



Academics without Borders USF-AWB Universitaires sans Frontières

Quarterly Newsletter, 18, June 2015.

Newsletter

While the previous USF-AWB newsletter had just been published, we learned the terrible massacre of students in the University of Garissa, Kenya; this attack that claimed more than 150 dead, murdered by persons opposed to culture and high level training. USF - AWB utterly condemn this event.

Beyond this dramatic event, it becomes for us more and more difficult to intervene due essentially to the international situation: indeed, we hardly find academic teachers and consultants for requests coming from countries at risk.

In this issue, we will present successively, expertise for a University in Burkina Faso, some international courses organized with the BEST association for the creation of enterprises, and research of volunteers in topography for Bhutan. ■



Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB

Expertises in a university in Burkina Faso

USF-AWB was contacted by the Catholic University of Western Africa (UCAO), more specifically by the academic unit in Bobo Dioulasso to help improve trainings.

This unit has its main basic option dealing with agro-food and agro-industry and has adopted the Bologna system (Bachelor/Master/doctorate) from its opening in 2005. Its training offerings are organized along four faculties namely:

1. Faculty of Science and Technology;
2. Faculty of Economics and Management;
3. Faculty of Laws and Political Sciences
4. Faculty of Humanities.



Two Skype meetings on helped to better identify problems and two priorities have been identified:

- a detailed analysis of the agriculture and food processing sector, its insertion in the local economy, opportunities, etc.
- an audit of the Master training in terms of employability and student proposals, including actions to get more qualified teachers.

A mission took place early may 2015. It helped raise the following tracks.

1. Seeking to associate training for potential professional activity; the idea is to develop pre-vocational activities quickly exploiting the knowledge acquired in the training. There is already a device 'The 72 h' centered on an activity to be effectively accomplished in a short time. Were mentioned the following concepts, junior enterprise «start-up weekend and ideas of micro-enterprises, etc. The main idea is to give way to the development of technical and scientific activity from the energies of students at the University, as a necessary condition for the emergence of jobs.
2. Facilitate the organization of alumni to associate them with educational initiatives and support for current students. Give them a visible place at the University.
3. Focusing on the training of trainers.
4. Considering the possibilities of distance learning, mixed lessons and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) as to a way to involve more modest students, and for which availability is low. We discussed the credits taught widely in the form of MOOC for example. The adaptation of the MOOC to the technological reality of Burkina Faso could be source of practical and inspiring activities for students and scholars (multilingualism,

access on smartphones, tablets, and adaptations for self-employment at the University...).

5. Associating teachers-researchers from France to by USF-AWB.

6. Facilitating academic and student exchanges with European academic structures (scholarships, trips).

The profession of teacher-researcher can only reach the critical size if several universities join forces around a project in a common sector. This training must start at the Master level.

The objective is to develop national and international partnerships to firstly initiate high level research (Master) and other training so to create a network of laboratories with an associated business model.

USF-AWB makes available its network of teachers-researchers in France and elsewhere and its knowledge of the modes of funding of international development to organize and accompany this project. Syllabi are to be built together, but it seems that training on food and sustainable development issues are probably the first to be ensured.

Other national partners could be the Polytechnic University of Bobo Dioulasso and 2IE of Ouagadougou with whom USF-AWB already has contacts. ■

Robert Laurini and Alain Mille, USF-AWB members.

Training in business creation with BEST (Bureau of European Students in Technology)



In January 2015, USF-AWB was approached by the local group BEST Lyon (<http://best.insa-lyon.fr>). Its objective was to organize a week of entrepreneurship training. For this, we were asked to animate this week-long seminar. Although that focused on training with possibility of obtaining ECTS points, this week should offer participants the opportunity to discover Lyon and its culture. Participants were recruited through the BEST (www.BEST.eu.org) network that organizes annually more than 100 technological seminars. 20 students from 300 candidates have been selected according to the following selection criteria:

- Interest for the theme of entrepreneurship
- Basic knowledge in project management
- Interest for the city of Lyon and the French culture
- Diversity (several nationalities)
- Openness and interest in the international opening.

Fifteen different nationalities ranging from the Germany to Turkey through Russia and Portugal or Spain were represented.

The objectives of the seminar were:

BEST: Board of European Students of Technology is a European NGO, apolitical, entirely managed by students whose vocation is to encourage technology students to open abroad by encouraging their mobility and their intercultural communication. Not-for-profit association, all the functions are unpaid, only a few of mission expenses shall be reimbursed. Funding comes mainly from the events in partnership with companies, institutional or entrepreneurial partners or events donations.

The concept was born in May 1987 during a European conference for students in mathematics and physics. The experience was encouraging and it was decided to organize twice a year an international week which should take place each time in a different country, and would develop the interaction between European students. After a second week which was held in Grenoble (extended to other disciplines), the BEST creation took place in Berlin at the 4th conference in April 1989. BEST will be formed a Committee and a General Assembly of members. Delegates participating in this constituent assembly came from all over Europe: Barcelona, Berlin, Bologna, Budapest, Eindhoven, Grenoble, Helsinki, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Louvain, Paris, Stockholm, Trondheim, Turin, Vienna, Warsaw and Zurich.

The guiding principle is to promote exchanges and communication between European students in technology. Members are local groups (LGB: Local BEST Group). Since 1991, the LGB organize summer seminars which were supported during the first 3 years by the program TEMPUS and the EU. In parallel, BEST, together with CESAER and SEFI, put in place the thematic network H3E under the framework of the SOCRATES program from the European Community, formalized in 1996. Its aim was to work on the future of education in the field of engineering as a first network in which students were partners with equal status. Since other collaborations have been initiated: in 1997, Bonding-Studenteninitiative e.V. (Germany), and since 2004 the CFES (Canadian Federation of students in engineering). Currently BEST brings together more than 96 LBG.

Each LBG is a not-for-profit association whose members come from a University. These local groups are responsible for the organization of activities within their University. Funding comes in part from industrial or institutional partnerships; for example, LBG Lyon: <http://best.insa-lyon.fr> has established a number of partnerships. But a good part of the funding comes from the activities of its members: provision of services for the most part because seminars require to welcome a group of foreign students, accommodation, feed them and help them discover Lyon environment while the participation fees charged to participants are less than €40. Each LBG has to charge seminars throughout the year (winter, spring, summer and autumn) as well as to host events programmed BEST:

- internal, general assemblies and meetings of presidents, cultural exchanges within the Organization, regional meetings, jamboree that brings together more than 400 delegates from the whole BEST network;
- external, European BEST Engineering Competition known as EBEC, annual symposia on Education and education in Europe today; finally BEST Leisure Events promote exchanges intercultural by leisure events.

Another great activity is the international employment-careers service containing about 20 000 CV where manufacturers come to find their future engineers.

- to help discover Lyon and its culture to students from all backgrounds,
- to involve students in a seminar giving 1 ECTS credit,
- to make the students work collectively so that they can discover the great diversity of cultures and approaches to the problems of their near future.
- to de-dramatize the Act of starting a business,
- and to allow a preliminary exploration of idea of creation and, why not, do trigger the Act of creating.

The organization and all of the logistics were made by BEST Lyon and USF-AWB focused on aid to

- the design of the program,
- the recruitment of volunteers to teach different training sequences,
- the planning of the agenda.



The guiding principle was to immerse directly participants in entrepreneurship and to give "theoretical" contributions only when there is a need to ensure that the project is proceeding. Indeed the work was collective with teams of 5 participants. These pedagogic principles were described earlier¹ and applied since 2000 within the program for business creation of INSA de Lyon. The seminar was moderated by A. Jouandeu and C. Demonchy and the final jury was composed, in addition to representatives of BEST Lyon, R. Laurini (President of USF-AWB), A. Jouandeu and Pierre Frécon, manager of an investment company.

Four projects have been developed:

- Bridge Adds, for targeted dissemination of Internet-based advertising around minor opinion leaders;
- TESS, platform to assist the students in difficulty by other more advanced students (tutoring and sharing of annals).
- ECEP, for offering scholarships/loans for deserving students from developing countries,
- Catchy, social badge system allowing contacts targeted within an event.

These projects have been selected at the beginning because they lacked technical or technological difficulties

¹ A. Jouandeu, *LA PEDAGOGIE CONCURANTE, pour améliorer la formation managériale de l'ingénieur*, FEUNI, Monterrey, 2007

so they could be undertaken by teams of very disparate formations. In addition, they required to conduct a field survey, requiring participants to tackle the difficulty of such an operation.

The seminar has been consistent with what was expected. Participants have worked hard to develop their business plan and present it using a slide presentation, but it was nice and everyone was satisfied. For members of USF-AWB that inspired the seminar, the experience was new and exciting because the different cultural approaches to problems could be decrypted. It is planned to repeat the experience in 2016, but the decision is to BEST Lyon, for our part, we are open to renew the experience.



Alain JOUANDEAU
(USF-AWB)



Ovidiu-Teodor ION
(BEST Lyon)

Volunteers for Bhutan in Surveying

Our Canadian sister association (AWB) is a bi-lingual NGO based in Montreal, the mission of which is to support academic institution in developing countries in building capacity in higher education so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to assist in their development. AWB fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB reimburses volunteers for their expenses but does not offer them a salary.

Number of Volunteers: 1

Job Title: Gap Teaching Mentor (Associate Lecturer/ Lecturer/Asst. Professor)

Partner Organisation: Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic, Royal University of Bhutan, Dewathang, Samdrup Jongkhar, Bhutan (<http://www.jnp.edu.bt>)

Country: Bhutan

Language(s): English

Job Description: To augment teaching faculty, known as gap teaching.



The volunteer may be recruited for one or two semesters. Depending upon experience, the volunteer may be asked to conduct short term training courses for the JNP faculty and stakeholders. The volunteer may be assigned to teach one or two of the following modules of Diploma in the surveying program:

July – Dec 2015

- i. Computations and Field Surveying-I
- ii. Computer Applications in Surveying
- iii. Principles and Application of GIS
- iv. Computation and Field Surveying-III
- v. Fundamentals of Surveying
- vi. Geodesy
- vii. Principles and Application of GNSS
- viii. Photogrammetry and Remote sensing
- ix. Surveying Analysis and Adjustment
- x. Legal Principles of Surveying

Feb – June 2016

- i. Computation and Field Surveying –II
- ii. Engineering Survey
- iii. Cartography
- iv. Land Development and Site Design



The position involves carrying out surveying field work practicums with students 18 hours a week in rough terrain and in various weather conditions within campus. The volunteer(s) will also be required to guide the students in

their semester-long project work which usually takes place in the final semester. Additionally, volunteer maybe be required to guide the students in a 6 week long survey camp which may be held within or outside the campus. Educational Qualifications Minimum: Bachelors in Surveying/Geomatics/Geodesy/GIS/GPS; Preferable: Masters or Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Surveying related field. Professional Experience: Surveying related field, experience in GIS, GPS subject area will be advantage. Teaching experience preferred; however good command of English language and subject matter most important. Research Experience: Preferred but not mandatory Start date and Duration: From 1st of July 2015. One year or more preferred, but shorter periods possible. Benefits: Housing on or near campus; local monthly stipend of approximately CAN \$500- \$1000 a month, depending on rank, office space with computer/internet, visa, travel and health insurance, vaccinations and medication. Return economy airfare if staying a year or more. Partial fare covered for shorter periods.

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