

## Newsletter

Our newsletter is now bimonthly. This one will explain the advances in the setting up of the first trainings at the Ecole Polytechnique de Ouagadougou (Burkina-Faso) in partnership with USF-AWB. In addition, we are looking for a Professor of medicine to set up a doctoral school in health.

For this issue, we also inform you about the activities carried out by the ANIMATH Association for the reinforcement of the teaching of mathematics, especially in developing countries.

Good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### **The Ecole Polytechnique de Ouagadougou opens the first engineering promotions in October 2019**

Burkina Faso wants to develop its industrialization in many key sectors: the transformation of cotton, the industrial sectors, the civil engineering, the agro-food... sectors for which there is a lack of highly qualified executives. The Mission of the École Polytechnique de Ouagadougou (EPO) is precisely to train graduate engineers for the key areas of development of the country. USF accompanies EPO in this challenge: to gather, in support of local competences, companies of the country and an international network of collaboration, the means, programs, equipment enabling this implementation. All this is done by associating a preparatory college, that is to say to attract the pool of the best students prepared for the competitions of access to the great schools of engineering.

A call for project from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the opportunity to federate these collaborations. They have been built around the ITECH (Graduate school of textile engineers of Lyon), the Lycée of the Parc de Lyon (particularly efficient for the preparatory college) of EPO and 2iE (International Institute

of water and environment of Burkina Faso), and of course USF-AWB.



A first mission was held in Lyon last July (see our Newsletter n° 31 of September 2018), during which five officials from this country had met several engineering schools in order to clarify the framework of the future Ecole Polytechnique de Ouagadougou.

A second mission carried out in early April by its rector (Prof Gouyahali Son) and his Deputy-rector (Prof. Mohamed Seynou) made it possible to establish links and to develop exchanges with all these partners, the professional colleges of Clermont Ferrand and of Lyon-Villeurbanne which have each of an efficient industrial engineering and maintenance department, as well as the Industrial Engineering Department of INSA

Lyon. A common action plan is now clearly defined. It must allow to welcome in Ouagadougou the first promotions of training of graduate engineers in the following fields, "textile" and "industrial engineering" as soon as next October.

The next steps are the finalization of the training programs and the recruitment of both professors and future engineering students. ■

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### **Call for a Medical Professor in epidemiology or public health for the Creation of a Doctoral School of health, JKZ University of Ouaga (Burkina-Faso)**

The Doctoral School of health of the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou wishes to structure its biomedical research laboratories by associating resources with them. The officials of this doctoral school are looking for an academic to strengthen its capacity in the drafting of funded projects and strategies and for mobilizing resources for research.

The airfare is taken over by the French Embassy in Burkina Faso and the cost of staying on site by the JKZ University.

Profile: University Professor, epidemiologist or public health practitioner.

Duration of the mission: one week.

During the mission, a plenary Conference for the benefit of researchers from the JKZ University of Ouagadougou will be organized on the theme: "trans-disciplinary biomedical research and financing opportunities". The work of capacity building in project drafting will be in workshops with the research teams of the Doctoral School of health.

Send your resume in Word format before May 15th, 2019 tot Denis Richard, mail: <denisrichard1942@gmail.com>. ■

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### **Training in mathematics by Animath**

"Animath" is a French NGO, created in 1998 with the help of the French Mathematical Society (SMF). Its goal is to favor the implementation of extracurricular mathematics in high-schools. The diversity of the existing realizations can be found on our website: [www.animath.fr](http://www.animath.fr)

In September 2018 a convention has been signed by both Animath and Campus France in order to:

- Favor the implementation and follow-up of

extracurricular mathematical activities in the francophone sub-Saharan countries.

- Organize in these countries training sessions for such activities.

The purpose is the implementation and the follow-up by French and African mathematicians of high school clubs of extracurricular mathematics. Hundreds of such clubs now exist in France, with frequent participation of university researchers. Among them are the members of Animath: <https://www.animath.fr/actions/clubs/>. The organization of these clubs is defined by a "Chart" defined through experiences already done by Animath since 2011 in Cameroun, Benin and Congo-Kinshasa. The objectives of the Project are as follows:

- Favor the scientific development of the involved African countries through helping them for the emergence of groups of students motivated for future scientific studies.
- Reinforce the teaching of math in these countries and introduce a strong component "research and innovation" in the extracurricular activities.
- Increase the interest of African high-school or university students for high level scientific studies in France.
- Develop the francophone dimension by contributing in the creation of a francophone network of the students and professors involved in the experience of these clubs.
- Motivate African female students for scientific studies. And for that, highly recommend the gender parity in the clubs.



The French "Animathors" following up these clubs are mainly young talented researchers or advanced students. The majority of our partners in Africa is universities.

For more information, please contact, Prof. Christian Duhamel, in charge of international affairs <Christian.duhamel@animath.fr>. ■