

PRESS RELEASE

Bangkok, 25/02/2021

Together, let's celebrate the month of the Francophonie in Thailand!

In the land of smiles, there are 500,000 Thai people who speak French fluently! Today, in Thailand, more than 30,000 pupils or students are learning French in more than 210 secondary schools and nearly 30 universities, thus giving the French language a privileged place in the kingdom, even if the country doesnt share the French-speaking heritage of its neighbors.

French is the 2nd language learned in the world, right after the English language, the 3rd language of business and the 4th language on the internet. According to figures from the «International Organization of La Francophonie », in 2018 there were more than 300 million Francophones in the world.

Francophonie is first and foremost women and men who share a common language, French. But this community of language also share the culture and values that this language conveys. The International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) has not only the mission of promoting the teaching of French but also to enhance common values notably peace, human rights throughout the world, and global issues, such as the environment or sustainable development.

Every year in March, Le « Mois de la Francophonie » or the month of francophonie, intends to promote the French language everywhere in the world and to support dialogue and understanding between people, groups and communities.

After Luxembourg in 2020, this year France is taking on the role of coordinator of the month of « la Francophonie » in Thailand. In partnership with the Alliance Française and the Thai Association of French Teachers, but also with the Embassies and delegations of Belgium, Canada, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, and Switzerland, the French Embassy in Bangkok is pleased to invite you to celebrate « Francophonie Month 2021 » in Thailand!

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 - 5 P.M. MEETING AT ALLIANCE FRANCAISE BANGKOK FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MONTH OF FRANCOPHONIE! (PRESS)

Throughout the month of March, theater, concerts, exhibitions, conferences, cinema, or even unique educational activities will be happening throughout the country.

Finally, on March 20, all the partners will meet at the Résidence de France for "La Fête de la Francophonie is taking breath of Fresh air", for a reception to honour all students or highschool kids who chose to learn french.

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TO KNOW MORE

⇒ The <u>International Organization of La Francophonie</u> (OIF) consists of 88 full member states and governments, associate members and observers from around the world. Thailand has been an observer state since 2008.

⇒ The French Embassy in Thailand:

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⇒ Alliance française de Bangkok:

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- ⇒ logo *Mois de la Francophonie* (Attd document)
- ⇒ *Mois de la Francophonie* program (attached)

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