



ITEC Day celebrated with Indian fervor in Tunis

The Embassy of India in Tunis celebrated *Studying In India* day on 28th February, 2013 by hosting a reception for Tunisians who have availed of Government of India scholarships over the last several years. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, Government of India offers a worldwide programme of scholarships to students in many countries to study diverse courses at reputed Indian institutions. This programme has enjoyed a growing popularity in Tunisia and the scholarships are in different subjects including telecommunications, rural industries, accountancy, medicine and engineering, English language studies, environmental studies and classical Indian music & dance. Over 50 Tunisians have been availing of these scholarships every year.

The evening began with a welcome by the Ambassador of India in Tunisia, Nagma M. Mallick, who outlined some interesting aspects of the ITEC programme in Tunisia. She was followed by 3 young Tunisians who spoke about the courses they had followed in India, viz., diplomatic training, advanced physics and accountancy, how much they had enjoyed their stay in India and how professionally useful the courses had been to them in their professions. Thereafter, 4 young Tunisian students presented two dances set to popular Indian film songs, to great acclaim from the audience. A buffet of Indian cuisine was offered thereafter. The reception was held at the hotel Golden Tulip, Gammarth, a suburb of Tunis.

The ITEC programme was begun in 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India to friendly developing countries. ITEC is the flagship programme of the Government of India's technical cooperation effort, characterised by a great magnitude and wide geographical and sectoral coverage. Currently, ITEC scholarships are offered in 158 countries around the world.