

Press release

Princess Laurentien will speech on low literacy on 22nd September 2008 during the White House Symposium

On Monday 22nd September, Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands will attend the White House Symposium on Advancing Global Literacy in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Princess Laurentien has been invited by presidential wife Laura Bush to join the panel. The Princess will clarify the results of the regional conference in Baku, Azerbeidzjan, in May 2008, where the Princess held the key note speech. Amongst others, she will emphasise the importance of an ample approach of low literacy, not only targeting low-literate adults, but also preventing reading and writing problems amongst children.

The White House Symposium is a sequel of the White House Conference on Global Literacy that was organised in 2006 in New York, also hosted by Laura Bush and also attended by Princess Laurentien. In the meantime, a series of six regional conferences has been organised by UNESCO in Qatar, Mali, China, India, Azerbeidzjan and Mexico. Goal of the conferences was to demand attention for the problem of low literacy in the regions, developing concrete plans in the battle against low literacy and illiteracy and exchanging best practices.