

Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

With the slowdown of the health crisis, USF's somewhat inactive activities awoke. Thus, the strategic training of the heads of the research structures was established at the National School of Engineers in Sousse, Tunisia.

The University of Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina-Faso is looking for a professor of civil engineering for a pre-stressed concrete course. Then the association for the development of mathematics presents its activities in Africa in the time of Covid.

Finally, we will present the results of the strategic reflection day of last October 7, in which we have examined the ongoing partnerships and the state of the ongoing projects to help universities.

Wishing a good reading and transmit this newsletter to interested people. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

Strategic training of research center heads in Tunisia

The objective of this mission was the strategic training of heads of research structures: indeed, it is not enough to be a good researcher to be a good director of research structures, since these are two different professions. The National School of Engineers of Sousse (ENISo), component of the University of Sousse (Tunisia), asked USF for such training for the benefit of the directors of the research laboratories of the doctoral school «Sciences and Engineering».

Activities

Training for a total of 10 hours included the following:

- 1 – Duties of a head of research structures.
- 2 – Definition of research axes from five to ten years.
- 3 – Creation of a network of international collaborations.

4 – Creating links with the socio-economic world.

5 – Expansion of the international scope and organization of conferences.



6 – Management of a research structure.

7 – Choice of the topics of the first theses.

8 – Assistance in drafting evaluation documents.

In parallel with this training, a meeting was organized with a dozen of other professors of this university for the strengthening of international cooperation.

In addition, a seminar for doctoral candidates entitled "Recommendations for the writing of theses" was held with the participation of 25

face-to-face doctoral candidates from the University of Sousse. The short time that has elapsed between the announcement and the holding of this seminar highlights the importance of providing doctoral students with professional training for researchers.

Concluding remarks and outlook

It was found that those heads of structures present at the training were well established, several of them being directors of higher education institutions.

In addition, meetings with various officials made it possible to establish stronger ties. For further information, please contact Professor Najoua Essoukri Ben Aamara <najoua.benamara@eniso.rnu.tn> or Jean Ruffier <Jean.Ruffier@usf-awb.net>. ■

The Boni Nazi University of Bobo - Dioulasso in Burkina Faso seeks a professor of Prestressed Concrete for a Master Course of Civil Engineering

Period: 2 weeks between December 2021 and March 2022. 24 hours of theoretical classes, 24 hours of practical training.

Objective:

- Dimensioning principles according to regulatory requirements;
- Dimensioning and verification of composite bending sections;
- Operation and sizing of prestressed concrete beams;
- Dimensioning of isostatic and hyperstatic prestressed concrete beams according to Eurocodes 0, 1 and 2.



Content

- General.
- Loss of prestress.
- Simple bending - Elastic calculus.
- Regulatory checks.

Send applications by December 10 to Dr. Fabien Delhomme <fabien.delhomme@insa-lyon.fr>. ■

Animath en África en tiempos de Covid-19

The Animath association (www.animath.fr), established in 1998, aims to develop extracurricular (extracurricular) activities in schools and high schools. Since 2011, it has been working in seven African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo-Brazza, Congo-Kinshasa, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal), in the framework of the establishment of high school mathematics clubs.

Since 2018, Animath has received support from Campus-France, which has enabled eight summer schools to be held in these countries in 2019, which directly affect some 450 students and 150 teachers.



In Kinshasa in 2019, students who followed the Animath summer school «restore» content and experience in their own high schools, thus reaching a thousand high school students.

With the advent of coronavirus in 2020, the missions of French animators and high school club meetings had to cease. Remote measures were difficult because of a lack of experience, but also because of the lack of computer equipment for students.

In France, Animath made a considerable effort to move to the «dematerialized» with the collaborative YouTube channel «Talking-Maths», with the creation of a distance competition, the French-speaking Mathematical Olympiad (OFM) and the formation of the POFM a team of young mathematicians who offer a distance preparation to the various mathematical olympics.

In sub-Saharan Africa, we have proposed to our African partners to join OFM-2021, with France, Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Switzerland. Despite the expressed interest, it was not simple and could only be organized in

Cameroon by our partner «PromoMaths», who presented two school teams, one junior (up to 15.5 years) and the other senior. With a good result for the senior team, two bronze medals.

In September 2021, talks began for the participation of other countries in the French-speaking Olympiad in Maths, with preparations followed from France by the POFM team. The teams of animators are set up in Cameroon and Madagascar, where preparation will begin shortly. Other countries are expected to confirm their agreement soon, Benin, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

For further information, please contact Dr. Christian Duhamel, Head of International Relations at Animath <duhachri@orange.fr>. ■

Report of the Strategic Reflection Day of October 7, 2021

As every year, we hold a day of strategic reflection on USF's ongoing activities. Ten colleagues participated in the event, two of them remotely.

Critical analysis of ongoing activities

Prof. Xavier Alphaize reports on the recent agreement with the Faculty of political science of the University of Lyon, in which African higher education institutions associated with the USF network participate: possibility of hosting African students, in exchange for graduate internships for French students in the professional structures of these African countries. The implementation of this tripartite agreement is managed by USF. It is a new tool that reinforces the lines of cooperation of the African universities of the USF network.

Prof. Xavier Alphaize describes the status of his actions in several African countries that he will visit again soon: Burkina-Faso (4)², Benin (1), Cameroon (2), Ivory Coast (3), Guinea (1), Gabon (2), Madagascar (1). Mali (2), Senegal (3), Togo (1).

Then Prof. Jean Ruffier presents the balance sheet in Latin America, Colombia (2), Peru (1), Honduras (1) and Mexico (1); and Prof. Robert Laurini for the Maghreb countries, Tunisia (1) and Algeria (3).

In conclusion, it can be said that, on the one hand, in sub-Saharan Africa, the aim is to

improve the quality of education, especially in the level of professionalization of students, while in Latin America and the Maghreb, tends to give priority to the organization of research.

Analysis of partnerships, assessment of actions, improvement of our effectiveness

Prof. Robert Laurini returns to the agreements concerning doctoral students and/or thesis directors. It refers to and recalls the e-memory platform installed in Senegal by Professor Claude Lishou in addition, makes an invitation to help for the re-reading of theses.

Prof. Alain Mille recalls the project (AFRICAIN) launched in 2018, which involves professors researchers, students who want to create their own company, and universities that are all guarantors of quality. Currently, there are 32 members, including highly sought-after African colleagues (three of whom are interested in theses). A stage: the creation of a Journal with a call to communications, an annual conference with tutorials, a MOOCS project adapted to the local limitations of African countries.

Dr. Paul Rousset indicates contacts in the Comoros on professionalization. There is a European program on employability.



Newsletters and communication

9,358 recipients to date: 5,279 in French, 2,257 in English and 1,822 in Spanish.

Should we be present on social networks? If so, how? And who would be in charge?

Governance of USF

Prof. Robert Laurini expresses his desire to stop being president at the next General Assembly after 12 years of service.

Prof. Alain Mille advocates a collegial or collective direction and debate is established

² The numbers in brackets are the number of establishments in the country in question in partnership with USF.

on possible forms.

The next General Assembly 2022 will be on Saturday 5 February at 10 h. at the Maison des Solidarités in Lyon (alternative date: 29 January).

The complete report is available to members at the date of quotation. ■
