

New Director of IBE-UNESCO

Yao Ydo, the newly appointed Director of the International Bureau of Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IBE-UNESCO), introduced himself to the media. Prior to joining the IBE, Mr. Ydo had worked with UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Abuja where he had served as the Regional Director, representing the organization at the regional, national and international levels.

With over 24 years of wide experience within the UN system, Mr. Ydo had begun his career at the Headquarters of UNESCO, Paris, in the Basic Education and Literacy Section in 1997 as an Associate Expert. His extensive hands-on experience in education included a variety of education posts at UNESCO Field Offices in Mali, Cameroon, Congo (DRC), and Senegal.

Mr. Ydo reminded [journalists] that IBE had been formed in 1925, and had been led by the famous Swiss psychologist, Jean Piaget for almost 40 years. IBE was currently focused primarily on curriculum, which was at the heart of education. Curriculum was to education what constitution was to democracy, said Mr. Ydo. He elaborated on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on learning; the challenge was how to build more resilient education systems, more ready to respond to shocks from possible similar events in the future. There were still millions of learners in developing countries who did not have access to computers. Research and capacity building at national and regional levels was of high importance for IBE.

From UN Geneva press briefing 9 April 2021