



# Academics without Borders USF-AWB Universitaires sans Frontières

Quarterly Newsletter, 21, March 2016.

## Newsletter

After the success of announcements related to several West African universities, USF-AWB presents several collaborations and analyses:

- basis for a partnership with the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, especially for the strengthening of PhD's and masters,
- research collaborators for 2IE; International Institute of higher education specializing in the areas of water, sanitation, energy and electricity environment and sustainable development, Civil Engineering and Mines in Burkina Faso,
- collaboration with the Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis, Senegal,
- and, for our Canadian sister association, research of specialists in education science for Tanzania. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

### Basis for a partnership with the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo of Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso

The President of the University Ouagadougou and the direction of USF-AWB<sup>1</sup> have agreed to lay the basis for a partnership following a mission to Burkina Faso last February. Meetings were undertaken at the initiative of Professor Karifa Bayo, former President of this University and who has played a key role in the development of this important public higher education institution. They were held by Professor Rabiou Cissé, President of the University, Professor YE Diarra, Vice President for research and Cooperation, and the Professor Karifa Bayo.

This University, which has about 60,000 students, has a faculty of applied sciences, a medicine faculty, a faculty for human Sciences, an institute for arts and crafts (IBAM), the institute of sciences for health and population, the Panafrican Institute of Communication, the institute of environmental engineering and development. All this is complemented by three doctoral schools: "Science and technology", "Health Sciences" and "Letters, Arts, humanities and Communication" and a Senghor Chair from Francophony for a professorship.

This important Burkina Faso higher education institution is headed by a President, a Vice-president responsible for cooperation and academic research, a Vice-President of education and pedagogical Innovation, and a Vice-President for relationships with the companies.

<sup>1</sup> For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, Informatique, INSA de Lyon, F- 69621 Villeurbanne; Email: Robert.Laurini@insa-lyon.fr. Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.



Meetings took place in Ouagadougou with the doctoral schools heads and several faculty officers, as well as with a few doctoral students. It is apparent from these first talks that the University poses as a priority the need to have a more solid foundation for the doctoral schools, and wishes to strengthen the potential of the masters implemented recently.

It was agreed that these discussions will continue to prepare a formal cooperation agreement, and define more precisely the priority axes of this future. ■

Xavier Alphaize, Vice-president of USF-AWB.

**2IE positions: International Institute of higher education specializing in the fields of water, sanitation, energy and electricity, environment and sustainable development, civil engineering and mines in Burkina Faso**

Support and collaborations of USF-AWB today need

more concern about the governance system of this institution (for example at the level of the accounting system, the definition of a sustainable economic model, management studies and education) rather than courses. A quality system exists however. Access to financial resources from companies is one of the concerns of the establishment, who wishes to make more "Fund Raising".

In the field of teaching, there is a lack of professor in Civil Engineering (associate Professors), and of a teacher-researcher in management science able to work on economic models related to sustainable development and green growth.



Positions for African academics should soon be the subject of an announcement that could be communicated through USF-AWB. ■

Contact: Bernard Bres - Director of zIE - mail: [bernard.bres@zie-edu.org](mailto:bernard.bres@zie-edu.org). Phone: + 226.78.20.42.37. Web site <http://www.zie-edu.org/>

### **Collaboration with the Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis, Senegal (UGB)**

During a first mission made end of 2015 by USF-AWB at the Gaston Berger University, identification of possible collaborations with academics was made. It was the outcome of several meetings with the Rector of the University, officers and teams of faculty of "Applied Sciences and technology" which has 3 departments: Physics, Maths and Computer Sciences; the faculty of "Agronomic Sciences, Aquaculture and food Technologies" which includes 4 sections: vegetable and agricultural production, animal production and breeding, aquaculture, agri-food technologies; the faculty of "Legal Sciences and policies" and the faculty of "Economics and management", as well as the IFOAD (Institute of distance learning). This Institute aims to accompany UGB in the development of the diversification of distance learning. Its action is focused on the design and online courses, as well as mediation and tutoring.

This was supplemented by a similar work with the heads of the two doctoral schools, grouping the initiatives and groups search of UGB: 'Sciences of man and society', and "Science and technology ". Each of these doctoral schools

has a Scientific Council, a permanent research team, temporary research teams and also associated teams.



This joint reflection has led to identify, for each faculty, institute and Doctoral School, skills and desirable additional support that could be provided by USF members during future short missions.

The candidacies of 37 volunteers to participate in this collaborative academic action were transmitted to the decision makers of UGB which analyzes them and will operate priorities based on the programs and projects for this their academic year. ■

Xavier Alphaize, Vice-president of USF-AWB.

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### **News from Canada**

Our Canadian sister association (AWB-USF) is pleased to make the following announcement.

Academics Without Borders-Universitaires sans frontières (AWB-USF) is a Canadian bi-lingual NGO based in Montreal, the mission of which is to support academic institutions 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-USF fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB-USF reimburses volunteers for their expenses but does not offer them a salary.

#### **Job Reference: Research Mentor**

Number of Volunteers: 1

Partner Organisation: Aga Khan University-Institute of Educational Development (IED-EA)

The Aga Khan University (AKU) is an international institution operating in eight countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the UK. Excellence in Teaching and Learning is a strategic priority as the University aims to develop leaders and critical thinkers in its graduates to serve the developing world, within its core principles of quality, access, relevance and impact.

IED-EA, which came into existence in 2007, is one of the leading centres in East Africa for providing diverse programs designed for the professional development of educators and educational researchers. The Institute works to develop and support the professionalization of teachers, educational leaders, managers and others working in the field of education in nurturing innovation and improving the quality of education in East Africa. Considerable work has been done by the Head of Research and the former Director to build a research culture within the Institute, with three research groups acting as a mechanism for providing peer group support and a basis for joint activity: the Special Interest Group in Mathematics and Science; Early Years Education; and Educational Leadership and Management. Research at IED-EA is applied and includes the 'study of teaching practice'.

There are fifty-nine full-time Master of Education students at IED-EA. In addition, through the Centre for Continuing Education and Life Long Learning (CELL) IED-EA works with approximately 2000 students per year via outreach programs, and delivering certificate programs and workshops.



**Job Title: Research Mentor**

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Language: English

**Job Description:**

In order to develop consistent quality research at IED-EA, the Institute is seeking a volunteer to work with the faculty members to develop and sustain a high level of research capacity within the faculty. While the faculty members of IED-EA have significant teaching experience, working with children and adults in many settings across the world, many are early career researchers that need mentoring support to undertake research, write scholarly

and research publications, and generate grant proposals. The long-term objectives of this project are to develop a sustainable research culture and to raise the research profile of IED-EA. The main focus of the volunteer will be to assist the director and head of research of IED-EA in planning research outputs, identifying funding bids and collaborations, and developing the capacity of the faculty to mentor each other and university wide early career researchers in a manner which ensures skills development and effective collaboration.

Through workshops and one on one mentoring, specific focus will be given to supporting faculty members in writing academic publications based on existing data, producing research articles, identifying granting sources, applying for and obtaining research funding and working collaboratively in interdisciplinary research teams.

**Requirements:**

Educational Qualifications: Advanced Degree in Education

**Professional Experience:** Education research background with experience in inter-disciplinary work. A high level of proficiency with a range of research methodologies and expertise in fields within education and related areas will be an asset.

**Start date and Duration:**

The volunteer will begin as soon as possible and will spend a minimum of two months and a maximum of three months onsite in Dar es Salaam.

**Benefits:**

All expenses, flights, accommodations, local transportation, travel and medical insurance, vaccinations and medications, and other incidentals will be covered by AKU and AWB-USF.

**Applications:**

Please send CV, Letter of motivation and the names and contact details of two references to Corrie Young, [cyoung@awb-usf.org](mailto:cyoung@awb-usf.org)

Deadline: April 15, 2016. ■