

## Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

Several topics will be covered in this issue. First, a partnership for a professional bachelor's degree in biology «Environmental engineering - water treatment and waste management» will be presented with the Le Faucon College in Benin, project for which USF is pleased to have the support of the Metropolis of Lyon.

After a training course for heads of research centers given at the University of Bucaramanga, Colombia, last March and April, we delivered the feedback of one of the participants.

Then, is presented a seminar on the reform of the United Nations system in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), co-organized by USF and the African University of Science and Technology Network (RUSTA).

Of course, with the network of nearly 10,000 people, USF is available for any teaching and research projects you can have.

Wishing good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### **Partnership for a professional degree in Biology «Environmental engineering - water treatment and waste management» in Benin**

Ensuring access to water and sanitation is, of course, one of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. This is a major challenge for a large number of developing countries where there are many real problems in this area.

Many of them have become aware of these problems, in particular through the emergence of occupational skills, often very absent. A partnership between USF, the University of Nantes, France, and the Le Faucon College in Benin has made it possible to prepare a professional degree program in Biology «Environmental engineering - water treatment and waste management» which enables

qualified technicians to be trained in Cotonou. The main areas of this professional bachelor's degree concern the supply of drinking water and water treatment, waste management and its integration into sustainable development.



This collaboration has made it possible to define training programs with the situation in West and Central Africa, to identify and complete the laboratory equipment needed for the training of students. This professional

program will begin over a period of three years, giving Le Faucon College the possibility of being fully autonomous in the organization of this vocational training.

At the same time, partnerships are established with several professional organizations and local authorities, ensuring their participation in this training and access to internships and professional opportunities for graduates.

The first promotion of students from the subregion will be hosted at Le Faucon College starting September 2021.

Moreover, The Metropolis of Lyon, France, has just awarded a grant to USF for this project, for which we are very grateful.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize [Xavier.Alphaize@gmail.com](mailto:Xavier.Alphaize@gmail.com)>. ■

### **Feedback of training "Creation of R&D&I centers" at the University of Bucaramanga, Colombia**

Following a partnership with the University of Bucaramanga in Colombia, training was provided to heads of research centers. This was done in two phases, each of 10 hours, one for the «hard» sciences in March 21 and another for the human and social sciences in April 21. We have received the following letter from Dr. Alexander Meneses Jácome.



*"In the past, I was awarded a scholarship provided by the French Government, and so the training given in this course was significantly close to me, in essence in harmony with the vision I have been developing since the end of 2020, to establish a new operational structure, mission vision and purposes, at the R&D&I center which has propositionally been called "ε-Bio" (Center for Technological Development and Innovation in Circular Bioeconomy and Bioenergy); unit or dependency within the institution, which would take over from UNAB Ambiental, in its various functions of research, academic and operational support on the various fronts on which its active participation is traditionally called.*

*The course has made it possible to verify the commitment made by the vice-rector in charge of research, in terms of the formation and formalization of R&D&I Centers, with a very structured and objective vision of what a R&D&I Center means in the universal context, of the commitments and challenges involved in the implementation and implementation of this type of infrastructure and organization within a university; without doubt, the course has made it possible to visualize gaps in the availability of resources and research trajectory, which should be subject to thorough review and analysis, in order to continue firmly to this end. However, and in a very particular way, I consider that the main need that this course has highlighted is of a cultural type, that is, how to incorporate in the organizational culture of our institution, the vision of "Centers" as the main basis for R&D&I activities, and like this vision, requires a deeper level of internalization of expectations and the stakes to be made in R&D&I, with very important changes in the management and administration of resources for this purpose.*

*As a very specific conclusion, probably valid only for what is being promoted through ε-Bio, is that while there is an imaginary of its own in the conceptualization of this Center, and that this imaginary, largely responds to the needs and opportunities offered by the current environment in the field of bioeconomy and bioenergy as drivers of a new perspective in environmental research, operational immersion under the Centre concept, would undoubtedly commit, in the strictest sense of the objective and universal notion promoted in this training of the USF organization to concentrate and focus more on the limited resources available, in a more reasonable package, narrow understanding of research lines and themes, ensuring a relatively stable projection of R&D&I activities, but with clear impact and growth expectations, in a short/medium-term scenario, 3 to 5 years, as progress is made in parallel in the formation of a team of researchers, with a higher number and level of training, as progress is made in parallel in the formation of a team of researchers, with a higher number and level of training, who can increase the response capacity of this unit."*

For any information, contact Dr. Alexander Meneses Jácome [ameneses2@unab.edu.co](mailto:ameneses2@unab.edu.co)> or Prof. Robert Laurini [Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org](mailto:Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org)>. ■

## Seminar on the reform of the United Nations system at RUSTA in Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

Organized by USF for Ivorian students held on April 19-23 2021, the seminar presented the reform of the development system that came into force on January, 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. It has transformed United Nations country teams, which now focus on a single strategic development assistance framework and are led by an impartial and independent resident coordinator with enhanced capacity.

Prepared and coordinated by USF, with the participation of the United Nations System Coordinator in Ivory Coast, the FAO Representative and his team and the UNIDO Representative, this seminar was an opportunity to exchange views with students on the history of the United Nations and its successive commitments. The recent reform has established coherence in the support committed in each country around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.



FAO assistance in Ivory Coast was presented in the format of an interactive exchange between FAO project managers and students. This assistance is determined by the Country Programming Framework, which focuses on three priority areas: improving the productivity, sustainability and resilience of farms and fisheries, improving the competitiveness of value chains, and promoting healthy, effective and inclusive diets, and supporting the formulation and implementation of national agricultural policies that clearly identify agriculture as an engine of growth. For each FAO project, students were offered collaborative proposals and internships.

The presentation of UNIDO's activities to students by the organization's representative, Tidiane Boye, referred to its mandate and links to the SDGs, the importance of its global network and its articulation with the Ivorian

National Development Plan.



The students discovered more specific aspects such as the mobilization of resources, the support committed to valuing value chains, and the Country Partnership Program (PCP) that aims to accelerate the inclusive and sustainable industrial development of the country. Similarly, the UNIDO representative also offered internships to students.

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