

Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

Two new partnerships open this issue: with the Abidjan University Institute in Ivory Coast and the Kofi Annan University in Guinea to offer students new vocational training. Our colleague Dr. Jacky Bouju from the University of Aix-Marseille, France, will then present his mission report to the Higher Institute for Human Security in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, one of the objectives of which was to teach Master level in methodology and epistemology of research in socio-anthropology applied to humanitarian. Finally, the NGO "Lecturers Without Borders" presents its activities aimed essentially at creating a repertoire of webinars in the scientific fields.

Do not forget that USF-AWB university volunteers are at your service to improve undergraduate and graduate degree teaching, to create new training, to reorganize research structures, to train doctoral students and those responsible for academic structures, including doctoral and engineering schools.

Wishing good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

Cooperation agreement between the Abidjan University Institute and USF-AWB

USF has just established a cooperation agreement with the University Institute of Abidjan (IUA), a private higher education institution in the Ivory Coast.



Signing of the cooperation protocol between the Rector, Paul Anoh and X. Alphaize, Vice President USF-AWB.

For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, 20 Rue René, F- 69100 Lyon-Villeurbanne; Email: Robert.Laurini@usf-awb.org. Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Non-for-profit association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.

This university, with approximately 6,000 students, is one of the best private universities in the country. It offers courses in law, development management, economics, accounting and financial sciences, mathematics and computer science, but also sociology.

The lines of cooperation refer more specifically to the prospects for the evolution of some very specialized lessons.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize Xavier.Alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

Cooperation for research and vocational training with USF-AWB in Conakry, Guinea

The Kofi Annan University of Guinea (UKAG) has approximately 6,000 students in Conakry who have been trained in the faculties of medicine, letters and humanities, legal and political sciences, economics and management, computer science and has an engineering school. The former rector, Professor Rached Boussema, had been recruited through USF-AWB, but he died of

covid-19. USF-AWB also worked on the search for its successor, Professor Moncef Temani, current rector of UKAG.

A cooperation agreement has just been established between this university and USF-AWB. The program covers various aspects of capacity-building at the University. One of them relates to research, which makes it possible to contribute to the ongoing work of the teachers-researchers at this higher education institution. Another concern relates to the role that the University can play in improving the employability of students in the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.



Guinea's cities face a number of demographic, economic, social, environmental and health challenges, which require many efforts and commitments, particularly in Conakry. The city is overrun by an increasing amount of household waste, and must deal with reducing its permanent damage to ecosystems and to man. Sanitation is the most worrying aspect of capital development and a challenge for environmental protection and, more generally, for sustainable development.

It is essential to support the arrangements for improving water quality and waste management by Guinean staff with the necessary technical qualifications, as well as a policy for training qualified personnel in these areas. However, in Guinea there is no university vocational training in the field of «Biology - environmental engineering - waste and water treatment option». This new axis of vocational training will be established in collaboration with USF-AWB.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize Xavier.Alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

Prof. Jacky Bouju mission to the Higher Institute for Human Security in Ouagadougou (ISSH), Burkina Faso, April 3-May 9, 2021

Despite the severe restrictions imposed on international travel, on the one hand, because of the covid-19 pandemic and, on the other, because of the deteriorating security situation in the country. Finally, an inter-university

cooperation mission was carried out. Initially, scheduled for March 2021. The mission took place from April 3 to May 9, 2021, with three objectives.



The first was to act with Antoine BRICOUT, attaché of scientific and university cooperation at the Embassy of France, the renewal of the agreement of international cooperation between the department of anthropology of Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and the Higher Institute of Human Security in Ouagadougou.

The second objective was to assist the Institute in the final transition from higher education to the timetable, to the credit system for teaching and to the arrangements for monitoring examinations. The third objective was to teach master level in methodology and epistemology of research in socio-anthropology applied to humanitarian (48 hours of master courses and training).

The renewal of the five-year cooperation agreement of 2021 by AMU and the signing of the agreement by the partners of Burkina Faso is accompanied by the participation of a young colleague, Ms. Muriel CHAMPY professor of anthropology at AMU, in the exchanges of teachers-researcher starting this year. This development of the partnership with CHAMPY will make it possible to diversify contributions towards strengthening local capacities for research in particular. Despite a context of budgetary constraints for the French Embassy this year 2021, the addition of scientific and university cooperation confirmed its interest in this cooperation convention that has been running smoothly since 2016.

Cooperation with AMU essentially consists of:

- Exchanging students in the framework of final work and internships;
- Supporting the training of local professors-researchers by preparing future French government thesis fellows (in 2019, we won two scholarships in France);
- Participating in the Master research training program;
- Participating in scientific councils and

- educational meetings;
- Forming research teams in areas of common interest;
- Encouraging the creation of joint research seminars.

A successful example of this cooperation has been the creation of a week-long (5 x 4 hours) research seminar on the subject of terrorism and extreme violence, which has been held twice a year since 2019. The objective of this seminar is to reflect on the structural and conjunctural causes of the extreme violence that currently reigns in the country, with a view to reducing conflict and building peace.

Classes were basically held every semester. In the first semester, in March 2021, two 15-hour classes were held online with Zoom. And in this mission, I gave an in-person master's degree course in research methodology and a course in anthropology applied to humanitarian I conducted six hours of individual research. Each semester, I participated in the pedagogical meetings and in the scientific council of the ISSH.

Web address of the Institute: <https://issh-edu.com>

Dr. Jacky BOUJU, Professor Emeritus, University of Aix-Marseille (AMU), France boujuj@gmail.com. ■

Non-profit NGO "Lecturers Without Borders" is constantly looking for new participants in their network!

The association – headquartered in Paris, France – connects scientists with schools all over the world to organize free outreach lectures.

Originally, the main task of the "Lecturers Without Borders" or LeWiBo was to connect scientists, travelling to conferences or on private occasions, with high schools to organize free outreach lectures for interested teenagers.



Starting from 2020 the lectures also are held online in the form of webinars for children of 8-18 years. Currently, the organization has a network of over 200 scientists from all over the world whose fields vary from maths to climate change and from linguistics to

biotechnology. All lectures can be delivered in English, but also in many other languages.

Who can join?

Young scientists, PhD students or STEM² professionals, ready to volunteer by giving lectures on their area of expertise, joining regular lessons occasionally as online guests to deliver a brief presentation, to participate in a discussion, or even just to share their thoughts with children about the profession of a scientist.

Schools and educational associations interested in science or willing to go beyond the borders of school programs and give children a deep dive into the scientific area of school subjects. "LeWiBo" works with both public and private schools, centers of additional education and summer camps and other forms of educational organizations.

Follow the links to know more about the "Lecturers without Borders":

- Catalogue of available webinars and examples of past lectures: <https://lewibo.org/lectures>
- Scientists volunteering for LeWiBo: <https://lewibo.org/scientists>

Feel free to join the network or spread the word about this opportunity to let those who might be interested participate!

For more details, please contact Mrs Anastasia Mityagina <anastasia@lewibo.org>. ■

² STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.