

SHIGERU AOYAGI
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Since the beginning of his career in 1984, Mr Aoyagi has been associated with UNESCO through educational and cultural programmes of the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) in Tokyo.

Mr Aoyagi joined the UNESCO in July 2002 as Chief of the Literacy and Non-Formal Education (NFE) section in the Education Sector in Paris. In this capacity, he worked for the Education for All (EFA) programme, as well as its work on Literacy and Non-Formal Education (NFE).

He contributed to the adoption of the UN resolution on the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) International Plan of Action, coordinated the EFA Flagship programmes on UNLD and the UNESCO/FAO joint programme on Rural People and developed the UNESCO's flagship programme of Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) for the 35 countries in the world.

From December 2006 to December 2011, Mr Aoyagi was Director of the UNESCO Office in Kabul and UNESCO Representative to Afghanistan. He initiated a large scale literacy project of Empowerment of Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA) in collaboration with Afghan and Japanese Governments to improve the level of literacy, numeracy and vocational skills of one million Afghan youth and adults.

In January 2012, Mr Aoyagi was transferred to the post of Director of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Notably, he led the development of SAARC Framework for Action for Education 2030 in close collaboration with its Member States and UN Agencies including UNICEF.

He was appointed to the Director of the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and UNESCO Representative to Thailand, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Singapore in May 2018.