

Newsletter

In this issue, you will find several articles, three reports, and one announcement. The three reports are as follows:

- One about the visit to Lyon of the project holders of the future Polytechnic School of Ouagadougou,
- A summary of the collaboration with the University of Ouagadougou in medicine,
- A report on the United Nations Seminar on development support strategies recently held in Abidjan.

Regarding the announcement, we are designing the setting of a week of training for the creation of research centers, called Centres of Excellence in Ecuador.

Wishing good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

Assistance in the establishment of a school of engineering in Ouagadougou

Considering the growing needs of its economy and the lack of training in engineering, Burkina Faso intends to acquire a polytechnic school quickly. Thus, the concerned Ministry has incepted the project to create the Ecole Polytechnique of Ouagadougou (EPO). As a result of contacts with USF-AWB, a delegation recently visited Lyon in June 2018 to study the functioning and training of various engineering schools. This delegation included:

- Professor Gouyahali SON, director of this future school,
- Messrs. Jean-Pierre GUINKO and Bernard ZOUGOURI, from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and handicrafts,
- Sylvanus TRAORE, director general of Industrial Development, Ministry of Territorial Administration and decentralization.

These people visited three different schools of graduated engineers located in Lyon:



- The **ITECH** engineering school (textile and Chemical Institute of Lyon) which trains engineers and technicians in the fields of textiles and chemistry through paints, inks, adhesives, cosmetics, materials. In fact, through its immense cotton production, Burkina Faso must get graduated engineers in the field of textiles.
- **INSA Lyon**, in particular the practical work equipment from the departments of Civil Engineering and Mechanical engineering as well as the International Relations Department, Ms Valérie Lebey in charge of projects in Africa
- **Polytech'Lyon** whose director, Prof.

¹For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, 20 Rue René, F- 69100 Villeurbanne; Email: Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org. Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.

Emmanuel Perrin presented the organization of the schooling and the various courses of training, biomedical engineering, computer science, Materials & Surface Engineering, Applied Mathematics & Modeling, Mechanics, Industrial Systems & Robotics.

What these people have particularly appreciated is the diversity of training models, not only for the departments of specialization, but also for the first cycles, which, deviating from the models of the preparatory colleges, are better adapted to the training of engineers. Similarly, they looked at the various governance models, including the importance and role of the industry in the boards of directors.

After this trip, the main lines of the EPO schooling will be defined, and the list of specialties decided. As for USF-AWB, this association will be re-solicited for the fine development of programs and the organization of practical work.

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

Collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine, JKZ University of Ouagadougou

Professor Etienne Merlin from the University Hospital of Clermont-Ferrand, France travelled to Ouagadougou from 10 to 14 July 2018, following a request from the JKZ University of Ouagadougou. The objective of this mission was twofold, the creation of a mother-child research laboratory and the awareness and training of future doctors in research.

Creation of a Research Center

With regard to the strategy for the development of the laboratory, it was found that, given the distribution of resources on several sites and the lack of funding already acquired, it could be to define research themes (maximum one per project carrier) and to initiate research that does not require heavy material investment (epidemiology, retrospective studies) in order to generate publications to establish the strength of the team. On the basis of these initial work, the response to the various calls for tenders will be facilitated at the same time as the expertise gained will allow them to envisage prospective studies and raise awareness among young people about research. The introduction of thematic studies of cohorts will indeed allow the carrying out of transversal

studies (ancillary) which can be carried out on a limited time compatible with the course of medical studies (1 or 2 years). In addition, they will help to consolidate links with people, laboratories and structures involved in research inside or outside the Faculty of Medicine of Ouagadougou.



Proposed topics

- Fertility disorders: Epidemiology, causes, biochemical, toxicological and immunological investigations. Necessary links: Epidemiologists, Methodologists, biochemists, toxicologists, endocrinologists.
- Hereditary diseases of metabolism: prevalence and development of simple diagnostic tests for treatable diseases (galactosemia, Tyrosinemia, phenylketonuria etc.). Collaboration: Epidemiologists, biochemists, geneticists
- Congenital and teratogenicity malformations: creation of a register, risk factors. Collaborations: Epidemiologists, geneticists, toxicologists
- Nutrition (deficiency diseases, poisoning, malnutrition).

Strategy for Increasing Awareness about Research for Young Doctors

- Creation of a Master degree (Human Nutrition for example) with a methodology module,
- Teaching critical reading of scientific articles,
- Systematic integration of this Master into the medical training project for future hospital and/or hospital-university personnel.

For further information and details, please contact Prof. Etienne Merlin e_merlin@chu-clermontferrand.fr ■

Abidjan: Seminar on Development Support Strategies Initiated by the United Nations

A seminar jointly organized by the African University Network for Science and Technology (RUSTA) and USF-AWB was held in July in the new campus and was made in collaboration with the United Nations agency officials (UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, World Bank).



It has enabled Master students to understand the modalities of support for these organizations to the Government of the Ivory Coast, the priority given to sustainable development goals, and actions taken to combat poverty in developing countries. The new strategies for agency engagement with developing countries were also analyzed during the eight-day seminar.

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

Training for the Creation of Research Centers in Ecuador

At the end of October, during a week, a training will be given to the project holders of laboratory creation, here called "Centres of Excellence" at the University of Guayaquil in Ecuador.

This training is aimed at academics who wish to set up research labs from scratch while integrating effectively into the international Research concert. This will include the following aspects:

- Identification of 10 year-long research lines, taking into account local needs and competencies and global scientific advances,
- Construction of the laboratory's strategy integrating, partnership policies, financing, external radiation, not forgetting the problems of personnel and structure,

- The presentation of a business plan,



- A feasibility report to be addressed to local university authorities.

This training will be held in Spanish.

In addition, we would like to inform that different other academic institutions have contacted USF-AWB to set up this type of training at home in various languages.

For further information, contact Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org. ■