

## Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to make a quick review of some of the current interventions in several countries. Then we will present a seminar organized in Tunisia on best practices to make graduated engineers more efficient worldwide.

In parallel, facing many difficulties raised by international joint PhD's, USF-AWB has decided to publish a compendium of good practices in this field. We ask all those who have tackled bureaucratic difficulties to share their experience with us.

Finally, following the success of the strategic retreat in 2016, you will find the preliminary announcement of a day of reflection for the strategic analysis of USF-AWB which will take place on December 5, 2017 near Lyon, France. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### Assessment of undertaken actions

#### Benin

This country has asked USF-AWB to help it to find collaborators in order to organize the supervision of professional university courses, bachelor level, in the following specialties agriculture, building, cabinetmaking, hospitality, tourism, car mechanics, art, theatre and textiles (styling).

Contact [Louis.Flamand@usf-awb.org](mailto:Louis.Flamand@usf-awb.org).

USF-AWB has received 5 applications which were all submitted to the concerned Benin Department. Now we are waiting for its decision.

#### Burkina-Faso, Free University of Burkina

This is to organize and give seminars for Master students. They look for academics (lecturers, professors) in the following disciplines:

- Private judicial law (one week, 22 h)
- Urban planning and Construction Law (one

week, 22 h),

- Land Law (one week, 25),
- Corporate Finance or internal auditor (one week, 25),
- Communication for development (one week, 22 h).

Contact: [Yves.livian@laposte.net](mailto:Yves.livian@laposte.net)

We have received several applications. Here too we are waiting for the green light.



#### Burkina: Higher School of Social, human and Management Sciences

This new school is seeking help in the domains of computational linguistics, educational linguistics, development and socio-linguistics

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For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, 20 Rue René, F- 69100 Villeurbanne; Email: [Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org](mailto:Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org). Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.

as well as education sciences. Additional information was requested by USF.

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### **Cameroon, African Higher Institute of Information and Knowledge technologies**

For several years, USF-AWB has been helping to set this project in Douala. Its role was to help define the training courses, the organization of education and the mechanisms related to e-learning. It is looking for several teachers in various domains of information technologies.

See <http://institut-isatic.org/> for further details.

This school should open in September 2018. Contact: [robert.laurini@usf-awb.org](mailto:robert.laurini@usf-awb.org) ■

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### **International Training of Engineers**

The evolution of the world requires that graduated engineers and project managers be able to be more efficient in collaboration with suppliers, customers and contractors within an international perspective. For this reason, the International Institute of Technology of Sfax, Tunisia, has asked Robert Laurini, after his book entitled "Training of engineers facing the challenges of globalization", published in April 2013 by Hermès-Lavoisier, Paris, to give a seminar on this topic on July 16, 2017.

Knowing that the lack of cultural understanding is the cause of the failure of 65% of the attempts of international collaboration<sup>2</sup>, it is important that the university training of graduated engineers include this concern.

In front of about fifty participants, he addressed the cultural problems of design, based on the analogies with the design of the gardens.

In fact, each people has a mode of designing in its DNA: so, the French gardens and those of English or Chinese reveal the characters, the profound cultures and the ways of designing technological objects: the importance of the mathematical aspect for the French, of the beauty for the Italians, the precision for the Germans, the pragmatism for the English, the synthesis between the tradition and innovation for the Chinese; these are examples of some important cultural traits

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2 "Company Cultural Differences in Outsourcing" by Richard McLaughlin: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Company-Cultural-Differences-in-Outsourcing&id=1583070>.

that can lead to misunderstandings and even failures between engineers and project managers.

In addition, the problems of languages, academic exchanges, internships in foreign companies, practical training in the management of international projects have also been the subject of specific developments and analyses during this seminar



In other words, as the education of graduated engineers was, until the middle of the twentieth century only technology-centric, the business and project management issues were gradually included as well as the creation of enterprises. International openness is therefore a new pillar of their training.

USF-AWB is ready to help you in this direction to define your international training policy for engineers. ■

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### **Compendium of Good Practices for international joint PhD's**

In a previous issue of our quarterly newsletter (n ° 13, March 2014), we discussed this issue. In fact, a head of doctoral studies recently told us that almost all international joint PhD's had problems, often of a bureaucratic nature.

Many universities provide information on this type of training for PhD students, but hardly ever for supervisors who have to deal with bureaucrats whose requirements are often divergent.

Bearing all that in mind, USF-AWB has decided to draft a compendium of good practices for PhD supervisors. This will deal with the drafting of the agreements because the models proposed by some universities remain silent on many practical problems.

As examples, explanations were given facing

the change in the regulatory framework in one of the two countries, the change of responsibilities in the chains of responsibility, the choice of the language of writing, the practical organization of the defense, the methods of approval of the committees, the appointment of reviewers, modes of writing of the statements of defense, financing of the defense, organization of the cover, etc.

We ask those who have faced difficulties to contact us in order to explain the adopted solutions and possibly to include them into this future compendium.

Thank you in advance for your collaboration.

■

Robert Laurini

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### **Strategic Reflection Day: December 5, 2017**

In February 2016, USF-AWB had organized a strategic thinking day that had taken place in the Lyon region. Eleven colleagues had reviewed the actions taken and underway, namely partnerships, agreements, modes of organization, procedures, the connections with the applicant universities, the search for funding, etc.

In short, in this future meeting, we will try to find solutions for greater efficiency in our mission of aid to universities.

This will take place on December 5, all day long in the Lyon region. More specific information will be given as soon as possible.

As of today, save the date!

For further practical information, please contact [alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org](mailto:alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org) ■