



Academics without Borders

USF-AWB

Universitaires sans Frontières

Quarterly newsletter, 4, December 2011

Already two years!

Created on December 16, 2009, by a group of academics from Lyon, France, the association "Academics without Borders - Universitaires sans Frontières" is starting to yield encouraging results for the assistance to world-wide universities as well for education and research. During the year 2011, let us quote:

- preliminary analysis for the creation of a faculty of mechanics at the Antonine University of Beirut, Lebanon,
- organization of courses in information and communication technologies in Haiti (see further),
- significant advance of a project of school in software engineering in Douala, Cameroun
- inception of a research laboratory in El Oued, Algeria,
- and, in partnership, contributions to higher education in the Comoro Islands.

For the coming year, it will be necessary to face the following priority tasks:

- to find a mechanism to increase demand from universities likely to ask for our services,
- to decrease the duration of the decision-making process in certain universities, often several months of negotiations,
- to continue to inform of our existence and our potentialities,
- to collaborate with other organizations having similar objectives.

Let me wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012. ■

R. Laurini, President of USF-AWB

Training courses in Information and Communication Technologies in Haiti

This one-week-long mission, made with the support of the Agency of French-speaking Universities (AUF), had two objectives. The first relates to a course in computer architecture (assembler and advanced architectures) at Master level at ESIH (School for Infotronics of Haiti at Port-au-Prince).

The second objective concerns the preparation of a training course of computer engineers (Bachelor level) specialized in networks and telecommunications. The starting point was a

specialized syllabus in Internet and in network design, possibly with intermediate degrees. Then, several working meetings were organized as to consider an opening in autumn 2012. The discussions were also related to the links to be considered with more traditional trainings.



Another institution, Haiti-Tech, which is a technical training centre, is involved into this project. Here, the discussions concern the possibility of addressing their training in data processing and networking by means of intermediate degrees in coherence with the degrees which will be offered by ESIH. The problem is now defining concretely the syllabus to achieve this goal. This work will be done by means of long-distance exchanges.

These trainings will be based partially on the donation of computer and network equipment which was sent to ESIH and Haiti-Tech in Spring of 2011. That took time, but the material arrived finally in very good condition. In those two higher education institutions, working sessions were thus also dedicated to the launching of the network equipment so that the local technicians can make use of it correctly. In addition, some teaching documents were given to the teachers concerned in order to allow them to make the platform network more rapidly operational.

A forthcoming mission is envisioned during Spring 2012 to follow the advancement of those projects.

I have to transmit the thanks of Patrick Attié, deputy director of ESIH, and of Rhony Desrogènes, Executive director of Haiti, to the IUT Information Technology Department, to the Computer Sciences Department of the Claude Bernard University of Lyon, the French company Sandvik, the USF-AWB association and all those who contributed totally or partly to the success of this mission. ■

Dr. Jean-Jacques Schwarz, USF-AWB
Professor at the IT Department Informatique, IUT,
Claude Bernard University of Lyon, France