



# Academics without Borders

## USF-AWB

### Universitaires sans Frontières

Quarterly newsletter, 7, September 2012

#### Editorial

During this summer, USF-AWB was contacted for several missions.

- The Argentinean University of Rio Cuarto en Argentina asked us for advices for the practical organization of jointly-awarded PhD's. A report in Spanish was written.
- A state university in Italy has asked us to help them for creating better links with industry, especially for « industrial chairs » and PhD made in companies. A report in Italian is planned by the end of October.
- The Tunisian University of Jendouba has asked us to forward an announcement for recruiting full professors in linguistics, civilization and literature. A special flyer was sent in end of August/beginning of September.
- In Haiti, several persons have contacted USF-AWB to help them design a syllabus for engineers.

In this issue, there is also a text from a member of our NGO. Even if it is not a direct activity of USF-AWB, we want to salute this initiative for which some links can be created. ■

Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB

#### Intervention of Animath in Africa

"Animath" is a NGO which have received the support of the French Ministry of Education, and two French state research institutions (CNRS and INRIA) and the Region of Paris, etc. for coordinating and catalyzing the extracurricular activities in mathematics. It has recently received, in the framework of the consortium "Cap'Maths" and from the French "Grand Emprunt" 3 millions of Euros for supporting extracurricular projects in mathematics.

Since September 2011, our colleague from USF-AWB, Dr. Christian Duhamel, a retired mathematician, is in charge of developing the international relations of Animath. Besides "coupling" French and foreign high schools in Europe, an action has been conducted towards francophone Africa for creating clubs in maths for secondary school pupils. This was developed with full success in Cameroun (Douala) and will also be implemented during next September in Gabon (Libreville) and Algeria (Tizi-Ouzou). In addition, contacts are now established in Benin, Morocco and Togo. Actually, the domain is mathematics at a large sense, including interfaces with information technology which could interest other scientists from USF-AWB.

The rules for the creation and the follow up of such

clubs and for their support by Animath are simple but strict:

- voluntary presence of a professional and competent organizer leading the club;
- limited number of participants according to the capacity of follow up (In Cameroun they are a dozen of pupils) with parity of genders;
- weekly sessions with mandatory presence;
- work on themes not strictly linked to the official curricula;
- work in small groups and without receiving marks, but with possible competitions of small team ;
- friendliness inside the clubs such as tea parties organized by the pupils during each session;
- etc.

Animath itself appoints two PhD students from France for the follow up of the clubs via Internet, sending problems to solve and subjects to study and organizing the work during the year. When possible, these two PhD students will travel in next December to Douala for an intensive one-week-long winter school gathering an enlarged audience of pupils and trainers, with in mind the spreading of this experience. Animath also sends materials (DVD, ...) for the animation of meetings such as transmission of registered conferences given by renown mathematicians or for organizing exhibitions about maths.

The success of these clubs which are supervised locally by academics, will give the opportunity of proposing the assistance of ESF-AWB for the development of university departments in mathematics. For details in French, see [www.animath.fr](http://www.animath.fr). ■

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Some pupils students in maths in Douala, Cameroun

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