

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH FOR THE YEAR 2011
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The Sub-Department of French had a good year 2011. In addition to a smooth run of her usual academic programmes, the Sub-Department, with the financial support of the College of Humanities, participated in the Francophony fundraising dinner at the Laico Regency Hotel as well as the Francophony Day at the AgaKhan High School, after hosting, on behalf of the Language Bureau of the Embassy of French in Kenya, a one day conference involving Kenyan University Units offering French language and French language related studies. The same Language Bureau of the Embassy of France in Kenya found it fit to later on have the Sub-Department of French included in the itinerary of a French expert in the use of theatre for language teaching purposes. This was found to be immensely beneficial by both the student participants and staff observers.

The faith of the Language Bureau of the Embassy of France in Kenya in the Sub-Department of French was further and more strikingly manifested in the selection of the Sub-Department as one of a number of Kenyan French Resource Centre host institutions. This decision that arose out of a long standing agreement between the Governments of France and Kenya, led to the replacement of outdated language laboratory equipment by state of the art computer and smart board installations, in addition to the supply of library materials. All this made the regional French resource centre, hosted by the Sub-Department of French, the best equipped in the country.

It is partly for the above reason that the French resource centre hosted by the Sub-Department of French was selected to host a national smart board use training workshop for teachers and lecturers of French. Dr. Bilha Mwenesi and Ms Caroline Oyugi participated in this workshop. As more or less the same time as that of the smart board training workshop, four of academic members of staff, namely, Bilha Mwenesi, Michael Nginye, Caroline Oyugi and Caroline Mutaiwere able to take part in and present papers at a regional conference on the teaching of French in the multilingual context of East and Central Africa.

Another achievement of the Sub-Department of French during the year 2011, to which all the academic members of staff contributed, was the Certificate and BA syllabus review, with the new proposals being submitted to the relevant higher authorities for consideration, discussion and adoption. It is hoped that the latter will happen before the commencement of the academic year 2012/2013.