

**First National
Festival of Access Students' Talents
(FAST)**

Rationale

Access program has become a big successful educational project in Morocco and undoubtedly, a great amount of language learning and skill acquisition take place in Access centers. Students also show the best of themselves during the time they spend in those centers. Given the fact that MATE is running a big number of Access centers, MATE board has considered the idea of holding an event celebrating the successes and achievements that these centers and the students who enroll in them have accomplished. The Festival of Access Students' talents (FAST) would be the best way to do so. It is an opportunity for the students in the different Access centers in Morocco to meet and know about one another's achievements and talents and at the same time spend some unforgettable fantastic moments. For these reasons, MATE, in accordance with its objectives, and in collaboration with RELO would like to launch the first Festival of Access Students' Talents.

Objectives

- to involve students in authentic use of English
- to make learning a more enjoyable experience and sustain students' motivation
- to give students the opportunity to excel and show their talents
- to give an opportunity to Access students to perform competitively
- to provide an opportunity for Access teachers and coordination committee to discuss and come up with the best ways to improve the Access experience in Morocco.

Participants

- MATE Access Centers
- Other Non-MATE Access centers.

Date

May 1st - 3rd, 2009.

Venue

Complexe Moulay Rachid in Bouznika.

Content of FAST

1. **Drama Contest** (a short play; 15 mins maximum)
2. **ICT contest** (computer/internet-based productions: PowerPoint presentations, video (10 mins max.), electronic photo album, electronic portfolio, websites, blogs)

- 3. Brochure/Poster production** (one or both)
- 4. Public speaking** (oral presentation on a specific topic)
- 5. Creative writing** (poems, short stories, articles)
- 6. Singing**
- 7. Access-Morocco logo competition** (for details, see Ms Ruth Petzold's email)
- 8. Other activities.**

Themes

The above contests should be related to one of the following topics:

- Cultural diversity (local, national and international)
- Education
- Sustainable development
- Citizenship
- Human/Child rights
- Environment
- Entertainment (comics, music, cinema, etc.).

Organizing Committees

MATE-Access National Coordination committee and other MATE National/Regional board members.

Program

The final program of the event will be communicated in due course.

A rough scheduling will be as follows:

- **Friday, 01 May, 2009:**
 - 15:00: Arrival and registration
 - 18:00: Opening
- **Saturday, 02 May, 2009:**
 - 09:00 - 13:00: FAST activities
 - 15:00 - 19:00: FAST activities
- **Sunday, 03 May, 2009:**
 - 09:00 - 13:00: FAST activities and closing.

Members of the Jury

Members of the Jury for FAST will be:

- Teachers and inspectors of English
- Specialists in the concerned fields if possible
- MATE members
- Representatives of RELO and the U S Embassy in Morocco
- A representative of the Moroccan Ministry of Education
- Others.

Participants

There should be 6 participants + an accompanying teacher from each of the 12 MATE-Access centers. Same thing applies to non-MATE Access centers.

Deadline for participation

To help achieve an effective organization of the event, each Access center should send the list of their participants and the areas they want to participate in **no later than Thursday, 16 April, 2009**.

Expenses

Each Access center should take care of the expenses of their participants (students and accompanying teachers). These expenses include: transportation, food and lodging. For MATE Access centers part of the expenses will be taken from the Enhancement rubric of each center. Non-MATE Access centers should take care of the expenses of their participants' expenses (transportation, food and lodging). Details about expenses will be communicated in due course.

Prizes

Prizes will be announced later based on the sponsorship we will get from our partners.

Possible sponsors

- MATE
- The Ministry of National Education
- RELO
- Publication and books distribution institutions
- Language centers
- Local authorities
- Others.

Can FAST involve other students from other countries in the future?

- Yes, this would be a wonderful experience as it will give students an opportunity to meet other students from other countries.

Miscellaneous

- A web page for FAST will be constructed. It will contain all the information about this Festival.
- All students' productions will be put on a DVD
- There will be prizes for all winners.
- **Important:** There will be prizes for teachers too. Teachers are invited to forward their pedagogical contributions (lesson plans, activities, pedagogical articles, projects with students, ICT productions, portfolios, etc.).

Contacts

MATE-Access National Coordination Committee

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Together we can make the event a successful, fantastic and unforgettable one!