

ECUADOR WINS UNESCO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2014 FOR LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On September 8th 2014, the international day for literacy and celebrated in Dacca (Bangladesh), Ecuador won the UNESCO international prize which recognizes the excellency and innovation progressed by this Country in literacy for an inclusive and sustainable development.

[Ecuador's Ministry of Education](#) was awarded for its Basic Literacy Project for Youth and Adults (EJBA project) initiated in 2011 at the dawn of Ecuador's recognition of literacy as primary objective for development. The project stands out as it also provides mother tongue education to those indigenous populations with a focus based on their worldview.

From 2011 to 2013, 325.000 people left illiteracy in Ecuador, thanks to the efforts of this project. In 2010, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), approximately 680 thousand Ecuadorians over 15 years of age could not read or write (6.8% of the population) and within two years the project was able to reduce illiteracy by almost 50%.

In addition, 44 thousand people learned to read and write in their native language (Quechua) by using the Ecuadorian Literacy Methodology which promotes indigenous peoples and nationalities intercultural identity (amongst them the Waorani, Kichwa, Achuar, Tsachila, Chachi, Shuar, Awa, Siona, Sequoia and Sapara people). Another 100,000 people from indigenous ethnicity, Afro-Ecuadorians and montubia, where also formed on citizenship, health and nutrition rights.

In 2014, the Ministry of Education expects to benefit further 161,000 students through 2,305 bilingual intercultural education units. While celebrating Literacy Day in Ecuador, National authorities announced, in addition to the 45 Millennium Educational Units already operating in the country, the construction of 14 new units for intercultural and bilingual education. These educational units, called *Guardianas de la Legua*, aim to preserve ancestral heritage languages by teaching in the mother tongue of the ethnic groups existing in Ecuador.

To know more

[Dirección Educación Bilingüe Ministerio de Educación de Ecuador](#)



[Unidades Educativas del Milenio en Ecuador](#)

[Educación General Básica – Gobierno de Ecuador](#)

[Artículo en el sitio UNESCO](#)

[Artículo en Telesur](#)

[Artículo en Telesur](#)

[Artículo en Prensa Latina](#)

[Artículo de Andes](#)

[Artículo en El Comercio](#)

[Facebook-UNESCO Quito](#)

