THEME OF THE 20TH EDITION OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKERS' DAYS OF TEC

Western Education and African Culture

400FCFA

TITIGWETI | English Club

Cultural Journal seing the light at the University of Ab-Calavi. N° 0001 (Juin 2021) A leading Institution created since 1996, aiming at offering the best quality of English

CELEBRATION OF THE ESDs AT TEC ON THE 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th OF JUNE 2021

ZOOM ON TITIGWETI ENGLISH CLUB



BEST LADIES COMPETITION AT TEC

O8th Edition of the BLC.
Who are the next Ladies of Honor?

BIG BEAR COMPETITION AT TEC

A Competition that ages and takes root every year





Celebration of the ESDs at TEC

« ESDs are rejoicing moments and at the same time an opportunity to speak the English Language » said the President Brice ESSE.









We keep the fire burning!





Created on November 10, 1996, TITIGWETI ENGLISH CLUB (TEC) is a non-profit association located on the campus of the university of Abomey Calavi, in charge of promoting the talents of youth through Beninese English language. It aims at students and mostly offering Beninese youth an ideal setting for the acquisition and practice of the English language. For that, a conducive environment is set for the development of their talents in the service of development of Benin, Africa and the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

The name of the Club was inspired from the tale: "Titigweti and the Elephant" in the book EFSA, by the late Boniface Zodeogan Responding to its mission, TEC is divided in **SiX** (06) different sections according to predispositions and the learners or members natural passions. That is to say we have:

Listening section(Music);

Debate and discussion section(debate topics and resolutions dealing with almost every domain of life);

Drama section(Sketches and play on life realities so as to make the audience draw lessons from their performances);
News section(Journalism, focuses on news broadcasting and newspaper's writing);

Stories and jokes section

(Stories telling, playing, comedy); and

Reading section (Helps the club's members to better their English skills through reading of books which is the main activity of the section).

To achieve its **Objectives**, TEC organizes each year events and competitions such as the "LOL Night", the "English Speakers Days", the "Best Lady Contest" and the "Big Bear Contest". The vision of TEC is to impact Beninese youth and encourage them to deploy their talents through the promotion of the English language, its values and principles.

TEC Website link

www.titigwetienglishclub.com

We keep the fire burning!

BRICE S. F. ESSE

Current President of TITIGWETI ENGLISH CLUB



What does Tec represent for you?

For me TEC is a laboratory to everyone. When you go through TEC, no matter how long you spend staying in this environment, you'll get out completely transformed. This is to say that the purpose for which you join the club, you easily meet it. And apart from that, you discover so many things like family hood, love etc.

What is your vision for TEC this year?

As president my main vision after all is to have all the honorable back. Also have a united TEC from the first generation to the current one where people work hand in hand for it credibility and visibility by acquiring the best English ever.

What pushed you to choose Western Education and African Culture as the theme of the ESD's?

This can simply be understood by the fact that nowadays in Africa we're noticing the lost of our values and traditions. In the past education in Africa was totally different. We have a given way of educating our children; we have some tradition that we valued. But today all this have been lost in profit of westerners. We've noticed that Africa now is just copying the lifestyle of westerners whereas we have our own. Africa also has value that we can sell to the remaining of the world. So we decided to choose such a theme to clear many aspects of the Westerners' education and our culture here in Africa.

What are your real achievements till now?

As far as achievements are concerned, we need to refer to our yearly plan where we set up some priorities. Within the yearly plan, three among various priorities are vitally necessary to be solved, like having Honorable back; having a Web Site for TEC; and being united. So those are challenges we were having but by God grace we can say that those main priorities have known a success.



BIOGRAPHY

ESSE Sourou Francis Brice, was born on July 23rd 1994 at Parakou where he grew up and got his Bachelor degree.

After his A-Level admission in 2014, he joined the University of Abomey-Calavi where enrolled at the Faculty law(FADESP), mainly in Political Science and the Department of English (FLLAC) especially in African Study at the same time. In 2017, he got his Bachelor degree at FADESP whereas at the department of English, when he was in second year, the year has been invalidated. The following year, he didn't register at the Department of English decided to continue in 2018 just after his Bachelor degree at FADESP. Today, he is in second year of Master in Political Science. Still in 2018, with the passion he got for the English Language, he joined Titigweti English Club where he has been member. One year later, he has been appointed the Vice-Head of Reading Section before being the current President of this Institution. Apart from Titigweti English Club, Francis Sourou ESSE has been and is still member of many other association like IMDID Benin(Integrated Modern Diplomat for Integration and Development); RED CROSS, he got his Certificate in 2019 and today he is in the Leading Board of the 09th district of Cotonou. He is in charge of the dissemination and promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values.

PROVERB

Actions speak louder than Words.

What you do is more important than what you say.

RICHARD GANDJI

Former President of TITIGWETI ENGLISH CLUB

« With the assets we acquire in TEC, we can still get through »

Immediate president of Titigweti English Club (TEC), Richard GANDJI AKA IBS (International Book Seller) is one the language facilitaters at American Corner of Abomey calavi. He's also one of the active members of TEC. In order to know more about his journey at TEC and have his impression on the institution and also on the English Speakers Days', we went closer him to obtain answers to some questions. **Read out!**

How did you find out about TEC and what prompted you to register?

What drove me to join Titigwéti English Club was because of a brother of mine who was at the university by then when I was in secondary school. So most of the time when he came back to meet us he was used to speaking English and I couldn't wait to come and feel the environnement that gives him that kind of fluency; so i was having the envy of joining Titigwéti since I was in lère and my dream was once on the campus I should find the same community and start doing as my brother did. When I came on the campus, the first place that I was trained was Obama Center which is currently known as the American Corner. From there now when I happened to meet my brother, I recalled that he told me of a society, a community where they train people in English and then he brought me to the place. For the first time I didn't even know which section to choose. But as I like talking, I like discussing with people, therefore i joined Debate and Discussion Section. This is how I joined the family.

Tell us about the running of TEC. When you were in the A- Board, comparatively to when you got in the E- Board.

Titigweti has rules that count a lot. Back to 2016-2017,I served in the A-Board once as the vice head of Debate and Discussion Section. Later on, I served in the E-Board twice. First as the vice coordinator



and second as the President of Titigweti English Club . The challenges were very high because at that time I didn't have a particular training in how to lead people effectively; No Professional skills but I tried to do with the little that I knew. The only thing that helped my peers and I to go through all the challenges was our unity. And also we were humble to learn from others.

In 2017-2018, I was the vice coordinator of TEC. One of the things that I appreciated was that when I was the vice head the former coordinator that was there before me was training me without even me knowing. He wanted me to position and become the coordinator.Sometimes, I would just be in the audience and when a section will finish performing, he would call me on the stage to introduce another section but I was not prepared. Sometimes, I'm like afraid in front of the audience but he kept on doing it over and over. From there now, I started working on myself before going on the stage.

When I became the vice coordinator he was used to calling us and talked to us directly. Now I'm happy for TEC because our top challenge in my time was how to find a suitable room for the GM's but this year (2021) you have partnerships with the library "Benin Excellence" and there's no more challenge in that direction. I'm blessed because I stayed in the E-Board twice. Being the Vice Coordinator helped me to know more about how decisions were made. After being the Vice Coordinator, I became the President in 2019-2020 and I was not seeing TEC as a club but as a company that I was running. The main thing that touched me was the spirit of humility, I knew what I wanted and I worked hand in hand with my team to come up successfully. Instead of seeing myself as a president just passing by, I held the club as my own company and this was what gives me energy. I'm always energized to work. This has more to do with knowing oneself and also the power of teamwork.

RIDDLE

What gets wet while drying?

Answer: A towel

PROVERB

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

You must begin something if you hope to finish it; something that takes a long time to finish begins with one step.

Why didn't you give up anytime soon?

Giving up was not something I personally like. As I said up, when I led, I had seen TEC as a company that I'm ruling. Let's take the example of a family; we have the father and also the children. Then, can the father decide to resign from the family? No, the father will always stay but the children may decide to leave. So it's something that was boosting me and I couldn't give up and I knew one thing for sure my journey at TEC was on purpose because I know I was going somewhere and I just like leading people. I knew that either I fail or I succeed but when I fail, it's not a failure, I would learn lessons from my experiences. If I succeed also, that is cool. There were moments when I failed at taking decisions and my team mates had brought me to the right track. Leading at TEC is such a great privilege for me because i wonder if I didn't lead those things that I'm seeing in myself where could I learn them.

TEC is not just a place where people come and learn English. When people are only focused on English that's where they lose the track. Then they don't feel the joy of being with different people; people that come from different family; people that have different values; people that will help them to dream big. After all, we are all somebody when we remove English, and you'll happen to be the person you're when you add the English you learn in the club.

As the former president, what was and are still your plans for this institution?

One of my biggest plans is to have TEC alumni association. It has been something that I have had in my mind and all the time it keeps on coming back as a flashback.

To bring back all the former people so that we can stay together and have an association aiming at helping people develop or work on the skills they acquire at TEC (like in journalism, Business...etc.) Translation, part of my plans and I do believe we can do it. Being the first organization that can have big contracts is also part of my plans because it is true when it comes to English language in Benin Titigwéti is the first but what have we achieved Nationally? People won't value us if we don't value ourselves. Therefore, it's time for us to think of leaving Under Bids and have a great building where we can host Events; Invite Guests and hold Activities. Many people know or hear about TEC but they cannot locate us. when people see we have talents and no tools, they don't take us seriously though they recognize the power that we have.

Why did TEC go through a crisis in 2018-2019?

I think the crisis TEC went through is due to the fact of not knowing what followership is all about and what leadership is all about.

Tell us about the activities you carried out during your mandate.

One of the activities I like the most during my term was the sub skills program that we had with the US Embassy. When I talk of sub skills, those are skills of communication, how to have a high self esteem...etc. Reading activity with the Director of the US Embassy and also Story telling with Dr Raouf MAMA, most of the time we are used to having him as a guest speaker.

We went for great programs like "Sachet Héloué" where we clean the street and it is a very nice program. We also have many other events. The Launching Ceremony and The Lol Night were events I liked.

What policy have you used to achieve your goals?

If you don't have some self imposed standard on yourself, you cannot achieve anything. Let me talk of myself personally; I have imposed certain things to myself. One of the things is, my dressing code; I have learnt how to properly dress because the way you are dressed is the way you are address. Also, I knew many things as being a President. Being a president, the position imposes things to you that even if you feel like doing them, you cannot do. I have developped the habit of reading. I have learnt how to make good decisions; we mostly do with our own means before asking for any help. I also like receiving corrections.

What would you say about TEC being a training center for students and everybody?

TEC is already a training center for students of the campus but all we just need to do is to reach out to many people. There are still some people on the campus but they are not aware of the things we are giving to our Nation. So, what we can do is having some partnerships with some heads of department; it can be EPAC, ENAM...etc; so as to help them with the English language. We need to expend the information to people.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 3 most common languages in the World are: Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English

The theme chosen this year for the celebration of the ESD's is "Western Education and African Culture" what's your view about it?

I think this theme is very large. One of the things that I can tackle now can be relationship. The Medias through which we are educated in Africa are Televisions, Radio programs, when I take for instance marriage, most of the time, we are used to watching some movies where Husbands will be cheating on their wives, also wives will be cheating; and we here in Africa think that those things are things that are normal, forgetting that their laws aren't the same as ours. A woman can decide one day to take off all the children that you both have together. It's like laws cover them the most over there but here in Africa there are certain standards that are imposed to women and just because they feel valued, they just accept them like that. Here in Africa, you know that you cannot talk to your father directly and shout at him but over there it's the contrary. We copy those things unintentionally and they are now affecting us in many domains.

Your last word.

My last word is that we shouldn't lose hope because the club is still in good hands; and TEC cannot be at the place we all are visioning it to be without the contributions of each one of us; and nobody should be put aside. If you know that the club contributed something in your life at a giving time and you go without coming back to contribute, help and support while you know deep that they need help; it's a sin not only against you but against God.



JUSTIN EDJI
Former Executive Director of TEC

As part of the ESD's celebration organized this year at Titigweti English Club (TEC), justin EDJI, former executive director of the institution and current president of Great Africa NGO provided his opinion on the theme of the day and hereby spoke of his career at TEC.



When did you join TEC and what pushed you to get registered?

I joined Titigweti English club in 2017 and my main goal was to polish my English because being student in the department of English I was attracted to any environnement where I can practice my English and improve. So I've been once invited by a friend of mine; his name is Richard GANDJI, and he is the pass immediate president of the club. He was the one who invited me and my main purpose was to practice the language and improve more.

Tell us a bit about the running of TEC. When you where the Executive Director.

When I was serving TEC, as Executive Director I think everything went well. I don't know if I'm the luckiest executive director in the history of TEC but I had the chance to work with a team, the Head of sections who worked under my term were more than devoted. They were very active and with that I hope my term was a success, I do appreciate it because I don't regret anything.

Tell us about your journey through TEC in general.

My journey through TEC is full of positive histories and lessons. TEC is an institution that needs to be created if it didn't exist before because what I gain from it I cannot quantify. I learnt so many things as teamwork; I have also developed some skills; some ways of leading people.

What are the positive and negative acts that marked you during your term?

I will just say I have positive acts and I also learn lessons. I cannot say I had negative acts that impacted me when I was leading at Titigwéti English club. Being an active member of debate and discussion section, my heads were more than determined to make sure that we have the best quality of English and we also behave like people who speak the language; and when I became first vice, I worked with a team of Appolinaire KEKERE and Clémence AGBADJA. They were all marvelous and I also enjoyed that. When I became the executive director, it was in a moment when I needed to come. I just loved everything that happened and I learned also life lessons.

PROVERB

Easy come, easy go

When you make money quickly, its very easy to lose it quickly as well

As the immediate executive director of TEC, what are still your plans for this institution?

As immediate past executive director, I won't say I have plans but I just have suggestions because no matter what I will do, no matter what I will say, it is the people who are on power who will decide to implement it or not. So I think the most difficult issue that our institution is facing is mostly related to administrations. How to make sure the administrative issues are settled in time and I'm more focus on that and I'm available to be of help.

Your point of view about the theme chosen for the ESD's.

The theme chosen for this ESD's for me is special and it takes into account the whole world in one. Western education and African culture. I think two things important I've learned is to always see the positive side of everything. If we can take the good side of western education and try to adapt our culture to it, we can succeed because we are all one on earth. There is no difference between us. It just depends on how we see other people and how we accept their way of doing things. The theme for me is a wonderful one.

Your last word

I do believe that what people have gained from TEC, and what TEC continues to give to people if we really put our effort together, we can make of this strong institution the best ever. My hope is that the club grows one day and becomes an international one.



Did you know?

Did you know 3 US Presidents have won Grammys?

Former President Jimmy Carter has won three Grammy Awards in the Best Spoken Word Album category. The first one was for Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis in 2007. Next came, A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety in 2016. Finally Faith: A Journey For All in 2019.

In 2004, Bill Clinton won Best Spoken Word Album for My Life. Just a year prior in 2003, he won the Best Spoken Word Album for Children with Prokofiev: Peter And The Wolf/Beintus: Wolf Tracks.

Finally, Barack Obama has won a couple of golden megaphones of his own. He won Best Spoken Word Album in 2006 for the narration of his book, Dreams from My Father audiobook. In 2008, he took home another one when he took home the Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album for the audiobook version of The Audacity of Hope.

Did you know Viking men wore makeup?

It's no doubt that Vikings were some of the toughest men in history books. However, they cared about their appearance enough that makeup was a part of their everyday routine.

POEM

My Culture, My Pride!

Inherent of heredity as heritage Like ants gathering in heap And cultural feeling dressed us All with spirit of ubuntu

Its inheritance is our strength
Our whereabouts and our
which is which
Our breakthrough and our
future
Our undivided tension
and our nation in colors

Custodians of clear custom
Traditionalist of tradition
Even life is tradition
I see a happy compatriot here
Stubborn conventional
conventionalist
In the pulse of every nation
It makes wind to blow world
with excitement
And it has water of life.

Our language outline ourselves We use to talk to ourselves with it

Culture is an intergalactic of our generosity We are united in drums and

trumpets Singing like birds in the morning

With hope and passion And ancestors joining us in time

Cultural day will make us one And life joined us with happiness



Unknown Author

RIDDLE

What goes up but never comes down?

Апѕмег: Your age

BIG BEAR CONTEST 2021

Titigweti English club in agreement with the English department of UAC, has been organizing for 7 years now the competition called BBC which aims to assess learners English proficiency through a series of stages and to promote artistic talents and culture of women and men

The BBC is for anyone wishing to weigh his or her level in English. This exceptional experience also allows candidates to overcome their fear of public speaking and creates an environment allowing them to meet many other English speakers

Since the selection phase, they have been 47 candidates to partake effectively in the Big Bear Competition 2021. With talented and a good quality of English; the 47 candidates then defended themselves and at the same time marked the season with starling performances in front of the different juries they met.

Still for the same sake, that is the continuation of the contest only six candidates were selected for another great challenge at the final stage. They have done and keep on doing impeccable task. However, of those six brilliant contestants who happened to be at the final stage, who will be named the Big Bear 2021 in the history of TEC? Let's just wait and see.

For the final stage, all the contestants are called to debate on a common topic. The topic that they will be faced this year is:

"Covid19 created more opportunities than losses"













So as to know much more about the challenges they can be facing and also in getting ready for the final stage, News section approached Jordan AGBESSI who was the Big Bear 2020 for some testimonials: let's read.

I am Jordan AGBESSI, member of Reading Section also a bachelor degree holder in English-linguistics.

It is a great pleasure for me to have been the Big Bear 2020. First, I will say it is a great competition the BBC; one of the toughest competitions I have ever taken part in. It is not easy but I can say through the competition I discovered so many things. Most of the time when the competition is about to start, Head of sections use to put some pressure on members. It is true they may want the trophy to come in their section but before that there is something behind as well. They want members to develop, to get transformed, because they are sure if they take part in the competition, they will discover a hilling side of themselves. Talking about me, when I was in secondary school, I was not used to raising my finger in order to speak because I was very shy.But today in TEC, am used to talking, I like coming in front and speak. The competition reveals then a hilling part of myself. When I was taking part in the competition, I didn't aim at winning the trophy. Let me tell you that I took part in the BBC twice. Last year was the second time I partook before I win. I could have resigned after failing for the first time but I didn't because I competition the changed something in my life even if I failed and I can still do better and change more if I I continue. My main concern was just to be the best one at every stage. I never thought of the trophy at the beginning. One of my motivations was to bring my section to the high level because my section has never won the trophy and I took that as a challenge and at the same time as a motivation. Throughout the competition I learn that I should underestimate never my opponents; and mostly we have to believe in ourselves.

So for those who are at the final stage now, the only thing I can tell them is to first give the best of themselves. Second, show the love they have for their section and last believe in themselves.

RIDDLE

What question can you never say yes to?

Answer: Are you sleep yet?

What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: The Future

The more of it there is, the less you see. What is it?

Answer: The Darkness

PROVERB

Fortune favors the bold

People who are brave and who take risks are more successful than people who do things safely all the time.



Considering the fact that it is highly proven that women are for a country what a root is for a tree, and the importance of the influence of women in the decision-making process in the 21st century and the importance of the English language, TEC launched the "Best Lady Contest" (A female contest) which aims to promote female leadership and mastery of the English language in order to promote the female gender, to participate in the social, political and economic development of Benin, which will significantly reduce the rate of violence afflicted to their gender.

This year, for the **Best Ladies**Competition, there are exactly
18 ladies to partake. Not only a
competition but also a channel
through which they valorize the
African culture.

Coming from various sections of the club, those brave and fighting women have decided to show up their respective identity some cultural through speeches, traditional dances of each region and more giving importantly by more credit to their diverse culture.

In mean time, the main question is to know among the 18 candidates, who is going to be the Best Lady 2021 in the history of TEC. Let's wait and see.

Let's know more about the best lady 2020 through her testimony.



My name is Hermine OREKO. I am the Best lady 2020.

The best lady section is a great thing. It is more than an innovation for we ladies. It is also a privilege to have the best lady competition. Ended, with my little experience, I can say that I have enjoyed the journey and I have learnt a lot.

In best ladies section we learn how to be a lady, how to behave in the society, how to be useful for the society, how to be an independent woman, how to be a woman to be.

Talking of the training, it was a wonderful adventure. We stayed and worked all together hand in hand with the leaders and the coach along the training.

Let's talk of the competition

After I have received the theme. I made some research on it. For the corrections; I was helped by my leaders and other Heads of section. I worked a lot with my former second lady Miss Salima, even work over night sometimes. I remember that I spent a night at her place to finish writing my speech. To really master the speech I practice over and everywhere I was. I approached many leaders for corrections and suggestions. Getting ready for the contest was not easy at all.

Out of the contest I have learnt how to write, make a speech, before an audience.





























COMPETITION

CONTESTANT Nº 11

Kelly Massogblé

AHOUGBE

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ANTHEM OF THE CLUB

Titigweti English club

You are my family All your members Are my sisters and brothers I know that the ability Of communicating In English is a power I will share my power With my sisters And brothers For knowledge is the only

thing That one gives Without losing it To thee I will be faithful Forever Thy rules will be followed

And brotherhood

Be thy way

Website of the Club for more infos

www.titigwetienglishclub.com

Or scan here



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