

Quarterly Newsletter n°29, March 2018

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## Newsletter

A big first, USF-AWB was received at the Elysée Palace by two advisers of the President of the French Republic for a better effectiveness of its worldwide action and its inscription into the French university landscape. Then, following various visits in West Africa, meetings were held at the highest levels with Ministers in Burkina-Faso and Benin.

We are looking in particular for a professor of Fine Arts to set up a faculty in these areas in Sudan, and following the request of our Canadian colleagues, professors in information technologies for Ghana.

In a previous letter, we explained that USF-AWB has a methodology for designing laboratories or research units with a 10-year vision. In this spirit, following a mission carried out in Latin America, specifically at the University of Guayaquil in Ecuador, USF-AWB was asked to help them design a center of excellence in architecture and urban planning. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

### **Meeting with Prof. Thierry Coulhon, Adviser in Higher Education and Innovation at the Presidency of the French Republic**

A meeting was organized on 23 January 2018 at the Élysée Palace with Prof. Thierry Coulhon, adviser on teaching questions. It was the opportunity for us to present the objectives, approaches and actions undertaken on the spot by USF-AWB. One of the characteristics of USF-AWB is a network of more than 3800 correspondents in all academic disciplines, and a very large number of commitments and presence overall in Africa.

Prof. Thierry Coulhon recalled several priority areas of France for Africa in the academic field which emerge from the speech of the French head of State pronounced last November 27, at the J.K Zerbo University of Ouagadougou. He mentioned in particular the priority requests expressed for professional training at Bachelor levels supplemented by some collaborations for a few prestigious cycles.

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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.



Exchanges between French and African higher education institutions must become more and more important: demographic change must lead to an increasing number of African students to access higher education. Several actions are underway in France, in particular the development of Centers of Excellence in research in Bordeaux, Paris and Lyon. Several initiatives are already under way in several African countries with engineering schools or universities, as is the case with the CNAM university, for example.

The actions underway at the initiative of USF-AWB participate fully in this process.

Collaborations are numerous in several West African countries. They are of unequal importance, and priorities must emerge.

It was agreed that we will continue our discussions with the Elysée departments and French partners and institutions so that consistency can be established between all the academic support and collaborations undertaken in African countries.

A second meeting was held with Mr. Franck Paris, adviser for African affairs of the Presidency of the Republic in February. This allowed to clarify some points of the collaboration with this continent, and, in particular USF-AWB's involvement in a new campus project in Senegal was discussed.

These two meetings at the Elysée make it possible to better register USF-AWB in the landscape of higher education towards developing countries. ■

Robert Laurini et Xavier Alphaize

### **Burkina-Faso: on-site training for the country's future graduated engineers**

During an interview with Prof. Alkassoum Maiga, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation of Burkina-Faso, an exchange could take place with USF-AWB on several priority areas of the Ministry. Mobility is one of them, such as mobility to the private sector to strengthen its potential, but also mobility to neighboring countries to strengthen regional university cooperation.

Burkina also intends to create a "Polytechnic School of Ouagadougou" in charge of training leading to an engineering degree in advanced fields such as solar technologies and renewable energies, electrical and industrial engineering, mining engineering, the textile ... The key-elements of the sectors which will be put in place, will depend closely on the priorities of the industrial sector of the country. There must be a strong link between the challenges of national development and the creation of opportunities for these future graduates. Feasibility studies will be undertaken to define what appears to be a priority and to establish the corresponding curricula. The first promotions could be welcomed by competition in 2020. ■



*Minister of Higher Education, Alkassoum MAIGA, Xavier Alphaize and Gouyahali SON, Director of Cabinet.*

### **"Employability of students and greater efficiency of private higher education institutions", priorities of the Minister of Higher Education of Benin**

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Benin received January 17 the Vice President of USF-AWB. During this exchange, several issues were addressed, and in particular the professional integration projects and the functioning of private universities in Benin.

On the first part, Ms. Attanasso wants to set up professional training courses allowing immediate employability of students. These sectors concern the trades of wood, agriculture, building, tourism, textile, auto mechanics. The practical dimension of these trainings appears essential. On these different areas of professional training, USF-AWB will support the necessary training of trainers.

She also expressed her concern about the way in which private higher education institutions operate, and of the abuses observed in certain cases. An operating scheme in harmony with the Beninese regulatory framework is gradually being put in place, and in particular with all private education institutions in Benin will have, in the short term, the obligation to be approved by the concerned ministries to continue their activities. ■



*In the center, Ms Marie-Odile Attanasso, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research*

### **Collaborator search for the design of a Faculty of Fine Arts in Sudan**

#### **Context:**

El Neelain University, located in Khartoum (Sudan), has 14 faculties and 95,000 students. This public university will open a Faculty of Fine Arts for which collaborations are wanted. At first, there should be three departments:

- Painting
- Training of future plastic art teachers
- Interior Design.

#### **Objective:**

The project to create a Faculty of Fine Arts at El Neelain University must provide a multidisciplinary training that focuses on the human dimension and the acquisition of a high level of professional competence. It must be able to search for connections, develop new modes of communication and invest in the process of artistic creation in the apprehension of technologies. It must therefore contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of painting, plastic arts and interior architecture, and their applications, but also to train specialists who will be able to adapt and contribute to the evolution of their society.

#### **Steps to set up the project:**

A first mission will be carried out by a USF academic who has had important responsibilities in the management of a research unit of a Department of Plastic Arts and Art sciences in France, who shall work on the spot in close collaboration with a Head of El Neelain University. They will be brought to:

- Establish a state of the pedagogical and professional environment for this project,
- Examine the feasibility of the proposed higher art formations (all artistic practices

relating to drawing, painting, printmaking, computer graphics, sculpture, photography, installation, exhibition, performance, video, new media and technologies),

- Propose the avenues of academic research that could be developed within the Faculty of Fine Arts,
- Clarify the work lines of the complementary missions that will be involved in this project.

They will meet:

- The officials of El Neelain University,
- The Ministry of Higher Education,
- The Ministry of Culture,
- The professional organizations of art and culture,
- Potential employers.

In parallel, the offer of university training in plastic arts and art Sciences in the whole Sudan will be examined.

- A report will be prepared including:
- The desirable priority options and the cooperation that could be
- The list of successive missions with their objectives,
- And a mission schedule.



#### **Duration of the first mission: ten days**

A mission report will be prepared by the team of experts on this mission as in each of the missions carried out under this project

#### **Team of Experts:**

Academic specialist of USF: Lecturer or professor of fine arts or art history with at least 5 years of experience in pedagogical responsibilities in a faculty of plastic arts or in a school of architecture in France (Fluency in English – knowledge of Arabic would be an asset)

A head of El Neelain University who will be associated with the USF expert (to be

determined by El Neelain University).

### How to apply

Send your CV in Word format before March 31, 2018 to Robert Laurini, President USF-AWB: Mail:

Robert.Laurini@usf-wb.org.

People whose USF-AWB membership is not up to date are invited to regularize their situation with Alain Jouandeau (mail: alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org). ■

### Search for volunteer IT professionals for Ghana

AWB-USF Canada is a Canadian non-profit organization based in Montreal. Its mission is to help higher education institutions in developing countries build their capacity to train the specialists and researchers they need. AWB-USF sends volunteers whose task is to help these universities carry out the projects they have designed and belong to them. AWB-USF pays volunteers for their expenses, but does not pay them a salary.

**Position Title:** Lecturer for Advanced Courses in Computer and Information Technology

Number of volunteers: 2

Course 1: Artificial Intelligence and Related Systems

Course 2: machine learning.

**Partner Institution:** University of Cape Coast (UCC)

The UCC was created in October 1962 as a university college. It became a full-fledged autonomous university, with the power to award degrees, diplomas and certificates on 1 October 1971. The school was established to provide a competent and highly qualified workforce capable of playing a leading role. impulse and guide in education. Originally, its mandate was to train teachers for graduate schools and for the Department of Education. At the time, indeed, the education system was accelerating and was struggling with labor. Today, thanks to the development of certain faculties and the diversification of programs, the UCC is able to provide quality personnel to other ministries and industries in the country.

In response to the changing needs of society and the entire education system in Ghana, the UCC has added to its primary functions the training of many specialists including IT and information technology.

**Location:** Cape Coast, Ghana

English language.

### Description of work:

Currently UCC lecturers are taking courses and writing a dissertation under the principal direction of an academic who, most of the time, comes from outside and is assisted by a local co-director. The graduate level courses are taught by volunteers from abroad and are open to recent graduates of the Bachelor of Science degree in DITI, who will be able to claim credits earned in a higher degree when the DITI program has been approved. PhD students from other universities in Ghana will also be able to take the courses and write their dissertation as part of the IDTI program and AWB-USF's development.

The current program includes two graduate courses offered during the summer months each year and an intensive course offered in January to students who need to fill some basic gaps. To achieve the objectives of the program, the UCC needs volunteers who can deliver advanced courses in computer science and information technology in the summer of 2018.



### Requirements:

Education: PhD in Computer Science or Information Technology.

Professional experience: Experience in university education. The experience of leading students in research projects is absolutely essential. Ideally, volunteers will agree to lead the students in the program during their thesis.

Volunteers will be required to teach for 7 weeks between June 1 and July 31, 2018.

### Advantages

The UCC and AWB-USF cover all expenses related to travel tickets, accommodation, local transportation, travel and health insurance, vaccines and medicines, as well as incidental expenses.

## Applications

Please send to Corrie Young, [cyoung@awb-usf.org](mailto:cyoung@awb-usf.org), with a copy to Dominique Sotteau, [dominique.sotteau@okofoto.com](mailto:dominique.sotteau@okofoto.com), your CV and a cover letter stating your availability and the name and contact information of two people who can provide references to you.

Closing date of application: 1st April 2018. ■

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### PhD theses in Burkina Faso

Our colleague, Prof. Yves Livian, member of USF-AWB, participated in the defense of 3 doctoral dissertations in economics and management at the Aube Nouvelle University in Ouagadougou from February 19 to 21, composed of French and African CAMES-habilitated professors.



The Doctoral School, created 6 years ago, has produced 10 theses, prepared by students coming from several countries of the sub-region. It currently has around twenty PhD students, most of them with wages from counseling or teaching. ■

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

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### Assistance for the design of a Center of Excellence in Ecuador

Following a visit by Robert Laurini last January, The University of Guayaquil, located in the largest city in Ecuador, asked USF-AWB to help it set up a research Center of Excellence in Architecture and Urban Planning.



The purpose of this expertise was to better define the areas of research, the international partners, and fundraising in order to constitute a sort of virtuous circle and the synergies of developments in research.

For more information: [Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org](mailto:Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org). ■

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