

## Newsletter

For this thirtieth issue of our newsletter, we want to show that our action in different countries is effective and recognized. Five components will be detailed, which have been the subject of missions in recent months and show a panorama of our capacity for intervention:

- The invitation of USF-AWB to the Jubilee of the CAMES in Ouagadougou,
- The setting up of an engineering school in Senegal,
- The establishment of a faculty of Fine Arts in Sudan,
- Training in Civil engineering in Burkina-Faso,
- Defences of Master's theses for the management of extractive industries in Madagascar.

Moreover, we note the arrival at the end of June in Lyon of the leader of the future Polytechnic School of Ouagadougou, which will visit several engineering schools to better develop its project of school to which USF is associated.

We hope that these actions will be the beginning of future activities in order to modernize universities around the world, especially those located in developing countries. We would like to mention that the action in Sudan was carried out with the strong support from the French Embassy. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

---

### Invitation of USF-AWB to the Jubilee of the CAMES in Ouagadougou

The CAMES (African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education) – <http://www.lecames.org>, celebrated its 50th anniversary in a Jubilee gathering all the member countries in Ouagadougou from 29 May to 1 June 2018. The mission of this council is to manage all



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.

problems relative to higher education in French-speaking Africa

USF-AWB participated (Pr. Alain Mille) in the panel "digital at the heart of the concerns". He presented an original model of research development in artificial Intelligence involving teachers, researchers, students and entrepreneurs betting on the digital development of Africa.

The CAMES Secretary general welcomed the involvement of the heads of Governments by declaring "through a statement signed on 1 June 2018 at the International conference Centre of Ouaga 2000, during the celebration of the 50 years of the CAMES, the presidents of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal, Chad and Togo have created a summit of leaders that will allow them to meet every three years. »

Higher education and research is a reaffirmed priority for the member countries of the CAMES. Contact [Alain.Mille@gmail.com](mailto:Alain.Mille@gmail.com). ■

## Towards a school of engineering in Dakar

The SUP de CO Group of Dakar, which owns, among others, a business school, a school of management, a school of logistics and two of information technologies, wants to set up a school of engineers according to the needs of Senegal. This is how USF-AWB was commissioned to establish a feasibility study.

From 13 to 20 May, Robert Laurini, a former professor at INSA Lyon and Francis Castanié, a former professor at the Institut Polytechnique de Toulouse, conducted this study. To this end, they met with several personalities from the Chamber of Commerce, ministries and an industrialist. While the cost of training graduated engineers in France is very expensive, mainly because of the practical work based on modern and high-performance equipment, by taking into account the average level of family incomes, the challenge of forming graduated engineers at lower costs while ensuring excellent quality. This objective can be achieved by different measures:



- Intensive use of digital simulators,
- The possibility of students in engineering being able to train on equipment owned by private companies,
- Rental of equipment, owned by SUP de CO, to private companies.

Based on the analysis, the proposed study programs are in the following areas: Electrical engineering, renewable energies, urban engineering, biomedical engineering, petroleum gas and mining engineering, Agro-Food and aeronautical maintenance. Of course, it is a matter not to open all these study programs at the beginning.

On the other hand, the need for efficient qualified technicians is crucial in all African countries. The idea is therefore to create a

school whose first years would lead to degrees for qualified technicians.

Early decisions should be made quickly so that students of the first promotion are welcomed as soon as possible and in the best conditions.

For more information, contact Robert Laurini <Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org>. ■

---

## Setting up of a Faculty of Fine Arts in Sudan

Following the agreement between USF and the director of culture, education, research and the network of the Ministry of Europe and foreign affairs, the French Embassy counsellors will be able to use the USF network (more than 6000 mails) to search for experts for the assistance to higher education institutions.



It is in this context that the French Embassy in Sudan has asked USF to find a specialist to set up a Faculty of Fine Arts for El Neelain University in Khartoum (see previous issue of the newsletter).

Three very valuable candidacies were selected and that of Stéphane Laurent, professor at The Université of Paris (Panthéon-Sorbonne) was finally chosen. He travelled to Khartoum from 10 to 20 May to study the establishment of three departments, painting, training of future teachers of plastic Arts and interior design. Other missions will follow to refine the project.

For more information on this project: [stephlaurent@hotmail.com](mailto:stephlaurent@hotmail.com). ■

---

## Training in civil engineering in Burkina Faso for building frameworks

The Nazi Boni University of Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) had asked USF-AWB to organize training in building frameworks. A mission was carried out by Fabien Delhomme, associate professor at INSA Lyon from 28 May to 8 June 2018, under the responsibility of Dr Jean de Dieu Zack, director of the college, and Diatto Kevin Namoulniara, professor of civil engineering at this institution.



In front of 80 students, this training focused on functional analysis and calculation of loads of a current building in reinforced concrete, with a course, and practical works in the form of a project with the delivery of a report and the carrying out of an oral defense.

General impressions are the existence of little means, an overloaded classroom, no practical equipment, no computer resources other than student laptops. But the students were very motivated and interested, very pleasant and accessible, but it seemed difficult to get them to work outside of the course sessions.

For more information, please contact Fabien Delhomme <fabien.delhomme@insa-lyon.fr>.

## First promotion of the Master "extractive industries Management" at the University of Tamatave (Madagascar)

The exploitation of the mines of Madagascar must contribute to its economic development. To this end, measures must be taken to encourage good governance in the management of mining resources, and Madagascar is currently in the phase of strengthening its training capacity in this sector.



The provisions in this area are not very numerous, and yet it is the initiative taken by the University of Tamatave with the support of USF-AWB. This is no coincidence: this is where the country's largest mining investment is underway, Ambatovy, a large production capacity nickel and cobalt mining company. With a total investment of 8 billion, Ambatovy is the most important foreign investment ever made in Madagascar. National executives needed to be able to participate in the development of this sector.

The students of this first promotion of the Master "extractive industries Management" publicly supported their research work applied in April, before a jury of academics and professionals of the sector and chaired by Xavier Alphaize, Vice President of USF. The research themes concerned, for example, "local population movements impacted by mining projects and its effects in Madagascar", "Optimizing the contribution of mining industries through the integration of the concept of local content", or topics related to the social responsibility of mining companies. Themes at the heart of the concerns related to the development of the mining sector in Africa.

For further information, contact Xavier Alphaize xavier.alphaize@gmail.com. ■