



Academics without Borders USF-AWB Universitaires sans Frontières

Quarterly Newsletter, 19, September 2015.

Newsletter

Recently two agreements were signed with the **Gaston Berger University of St Louis in Senegal** and with the **University of Toamasina** in Madagascar: both have objectives to contribute to an improvement in education.

On the other hand, facing the need for the **creation of university research laboratories**, USF-AWB has decided to **design a special training** in this direction based on an analysis of needs. A first experiment was conducted in Mexico last August.

In addition, we are always looking for volunteer teachers in topography for **Bhutan**. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB

Cooperation between USF-AWB¹ and Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis, Senegal

The Gaston Berger University (UGB) of Saint Louis is the second of Senegal, after that of Dakar. It is located 13 km from the city of St. Louis. It is spread over an area of 240ha. The premises sheltering UGB were designed initially in 1975 to transfer to St. Louis the Faculty of letters and Humanities of the University of Dakar, but this project was abandoned in 1998. Now, UGB is considered however as a university of excellence, with a numerous and well trained teaching staff and by limiting the number of students from this University, and addition, University courses focused very much on professionalizing.



The University started with four faculties and common

Services and Centers. Each faculty, divided into sections, is administered by a Dean and a Faculty Council.



Today, the Gaston Berger University is structured around eight faculties and four institutes. These academic structures are organized in two doctoral schools. They are responsible of training students, but also play a part of the research activities via research laboratories. The first round selection is right for all holders of a Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification.

Presently, the faculties are the following:

- Faculty of Literature Human Sciences;
- Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology;
- Faculty of Laws;
- Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management;
- Faculty of Agronomic Sciences of Aquaculture and food Technologies;
- Faculty for Education training and Sport;
- Faculty of Civilizations, Religions, Arts
- Faculty of Medicine.

¹ For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, Informatique, INSA de Lyon, F- 69621 Villeurbanne; Email: Robert.Laurini@insa-lyon.fr. Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.

The Gaston Berger University thus offers training, initial, continuing and distance in areas such as literature, Human Sciences and social, legal and political, economic sciences and management, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, digital and physical sciences computer science, education and sport, civilizations, religions, arts and communication sciences high technology and tourism management among others.



Today, the formations have the support of two multidisciplinary graduate schools. These schools form the backbone of the doctoral training. The Gaston Berger University has implemented the following doctoral structures:

- Graduate School of science and technology;
- Doctoral School in Hun and Society Sciences.

Institutes for their part are common services that are essential to strengthen the interdisciplinarity and promote the development. They are as follows:

- Library;
- Centre for research and Documentation of Senegal;
- Institute of Open and Distance Learning;
- Polytechnic Institute of Saint Louis.

The recent academic years have been marked by a sharp rise in the number of students. UGB will overpass this year the number of 10,000 students.

Cooperation between USF and the UGB should, as a first step, focus on cooperation in scientific fields. ■

Xavier Alphaize, Member of USF-AWB

Cooperation between USF-AWB/University of Toamasina (Madagascar)

The University of Toamasina is a public institution of higher education located in Toamasina, the largest harbor of Madagascar, on the East coast of the island.

The regional University Centre of Toamasina was incepted in 1977 as an annex of the Management Department of the University of Madagascar. It expanded in 1984 by the establishment of four other sectors: economy, French literature, philosophy, history and geography. The latter was split into two the following year. It acquired its autonomy and the status of University in 1989. Its evolution was marked by the establishment of the following bodies:

- 1993: Center of applied modern languages teaching
- 1996: Guidance Information of Communication and meeting and Institute for professionalizing management,
- 1999: Radio University and training in management of human resources and the environment
- 2001: Social Development Training Centre
- 2004: Master in in economics and social health
- 2005: Multidisciplinary Doctoral School in literature
- 2008: Department of laws
- 2010: Department of Medicine
- 2011: Centre of training for the tourism and heritage

The University of Toamasina has been planned to accommodate 2,000 students, but they are currently 12 000. Many courses are overloaded. The University has less than a hundred of teachers, out of whom about half submitted a doctoral thesis. Among the problems to solve, let us mention, the enlargement of the number of academics, their qualifications and the renewal of staff of retirement age.



This University has decided to pass to the Bachelor/master/doctorate system. New fields and specializations are therefore in place and many are in collaboration with other universities (Tananarive or foreign universities).



The cooperation signed with USF-AWB should focus on strengthening academic capacity in the technology as in social sciences. ■

Xavier Alphaize, Member of USF-AWB

Training in the creation of academic research laboratories

From our interventions in various universities around the world, we have often heard the need to increase research capacity, but universities most do not know how to do.

Indeed, in many academic institutions the problem arises to increase the role of research not only to contribute to the improvement of education, but also to develop knowledge in order to improve the quality of life and sustainable development with other partners in the socio-economic world.

Facing this need, USF-AWB has decided to launch some training for the creation of the research laboratories, both from the scientific and administrative points of view.

The objective of this training will give participants solid elements to create research laboratories in universities, i.e. to regroup academic staff who will need to work together on 10-year-long research lines in.

The operation to set up a laboratory looks like entrepreneurship because there are many similarities: the leader must be not only a carrier of innovation, a leader of men, but also a prudent manager. Indeed, this training will include among other things:

- a broad assessment of the context in order to identify needs,
- collective identification of research lines supposed to be innovative and adapted to the context,
- recruitment or regrouping of competent and complementary persons,
- identification of possibly interested economic and international partners,
- splitting the general research lines into various research projects,
- definition of the necessary equipment,
- finding of funds,
- establishing a business plan,
- etc.

Public: (future) Directors of laboratory and leaders for laboratory design projects.

This week-long training will be made in the form of tutorial with many examples in different sectors. It will be asked each participant to set a project that will be evaluated at the end of the training.

The speakers will be academics who have created research laboratories. A first experimentation, in the Spanish language, was held successfully in the Mexico.

Initially, only laboratories in technology facilities will be considered, because the analysis of needs and research opportunities is easier to do.

The preliminary program could be the following.

- 1 – Place of the research in the society - analysis of research needs.
- 2 – Methodology for the identification of research issues.
- 3 – Organization of laboratories (premises, equipment, personnel, accounting, roles of the Director, etc.).
- 4 – Establishment of economic and international partnerships.
- 5 – Business plan.
- 6 – Development of a research laboratory project.

At the moment, no date or places have been defined. The interested persons, either as future participants, or future stakeholders, are invited to contact USF-AWB. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB

Volunteers for Bhutan in Surveying

Our Canadian sister association (AWB) is a bi-lingual NGO based in Montreal, the mission of which is to support academic institution in developing countries in building capacity in higher education so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to assist in their development. AWB fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB reimburses volunteers for their expenses but does not offer them a salary.



Number of Volunteers: 1
Job Title: Gap Teaching Mentor (Associate Lecturer/ Lecturer/Asst. Professor)
Job Reference: None
Partner Organisation: Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic, Royal University of Bhutan, Dewathang, Samdrup Jongkhar, Bhutan (<http://www.jnp.edu.bt>)
Country: Bhutan
Language(s): English

Job Description:

To augment teaching faculty, known as gap teaching. The volunteer may be recruited for one or two semesters. Depending upon experience, the volunteer may be asked to conduct short term training courses for the JNP faculty and stakeholders. The volunteer may be assigned to teach one or two of the following modules of Diploma in

Surveying programme:

- Feb – June 2016
- i. Computation and Field Surveying –II
 - ii. Engineering Survey
 - iii. Cartography

iv. Land Development and Site Design

July – Dec 2016

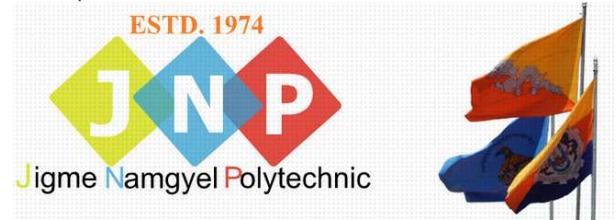
- i. Computations and Field Surveying–I
- ii. Computer Applications in Surveying
- iii. Principles and Application of GIS
- iv. Computation and Field Surveying-III
- v. Fundamentals of Surveying
- vi. Geodesy
- vii. Principles and Application of GNSS
- viii. Photogrammetry and Remote sensing
- ix. Surveying Analysis and Adjustment
- x. Legal Principles of Surveying

The position involves carrying out surveying field work practicums with students 18 hours a week in rough terrain and in various weather conditions within campus. The volunteer(s) will also be required to guide the students in their semester-long project work which usually takes place in the final semester. Additionally, volunteer maybe be required to guide the students in a 6 week long survey camp which may be held within or outside the campus.

Educational Qualifications Minimum: Bachelors in Surveying/Geomatics/Geodesy/GIS/GPS; Preferable: Masters or Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Surveying related field.

Professional Experience: Surveying related field, experience in GIS, GPS subject area will be advantage. Teaching experience preferred; however good command of English language and subject matter most important. Research Experience: Preferred but not mandatory

Start date and Duration: From 1st Feb 2016. One year or more preferred.



Benefits: Housing on or near campus; local monthly stipend of approximately CAN \$500- \$1000 a month, depending on rank, office space with computer/internet, visa, travel and health insurance, vaccinations and medication. Return economy airfare if staying a year or more. Partial fare covered for shorter periods.

Send to: If you interested in the position, please send to Steven Davis at sdavis@awb-usf.org your CV and the names of two referees.

Deadline: November 1, 2015