

Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

This issue will present several USF-AWB activities, namely, the updating of the training programs for the University Institute of Abidjan in Ivory Coast, and then new perspectives for collaboration with Gabon, and also the minutes of a conference on higher technological and scientific education in developing countries.

Wishing a good reading and transmission of this newsletter to anyone potentially interested.

Prof. Robert Laurini, Editor of the USF-AWB Newsletter. ■

Updating the training programs of the University Institute of Abidjan

The University Institute of Abidjan (IUA) is preparing a review of all its training programs. A very legitimate concern, which is explained by the need to update the contents of the lessons and ensure that they meet the expectations of the country's economic sectors. Brainstorm workshops involving academics and professionals are scheduled for 22 July. USF-AWB experts are associated with this process, in particular for the updating of the "Management" Bachelor programs, Master's degree "Commercial Studies and Marketing Strategy", bachelor and master's degree on "Accounting and Financial Sciences".

An analysis of the possibility of establishing alternating training courses with national companies in the sector should complement this approach.

The IUA also wants to develop research capabilities for master's students from different branches. USF will support it by organizing methodological research seminars, supporting article writing and selecting candidates for a PhD in Communication, Management, Political Science and Applied Mathematics.

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New prospects for cooperation in Gabon

Within the framework of various exchanges initiated in Libreville, some higher education establishments of Gabon and USF-AWB have made it possible to lay the foundations for new partnerships.

Discussions have begun with the National Institute of Management Sciences (INSG) to identify ways of collaborating to support the Institute's plans to strengthen its teaching, relations with companies and the development of research.

Two departments of the Omar Bongo University (UOB), in Geography, and Law and Economic Sciences, presented the ongoing research axes, but also the difficulties

encountered as a consequence of excessive number of students and limited means.



In addition, the Virtual University of Gabon, a public institution created just a few months ago, has already defined the structure of its training programs: a common core which is based in particular on languages and computer teaching is followed by four poles in Life and Earth Sciences; in Economics, Management and Law; in Engineering Sciences and Techniques and in Human Sciences. USF-AWB will support the participation of these new sectors and their employability.

Moreover, the exchanges undertaken with the Gabon National School of Water and Forests show that they wish to establish cooperation with USF in the field of education and research. The consultations will make it possible to identify priorities in these areas.

For its part, the University of Masuku (USTM), based in Franceville, comprises a rectorate and four higher institutions, all of them of scientific vocation and already involved in a cooperation agreement between USF/ USTM: the Polytechnic School of Masuku, the Faculty of Sciences, the National Institute of Agronomy and Biotechnology (INSAB), and the Doctoral School in Fundamental and Applied Sciences. These institutions have a common objective: to professionalize the programs and readjust the training to the needs of the companies. They wish to develop training in order to adapt it more to the needs of the labor market in the country. This evolution was transformed at the beginning of June into exchange days with all companies in the sector in Franceville. Concrete cooperation actions will be developed with USF in the field of research, updating scientific training and strengthening links with professional sectors.

For further information, please contact Professor Xavier Alphaize <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

Technological and scientific higher education in developing countries: Between observations and hopes

As part of the Digital and Citizenship Chair, ISEP, the Paris School of Digital Engineers, asked USF-AWB to hold a seminar on the situation of higher technological and scientific education in developing countries. The seminar was held on 19 May online.

About 20 years ago, an African academic declared that the African university was in a state of disaster. But now, what is the situation, particularly for the scientific and technological disciplines? At first, there was a balance between the rampant demographics, the inadequacy of public investment, the low level of training of teachers, the shortcomings in practical work, the lack of research, the inadequacy of diplomas awarded in relation to the labor market, including difficulties due to electricity supply and poor Internet coverage.

But the hopes are opened especially with the advances in quality assurance with the new benchmarks of CAMES for institutional evaluation, the evaluation of training offers (face-to-face and online) and for the evaluation of research programs related to government awareness to increase funding, professionalization and international openness.

For further information, including the slideshow, please contact Professor Robert Laurini <Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org>. ■