

# Annual Report, Dec 2008

Creole Institute of Seychelles

Culture Division

Ministry of Community Development, Youth, Culture and Sports.

## 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.

## 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.

Major affiliations: RILAC  
Reseau des Langues Africaines et Créoles.  
Based in Paris, France and functions as a programme of the  
'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie'.

ACALAN  
African Academy of Languages.  
Based in Bamako, Mali.

CIEC  
Centre International d'Etudes Créoles.

Functions as a section in the Language faculty of the University of Provence in Aix-en-Provence, France.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1. Programme 1: DEVELOPMENT OF 'KREOL' AS THE SEYCHELLOIS MATERNAL LANGUAGE.

#### **A complete Seychelles Creole Grammar**

The complete grammar is a compilation of all grammatical works produced on the Seychelles Grammar, inclusive of the most recent orthographic amendments. This document is a valuable language tool for users of Kreol, especially in formal education. The Creole Institute contracted out the technical work to a member of the Creole Language Committee and the verification was done by the whole committee during our monthly workshops. The grammar is due to be published in 2009 both in hard print and online.

#### **Updating of Leksik Kreol Seselwa**

The Leksik Kreol Seselwa is a glossary of all Creole vocabulary in use and it is updated and published every five years or so. The project is a joint one with the Ministry of Education. 2008 saw the updating of the second edition of the Leksik, in preparation for the publishing of a third edition.

#### **Terminological database**

This project is an initiative of the Canadian Government and has the aim of enlarging the Canadian Translation Bureau's terminological database with inputs from African and Creole languages. The domains treated in 2008 were 'metalangue de la terminologie', 'vocabulaire parlementaire' and 'lexique Femme et développement'.

### 2. Programme 2: DEVELOPMENT OF A SEYCHELLOIS LITERATURE

#### **Publications**

April 2008 saw the launching of two books published by the Institute to commemorate Reeding Week. 'Kont ek Lezann, Volim 9' was the last in our Tales & Legend series and it compiles Pti Zan stories told by Jeanne Lemiel.

'Marcelle: Son Desten' is the sequel to 'Deryer Laporte Makouti' by Georgine Robert.

In November, the Creole Institute was the venue for the launching of a children's book by Colette Gillieaux.

The Creole Institute also edited 'Anthologie de la Poésie Seychelloise', first edited in 1983 by Guy Lionnet. The second edition was a National Arts Council publication as part of 'VOYAZ' (literary evening) during the Creole Festival.

### **Literary competitions**

1. Competition under the national theme: Nou Konstitisyon, Lavwa nou Nasyon.

This competition was launched to commemorate the International Mother Language Day on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2008. The categories included traditional stories and memoirs. The prizes will be present on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

2. Pri Antoine Abel.

The Antoine Abel Prize, second edition, was launched in October 2008, to be matured in October 2010. The categories include all forms of literature, translations, and essays or dissertations. The first edition had comprised of the theatre and poetry categories only, and was crowned in 2008 by the staging of 'Soungoula ek Basen Lerwa' the winner of the theatre category.

Programme 3: PROMOTION OF THE CREOLE INSTITUTE AS A PUBLISHING HOUSE & LANGUAGE RESEARCH CENTER.

### **Bannzil Kreol Secretariat.**

1. The Bannzil Kreol secretariat organized the third meeting of the Administrative Council of the federation in Mauritius, in February 2008. The Seychelles representatives were also invited to participate in the commemoration of the 163<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the abolition of slavery. The celebrations included a conference, held under the Bannzil Kreol branch in Mauritius, and was hosted by the University of Mauritius and the American Embassy. The conference was held under the theme, 'African Diaspora and Creolity' and this was later taken up by the Creole Institute in a debate in May 2008 to commemorate Fet' Afrik, and again in the Creole Festival, during which an international colloquium was organized under the same theme. Our partners in Reunion, Racine Kaf, carried the torch in December as part of a new initiative to bring the Afrodiaspora studies to the Indian Ocean.

2. The Seychelles Branch of Bannzil launched the first international Creole film competition in October 2007 and succeeded in bringing several international celebrities in the Creole world such as France Zobda and Jocelyne Béroard for the judging session and prize-giving ceremony. The jury also comprised of Jean-Louis Monthieu and Françoise Kersebet, and Marie-Thérèse Choppy and Jean-Claude Matombé as local members. In itself, the first film festival has been a real success, but particularly so because Seychelles won the prize for 'Fiction - long métrage' with a film by Vincent and Patrick Joseph, entitled 'En Dezyenm Sans'.

### **International Missions**

The Institute participated in the following international missions in 2008, apart from those already mentioned in the Bannzil Kreol and Afrodiaspora context:

- Meeting in May, in Conakry, and in December in Congo-Kinshasa, organized by the Canadian Government to regularize the terminological database project.
- Conference in May, organized by the African Academy of Languages.

### **National theme activities**

The main activities organized by the Creole Institute in line with the national theme was the literature competition using the same theme. The highlight of these activities for the Institute in 2008 was the presentation of the preamble of the Constitution of Seychelles, translated in Creole, to Vice-President Joseph Belmont, during a literary event in late November.