

Invitation

16 March 2005

Dear Sir./Madam/Professor,

Within the framework of quality education for all (EFA) for rural people and United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development, and in preparation for the 5th EFA High-level Group Meeting in late November 2005, which has a central theme on 'Literacy with special focus on Rural Education', The UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education(INRULED) is organizing an 'International Seminar on Rural Education for Sustainable Development: Policy-Relevant Research Studies and Evidence-based Innovative Practices', 26-28 May 2005, in Beijing and Baoding, China, support from Chinese Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Beijing Office.

Aiming at contributing to EFA, UNLD and UNDESD, the seminar has three-fold objectives: 1) to present quality research papers and exchange preliminary research findings on major aspects of EFA in rural areas for sustainable development; 2) to develop conceptual framework of and guidelines for valid-reliable systematic data collection, policy-relevant analysis and evidence-based innovative practices in rural education; and 3) to further strengthen networking of scholars and centers of excellence in accomplishing research studies on rural education for sustainable development.

In view of your high competency/accomplishment in research studies and rich experiences on rural education, you are cordially invited to participate the seminar and present a paper on aspect(s) of rural education addressing the challenges of quality EFA for sustainable rural development.

The paper should be within the length of 5,000 – 8,000 words, in Microsoft Word format, and submitted to INRULED by e-mail attachment by 12 May 2005 at the latest. A preliminary schedule of the Seminar will be sent you after your confirmation of participation. I should appreciate receiving an abstract in 300/400 words of your intended paper presentation by 20 April 2005.

Due to financial constitutions, UNESCO-INRULED will be providing you with 4-nights accommodation and board but will not be able to fund your international travel. I hope you could secure financial support from other sources for your international travels and be able to join us at the Seminar.

Attached please find an Information Paper about the Seminar. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tian Xiao-gang

Secretary-General

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

Zhou Nan-zhao, Director

International Research and Training

Center for Rural Education