

“One Health” Summer School

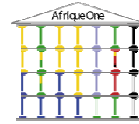
CSRS

Centre Suisse de Recherches
Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire



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Science and Policy
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences
KFPE – Commission for Research Partnerships
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Learning event description

The Afrique One “One Health Summer School” was held at NSA Hotel, Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire from 27th August to 03rd September, 2014. Afrique One is a capacity building and research African consortium, whose directorate is located at Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques (CSRS), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. CSRS staff was involved in the organisation of this workshop.

This workshop had been initiated in order to train a new generation of scientists to One Health and Eco Health research implementation. More specifically, the goals were to train early career post docs, PhD students and MSc candidates from the 11 Afrique One research

institutions under 4 main thematic areas; (i) the One health concept into practice and impact assessment; (ii) Communication with scientists, media, decision makers and the public; (iii) Research design with inter-and transdisciplinary research, costing and management; and (iv) Partnership principles, institution rules and career planning.

The seminar was animated by facilitators from the Afrique One network, and 26 people (excluding facilitators) took part in it. Participants were from 21 different affiliations in 11 countries, with 9 MSc students; 12 PhD/MD candidates; 3 administrator and “research staff”; 2 Post-doc and senior researchers.



Outline of the course

Day 1 (one) was dedicated to career path and time management and day 2 (two) to a first set of modules on communication: general principles of communication, communication with pairs, media and public, and scientific english. Following the needs expressed by participants, a two hour module on grant writing was also included. Once equipped with these soft skills, participants were ready to enter the scientific modules of the summer school. Day 3 (three) was dedicated to One Health and Ecohealth concepts. The 4th and 5th days were dedicated to modules on quantitative and quantitative methods, and on principles of integrated research design. The 6th day was spent at NSA Hotel Beach, where

participants were divided into two groups and had to prepare field work for the next day. They also had some time to enjoy Abidjan's beach and relax after a first whole week of modules.

Group A decided to build a project on: “How does environmental pollution affect the population of Abidjan?”, while group B decided to build a project on: “Impact of waste management on environment, human and animal health”. On day 7, we went on the field to visit Abidjan's landfill and the laguna. Eventually Day 8 was dedicated to team work: finalization of projects, and restitution.



Added value for participants

The majority of trainees of this summer school had the very first opportunity in their lives to build a team research project in the context of the intellectually stimulating dynamic of a workshop. They received high

level training courses delivered by experienced facilitators who gave them the best tools to become internationally competitive scientists.

Feedback from participants

When asking participants to mention 3 things they really appreciated, what mostly came out (20 times) was an appreciation of the modules they preferred (i.e. the knowledge they acquired). Then, they mentioned networking (5), trainers and the fact they were approachable (5). Interdisciplinarity (4), English/French lectures running late in the evening (4).

learning (4), learning team work (3), and plenty of other aspects were also very well appreciated.

When asking participants to mention 3 things they did not appreciate, what mostly came out was: “lack of free time” (17), “too short training time” (11), and

Conclusion and lessons learnt

From this summer school we can remember that it is critically important to involve young researchers from a broad geographical scale together in such workshops: although working on bringing together the anglophone and francophone african researchers into a common dynamic since 2009, Afrique One has achieved its best

success in reaching its objective through this summer school: with young researchers, one could see no effect of language on groups structuration, for it was a true melting pot. This new generation of scientists gave hope for building transboundary networks with much more facility in the future.

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