

THE 2ND FRENCH-JAPANESE ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL- Postscript

The second French-Japanese Animated Film Festival was held from Wednesday 2nd –Saturday 5th November 2016 at the Institut Francais in Abuja. The festival is a collaborative event between the French and Japanese Embassies in Nigeria aimed at promoting the relationship between the two countries, as well as the host country Nigeria, through culture.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday, 2nd November pulled large crowd of guests from all walks of life, including the diplomatic and cultural communities, governmental agencies and institutions. This year's event was very unique because it included a 'Nigerian evening', which featured a panel discussion on the development of the anime industry in Nigeria and the screening some short Nigerian animated films created by some young Nigerian animators.

The Honourable Minister of Information and Culture H.E. Alhaji Lai Mohammed was a special Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony. He was joined by the Ambassadors of France and Japan to declare the opening of the 4-day event in the presence of a large crowd of over 200 guests.



*The two Ambassadors watching the movie
With the Hon. Minister*



Amb of France making his speech



Amb of Japan making his speech

In his opening remarks, the Honourable Minister commended the two Ambassadors for their efforts to promote diplomatic relations in the area of culture. He was particularly pleased with the inclusive mindedness of both France and Japan which has culminated in bringing Nigeria into this tripartite arrangement. He hoped that this will go a long way in the development of the anime industry in Nigeria.



The Hon. Minister making his speech



A cross section of guests



A cross section of guests

The film festival featured two Japanese animated films- "Spirited Away" and "Wolf Children", both of which are international award winning films, and two French animated films- "Phantom Boy" and "Approved for Adoption". All the films are highly rated features from both countries and presented the best entertainment for numerous viewers who thronged the venue throughout the four days of screening.

The Nigerian evening featured a short animated film, 'the Legacy of Rubies' by Shrink Fish and an animation series, 'Fino and Dino' by EVCL. There was also an educative feature, 'Clean Hands' by Julimax. The audience were very delighted by the initiative of the Nigerian creators. The panel discussion focused on the problems and prospects of the anime industry in Nigeria. The Nigerian animators noted that, though animation is becoming popular in Nigeria, many Nigerians still see it as a children's programme. The development of the animation industry in Nigeria is also faced with a lot of challenges. One of the major challenges is that the industry still has to depend on the international market for patronage. This is because local television companies find it difficult to pay for TV contents.

It is estimated that over 500 guests attended the festival during the period.