WAI Director General participates in the Conference of African Humanities (CAH), Bamako, Mali, 28 June - 1 July 2017

At the invitation of the General Coordinator of the Conference of African Humanities (CAH), WAI Director General, Prof. Djénéba Traoré, took part in the regional meeting which took place from 28 June to 1 July 2017 at the Salam Hotel in Bamako on the theme: «Languages, Cultures, History and Territories».

The Amilcar Cabral Foundation, also invited to the Conference, was represented by Dr. André Corsino Tolentino, former Minister of Education of the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Co-organized by the Government of the Republic of Mali and UNESCO, the event gathered eminent specialists in Letters, Arts and Humanities from 27 African States, 38 resource persons and several representatives of the African diaspora, as well as Malian social and political stakeholders. The participants examined the specific contribution of the African continent to the reconstruction of the Humanities in a world characterized by an increasing globalization of exchanges and major cultural transformations.

It should be noted that the holding of the Conference was also part of the preparation of the World Humanities Conference (WHC), to be held in Liege (Belgium) from 6 to 12 August 2017.

The sub-themes addressed during the CAH were as follows:

- Languages, cultures and education: cultural heritage, colonial school and language barriers, endogenous and local knowledge, education and the need for universal knowledge.
- History, territories, migrations and conflicts: ancient traditions of displacement, intra- and inter-state migration, conflicts and identity shocks, exploitation of resources and international migrations.

- Democracy, institutional crises and religious radicalism.

- Presentation of the Foundations Amilcar Cabral, Cheickh Anta Diop and Joseph Ki-Zerbo and the Cultural Movement Nko.

During the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister of Mali Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga, on behalf of the President of the Republic, expressed the satisfaction of the highest national authorities, to see Bamako hosting an event of such importance. The Head of the Malian Government also stressed the need to include the African humanities in a global project of refoundation based on the internal and external potentialities of the African continent.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mali, Professor Assétou Samaké Mignan, expressed in turn her satisfaction further to the holding in Mali of this outstanding Conference and assured the participants of the support of her Department in Implementation and monitoring of this hopeful initiative for a better world.

The General Coordinator of the CAH, Mr. Adama Samassékou, former Minister of Education of Mali, Honorary President of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPEH) and founder of the concept of the CAH and the World Conference of Humanities, explained the purpose of his approach and emphasized the current priorities, importance, scope and stakes of this unprecedented conference on the role of the Humanities in resolving current crises.

The opening ceremony also recorded the speeches of the Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee of the WHC, Prof. Jean Winaud and Dr. John Crowley, representing UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for HS.

One of the key events of the Conference's agenda was the meeting on 30 June between HE Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Kéïta, Head of State of Mali and all the participants who came to acknowledge him for his leadership and his actions in favor of the protection of Malian and African culture.

WAI Director General intervened in the panel entitled «National languages in the digital age». In her presentation, she addressed some aspects of her personal experience in the field of scientific research on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and stressed that African languages had to fill more space on the web through innovative contents.

In agreement with Dr. Tolentino, Prof. Djénéba Traoré also presented the objectives of the Amilcar Cabral Foundation and gave an insight into the life, work and heritage of the national hero of the Independence of the Republics of Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau whose political class and youth and people from Africa and worldwide have been inspired by the carismatic Leader.

WAI Director General finally produced a written paper on the theme «Languages, Cultures and Education», focusing on the state of arts and the perspectives for these three major elements for the socio-economic
development in Africa based on the case study of Mali. Paying tribute to UNESCO for the publication of a series of volumes on the General History of Africa, she highlighted the knowledge of the history of the African continent written by renowned historians such as:

1. Cheikh Anta Diop (historian, Senegal). *La civilisation africaine et l’Égypte antique*
2. Ahmadou Hampâté Bâ (historian and writer, Mali)
3. Théophile Obenga (historian, Republic of Congo): Afrocentricity
4. Joseph Ki-Zerbo (historian, Burkina Faso)
5. Elikia M’Bokolo (historian, Democratic Republic of Congo)
6. Boubou Hama (historian, Niger)
7. Hichem Djait (historian, Tunisia)
8. Pathé Dianne (political scientist and linguist, Senegal)
9. Christophe Wondji (historian, Ivory Coast)
10. Djibril Tamsir Niane (Historian, Guinea-Conakry)
11. Bethwell Allan Ogot (historian, Kenya)
12. J. F. Ade Ajayi (historian, Nigeria)
13. Akin Mabogunje (historian and geograph, Nigeria)
14. Albert Adu Boahen Kwadwo (historian, Ghana)
15. Ali Al’amin Mazrui (historian, Kenya)

At the end of the Conference, which was marked by quality contributions and constructive exchanges, the participants made recommendations to the key actors in the process of valorisation and promotion of African humanities, in particular the African Union, African States, African universities and UNESCO.

Liege is scheduled for the World Conference of Humanities, from 6 to 12 August 2017.

For more information on the Humanities, see the following links:

**Master Program in African Regional Integration: WAI Director General holds a Training Seminar at Uni-CV, 10-14 July 2017**

The African continent needs today more than ever strong institutions. The Master Program in African Regional Integration (MARI), aims therefore at reinforcing the capacity of organizations working on Regional Integration issues. Through the practical focus of the modules, graduates will develop skills in research, critical analysis, negotiation, strategic planning, preparation of reports, policy implementation, scientific writing and paper presentations.

The objective of the Program is to train a new generation of elites capable to successfully promote and achieve the process of regional integration in Africa. This requires particularly solid knowledge in the field of regional integration within the various bodies of the Regional Economic Communities (REGs).

Started in January 2017 at the University of Cabo Verde (*Universidade de Cabo Verde* - Uni-CV) under the responsibility of Prof. Dr. Odair Barros-Varela, in his capacity as Academic Director of the Program, the series of lecturing scheduled for the first semester have been closed at the end of the month of July 2017.

In the framework of the first semester program, WAI Director General, was invited to a one week lecturing on the theme: Management of Regional Integration and Practical
Skills at the School of Business and Governance (Escola de Negócios e Governação - ENG). From July 10th to 14th, 2017, Prof. Djénéba Traoré addressed the following issues with a focus on the role of Higher Education and Scientific Research to enhance the process of regional integration and social transformations in Africa:

- The Challenges of Regional Integration in Africa and a retrospective overview on the history of the continent.
- The Challenges of Higher Education in Africa and the prospects of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) Integration.
- ECOPOST, ECOWAS Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.
- WAI Experience on Regional Integration and Social Transformation in West Africa.

The lecturing has shown that the MARI scholars are highly interested in the Program. They hope to build their capacity in Regional Integration in order to be able to effectively take part in the process at the level of Regional Organizations once they have graduated.

To this end, the West Africa Institute (WAI); acknowledging the West African Development Bank (Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement -BOAD) for its financial support, launches an appeal to all potential financing Institutions to support the Master Program in African Regional Integration, the first academic Program to be implemented in a West African University, the University of Cabo Verde, in partnership with WAI and the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI), Bonn University, Germany.

For the 38 Years of the Declaration of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - ACRIDES invites the Director General of WAI to its Commemoration Conference, Praia, Cabo Verde, July 24, 2017

At the invitation of Mrs. Lourença Tavares, President of ACRIDES - (Associação de Crianças Desfavorecidas - Association of Disadvantaged Children), the Director General of WAI, Prof. Djénéba Traoré, presented a contribution in the framework of the Conference commemorating the thirty-eight years (20 July 1979 - 2017) of the Declaration of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, organized for this purpose, July 24, 2017 at the Pestana Trópico hotel in Praia.

With the theme: «Cultural Practices and Children's Rights in Cabo Verde: What Relations and Challenges?», The session pursued the following two objectives:

1. Reflect on the application of the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Cabo Verde;
2. Explore possible challenges to cultural practices and respect for children's rights.

The participants came from civil society, including representatives of children, higher education and international organizations.
In her presentation entitled «History and importance of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child», Prof. Traoré emphasized the main characteristics of the African child’s situation as well as the analysis of the content of the Charter.

The PowerPoint presentation is available here. At the end of the reflections carried out, ACRIDES brought together the following recommendations formulated by the participants to the attention to the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde and all actors concerned.

4th World Economic Development Forum Praia - Republic of Cabo Verde, 17-20 October 2017

In partnership with the National Organizing Committee and the Executive Secretariat of the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development (LED), the staff of the Executive Secretariat of the West African Institute (WAI) is actively involved in the logistic preparation for the Forum that the City of Praia will host from 17th to 20th October 2017.

Mrs Vanilde Lopes, Executive Assistant at WAI contributes to the translation of documents and the practical organization of the activities of the Forum, while Mr Renato Frederico, Deputy Administrative Assistant, supports the participants’ Nelson Mandela International Airport. Mr. Marcio Junior, Assistant Webmaster, is responsible of local transport (Airport / Hotel / Forum / City of Praia and around the island of Santiago).

The Director General of WAI, Professor Djénéba Traoré was invited by the Scientific Committee of the Forum to hold a conference on one of the selected themes for the interactive panels.
For more information on the 4th World Economic Development Forum, see the videos below:

Statement by HE Dr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva
Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN68pGkkSA8

Message from Madam Francisca Santos, President of the 4th FMDEL National Organizing Committee and some key stakeholders
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7xMLwVII9U

Message from Madam Ulrika Richardson, UNDP Resident Representative in Cabo Verde
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvB6zdUrThI

Presentation of the Forum
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvB6zdUrThI

Presentation of the islands of Cabo Verde
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVvYp0DJX6c

WAI Director General takes part in the BMBF International Evaluation Panel, 11-12 September 2017, Bonn, Germany

At the invitation of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung - BMBF), the Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Prof. Djénéba Traoré took part as member in the BMBF international panel in charge of selecting the best collaboration proposal in the field of human and social sciences between Germany and one Subsaharan African country.

Background: In 2012, the BMBF launched the ‘Framework Programme for the Humanities, Cultural Sciences and Social Sciences’. One of the major objectives of the Framework Programme is to foster the internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences and to give researchers greater freedom to develop their work across the borders of countries and disciplines. A core element of the internationalisation are the ‘International Centres for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences’ (‘Maria Sibylla Merian Centres’). The centres will enable researchers to study specific issues from various disciplinary perspectives within a closely cooperating group based outside Europe.
According to the BMBF, strengthening research cooperation between Germany and the selected African country in the field of the humanities and social sciences will stable ties between researchers in both regions. Thus, experts from both countries will work together as partners and in an intercultural dialogue.

In response to the BMBF call for proposals, five consortia of applicants submitted their applications for funding of a preliminary phase of an International Centre for Advanced Studies; three for a Centre in South Africa, one for a Centre in Cameroon and Ghana.

The proposals have been evaluated on September 11th and 12th, 2017 in the BMBF Headquarters in Bonn by an external panel of international experts on the basis of reviews, internal discussions, and a hearing.

The evaluation panel consisted of:

- Two peer reviewers per proposal for the evaluation of the research topic and programme of the proposed International Centre,
- Two peer reviewers for the evaluation of all the five proposals from a comparative perspective with regard to questions of organisation and feasibility,
- Experts on science and academia in Subsaharan-Africa from the Humboldt Foundation, DFG, DAAD and DLR.

At the end of the two-day-workshop, the panel agreed to select one project. The BMBF will publish the name of the unanimously selected consortium after the complete validation process.

**The Director General of WAI takes part in the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development, Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde, 17 - 20 October 2017**

The Director General of WAI takes part in the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development, Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde, 17 - 20 October 2017

At the invitation of the Scientific Committee of the National Organizing Commission of the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development held in Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde, from October 17 to 20, 2017, the Director General of WAI, Prof. Djénéba Traoré, participated on October 19 in the panel entitled: «Facilitating cohesion in and between territories: an alternative or complementary role for national (or supranational) and local policies?»

The panel consisted of the following speakers:

- M. Santiago Gallo, Counselor, National Confederation of Municipalities, Brazil
- M. Gerardo Rodrigez, Office of Planning and Budget of the National Government, Uruguay
- M. Sidi Khalifa, National Expert on Decentralization and Local Development, UNDP, Mauritania
- M. Rocio Molina, Counselor, Cochabamba, Bolivia
- M. Pablo Rodríguez Valido, Vice President and Minister of Public Service and Transport in the Government of the Canary Islands, Spain
Prof. Djénéba Traoré, Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Praia, Cabo Verde

Mrs. Elcira Berrutti, in charge of Territorial Development Programs, UNDP Uruguay, moderated the session.

During her speech, the Director General of the WAI thanked the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde, the National Organizing Commission and the Executive Committee of the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development (WFLED) and underlined the importance of the present Forum as key component in the process of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with maximum efficiency, as there is a real urgency, the deadline being 2030.

Prof. Djénéba Traoré addressed the following issues:

Reminder of the SDGs: Eradicate poverty and hunger in the world; Provide quality education and health for all; Enable access for all to renewable energies at an affordable cost; Fight against climate changes; Guarantee decent work and economic growth; Work for the protection of aquatic life; Promote industrialization; Protect the environment; Reduce inequalities; Ensure peace, justice and effective institutions; Establish equality between the sexes; Establish sustainable cities and communities; Give access to all to drinking water; Promote consumption and responsible production; Establish partnerships to achieve goals.

These objectives contribute to social, economic and territorial cohesion. The inequalities existing in and between the territories force greater solidarity based on respect from the more affluent territories to those whose means are limited. Therefore, in order to strengthen social bonds and sustainable economic development in and between territories, we propose to implement the following actions:

Recognize and respect the history and cultures of different peoples;

Promoting higher education and scientific research: Universities and research centers must be placed at the service of development - likewise, lecturers-researchers must be privileged actors of local development;

Ensure the equitable sharing, at the local and national levels, of the dividends of economic growth;

Guarantee access to electricity for all. The economic development of Africa in particular is strongly impacted by the lack of energy resources;

Joining the digital gap between localities, countries and regions;

Develop local, national, regional and continental modes of transportation;

Applying principles of equity in Internet access to reduce the digital division between rural and urban areas, developing countries and industrialized countries.

Promoting a virtuous and inspiring governance for the youth: example of Cabo Verde: Amilcar Cabral national hero and Pedro Pires, former President of the Republic and winner of the 2011 Mo Ibrahim Award.

Socio-economic development takes place at all levels: family unit, local communities, nation, regions and continents.

It is unanimously recognized that we have a global deficit in terms of social, economic and territorial cohesion. Therefore, what strategies can we put in place to strengthen the social links between all components of local communities, the nation, regions and continents in order to improve living and working conditions of the populations?

Greetings are an important part of social cohesion. They can forge strong bonds between members of the same family, the same community, the same nation, etc.
It seems that the first element of social cohesion is communication. Indeed, according to some anthropologists, it is she who has largely favoured psychomotor development and human intelligence, from prehistory to the present time. Therefore, we need to communicate better and transmit positive values at the level of families, local communities, nation, regions and continents. One could imagine, for example, the use of family reunions and consultations between representatives of the local authorities and the population to address certain important issues, set priorities and return the whole to the legislative power to translate them into legislative and regulatory texts.

Cohesion being a prodigious engine of development, we also offer good practices of mutual assistance and solidarity at all levels and take great care of the public good, the acceptance of the one who is different as a constancy benevolence to in regard to his neighbour. To this end, we can quote the Charter of Kuruka Fuga which was solemnly proclaimed by Soundjata Kéïta during his enthronement as Emperor of Mali in 1236, after his victory over Soumaoro Kanté during the Battle of Kirina.

This Charter, which preached living together within the vast Mandé Empire, the respect to be observed between people from different social and professional strata, social justice, mutual aid, love of the homeland, respect for women, taking up the challenge of the end and end of captivity, was inscribed in 2009 by UNESCO on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Facilitating cohesion in and between territories must be first of all a desire clearly expressed by all stakeholders. Its implementation depends on the full responsibility of the local authorities. To be successful, the process must take into account that decisions have actually been made by the grassroots. From there, the summit must ensure the transfer of the necessary human, financial and material resources and ensure, through effective monitoring and evaluation, the efficient implementation of community projects.

Therefore, facilitating cohesion between and in the territories should represent a complementary role for national (or supranational) policies.

What about the cohesion of social and economic policies between regions?

In 2015, the West Africa Institute (WAI) concluded a scientific partnership with the Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion (RISC) - Headquarters: University of Helsinki (Finland) whose presidency is ensured since 2007 by its founder Prof Harlan Koff of the University of Luxembourg.

Two theses, one from the PhD and the other from the Master, which were defended at the University of Luxembourg, focused respectively on: 1) regional integration policies on the free movement of people in Africa taking as an example in Morocco and North America on the basis of the case of Mexico; 2) coherence between EU and ECOWAS policies in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Research has clearly shown that the European Union is not in phase with ECOWAS in relation to its standards for social and economic cohesion on renewable energies.

WAI hosted on 26 and 27 April 2016, the workshop on the project on the Coherence of the Regional Normative Approach.

The topics discussed at the workshop were: Cohesion between regional policies at ECOWAS, SADC, EU, Mercosur and ASEAN countries on human rights and democracy / issues peace and security / renewable energies / gender / free movement / access to water and basic social services etc.

The next meeting of RISC is scheduled in Aguascalientes, Mexico, at the end of October - beginning of November 2017 to continue the reflection on Cohesion and Regions and to guide the work of the students of the affiliated doctoral schools of the Consortium.

Attached is the Concept Note of the Panel established by the Scientific Committee of the 4th WFLED and the brochure on the detailed agenda of the Forum.

ECOWAS Commissioner for Macroeconomic Policies represents the President of the Commission at the 4th LEDWF, Praia, Cabo Verde, 17-20 October 2017
Mandated by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Commissioner Mamadou Traoré in charge of Macroeconomic Policies of ECOWAS took part in the 4th World Forum on Local Economic Development (4th LEDWF) held in Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde.

Within ECOWAS, Commissioner Mamadou Traoré is responsible for planning, coordinating and monitoring programs on economic development, monetary cooperation, multilateral surveillance of convergence and the performance of macroeconomic policies and development of regional strategies.

During the Forum, Commissioner Traoré was a speaker of two high-level panels in plenary sessions. The first panel, held on October 17, was organized by the Government of Cabo Verde and the Government of Spain and focused on “Inclusive and sustainable economies as tools to transform inequalities and inequities - A vision between Latin America and Africa.”

The following personalities took successively the floor:

Mr. Luis Felipe Tavares, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cabo Verde

Mr. Fernando Garcia Casas, Secretary of State for International and Iberoamerican Cooperation, Spain
Mrs. Fekitamoeloa Katoa Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary of the United Nations and Special Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Mr. Parks Tau, President of UCLG
Mr. Mamadou Traoré, Commissioner in charge of Macroeconomic Policy of ECOWAS
Mr. Hugo Siles, Vice Minister of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Mr. Jorge Iván Arciénega Collazos, President of Sucre City Council President of FLACMA
Mr. Pablo Rodriguez Valido, Vice President and Councilor in charge of Public Works and Transport of the Government of the Canary Islands
Mr. Ignacio Caraballo, President of FAMS, Spain

The second panel, held on October 19, moderated by Mrs. Cristina Fontes Lima, former Minister of Health of Cabo Verde, was titled "Strengthening Resilience for a Peaceful and Prosperous World: Local Economic Development (DEL) in Situations of Fragility and Conflict.

The speakers were: Pedro Pires, President of the Pedro Pires Institute and former President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
Mr. Mamadou Traoré, Commissioner in charge of Macroeconomic Policies of ECOWAS
Mr. Patrick Keuleers, Director, Policy Department and Governance and Peacebuilding Support, UNDP
Mr. Siméon Sawadogo, Minister of the Interior, Burkina Faso
Mr. Manel Vila, Director General of Catalan Cooperation, Spain
Mr. Ebert Peltrop, Director of Territorial Planning and External Cooperation, Haiti
In the aftermath of the Forum's activities, Commissioner Mamadou Traoré and the Director General of WAI visited CERMI (Centro de Energias Renováveis and Manutenção Industrial - Center for Renewable Energies and Industrial Maintenance) where he met the Direction.

Commissioner Traoré also paid a courtesy visit to WAI. The exchanges focused on the work carried out by the Institute since its inception, including research projects carried out, scientific publications, capacity building trainings on regional integration, dialogue sessions, and partnerships.

At the end of the constructive sharing between the two sides, the Director General of WAI transmitted Commissioner Traoré a package of documents, including the Institute's 2016-2020 action plan presenting its five-year research program.

Commissioner Traoré in charge of Macroeconomic Policies of ECOWAS promised to pay particular attention to WAI dossier and to provide satisfactory answers to the questions asked.
Professor Djénéba Traoré was invited by the Scientific Committee of the 2017 RISC International Conference and Doctoral School to participate in the academic events on «Integrated and Coherent Sustainable Development» which have been held at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), in Aguascalientes, México, from 30 October to 03 November 2017.

RISC, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary, is the acronym for «Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion».

In addition to attending the conference on 30-31 October, Prof. Harlan Koff, the Chairman of RISC, invited WAI Director General to take part in RISC Consortium business meetings on 1 November as an institutional representative of the West Africa Institute and also to participate as an instructor in the doctoral school, held on 1-3 November 2017.

In conformity with the agenda of the RISC 2017 International Conference, the Director General of WAI held a conference on November 3 on «The Role of Language and Culture in Sustainable Development». As language and culture are the basic building blocks for an inclusive and sustainable development policy, it is important to reflect on ways and means allowing to maximize their impact in this regard.

To give a concrete example of the leading role that language and communication play in the process of sustainable development, Prof. Traoré has taken as an example the effective communication strategy of the Head of the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Prime Minister Dr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva, in the framework of the 4th World Economic Development Forum that the city of Praia hosted on October 17 to 20, 2017.

Here is the PowerPoint presentation on «The Role of Language and Culture in Sustainable Development».
It is now universally recognized that education and training are two sides of the key to development. Countries that have understood this matter of fact at the right time and invested accordingly in the education sector, are currently seeing the appreciable results of this decision.

Thus, Qatar has from the beginning made quality education a priority for its socio-economic development and consolidated this political will by initiating in 2009 an innovative concept called World Innovation Summit for Education - WISE. Taking place annually during the first years, WISE has become a Biennale since 2013.

WISE allows participants, education specialists and stakeholders, from the whole world to meet to share their experiences and discover the major innovations in the sector. WISE can be described in many ways as a space for constructive dialogue among representatives of the five continents.

The theme of the eighth edition of WISE, in which WAI Director General took part, was entitled "Co-exist - Co-Create - Learning to Live and Work Together", held in Doha like the previous ones, from 14 as of November 16, 2017 encompassed a 3-pillar program:

Learning to Learn – New perspectives and practices in teaching and learning;

Co-Existing in a Changing World – Developing skills, attitudes and values to shape tomorrow;

Co-Creating Knowledge Societies: Transitioning from knowledge economies to knowledge societies:

More than 2,000 delegates from around the world took part in this international event.

One of the highlights of WISE was the presentation by the Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser of the WISE Education Award to Dr. Patrick Awuah, Jr., Founder and President. Ashesi University, Accra, Ghana.
Other memorable moments were the poening speech by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, the key note speech by the President of Ghana, HE Nana Akufu-Addo and the addresses of the General Secretary of the United Nations Organizations, Antonio Guterres and the First Lady of Turkey.

Other events marked the eighth education, including:

The Special address of Fareed Zakaria, political journalist at CNN on “Education in a post-truth world” WISE Voices 2017

The presentation of the six new WISE Awards Projects

Authors presentation

New research from the WISE CamBioScience Accelerator

The exhibition

At the closing ceremony, the CEO of WISE, Dr. Stravos N. Yiannouka, unveiled the ambitious WISE program for 2018 as a prelude to the ninth edition to be held in Doha in 2019.
VISITS

West Africa Institute: Visits and Partnerships, July - August 2017

During the months of July and August 2017, the Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI) received successively visits from HE César Monteiro, Ambassador of the Republic of Cabo Verde in Senegal at the end of his mission, Mrs. Vicenta Fernandes, President of the Cab Verdean Association for the Fight against Gender-Based Violence and Mrs. Ekvity dos Santos and Sandra Lima Ambassadors & Founders of Womenise.it.

The meeting with Ambassador Monteiro that took place on July 26, 2017, was focused on the life of the West Africa Institute. Knowing the Institute since the beginning for having contributed to its creation, Mr. Monteiro said that he was available to participate in the scientific activities of WAI and in those of the Master in African Regional Integration (MARI), taught by Uni-CV in January 2017.

Prof. Djénéba Traoré assured Ambassador César Monteiro of the full disposal of WAI to support any proposal or contribution that can promote Cabo Verde's involvement in the process of regional integration in West Africa.

The Director General of WAI was invited to the Consulate of Guinea Bissau in Cabo Verde on August 19th, 2017 by the Consul General, Mr. Cândido Barbosa, at the presentation of the Brazilian agro industrial project SILTOMAC.

The project Coordinator, Mr. Júlio Aponté Té, who presented SILTOMAC informed that a partnership had been developed with ECOWAS and that he proposed to outline this innovative agroindustrial initiative during the 4th World Forum on Local Economic Development, scheduled in Praia, from 17 to 20 October 2017.

The Director General of WAI listened to the presentation with high interest and affirmed that the information would be shared with the National Organizing Commission of the Forum.
The visit of Mrs. Vicenta Fernandes was part of the enlargement procedure of the partnership of the Cab Verdean Association Fighting against Violence Based on Gender (Associação Caboverdiana of Luta Contra Violencia baseada no Género - ACLCVBG) with WAI and further national and international institutions to eradicate violence and promote gender equality.

During the sharing, Mrs. Fernandes indicated that the ACLCVBG, created on May 20, 2015, is headquartered in the city of Praia and has currently the following partners: the Ministry of Justice, ICIEG (Instituto Caboverdiano para a Igualdade e a Equidade de Género), UN Women, the Parliamentary Network of Women, the Presidency of the Republic, the National Police, the Embassy of Luxembourg, etc. and aspires to create delegations in other islands and municipalities in the country.

ACLCVBG objectives are focused on the prevention and promotion of human rights, education for citizenship, prevention and fight against of all forms of violence and discrimination, support to victims of violence based on gender for rapid and specialized access to hospital, police, legal and social protection services.

As highlighted by the President, the ACLCVBG has a proven experience in the field and has already visited several communities and schools to hold conferences and outreach activities. In particular, it has organized a national forum on sexual harassment in the workplace, the first of its kind in Cabo Verde, in partnership with UN Women, ICIEG and the Luxembourg Embassy in Cabo Verde.

Mrs. Vicente, assured that the demand is high at the level of the Island of Santiago and the other islands of the archipelago. She added that the Government in this 9th legislature has specified that it take urgent actions to establish gender equality for women so that in 2030 the percentage of 50/50 can be reached and in 2018 the law on parity can be voted in Cabo Verde.

Thanking Mrs. Vicente for her visit, Prof. Traoré gave her agreement regarding the partnership proposal and promised to contact women’s organizations in the ECOWAS region with similar objectives to those of the ACLCVBG.

The contact details of the ACLCVBG are as follows:

Associação Caboverdiana de Luta Contra Violencia baseada no Género
Rua, Cidade do Funchal, A.S.A Prédio CNDHC 4ºDireito
Email-assvbg15@gmail.com
Telefone-002383561609
The Director General of WAI received on Thursday, August 18, 2017, Mrs. Ekvity dos Santos and Sandra Lima Ambassadors and Founders of the Womenise.it Project.

According to the two promoters, the Womenise.it Project aims at strengthening the capacities of women through the promotion of sharing and networking spaces, meetings, trainings, workshops, coaching and mentoring for women of Cabo Verde.

The Womenise.it Project was born out of the desire of three young Cab Verdean women to get involved in a women-led initiative after establishing that there was no space for sharing and exchanging information from women-to-women experiences in Cabo Verde.

The two promoters present during the meeting finally explained that to commemorate the second anniversary of the creation of Womenise.it, they were seeking to organize the first Summit of the Association on Women's Leadership on November 17-18, 2017 under the umbrella of First Lady Dr. Ligia Dias Fonseca and were therefore requesting the support of the Institute to this purpose.

In her response, the Director General of WAI congratulated the promoters for the creation of Womenise.it whose objectives are relevant and promised that WAI will support the Summit.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Africa (WAI) receives the visit of ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement accompanied by the Director of Customs, September 26th, 2017

The West Africa Institute (WAI) welcomed Mr. Laouali Chaibou, Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Freedom of ECOWAS and Mr. Salifou Tiémotoré, Director of Customs.

The delegation was received by Mr. José Brito, Chairman of WAI Board of Directors of and the staff of the Executive Secretariat, Mrs. Vanilde Lopes and Mr. Renato Frederico, the Director General, Prof. Dr. Djeneba Traoré being outside the country.

After a brief presentation and formally words of thanks to the delegation for its visit to WAI Headquarters, Mr. Brito made a short presentation of the Institute: its creation, status, its Promoters and its financial situation which has yet to be consolidated.

The Chairman of the Board WAI Directors also expressed the willingness and the efforts initiated to make the WAI a Specialized Agency of ECOWAS and to implement its strategic action plan.
In his speech, Commissioner Chaibou informed that his visit aimed at promoting the implementation of the Common External Tariff (CET) in all ECOWAS member States by January 2018, including Cabo Verde and Sierra Leone, representing the two remaining States that have not adhered yet. The ECOWAS Commissioner thanked Mr. Brito for all the information provided on WAI, while promising that he would bring the concerns expressed to his colleagues in the Commission.

The Director of Customs, Mr. Tiémoré also welcomed the given information on the Institute, and expressed his conviction that the WAI is the institution that Africa needs. He also suggested that the Institute should be presented in Abuja for a week in order to promote its activities. The ensuing exchanges focused on the possible scenarios to improve the regional integration process and the contribution of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the achievement of the set objectives. The two sides also addressed the main issues of the African continent and shared their respective visions for its future on the basis of their rich professional experiences.

Regarding the publications of the paper «Critical Analysis and Action Strategies» from which some copies have been offered to the two high level executives of ECOWAS, the Director of Customs of ECOWAS noted that this kind of innovative studies were lacking in several sectors of the ECOWAS and that the reflections and recommendations contained in these books are of great importance to the actors of regional integration. After nearly two hours of convivial talks marked by a high interactivity, the visit ended with exchanges of good wishes.

Visit of a Delegation from RCI at WAI to present the Master of African Integration, Praia, 07 December 2017

The Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Prof. Djénéba Traoré, has received on 07 December 2017 a mission from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (RCI) composed of the Prof. David Musa Soro, Director of the Ivorian Office for the Promotion of African Integration at the Ministry of African Integration and the Ivorians of Abroad and also Coordinator of the Master of African Integration offered by the Alassane Ouattara University of Bouaké and Prof. Azoumana Ouattara, Dean of the UFR (Unité de Formation et de Recherche - Unit of Training and Research) Literature at the University of Bouaké and Member of the National Consultative Committee of Bioethics.
The meeting, which was attended by the Director General and the entire team of WAI Executive Secretariat: Mrs. Vanilde Lopes, Mr. Renato Frederico and Mr. Márcio Mendonça, was mainly focused, first on the presentation by the Ivorian delegation, the Master of African Integration, and second on partnership perspectives for the promotion/dissemination of the training module.

Thanking the delegation for the interest in WAI, a think tank dedicated to regional integration and social transformations in West Africa, and partner institution of the Master in African Regional Integration (MARI) provided by University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV), Prof. Djénéba Traoré invited Prof. Soro and Prof. Ouattara to take the floor.

In his intervention, Prof. David Musa Soro informed first of all that the visit of the delegation had been recommended by the ECOWAS Commission with the aim of creating a favorable space for an exchange on the MARI created in partnership with Uni-CV and the ZEI.

Prof. Soro then gave a brief historical background of the creation of the Master's module, which reflections began in 2007 on the basis of an observation, notably the need to train competent human resources capable of initiating and driving relevant policies on regional integration. The program has been validated in 2016 by the academic and institutional authorities and a call for applications launched for the recruitment of auditors. Out of 45 applicants, 20 were selected taking into account the criteria established in this regard.

Prof. Azoumana Ouattara focused then on the main constraints that the educational project faced in its creation phase, constraints linked to an employment oriented training, the credit transfer system and the use of new technologies and mainly related to the academic requirements of the LMD system (Licence-Master-Doctorate) currently being implemented in higher education structures.

Moving on, Prof. Soro explained that the profile of the candidates is essentially made up of senior officials from public and private institutions including banks. However, two students were selected on the basis of their academic performance.

Prof. Ouattara also mentioned the digital resources available at the University and underlined that the expectations of Côte d'Ivoire regarding the Master were huge, which explains the various missions carried out in several countries of the region with a view to forming partnerships and by international organizations in order to mobilize financial resources.

After hearing the provided information, the Director General of WAI stated that the Institute and the University of Bouaké share the same vision regarding the urgency of human capital with the capacity to conceptualise and realize regional integration policies. She was also pleased to know that the Master of the University of Bouaké is dedicated to African integration, as the module taught at Uni-CV and is not restricted to the West
African region, because to achieve African Unity, it is necessary to promote scientific exchanges beyond regional borders.

Prof. Djénéba Traoré recalled the preparatory work of the Master who received since 2013 the full support of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Cabo Verde and the relevant collaboration of the Scientific Council of Uni-CV. She added that at the end of the of the validation and accreditation process in 2015, the MARI courses started with 27 auditors in January 2017 under the supervision of Prof. Odair Barros-Varela, President of ENG, in his capacity as the Academic Director of MIRA. Prof. Varela, who was absent at the meeting due to a mission abroad will be informed on the various topics addressed. Prof. Traoré confirmed that as for the University of Bouaké, the MARI students are high-level practitioners, able to work in institutions in charge of regional integration. Furthermore, the faculty staff comes from identified African, European, North and South American universities.

WAI Director General also stressed the need to integrate information and technology technologies (ICTs) into the pedagogy, and regretted in relation to MIRA, the lack of financial means, despite the support requested from several international organizations. Fortunately, the West African Development Bank (BOAD) has provided its first financial support in 2017.

Prof. Traoré said she was very much in favor of the partnership proposal because in her view, taking action together will lead without any doubt to constructive collaboration to achieve the formation of quality human capital, the role of higher education being major in economic and social development.

After two hours of highly productive exchanges, it was decided by common agreement that the two sides would jointly reflect on the following points:

- The possible signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the managers of the Masters taught by the Alassane Ouattara University of Bouaké and by Uni-CV of Praia;
- Sharing of experiences;
- Teaching disciplines;
- Mobilization of human, technical and financial resources;
- Partnership protocol on specific training (intensive courses of 4 or 5 days).

Finally, the two sides exchanged documentation: the Ivorian delegation offered samples of the brochure on the Master of African Integration to the Director General of WAI who gave at her turn to the delegation WAI publications on regional integration, including the booklet issued from the WAI-ZEI academic collaboration project, on the MARI Program.
Professor Laura C. Ferreira-Pereira was received on December 14, 2017 by the Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI) at the Institute's headquarters.

Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the School of Economics and Management International Relations and Public Administration of the University of Minho (Portugal), Mrs. Ferreira-Pereira holds a PhD from the University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom.

Prof. Ferreira-Pereira was sojourning in Praia in the framework of a one-week lecturing at the invitation of the President of ENG (Escola de Negócios e Governação) of the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV) and also Director of the Master Program in African Regional Integration (MIRA). She was wishing, in the aftermath of her professional activities, to address Prof. Traoré a series of questions dealing with the current challenges of regional integration in West Africa, particularly those relating to the specific role of the Republic of Cabo Verde in the current process as well as those linked with the critical issue of security in the region.

During two clock hours, the different quoted points were subject to direct and frank exchanges on an academic and empirical basis. To sum up, both parties came to the conclusion that the Republic of Cabo Verde could provide ECOWAS member States with its experience in various areas, including the peaceful achievement of democratic process, social cohesion and the steps taken to improve the quality of life of the population, the functioning of its educational system and its public health system. It should be added that all these sectors and
many more were subjects of a study conducted by the African Development Bank (ADB) published in November 2012 and entitled “Cape Verde - A Success Story”.

Regarding the difficult equation of security and development in the Sahelo-Saharan region, Prof. Ferreira-Pereira and Prof. Traoré agreed that it is necessary to go back in history in order to identify the origin of the security crisis in the region and formulate durable solutions, especially as the consequences on the youth and the economies of the affected countries are disastrous.

At the end of the exchanges, Prof. Ferreira-Pereira and Prof. Traoré expressed the common will to deepen their academic cooperation through Fellowship and Lecturing activities.

WAI Director General welcomes Mrs. Yara Dos Santos, December 15, 2017

Mrs. Yara, Dos Santos had wished to meet WAI Director General to discuss with her a possible collaboration to bring information and awareness messages to the Cabo Verdean youth about issues concerning regional integration.

Ms. Dos Santos, is an official of the Cabo Veredian State and has held several positions, including at the Presidency of the Republic and at the Ministry of Justice. At the same time, Mrs. Dos Santos is a writer and has already published five books of which she offered the penultimate, entitled "Conversa Aberta" to the Director General of WAI.

The hour-long discussion focused on the relevance of the concept of regional integration and the role that the youth can play in accelerating its implementation.

Mrs. Dos Santos, invited Prof. Traoré to participate in January 2018 in the launching of her next publication entitled "Inspirar" and suggested her to join her in book presentation sessions in Cabo Veredian schools and universities where regional integration issues would be shared and discussed with the students.

Prof. Traoré accepted the invitation with pleasure and recalled the vision that led the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde, ECOWAS, UEMOA, UNESCO and the Ecobank Group to create the West Africa Institute. She also mentioned WAI's missions, which are largely dedicated to the West African youth, and aim at strengthening their capacities in order to make them suitable for taking over the implementation process of regional integration and social transformations in West Africa.

Mrs. Yara, Dos Santos left the meeting with the assurance that the initiative she is carrying could be implemented.
 Candidate Juliette Yahiaoui successfully defended on July 6th, 2017 at the University of Luxembourg her Master’s thesis on the theme: “Coherence of Policies in Favor of Development between the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States in the field of energy; Understanding the consequences of the coherence and especially the inconsistency of the behavior of the EU in the inter-regional relations vis-à-vis energy policies.”

The evaluation of the dissertation was carried out by Prof. Harlan Koff, Supervisor of the candidate and Prof. Djénéba Traoré, Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Second Reader.

As a reminder, the candidate completed her end-of-study internship at WAI for a period of three months (February 15, 2017 - May 15, 2017).

Ms. Yahiaoui received the mention "Excellent" sanctioning the quality of research and the obtained findings.

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