

5 Year Plan – Kreol Institute – 07-011

Introduction

The Kreol Institute of Seychelles came into being in 1981 with the aim of guiding the establishment of Kreol, the maternal language of the Seychellois people, as a national language both in the oral and written forms, as a language of instruction and to establish a Seychellois Kreol literature. This means of course that the primary role of the Kreol Institute is to ensure that Kreol undergoes the necessary linguistic and cultural development to be able to meet the demands of the above-mentioned functions. As such, the Kreol Institute has three major programmes aimed at :

1. developing the Kreol language
2. developing a Kreol literature
3. promoting the Kreol Institute and its services locally and abroad.

Mission statement:

The mission of the ‘Kreol’ Institute is to promote and develop the Seychelles maternal language, ‘Kreol’ within the wider context of world creoles, through the provision of tools and facilities for its educational, scientific, cultural and technological empowerment.

<p>The above mission statement is a new one proposed for the Creole Institute in February 2008 as part of its strategic planning process.</p>

Core Values

We firmly believe in the importance of the maternal language in the holistic development of the individual, and consequently, the nation.

We believe in the importance of promulgating one standard version of Seychelles ‘Kreol’ and its universal employment by all users.

We aspire to provide the necessary services that will keep Seychelles ‘Kreol’ abreast of technological and cultural developments worldwide.

We aspire to leave for posterity, a healthy and well developed maternal language.

Programme 1.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE KREOL LANGUAGE

Tools development programme

Aim: To develop tools to facilitate the use and propagation of a Standard Kreol and ensure the linguistic development of Seychellois Kreol.

- A Seychellois Kreol monolingual dictionary (pending; awaiting funding)
- A complete Seychellois Kreol grammar (ongoing; awaiting funding)
- Leksik Kreol Seselwa (2nd edition completed and published. K. I and collaborators in the process of preparing a supplement for publication in the next 2 years. It is estimated that the 3rd edition will be published by 2011).
- A Seychellois Kreol electronic spell-check (ongoing)
- A terminological database covering major domains in demand locally. (new project. To be made available for online consultation.)
- Other relevant textbooks in different fields, depending on the demand. (ongoing . E.g of one such textbook targeted for this period is a Kreol business manual).

Programme 2.

DEVELOPMENT OF A KREOL LITERATURE

Development, promotion and preservation of Seychellois literature

Aim: To create a database of traditional literary forms for preservation and development through research, publication and cultural manifestations.

- Collection and documentation of the following traditional literary forms: *Romans*, *Bersez*, *Ronn*, *Zistwar*, *Sanson Kreol*, *Proverb*, *Zedmo*, *Dikton*, *Let Demann*, *Diskour maryaz*, etc. (Ongoing)
- Publication of traditional literary forms. (Ongoing; e.g- works of Patrick Victor, *Kont ek Lezann* series, etc)
- Cultural manifestations. (Ongoing; e.g- *Romans* recitals, exhibitions, Quiz competitions, literary evenings, lectures, debates, etc).

Development and promotion of a modern Seychellois literary culture

Aim: To cultivate an appreciation of literature generally and Kreol literature specifically, and to ensure the continued publication of Kreol works (both fiction and non-fiction) of an acceptable standard on a yearly basis.

- Publication of a number of Kreol works which include fiction and non-fiction, children's literature and general literature on an annual basis. (ongoing)
- Translation of works from the world literary heritage for publication in Kreol, production of bilingual documents (Kreol and either English or French), which may also include selected Kreol works of merit. (ongoing)
- Workshops on different aspects of writing and literature to encourage more writers in Kreol and to add to their skills. (ongoing)
- Research and provision of research data in various fields of Kreol literature. Examples of ongoing works are the documentation and publication of certain works in the field of theatre and research and analysis on Rodolphine Young's work. (ongoing)

Programme 3.

PROMOTION OF KREOL INSTITUTE AS LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE CENTRE & PUBLISHING HOUSE

Promotion

Aim: To promote the Kreol Institute as a research centre and publishing house, both locally and abroad, in order to promote Seychellois Kreol as widely as possible.

Generally, programme 3 has been set up to promote the work done by the Language and Literature Units through cultural manifestations, publicity programmes, the establishment of links with other institutions abroad which can be of benefit to the Kreol Institute and Seychellois Kreol generally. The following are specific projects actually ongoing:

- Weekly production of Kreol variety page. (ongoing)
- 3 termly publication of a newsletter on the Kreol Institute's activities as well as other relevant activities promoting Creole languages and cultures, and other promotional publications such as information leaflets, crosswords and puzzles for children and adults, etc. (ongoing)
- Cultural manifestations to observe national and international events such as International Mother Language Day, Reading Week, Fet Afrik, Semaine de la francophonie and the Kreol Festival. (ongoing)

- Media activities aimed at sensitizing the public on specific issues. (ongoing)
- International cooperation activities such as Salon du Livre de la Jeunesse (Reunion), Prix Kadima, membership of RILAC, etc. (ongoing)
- Exchange programmes with other language and cultural institutions across the world: e.g- book exchange with LPT, Vues d’Afrique, Nelson Mandela Centre, etc. (ongoing)
- Programme of visits for students (Primary & Secondary). (ongoing)
- Given its additional function as the Secretariat of Bannzil Kreol, the Institute has to provide the necessary facilities and ensure relevant activities in line with the projects decided by the Administrative Council and General assembly of the federation. (ongoing)

Programme 4

PRESERVING THE KREOL INSTITUTE AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Building and grounds maintenance

Aim: To preserve and promote the architectural features of the Kreol Institute building vis-à-vis its status as a national monument.

The following projects are being targetted for the next five years:

- Anti-termite treatments on a 3 monthly basis.
- Roof repair and maintenance.
- Building of fire-escape, storage facilities and documentation facilities.
- Grounds beautification and maintenance project.
- Publication of colour hardback featuring the history and function of Maison St. Joseph.
- Ensuring that the Kreol Institute building and grounds comply to the fire-safety requirements of the Fire Department.