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## **UN honours literacy programmes in Bhutan, Colombia, Indonesia and Rwanda**



Mothers sit in a class in a Non-formal and Continuing Education programme run by Bhutan's Department of Adult and Higher Education. The same classroom is used by their children during the day. Photo: UNESCO

22 August 2012 –

Literacy programmes in Bhutan, Colombia, Indonesia and Rwanda won the [2012 International Literacy Prizes](#) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The awards, worth \$20,000 each, will be distributed on 6 September in a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, as part of the celebrations for International Literacy Day, observed annually on 8 September, the agency announced in a [news release](#) on Tuesday.

Two programmes were awarded the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, which was created in 1989 by the Republic of Korea, and two received the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, created in 2005 by the Chinese Government.

The Directorate of Community Education Development in Indonesia received one of the two UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prizes for its work to improve the “quality of literacy education through entrepreneurship literacy, reading culture and tutor training.” The programme, a Government initiative, involves almost three million people and puts special emphasis on women so they can receive basic literacy training.

The second UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was won by the National Adult Literacy Programme of the Pentecostal Church in Rwanda. The agency said that the programme was selected for its focus on women and out-of-school youth. The programme, which has reached over 100,000 people, also aims to ensure that individuals learn about human rights, reconciliation and peacebuilding through literacy.

The Non-formal and Continuing Education programme from Bhutan will receive one of the UNESCO Confucius Prizes for Literacy for its work teaching basic literacy skills through its 950 centres in rural communities.

The Interactive System Programme, operated by the Fundación Transformemos in Colombia, will receive the second UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy for its peacebuilding and income-generating activities in areas affected by conflict and violence. The programme seeks to improve literacy through an intercultural approach and has reached some 300,000 persons since it began in 2006.

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