

REPORT ON THE MISSION TOUR INTO THE FOUR
OPERATIONAL PAU INSTITUTES, BY THE AU
COMMISSIONER FOR ESTI,
PROF. MOHAMMED BELHOCINE



3 APRIL – 26 MAY 2022

DELEGATION

- H.E Prof. Mohamed Belhocine, ESTI Commissioner
- Mr. Hambani Masheleni, ESTI Acting Director;
- Prof. Kenneth K. Matengu, PAU Council President;
- Ms. Chancelle Bilampassi, PAU Communication Officer;
- Mr. Gilles Oganda, PAU Academic and Students Affairs Officer;
- Mr. Gouem I. Celestin, PAU Administrative and Finance Officer
- Mr. Merouane Arim, Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Introduction

Few months after assuming duties as AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine undertook a working mission to the four Pan African University Institutes, namely PAULESI¹, PAUSTI², PAUGHSS³ and PAUWES⁴. This working mission aimed at:

- taking stock of the progress made so far in each Institute;
- assessing the level of implementation of the various strategies and policies;
- identifying PAU Institutes' needs;
- getting to know the working and learning environment of both PAU staff and students.

He was accompanied by a delegation composed of the following ESTI and PAU officials:

- Mr. Hambani Masheleni, ESTI Acting Director;
- Prof. Kenneth K. Matengu, PAU Council President;
- Ms. Chancelle Bilampassi, PAU Communications Officer ;
- Mr. Gilles Oganda, PAU Academic and Students Affairs Officer;
- Mr. Gouem I. Celestin, PAU Administrative and Finance Officer.

During his visit, Prof. Mohammed Belhocine also met local authorities of the various host universities, as well as Members of Government in each host country.

The Commissioner-led delegation conducted the mission with respect to the following calendar:

- Nigeria: Ibadan (3 – 5 March 2022; 3 – 6 April 2022); Abuja (6 – 8 April 2022);
- Kenya: Juja (20 – 21 April 2022);
- Cameroon: Yaounde (10 – 14 May 2022);
- Algeria: Tlemcen (21 May – 1 June 2022)

The following report shall highlight the topics under discussion and main resolutions arrived at with the different stakeholders.

PAU
Nurturing Quality,
Exemplifying Excellence

¹ Pan African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences- including Health and Agriculture.

² Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation

³ Pan African University Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences

⁴ Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences- including Climate Change

I. WORKING VISIT IN NIGERIA



The ESTI Department went twice in Nigeria: firstly from 3 to 5 March 2022, and secondly from 3 to 6 April 2022 in Ibadan, and then in Abuja from 6 to 8 April 2022. Ibadan.

A. MISSIONS TO IBADAN 1. PAULESI



As part of his tour in the four operational PAU Institutes, the AU Commissioner ESTI had a working visit in PAULESI from 3 to 6 April 2022. On 4 April 2022, he held a meeting with PAULESI Management led by Prof. Esther T. Akinlabi, Director of PAULESI.

Prof. Akinlabi gave a general presentation of the institute, addressing issues on teaching and learning, enrolment and graduation, entrepreneurship, the innovation incubation centre, collaborative efforts, and quality assurance.

On collaborative efforts, she said she was working with the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) in Ethiopia and some institutions such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria.

Other key issues were tabled before the AU delegation: the abscondment of PAULESI students; the recruitment process of part- and full-time lecturers and staff, including the Rector and Vice-Rector, the renewal of MOUs with host universities, international recognition and brand image of PAU, sustainable funding, cooperation with key thematic partner, new programs and cooperation with other academic institutions.

After this meeting, the AU Commissioner met PAULESI new students and had an open discussion with the students' representatives. They expressed their gratitude to the PAU and the AU for the opportunity granted to them, especially as the selection procedure aims to choose the best African students. They felt proud to have been selected and to be part of such an elite institute.

They also mentioned that PAULESI is really exemplifying African integration, as the institute is a melting pot of African cultures. This cultural mix and diversity, they added, is one of the main advantages of this institute, which promotes the pan-African dimension articulated in the AU's Agenda 2063.

The Commissioner and the President of the PAU Council, Professor Kenneth Matengu, held another meeting with programme coordinators. Acknowledging the great relevance of PAU and its philosophy, they raised some issues relating to brain drain, and underscored the need for the AU Commission to address the absorption of students into the administration of their home countries.

With regard to the peculiarities of the Pan-African University, the Chairperson of the PAU Council enlightened programme coordinators on the paradigm shift that is currently implemented in all PAU institutes, and where entrepreneurship is given major importance in order to train job creators and not just job seekers.

The Commissioner also visited the facilities of the new PAULESI building which was inaugurated on 4 March 2022 during a reception ceremony in which the ESTI Department was represented. He also visited the old building and expressed great satisfaction, while wishing PAULESI all the best.

2. IITA



On 5 April 2022, H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine visited the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), a partner institution of the Pan African University (PAU), working collaboratively with PAULESI in Agricultural research.

IITA is a non-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, it improves livelihoods, enhances food and nutrition security, increases employment, and preserves natural resource integrity.

Following the welcome address by Dr. Kenton Dashiell, DDG, Partnerships for Delivery, and the projection of documentary on the role of IITA in promoting quality agriculture across the continent, the AU Commissioner for ESTI appreciated IITA's unflinching support to PAULESI, especially by letting its students use its facilities and laboratories within the framework of their research works.

Referring to the current crisis between Russia and Ukraine, he laid emphasis on the negative impact it could have on the continent with regard to food security. He therefore commended the work of IITA in striving for better agricultural production for sustainable development.

Welcoming the Commissioner's message, IITA officials said the institute also focuses on agricultural entrepreneurship, as the future of the continent relies on agriculture. They also expressed the wish to strengthen collaboration with AUC through a Memorandum of Understanding, mentioning that they are already working with the AU Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD). Several presentations on agricultural topics were made, and the delegation met PAULESI students working there for their research works.



These students underscored the relevance of their research in fostering sustainable and quality agriculture on the continent.

Natacha Julienne Quenum is currently working to evaluate the genetic potential of existing taro varieties in Benin through agro-morphological and molecular characterisation. Her research will contribute to the conservation of endangered

plant genetic resources in Benin and, above all, open up a path for the development of resistant varieties to combat tragic fungal diseases.

Espérance Kodjia is another student who is working on some African cassava genotypes for carotene yield and Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) resistance. The aim of her study is to improve cassava for high beta-carotene (a precursor of Vitamin A) content through bio fortification to help reduce Vitamin A Deficiency on the continent.

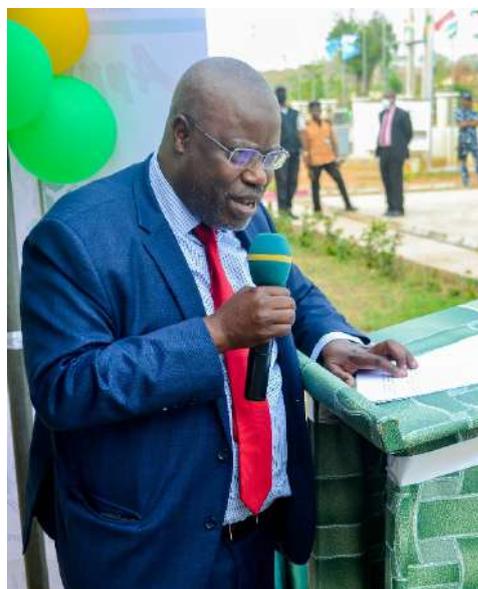
Abdoul-Raouf is another PAULESI student involved in research activities with IITA. His research work focuses on the “Diversity among Phytophthoracolocasiae isolates and Taro [*Colocasiaesculenta* (L.) Schott] Populations from Nigeria and the Republic of Benin and some Prevalent Microflora”. The objective of this work is to revive Taro production in Nigeria and Benin for the development of disease management strategies.

The Commissioner congratulated the students on their innovative and relevant research works that would certainly benefit the whole continent. He wished them well in their studies and left IITA with great satisfaction.

3. UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN: OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF PAULESI ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK BUILDING

The Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, in his capacity as senior coordinating manager of PAU at the level of the African Union Commission, received an invitation from the Director of PAULESI to take part in the official commissioning ceremony of the PAULESI administrative building. It should be recalled that construction works of PAULESI administrative block building started in August 2020, and on 16 November 2020, an AU delegation visited the site to assess the progress made.

From 3 to 5 March 2022, Mr. Hambani Masheleni, Acting Director of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, undertook a mission in PAULESI to honour this invitation on behalf of the CESTI, unable to attend due to circumstances beyond his control. He was accompanied by the PAU Communication Officer, Ms Chancelle Bilampassi, designated as the Rectorate’s representative to the event. The AU Commission was also represented during this ceremony.



In the various addresses, the main speakers hailed the cooperation between the University of Ibadan and PAULESI, and also saluted the Nigerian Government’s support that has been crucial in the completion of construction works.

The administrative block building is made up of nine offices, nine conference and seminar rooms, and other facilities. The ceremony ended with a

tour visit of the building.

B. VISITS TO OFFICIALS IN ABUJA

As the second part of his visit to Nigeria, the AU Commissioner for ESTI was granted an audience by the following government officials, as well as regional partners in Abuja:

- H.E. Dr. Ogonnaya Onu, Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation;
- H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Director of Human Resource Management in the Ministry of Education, representing H.E Mallam Adamu Adamu, Honourable Minister of Education;
- Dr. Mamadu Jao Commissioner for Education, Science, and Culture, ECOWAS;
- H.E. Amb. Rabiun Dagari, Director General of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA);
- Arc Sunday S. T. Echono Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND).

These visits aimed at:

- appreciating the hosting and support availed to the AU institutions: PAULESI and the AU/STRC;
- requesting more financial support for PAULESI with respect to infrastructure and equipment;
- Soliciting for scholarship/sponsorship for more students from the AU Member States to attend the PAU Institutes.

1. THE AU SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL RESEARCH COMMISSION

As part of his working visit to PAULESI, the AU Commissioner for ESTI also met the Executive Director of the AU Scientific Technical Research Commission, a structure placed under the supervision of the African Union ESTI Department, in Abuja. The Executive Director of STRC, Dr. Ahmed Ahmed, presented the strategic plan and statutes of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC), with focus on financial and human resources challenges. He also made a presentation on the current programmes, tasks and activities of the STRC.

The Commissioner on his part emphasized the need to carry out an objective



evaluation of results, if necessary, through an independent assessment body. He also emphasized the need to adopt a systemic approach, in particular by seeking synergistic links with the Pan-African University in order to become a back up and service provider structure to the PAU.

The Commissioner finally urged the STRC to continue working collaboratively with other African Union institutions, such as CDC-Africa in relation to health research, or PAULESI, given their geographical proximity.

2. AUDIENCE WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

On 7 April 2022, the AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, was granted an audience respectively by the Nigerian Minister of Science Technology and Innovation (STI), the Minister of Education and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Meeting with H.E. Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and his collaborators, the Commissioner presented the ESTI Department, the Pan African University (PAU) and the Pan African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences including Health and Agriculture (PAULESI), West African hub of the PAU, hosted by Nigeria. He emphasized on its relevance and added-value to the continent and wished for more Member States' contributions to this AU flagship initiative.

The Commissioner further announced the upcoming Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science Technology and Innovation (STC-ESTI) that will hold very soon and said his department will count on the active participation of Nigeria.

H.E. Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu on his part stressed the relevance of STI for the development of Africa and the need to create an enabling environment for the growth of STI on the continent. He also said that the Ministry of STI is supporting the implementation of AU programmes and intends to keep the momentum. He further mentioned the gradual implementation in Nigeria of the AU Executive Council's decision to allocate 1% of GDP to STI, as it has reached 0.5% of GDP, an improvement compared to previous years.

Thereafter, the Commissioner and his delegation were received by Mr. David Gende, Director of Human Resource Management in the Ministry of Education, representing H.E. Mallam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education.

In his message, the Commissioner thanked the Nigerian Government for hosting the AU Scientific Technical Research Commission (STRC) and PAULESI. He equally appreciated its support and commitment in building the new PAULESI administrative building.

H.E. Belhocine also presented *WorldSkills Africa Swakopmund 2022 (WSAS2022)*, a youth-dedicated event organized by WorldSkills Namibia in partnership with WorldSkills International and the African Union. The AU Commissioner ESTI invited Nigeria to participate in this event for the next editions.

Finally, he announced the Specialized Technical Committee on Science Technology and Innovation (STC-ESTI), which will take place in a few months and expected

Nigeria to actively take part in this event.

On his part, Mr. David Gende took note of the upcoming STC-ESTI. Referring to the *World Skills* event, he revealed that Nigeria has got a national programme enabling the youth to join the market and create added-value through vocational training, hoping that it will reach the international standards soon.

It is worth noting that also attending the audience was a representative of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND). In his address, TETFUND's representative recalled the fund's support for the construction of the PAULESI administrative building. He also said TETFUND was ready to promote PAULESI and the entrepreneurship club.

The third Member of Government the AU Commissioner for ESTI met, was H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

H.E. Onyeama commended the meetings the Commissioner had with the Ministers of STI and Education, following the Commissioner's briefing on these meetings. During the discussion, the Minister underlined that Nigeria had redefined its STI policy, based on a new vision and roadmap which could be harnessed for the development of the continent. He underscored the need for African States to rethink STI, underscoring that Government's allocation to STI, research and development should be increased to 2% of GDP.

In the same vein, he said there is a need for Africa to lay more emphasis on food security, vocational training, innovation and entrepreneurship, by increasing the budget of education. According to him, strong political awareness is needed to transform the continent.

The AU Commissioner for ESTI and his delegation pledged to continue liaising and working with their Nigerian counterparts to implement the commitments made by both sides during the visit.

3. PARTNERS

Still on 7 April 2022 in Abuja, Prof. Belhocine had talks with H.E. Mamadú Jao, ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of education, science and culture, on ways to strengthen cooperation between the African Union and ECOWAS on education, science, technology and innovation.



Addressing this issue, the AU Commissioner for ESTI hoped ECOWAS's support to advancing the Agenda 2063 in the field of education will increase in the future, with a direct impact on Africa's prosperity.

Taking the floor, H.E. Jao revealed that his department is currently focused on harmonizing the educational

system of ECOWAS Member States, through the implementation of the Regional Programme on Education.

Another major project included ECOWAS Programme on Academic Mobility, geared towards improving access to education in fields that are of strategic importance to the sub-region.

Underscoring the centrality of education, he stressed that ECOWAS and AU needed to work collaboratively on capacity building, science, technology, innovation and research.

As concerns difficulties, the ECOWAS Commissioner stressed that challenges are mostly financial and human resources-oriented. He was ready to establish stronger cooperation ties with the AU for better impact on the field. He therefore announced that ECOWAS would be conducting a working mission in Addis Ababa in the days ahead.

The two commissioners agreed to continue the dialogue and explore possible avenues for cooperation in areas of common interest.

II. WORKING VISIT TO KENYA

In the second phase of his mission to the Pan African University Institutes, the Commissioner for ESTI undertook a working visit in Kenya from 24 to 27 April 2022.



Exemplifying Excellence

He was accompanied by:

- Mr. Hambani Masheleni, Acting Director – ESTI;
- Prof. Kenneth K. Matengu, PAU Council President;
- Ms. Chancelle Bilampassi, PAU Communication Officer
- Mr. Gilles Ogandaga, Academic and Students Affairs Officer;
- A representative of the Embassy of Kenya

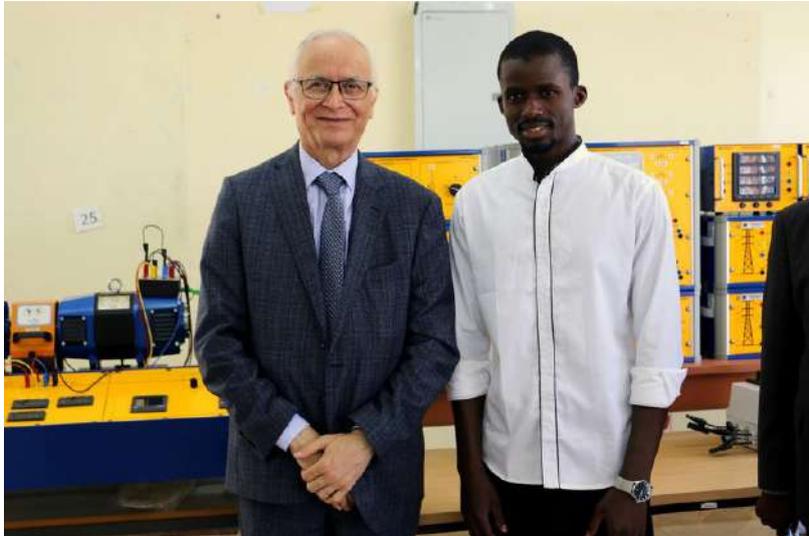
In addition to meeting PAUSTI management staff, the delegation was received at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and the Ministry of Education.

A. PAUSTI

On 25 April 2022, the Commissioner for ESTI and his delegation held a meeting with PAUSTI



management. In his address, Prof. Gabriel Magoma, Director of PAUSTI, presented the current situation of the Institute at the executive, pedagogic and infrastructure levels.



Prof. Belhocine congratulated the PAUSTI management for aptly organizing the meeting with the African Union Vice-President, H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa. The Commissioner also highlighted the need to get the African private sector supporting the Pan African University. He also had talks with the representative of PAUSTI

staff, as well as with new students. In an open discussion with PAUSTI first year students, key concerns were highlighted, including the integration of PAU products into the job market in a general context marked by joblessness and underemployment.

In response to these preoccupations, the Commissioner for ESTI called on new students to have confidence in their potentials and to take advantage of opportunities availed by the Pan African University to better training and education to the African youth.

The Commissioner also visited laboratories used by PAUSTI and had a discussion with students using the equipment therein.

This equipment was acquired with the financial assistance of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the support of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), key partners of the Pan African University.

Some students made presentations on the way they use the said equipment for their research. Ifeoluwa D. Gbala, a PAUSTI student, presented her research work on “Recombinant antimicrobial Peptides Derives from Spinach and Actinomyces sp. Exhibit Broad Spectrum Antimicrobial activity against Multi-Drug Resistant Pathogens”. She explained the whole process of her research and described the gist of their results. She expressed gratitude to PAU for having had this opportunity.

Thierno Amadou Mouctar, telecommunication engineer and web developer from Guinea, who joined PAUSTI in 2020, also presented a demonstration to the AU delegation in the electrical engineering laboratory.

The Commissioner commended the great innovative spirit of students and encouraged them to keep the momentum in order to provide African solutions to African challenges.

In all, issues raised during this meeting included collaboration with CEMASTEAM, strengthening of mathematics teaching at primary level, scholarship extension, recruitment of part-time lecturers by program coordinators, and recruitment of long-term staff.

B. THE JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY



The Commissioner for ESTI also met the Vice-Chancellor of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi.

H.E. Prof. Belhocine hailed JKUAT for their constant support to PAUSTI and revealed that there was no better place to host PAUSTI, given the sound experience of this University in technology, science and innovation.

C. GOVERNMENT: MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

During his working visit to PAUSTI in Kenya, H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine was granted an audience at the Ministry of Education on 26 April 2022. He was received by the representative of the Minister, H.E. Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi, Principal Secretary, working at the State Department for University Education and Research.

Several issues were addressed: the Kenyan Government assistance for the construction of an international students' hostel; the impact of the Russia/Ukraine crisis on food security and energy supply in Africa, ESTI key programmes, harnessing Kenya's experience for the Skills Initiative event, rethinking mathematics teaching, just to name these few.

As a response to these various concerns, Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi, representative of the Minister of Education, said Africa must believe in best practices. He welcomed the idea of constructing a students' hostel and suggested to contact the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), which is an international organization, located at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), also hosting PAUSTI.

As concerns strengthening the teaching of mathematics, Ambassador Nabukwesi said it could only be solved through a better methodology.

The two officials also discussed issues relating to internship opportunities for PAUSTI students.

III. WORKING VISIT TO CAMEROON

The AU Commissioner for ESTI and his delegation carried out their working mission in Cameroon from 10 to 14 May 2022, as the third destination of their tour into the Pan African University Institutes.

A. MEETING WITH THE PAN UNIVERSITY RECTORATE

The Commissioner visited the Rectorate of the Pan-African University (PAU) where he received, among others, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buea, Professor Ngomo Horrace Manga, and Mr. Ngandu Sébastien, Coordinator of the Translation, Interpretation and Cross-Border Languages programme at the PAUGHSS campus in Buea. The adoption of Swahili as the 5th working language of the African Union was the main topic of discussion. The two protagonists thus recognised the need to adapt the training currently provided, with regard to this new situation.

B. PAUGHSS

During a meeting with the PAUGHSS management, headed by the Director, Prof. Elizabeth Abenga, the AU officials discussed several issues regarding the situation of the Institute (current status, statistics, challenges and perspectives).

In an open discussion with PAUGHSS new students, the Commissioner provided them with guidance on how to tackle their research works appropriately. He also visited the premises of the Institutes, including the library where he was welcome by the reading of a poem.

C. MEETING WITH THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE 2



Later, the Commissioner for ESTI was received by the Rector of the University of Yaoundé II, Prof. Adolphe Minkoa She. The two officials rejoiced at the fruitful collaboration and peaceful cohabitation between PAUGHSS and the university. Both

parties wished that the synergy between the University of Yaounde II and PAUGHSS be strengthened at the intellectual, sports and cultural levels with the participation of PAUGHSS students in the major conferences of the University of Yaounde II. Moreover, Prof. Minkoa She announced the allocation of 6 hectares of land to PAUGHSS for the establishment of its campus.



D. MEETING WITH CAMEROON'S GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

In the sidelines of his working visit to Cameroon, the AU Commissioner for ESTI was granted an audience by the following Members of Government:

- H.E. Felix Mbayu, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in charge of the Commonwealth;
- Professor Ebellè Etamè Madeleine, Secretary General at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation and personal representative of the Minister, H.E. Madeleine Tchuenté;
- H.E. Dr. Asheri Kilo, Secretary of State to the Minister of Basic Education;
- H.E. Pr. Pauline Nalova Lyonga, Minister of Secondary Education;
- H.E. Prof. Jacques Fame NDONGO, Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education;
- H.E. Issa Tchiroma Bakary, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training.

Addressing the Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations, the AU Commissioner for ESTI expressed the AU's gratitude to the Government of Cameroon for its diplomatic and security assistance provided to PAUGHSS staff and students.

At the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Prof. Belhocine and the Representative of the Minister focused on Cameroon's pharmacopeia.

With the Secretary of State, Dr. Asheri Kilo, the AU official discussed Cameroon's experience of peace education and inclusive schools, as well as the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in schools.

At the Ministry of Secondary Education, the two academics mentioned the importance of distance learning, and how the Pan African Virtual and E-University (PAVEU) could link to high schools.

To the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, the AU Commissioner thanked the Cameroon Government for the annual allocation of FCFA 260 million to PAUGHSS, and for the kick-off of construction works of the PAU Rectorate's new building of the PAU Rectorate.

Meeting with the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, Mr. Issa Tchiroma Bakary, the Commissioner was briefed on the government's strategies to support the youth in seeking employment. The authorities were of the opinion that the matching of training and employment would reduce youth unemployment. Other issues discussed during this meeting included the creation of incubation centres and other training centres for industrial trades, as well as the Africa Talks Jobs initiative, a programme set up by NEPAD to exchange innovative and successful approaches to supporting young Africans in practical-oriented higher education.

During the various meetings with government authorities, the Commissioner advocated for the provision of internship opportunities for PAUGHSS students. He also informed his various hosts of the forthcoming Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-ESTI) whose rotating chairmanship will be reserved for Central Africa.

Following these various audiences, the AU Commission for ESTI visited the construction site of the Pan African University Rectorate on 13 May 2022 in Nkolmefou, not far from the Yaounde-Nsimalen International Airport. He was welcomed on the site by the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Prof. Jacques Fame Ndongo.

The gigantic building that will house the PAU Rectorate will comprise seven flats, five floors, a basement and 120 rooms. It will include a five-storey main building and a two-storey residence hotel. It will also include a conference hall, a parking lot, toilets, a restaurant, an administrative quarter, a leisure centre, a playground, a health centre and the Rector's residence. The budget allocated by the Cameroonian Government for the completion of these works amounts to 8,833,152,883 CFA francs



The ongoing construction is part of the implementation of the Host Agreement on the PAU Rectorate between the State of Cameroon and the African Union Commission on 5 April 2018. The construction of the Rectorate of the four PAU institutes began in November 2019. The work slowed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but has resumed and is now at 22% execution rate. The Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far for the building to be completed by November 2023

To sum up, the following points were brainstormed upon during the working visit in Cameroon:

- allocation of 6 hectares of land to PAUGHSS by the University of Yaounde II
- constant allocation of FCFA 263 million francs by the Cameroonian Government to PAUGHSS on an annual basis
- need for a digital library at PAUGHSS
- internship opportunities to PAUGHSS students in ministries
- linking PAVEU to Cameroonian secondary education schools
- including Swahili in the curricula of translators and interpreters at PAUTRAIN
- establishment of a scientific journal at PAUGHSS
- recruitment of the Rector and Vice Rector
- participation of PAUGHSS students in the Major Conferences of the University of Yaounde II.
- pending MOUs
- the institute accommodation in classrooms, office space and office furniture and equipment
- incessant water shortage
- insufficient Security in the night and week-ends
- maintenance of premises and surroundings
- insufficient academic augmentation resources: Internet, learned exchanges, hardware and software for (LMS, e- library)

IV. WORKING VISIT IN ALGERIA

Algeria was the last destination of the delegation led by the Commissioner for ESTI. The working visit took place from 21 May to 1 June 2022.

A. PAUWES

On 22 May 2022, the Commissioner in charge of Education, Science and Technology and Innovation (ESTI), H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine and his delegation took part in the oath taking ceremony of the 8th cohort of PAUWES students. Also attending were Mr. Amoumen Mermouri, Wali of Tlemcen, Prof. Mourad Meghachou, Rector of the Abou Bekr Belkaïd University of Tlemcen, Prof. Abdellatif Zerga, Director of the Pan-African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change (PAUWES), as well as the staff and various guests.

In his message, the Commissioner congratulated the new comers for successfully passing the test into PAUWES. He urged them to uphold the pan African values throughout their stay and careers.

H.E. Mohammed Belhocine equally saluted the PAUWES management team for striving to increase year after year, country representation and gender balance.

He pledged to ensure that Africa, through PAU/PAUWES, produces as many future African leaders, decision-makers, change agents and solution-makers to implement Agenda 2063.

Meanwhile, the incoming students committed themselves to exemplary behaviour throughout their studies at PAUWES, towards the hierarchy, the staff and the property of the Institute.

In all, during his stay in PAUWES, a number of issues were tabled before the AU Commissioner for ESTI. They are as follows:

- granting of an architectural complex to PAUWES by the Algerian government through the host institute, University Abou Bekr Belkaïd of Tlemcen;
- Privileges and immunities of the institute's staff;
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan-African University and IncubeMe;
- Partnership between PAUWES and ESSAT;
- Partnership between PAUWES and I2E;
- Internship opportunities to PAUGHSS students in ministries;
- Sharing of Algeria's experience in education in the RACA.

B. THE UNIVERSITY OF TLEMCCEN

During his working visit to Algeria, the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, visited PAUWES new premises granted by the Abou Bekr Belkaïd University of Tlemcen. In addition to his delegation, he was accompanied by Prof. Mourad Meghachou, Rector of the institute's host university, the Director of PAUWES, Prof. Abdellatif Zerga, and the Wali of Tlemcen, Mr Amoumène Mermouri.

These brand-new buildings to PAUWES fell within the framework of the host government's commitment to provide secure structures as well as furnished and equipped offices at its own expense.

The new buildings are comprised of two amphitheatres, an administrative block and a library.

The Commissioner thanked the Rector of the host university, the competent Algerian authorities and the Wali of Tlemcen for these magnificent buildings with their refined architecture.

Once equipped, the Commissioner will return to Algeria for the actual reception of the buildings.

Other universities visited included l'Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediene (USTHB) ; l'Université d'Alger 3 Ibrahim Sultan Cheibout ; l'Université Alger 2 Abou El Kacem Saadallah.

At these three academic institutions, the Commissioner, taking advantage of the celebration of Africa Day on 25 May 2022, briefed students and lecturing staff on the functioning of the African Union, the mandate of the department under his supervision, the Pan-African University and the policy and strategic frameworks

C. AUDIENCE WITH ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



The AU Commissioner met several government authorities in Alger:

- H.E. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Prof Benattou Ziane, Minister for Energy Transition;
- H.E. Abdelhakim Belaabed, Minister of Education;
- H.E. Merabbi Yassine, Minister of Vocational Training;
- H.E. Prof. Abdelbaki Benziane, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

As part of his working mission to Algeria from 21st May to 1st June 2022, the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, following his working visit to the Pan-African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change (PAUWES), travelled to the capital city of Algiers where he met with Algerian authorities and other stakeholders in the fields of education, new information and communication technologies and entrepreneurship.





The first audience was granted to him by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ramtane Lamamra, who has sound knowledge of the African Union, having been Commissioner in charge of peace and security issues. The latter was delighted to learn of the considerable progress made by PAU since its creation, notably that of PAUWES.

The second authority the Commissioner met was the Minister for Energy Transition, Prof. Benattou Ziane. In view of the similarities between the mandate of this Ministry and the areas of specialisation of PAUWES, the Commissioner expressed the wish to see a partnership between this Ministry and PAUWES, in particular through the granting of academic internships to PAUWES students.

The Commissioner also met the Minister of Education, Mr Abdelhakim BELAABED, who presented the innovations introduced in the Algerian education system, which the Commissioner greatly appreciated. The Commissioner also met the Minister of Vocational Training, Mr. MERABBI YASSINE, and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Prof. Abdelbaki BENZIANE.

The various Ministers presented their ministerial departments and their mandates and shared their experiences.

On his part, the Commissioner wished to see cooperation strengthened between the various ministries and PAUWES and advocated for the granting of academic internships to PAUWES students, who in turn could share their expertise with the ministries.

The Commissioner's stay in Algiers was also marked by a visit to major Universities in Algiers, namely l'Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediene (USTHB); l'Université d'Alger 3 Ibrahim Sultan Cheibout; l'Université Alger 2 Abou El Kacem Saadallah. At these three academic institutions, the Commissioner, taking advantage of the celebration of Africa Day on 25 May 2022, briefed students and lecturing staff on the functioning of the African Union, the mandate of the department under his supervision, the Pan-African University and the policy and strategic frameworks implemented in education at the ESTI department. It was an opportunity for him to renew his acquaintance with amphitheatres, as he is a lecturer by profession.

The Commissioner also honoured the invitation of the promoters of the IncubMe incubator who presented their new continental incubation project for young Africans with innovative ideas.

He ended his stay in Algeria by taking part in the Digital African Summit, a platform for continental ICT and digital stakeholders.

On his part, the Commissioner wished to see cooperation strengthened between these ministries and PAUWES and advocated for the granting of academic internships to PAUWES students, who in turn could share their expertise with the ministries.

D. PARTNERS

On 23 May 2022, H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine also went to the I2E incubation centre of the University of Tlemcen.

I2E, which stands for Innovation-Entrepreneurship-Employability, is an incubation centre that supports students through technology and innovation. It aims to help students create their companies or start-ups and develop their personal skills to succeed in the job market, for those who wish to find a job.

The free assistance provided by this incubator includes, amongst others: the elaboration of business plans, market research, the design of business models, administrative and legal support during financial procedures, etc. For students seeking employment, the incubator helps them develop career plans.

The Commissioner strongly commended the management of the incubation centre as well as the hierarchy of the University for the implementation of such a centre which, in his view, should be duplicated across the continent.

He also stressed the need for a partnership between PAU, especially PAUWES and I2E.

H.E. Prof. Belhocine also visited the Maison de l'étudiant (Student house) and the Science club, where he was able to see the students' scientific projects at first hand. He gave them a lot of advice and briefly discussed the subject of innovation.



On 25 May 2022, the AU Commissioner for ESTI met Incubme, an incubator and accelerator created in Algiers in 2018 to solve the problems faced by entrepreneurs and idea holders to get their startup or idea off the ground. The Start-up provides all the necessary tools to develop startups with the added bonus of mentoring and partnership opportunities with other companies.

In the near future, areas of collaboration will emerge between the African Union and IncubeMe, which will also partner with PAUWES in line with the paradigm shift within the Pan-African University to make students not just job seekers, but also job creators.