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Academic Excellence Award for French teacher

Ambassador of France presented it to Georgette Haccq

Staff Reporter

PUDUCHERRY: Ambassador of France in India Jerome Bonnafont presented the Academic Excellence Award (Ordre des Palmes Académiques) to Georgette Haccq, a former teacher of French at the Lycee Francois on Wednesday.

Consort General of France in Pondicherry and Chirnqui Joselle Rayer and Principal of Lycee Francois Eric Compan were present during the award ceremony. A number of alumni of the school working in India and France were also present.

Ms. Haccq, wife of former judge David Aroussamy, had taught French language and literature for 30 years from 1956 to 1983 at Lycee Francais de Pondicherry. She has trained many students in French language and literature.

After teaching in France from 1983 to 1982, she returned to India and started to teach French at the Alliance Francaise of Madras, later at the University of Madras and finally at Alliance Francaise of Pondicherry, said a press release.

Being interested in Indian culture, she published a pedagogical collection, a translation of a Tamil comedy in French, books and articles on the history of Pondicherry and Indian culture. She had prepared a directory of the alumni of Lycee Francais indicating their academic and professional paths.

Mr. Haccq continued to teach her former students of Lycee Francais after retirement to help them prepare for French administrative competition, added the release.

Mr. Bonnafont, during a press conference said, the Academic Excellence Award would be presented to a distinguished Indian scientist who had devoted nearly 40 years to the French Institute of Pondicherry and has been studying sculptures and Sanskrit scriptures.

"It comes as recognition of the fact that the institute has some people of exceptional quality," he said.

Earlier, he took part at the "Europe-Asia Forum on Field Studies" at the Pondicherry Centre of the French School of Asian Studies (Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient).

The forum has been designed to promote, research cooperation between Asia and Europe.

"It is a gathering of the some of the best European and Asian brains looking at areas such as archaeology, epistemology, epigraphy, history and much more. We are creating a network of the best institutions and scientists specialising in ancient history of Asian countries particularly in India, China and Southeast Asia," he said.