

Newsletter

The actions of USF-AWB are strengthening in Africa. In this newsletter, readers will be able to read the reports of various missions and a call for collaborators, including:

- A meeting with the Togolese Minister of Higher Education in order to define areas of cooperation,
- A seminar, organized with the World Bank in Togo,
- During the 50th anniversary of the CAMS, the proposal for a research activity,
- Co-construction of a master's degree and a PhD in artificial intelligence in Ouagadougou,
- A review of activities with the University of Ouagadougou and future perspectives.

Wishing a good reading, I would like to wish a Merry Christmas, and a year 2019 full of new projects. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

Meeting with the Togolese Minister of Higher Education

Professor Octave Nicoué BROOHM, Minister of Higher Education and Research of Togo, said that "the cooperation with Academics Without Borders is quite desirable. "

Indeed, during the interview with the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Togo last November, he underlines the importance of the reforms that have taken place in the implementation of the Bachelor-Master-Doctorate system, and the means to better meet the real needs of the country. The employability of students remains a matter of concern. The support that USF-AWB can bring to strengthen Togolese university potential is welcome in training and research. This is still fledgling, although some specialists can play a role in this area.

International university cooperation is developing. Initiatives are already underway with a technological university in France and some higher education institutions. The goal is to achieve greater quality in this sector.

Cooperation with USF appears to be quite desirable, especially to develop the vocational sectors. This concerns the two public universities of Togo (Lomé and Kara) but also the private universities engaged in this direction.



Prof. Octave Nicoué BROOHM, is surrounded by the Secretary General of the Ministry, the Chief of Staff and the USF-AWB representative.

For further information, please contact Xavier Alphaize, Vice-president of USF-AWB, mail <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

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USF-AWB coordinates a seminar on the role of United Nations agencies in national development in Togo

The seminar was held in Lomé on the Adidogmé campus for 30 students from RUSTA-Togo from Friday 9 November to Friday 16 November 2018. It presented the universal character of the United Nations, which is committed to ensuring that economic growth and globalization are guided by policies aimed at sustainable development, poverty eradication and fairer trade. The seminar enabled the new development issue to be addressed today through more sustained innovation policies.



The seminar organized at the World Bank's premises.

Several agencies of the United Nations system have intervened in this seminar, in particular the resident coordinator of the United Nations system (EU-Togo), two representatives of the United Nations Regional Centre for peace and disarmament in Africa-UNREC, and several other World Bank experts.



The group of students surrounded by the USF-AWB representative and the World Bank resident coordinator in Togo, Ms. Hawa Cissé Wachira.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize, <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

Project to education-research-economic activity in artificial intelligence for the purpose of innovation: The AFRICAIN Project

Prof. Alain Mille, member of the Board of USF-AWB was invited to the Jubilee of the CAMES and presented an innovation project on research in AI in Ouagadougou, May-June 2018. In fact, USF-AWB, partner of CAMES has been solicited to propose an innovative research project at its 50th anniversary. Alain Mille presented the AFRICAIN Project (Associating Formation-Research-Innovation Cycles for Artificial Intelligence Novators).



Research training for students from Africa and Madagascar is a challenge in all scientific fields and it is time to take up this challenge for the field of artificial Intelligence adapted to the African continent in the tremendous development of this area.

Research training in IT requires background without considerable technical means but requires human resources that it is necessary to train very quickly. The pool of students with high potential in this field is considerable but now it is a question of creating conditions, *i*) to train these students at an international level of excellence and *ii*) to know how to articulate this ascent in knowledge and competence with ability to create strong economic and research activities on the continent and internationally.

The presentation details the principle of the project, its articulation with the other current initiatives (creation of training of graduated engineers for example) and a development scenario with the means to be mobilized to achieve it. A case study is discussed with the participants.

For further information, please contact: <Alain.Mille@gmail.com>. ■

Co-design mission for a master's degree and PhD program in computing at Ouaga1 University

Prof. Alain Mille worked in immersion for 15 days (from 25 March to 5 April) with the computer research team of the Ouaga1 University which also hosts professors and researchers from Bobo Dioulasso: finally, a team of 10 people.

Conference on the Organization of the research activity

The goal was to take stock about the organization of Master and research. A report has been made with them and, on this basis, the team has designed a project to strengthen the pedagogical capacity and research in computer science. This project was welcomed at the university which is now looking for the conditions for its funding.



During the conference of Prof. Alain Mille

The stay was the occasion of lectures on research, on artificial Intelligence and on "reasoning from the traced experience"



Professors and master students in computing

Professors and master students in computing

Bottom line: The team seems to have been in good working order and the students met are very interested. The team has shown an interest in experimenting with new forms of associating entrepreneurs, researchers and students on joint innovation projects exploiting the potential of artificial Intelligence.

For further information, please contact: <Alain.Mille@gmail.com>. ■

Cooperation between USF-AWB/ Université Ouaga: a positive assessment and new perspectives

Three collaborative missions between USF and Ouaga JKZ University 1 were conducted in 2017 and 2018. A review was carried out last October with the university officials from Burkina Faso. They relate to the IT department of the Faculty of Education, the paediatric sector of the health and the university's Central Library.

The IT department

A USF support mission was carried out in April 2018 with Professor Alain Mille. He worked with the computer teams of Ouaga 1 mainly on artificial intelligence and laid the groundwork for research in IT. He had the opportunity to make a lecture on computer science research for the university's computer science professors and PhD students.

The IT department hopes that the initiated actions can be extended and deepened by another mission of the Prof. Mille in 2019.

The Mother-Child Laboratory of the doctoral School of Health

Another USF mission was carried out by Prof. Merlin from Clermont-Ferrand University in support of the Mother-Child Laboratory of the doctoral School of Health of the university in July 2018. During this mission, exchanges on the definition of priority research themes took place (implementation of care and research, how to integrate research in "mother-child", hereditary diseases, causes of fetal malformations...). In addition, a conference "on the process of designing and operationalizing a biomedical research laboratory" was given to a specialist audience. His mission has been very much appreciated.



On the right, the president of the Ouaga 1 JKZ University, Professor Syed Cissé following a consultation with USF on the collaborations to be committed in 2019

Today, the doctoral school of Health has taken into account the research prospects proposed with Prof. Merlin, and it wants to structure the research lab by associating resource persons. Two axes are foreseen:

- To call on an academic to strengthen the capacity of actors in the writing of funded projects and strategies for mobilizing resources for research (profile: epidemiologist or public health practitioner),
- To design of a Master's "reproductive health" which will deal with specialized education and research.

Central University Library

A third USF support mission was carried out in April 2017 by Ms. Rosalba Palermiti, from the university of Grenoble. A supportive action deemed very useful by the library director. In particular, it has enabled training taking into account the connectivity problems of the university, and the diversity of basic training of the library staff. This added a content management software that provided an additional opening. The training was interactive and very positive. It has made it possible to improve the data processing system.

The Library hoped that further support could be given to the accession of the archives which were scattered, and would allow the archives of the University to be reorganized. It is desirable that the training which can be

given in this field can be carried out on the spot, thus allowing to train at the same time fifteen people simultaneously.

Other planned collaborations

- Additional support has been requested by the Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences to call on a USF academic to strengthen the capacity of the actors in the drafting of projects financed by international tenders and the strategies of mobilization of resources for the research.
- The social Sciences and Humanities (SH), which wishes to support SFU in helping to facilitate the professional integration of students.

For further information, please contact Xavier Alphaize, Vice-president of USF-AWB, mail <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■