

Bonjour à toutes et à tous,

The Cultural Counsellor, Mr Cédric Devais, won't be able to come here this afternoon as he is travelling but I speak on his behalf.

Tout d'abord, un grand merci à tous pour votre présence, à l'occasion de ce spectacle qui marque la fin de la session de cours.

The French Embassy is very proud of the progress made by the Alliance française, by its dynamism and the good atmosphere you can enjoy here. This is a place to learn, but it is also a very cosy and warm place where to meet around a book or a cup of coffee.

We all, in the Alliance and the Embassy, work in very close cooperation. We have a common goal: to promote and teach the French language and culture. And I must confess it's a great pleasure for us, in the Embassy, to work in collaboration with such dedicated and professional team. Everybody here, from the director, Christophe Freschi, to the teachers and the agents, is contributing to the success of our action.

I will just say a word about why learning French is important. Learning French is more than just learning a language. It's a door opened to the five continents, where French is widely spoken. It also offers job and business opportunities. French is not on the decline, the number of French speakers is even increasing, especially in China and in Africa.

And to grasp those opportunities, DELF/DALF diploma is the key. It's an official diploma, certified by our Ministry of Education, but it's also a local diploma, that you can pass here, in Bahrain, in the Alliance française. It's this diploma that will enable your children to register in a French university.

I will finish by reminding you that the Cultural service of the French Embassy is delighted to welcome anybody looking for information on studying in France and we will gladly answer to any of your queries.

Thank you.