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DepED MEMORANDUM

No. 83 s. 2008

2008 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LANGUAGES

To: Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. The year 2008 has been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, UNESCO as International Year of Languages, fully aware of the crucial importance of languages when seen against the many challenges that humanity will have to face over the next few decades. Languages are likewise considered of utmost importance in achieving the six goals of Education for All (EFA) and the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. UNESCO invites governments, United Nations organizations, civil society organizations, educational institutions, professional associations and all other stakeholders to increase their own activities to foster respect for and the promotion and protection of all languages, particularly endangered languages, in all individual and collective contexts.

3. In view of this, the Department of Education (DepED) encourages the observance of the International Year of Languages (IYL) and the celebration of the International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2008 with the theme "**Languages Matter**" with the following objectives:

- Recognize the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in educational, administrative and legal systems, cultural expressions, media, cyber space and trade;
- Recognize that languages constitute a strategic factor of progress towards sustainable development and a harmonious relationship between the global and the local context; and
- Introduce/implement initiatives to promote languages specifically the mother language.

4. The division supervisors, school heads of public and private elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to come up with activities integrating the importance of languages, specifically the use of the mother language.

5. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
JESLI A. LAPUS  
Secretary

Reference: None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS  
LANGUAGE  
SCHOOLS  
UNITED NATIONS

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