries: Mind the Gap



This publication takes a perspective from developing countries to examine the current state of girls' education, assesses the significant challenges faced by girls' education in these regions, and explores potential solutions. It provides practical recommendations and advocacy for the future development of girls' education from various dimensions, including policy, family education, and school infrastructure.



Institutional Capacity Building

UNESCO INRULED Convened Consultation Meeting on Development Strategy

Date: 18 January 2018

Venue: Beijing, China

The meeting, attended by Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, Beijing Normal University's Vice President, and relevant university department heads, discussed INRULED's 2017 work report and 2018 vision. Valuable insights and suggestions were provided on INRULED future development.



Activities attended by INRULED

Event	Date	Venue
China UNESCO Category 2 Centre Alliance 2018 Annual Meeting	2018.01.29-30	Lili Ancient Town, China
The 5th Meeting of UNESCO Education Category 2 Centres	2018.02.20-21	Cairo, Egypt
International Seminar on Language and Multilingual Education	2018.02.21-23	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Mobile Learning Week 2018	2018.03.26-30	Paris, France
Global Dialogue on ICT and Education Innovation—Towards Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG 4)	2018.04.18-21	Moscow, Russian Federation
Asia Pacific Innovative Adult and Community Learning Experts Meeting 2018	2018.04.23-24	Bangkok, Thailand
2018 Asia-Pacific Regional GCED Network Meeting	2018.05.02-05	Jakarta, Indonesia
Nanjing Normal University- Modern Rural Education Forum for China and 16 African Countries	2018.06.26-29	Nanjing, China
Asia-Pacific 2030 Education Advisory Meeting	2018.07.12-14	Bangkok, Thailand
SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting (CDM) 2018	2018.07.17-19	Bangkok, Thailand
3 rd International Conference on GCED	2018.09.05-06	Seoul, Republic of Korea
ICT Dialogue Forum	2018.09.30-10.04	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
UNESCO APEID 19th International Conference on Education	2018.11.06-10	Bangkok, Thailand
Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO Youth Forum	2018.11.09-12	Japan
41 st SEAMEO High Officials Meeting	2018.11.27-29	Bangkok, Thailand
The 2nd International Seminar on Education for Rural Community Development	2019.08.29-30	Laos
The 4 th International Conference on GCED: Platform on Pedagogy and Practice	2019.09.03-04	Seoul, Republic of Korea

UNESCO INRULED

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