



Newsletter

First of all, let us present our best wishes for 2020 and the success of your activities. With regard to USF-AWB, we hope that this new decade will allow our contributions to the actions undertaken to increase the modernization of universities. In this issue you will find:

- Two mission reports from Senegal and Burkina Faso, countries where new opportunities for collaboration are emerging;
- Signing a partnership with a Senegalese university (University of the Sahel);
- A word of introduction to the new sister association "Chemists Without Borders/Chimistes Sans Frontières".

Good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

Supporting computer research team in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

A previous mission in April 2018 enabled members of the Lami computing research team to reflect on the development of its work and the content of training at the Master level.

The researchers in Information Technologies of Burkina Faso, gathered in an association (RECIF: Network of Teachers-Researchers and Researchers of Faso), are at the initiative of the second edition of Research Conference (JRI) in Informatics. I participated as a guest speaker and also as a scientific observer.

Following the presentation at CAMES on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in June 2018, a group of people interested in the research-training-innovation cell model was formed.

This mission was an opportunity to take stock with the Burkinese members of this collective and to meet the institutional and professional partners likely to support such a project.

For 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.

JRI 2019 Conference in Koudougou

This conference in computing took place from 14 to 16 November 2019. (<http://unz.bf/JRI/JRI2019.html>)

More than 80 participants attended this conference hosted by Norbert Zongo University. Several institutions and companies presented their digital innovations and some 20 articles were presented by PhD students and Master Research students. Two debates were held on the teaching and organization of research in computing.



Setting up of the AFRICAIN project²

This mission was prepared by contacts ahead of the stay in Burkina-Faso. Eight meetings were devoted to the realization of the AFRICAIN project.

- Discussion on CAMES validation of Research-Training-Innovation activities for members of an African cell.
- Discussion on the importance of digital intelligence in the development of research, training and innovation programs in countries for which CAMES is the reference for quality evaluation.



Following these meetings, a multilateral action plan was being put in place for a potential launch of a first AFRICAIN research structure in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moreover, was organized the animation of a conference on the writing of scientific papers for newspapers and conferences with scientific committees.

This conference was held at Ouaga 1 University in front of some 30 young researchers. The structure of an article, the elements of argumentation, the situation of the state of the art, the demonstration of the validity of the results were studied and illustrated. A discussion of examples proposed by participants answered very specific questions posed by young researchers. For more information, please contact Prof. Mille <alain.mille@univ-lyon1.fr>. ■

Two Mission reports to Senegal and Burkina Faso

Our colleague, Prof. Xavier Alphaize, went to those two countries to set up university collaborations.

In Senegal, the aim was to identify the importance needs for support from higher

education institutions in Dakar and to define possible areas for collaboration with USF, taking into account as priorities:

- Short courses leading to professional opportunities in Senegal,
- An enhancement of scientific training,
- Consideration of innovative and underdeveloped sectors of intervention in Senegal.

The prospects for cooperation in Senegal are as follows:

University of the Sahel:

- Preparation of a cooperation agreement
- Collaborating on a seminar on international public service
- Collaboration for professional training in law and economics.

Bourguiba University Dakar:

- Exchange of information on the possibilities of initiating projects for international cooperation schemes

Polytechnic Institute (Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar)

- Establishment of a professional bachelor's degree in biology – environmental engineering (water treatment and waste management)
- Collaboration for waste management research.

Sup of Co Dakar:

- Signing of a partnership agreement
- Establishment of an engineering school in Energy Engineering/Renewable Energy and Urban and Environmental Engineering specializations
- Support for the implementation of two-year preparatory college in 2021-2022

In Burkina Faso, the objective was to take stock, with national university officials, of the support provided by USF in 2019 and to plan collaborations with them in 2020.

Prospects for cooperation:

Ministry of National Education:

- Support to facilitate collaborations with preparatory colleges in France.

The Institute for Higher International Studies (INHEI):

- Organization of a seminar on the role and modalities of intervention of international organizations.

² AFRICAIN = Associating Formation, Research, and Innovation Cycles for Artificial Intelligence Innovators.

Nazi Boni University of Bobo Dioulasso:

For 2020, a support scheme has been defined for the Master "Structure Calculation" course of the Civil Engineering Department;

- A potential Burkinese teacher for this course is identified in Bobo Dioulasso. This teacher will support the USF expert who will intervene in February or March 2020 to ensure this course at the Bobo Dioulasso University.
- The Burkinese teacher will then carry out a mission of 3 weeks to one month in France to complete his research at a higher education institution in France, and will work simultaneously as a team with academics who deliver this course, in order to be able to provide this teaching alone.

University of Ouaga 2:

- expert intervention to raise funds,
- sponsoring research labs.

University Ouaga 1 JKZ:

- Preparation of support for several faculties on the theme of professionalization (subject to be specified by the university)

Polytechnic School of Ouagadougou:

- Organization of a joint EPO/USF mission to Polytech Clermont-Ferrand and ITECH Lyon in January 2020,
- Preparation of responses to ADESFA tenders and the project for the partnership for African institutions.

As you can read, many leads have appeared. USF is looking for collaborators who can further refine the negotiations to make concrete progress. If you are interested, contact us.

For more information, please contact Professor Xavier Alphaize Xavier.alphaize@gmail.com. ■

Senegal: a cooperation agreement is signed between the University of Sahel (UNIS) and USF (Universitaires Sans Frontières)

Our colleague, Prof. Xavier Alphaize, went to those two countries to set up university collaborations.

Founded in 1998, this university, ranked among the ten best private universities in Senegal, now has about 1,500 students. They come from 20 African countries and are in the fields of economics, law, mathematics, physics-chemistry and computer science. All syllabi are approved by CAMES. They all have their master's degrees: in private law and

public law, maritime law, public administration, business law and taxation. In science, there are two degrees: physics-chemistry and computer science. In the field of management and economics, students can pursue a master's degree in accounting and auditing. This university will focus in 2020 on professional training in law and economics. Exchanges will be established with USF to develop collaborations at this stage.

The University of Sahel also wishes to strengthen the Law and Practice specialization of the Public Service by providing a seminar on the International Public Service for which USF can provide support.



The Vice President of USF and the President of UNIS, Professor Elhadji Issa SALL.

In order to implement these joint actions, a cooperation agreement between the University of Sahel and the USF was signed on 5 December 2019.

For more information, please contact Professor Xavier Alphaize Xavier.alphaize@gmail.com. ■

The new "Chemists without Borders" (ChSF) association by Michel Azémar, President of Chemists Without Borders

The association "Chemists without Borders" (ChSF) was created in February 2018 with the aim of promoting the involvement of chemists in humanitarian actions. It has an operating charter that aims to place its actions within the framework of humanitarian best practices and to work for a safe, sustainable and responsible chemistry.

The different disciplines of chemistry (organic, mineral, analytical, chemical engineering, etc.) are involved in virtually all aspects of daily life and in emergency situations.

They are therefore essential to achieve most of the ambitions of the many humanitarian associations (water supply, nutrition, hygiene,

health, economic development, etc.). Thus "Chemists without Borders" leads or participates in international solidarity interventions where the use of chemistry skills is necessary, or at the request of large NGO's or at the request of its university referees in the southern countries in order to meet all types of problems related to local needs.

For this, ChSF relies on experienced volunteers from the industrial and academic sectors, and benefits from the support of the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie, the Fédération Gay-Lussac (Grandes écoles de Chimie) and the Société Chimique de France.



Examples of projects include:

- Advice and expertise for water potabilization in Palu (Indonesia) after the September 2018 tsunami;
- Organization on behalf of the Académie des Sciences of the colloquium "Chemistry in the face of health and environmental challenges in Africa" in Brazzaville, Congo, in March 2019 with the participation of more than a hundred young scientists from 15 African countries;
- Development of a robust, autonomous and inexpensive system for monitoring the physical and chemical quality of food water for deprived regions. This project is led by 6 students at the Claude Bernard University in Lyon 1, under the responsibility of Professor Jérôme Randon;
- With the support of the International Network of Academies of Sciences (CESAME project) and in accordance with the pedagogy of active learning advocated by UNESCO, the ChSF Formation Group is developing an introductory module on important chemistry concepts for colleges in Tunisia, and then for other African countries;
- ChSF provides scientific support to a Burkinese solidarity company that, in order to develop local employment, has implemented a production of cotton seed oil (by-product of local cotton plantations).

These two years of existence of ChSF have confirmed important expectations on the part of the countries of the South, an always very benevolent reception from the French chemists solicited as well as the motivation and the quality of the actions of the volunteers. ChSF therefore wishes to expand its French and international network of partners, notably by developing its collaborations with schools, teachers and scientists to create links between young French and foreign students from southern countries in order to generate an international dynamic of cooperation and sharing.

ChSF website: www.chimistessansfrontieres.fr/
Contact Chsf: contact@chimistessansfrontieres.fr ■
