



Mission laïque française

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Lycée Guebre-Mariam
Addis-Abeba Ethiopie



Addis-Ababa, March the 26th, 2013.

65th Anniversary of Lycée Guebre-Mariam

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the educational community
and former Students

On the 15th of March, 1948, nearly one hundred students began their studies in the new French and Ethiopian school, a French-financed school located in a building provided by Ethiopia, right next to today's premises.

65 years have passed, generations of young Ethiopians, French and more than 40 other nationalities have been taught and educated there, and many have obtained the Baccalaureate. They live throughout the world, carrying the values of tolerance and justice, which are the result of an education based on rigor, high expectations and curiosity.

This anniversary that we'll celebrate throughout the year 2013 will be an opportunity to remember the history of a *Lycée* wanted by both the governments of Ethiopia and of France, to pay a tribute to all those who have worked for such an achievement, to highlight the qualities of the French educational system, to put forward the success of our former students, their careers, and to draw prospects for Guebre-Mariam school and its students.

The African Union, ever since its inception, has chosen Guebre-Mariam school for the studies of its French-speaking officials' children. It celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Ethiopian Airlines, the company which connects Africa to the rest of the world, can rely on former students among its people in charge and many employees entrust us with their children.

Our links with these two entities remind us of the role, though indirect, of Lycée Guebre-Mariam in the modernization of Ethiopia (whose first pilot was trained in France) and in Addis Ababa's access to the rank of Africa's diplomatic capital.

To celebrate the 65th anniversary, with the French Embassy and the Student Association of the Lycée Guebre-Mariam, we have prepared the following program:

- *Friday, April 5th at 6 pm:*

Opening of the festivities on the occasion of the Award Ceremony of the spelling bee, chaired by HE Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Francophonie's International Organization, in the presence of HE Mrs. Ambassador of France and Mr. Chairman of the French Mission Laïque.

- *Friday, April 12th:*

Intercultural Day proposed by the *Lycée's* students (students of different nationalities).

- *Thursday, May 16th from 18h:*

Gala at the Sheraton.

- *Saturday, October 5th:*

School's Open day with various exhibitions, educational presentations, testimonies and roundtables.

- *Saturday, December 14th:*

Kermesse with sporting events, shows, a bal ...

- *December:*

Publication of "Students' memories", from 1948 to 2013" and of the directory of Lycée Guebre-Mariam's Alumni.

Other initiatives shall be integrated to the schedule, thus enriching the program coordinated by the organizing committee, which ensures that all people of goodwill are welcome.

Many thanks,

The Principal,

Jean-Pierre Pasquiou