



THE FRANCOPHONIE UNIVERSITY AGENCY AND BRAIN DRAIN

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The problematic of Brain drain

➤ The human resources necessary for the development of Africa is notorious lacking and at the same time a good number of workers are leaving the continent to advantage of countries of the North. This phenomenon is generally known as Brain drain. Brain drain is a common and increasing phenomenon in developing countries, medical doctors, teachers, nurses, researchers, students, lawyers, and others emigrate to developed countries. This is a major obstacle for development of developing countries.

The problematic of Brain drain

➤ On June 20th 2004 was organized on this issue in « La cite des sciences et de l'industrie à Paris » a scientific manifestation entitled « **Fuite ou circulation des cerveaux : de nouveaux défis** » translated into English, this title gives « **Brain drain, Brain gain : new challenges** ». These words have their importance, as we may notice in French and English appellations. Drain, here refers to captivation, and here we are dealing with the country which receives, while « Fuite » refers to the country of departure. While gain refers to the profit which one gains, whereas circulation on her part, is most interested to the profit with the international community may obtain from such a process in world. The problematic of our colloquium itself is already an object criticism, if we may rely on this vocabulary. Within this perspective, Brain drain may simply signify the Exodus of competence, while circulation of know how refers to a more positive aspects of the flow.

The problematic of Brain drain

An excellent manner to attract the foreign brain basket is through High Education. For example, 25% of foreign students who carried out their higher education studies in United States later on obtained their temporal visas in 1999. Today, countries of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OCDE) are trying to attract more foreign students who are specialized in the domain of science and technology as well as they are trying to facilitate their access into job market.

Once they have obtained their diplomas, many of them prefer to remain in the host countries. About 45% of post doctorate students born abroad move to the USA. This figure is a clear justification of the AUF who supports the mobility of teachers, and students taking into consideration this preoccupation since the mobility of francophones towards the North is considerable.

The problematic of Brain drain

On this account, the University of Yaounde 2, with the support of the Francophonie University Agency organized, from the 15th to 16th april 2010, an international coonference on the theme « Migration and the african Brain drain in the era of Globalization ». This colloquim had as an objective to expose the problem and to propose new direction of research in this domain. At the end of the colloquium , somme findings are made :

- 1- Africa is constantly affected competence exodus, but only 2% of her population is affected by brain drain.
- 2- Most migrants who come to Africa are mostly attrated by commercial activities.
- 3- The policy on the return of scientific and professional dispearance as well as their integration are of co,nsiderable advantages, if they are planned and most especcially carried out by integrating all parties.



The problematic of Brain drain

However, before analyzing the essential disposition provided for by the Francophonie University Agency to counteract the pandemic of Brain drain in the South, may be it will be important to first of all present to you what the Francophonie University Agency is all about. After this synthetic presentation, I will then present the important mechanisms provided by AUF to attenuate the phenomenon of Brain drain.



AUF : an organization of close to 750 member universities


→ The Francophonie University Agency is represented in all five continents with about 434 personnel, partitioned in 73 implantations.

→ Since 1989, this University association is a direct partner of the Francophonie International Organization (OIF). AUF has a glossary programmes and scientific cooperation projects which are aimed at supporting teaching and researches in French.

→ This Agency has 3 regional headquarters in Africa : Dakar, Yaounde and Antananarivo. She has a very high mobilizing capacity of experts, teachers, and students.



AUF : an organization of close to 750 member universities



Every year, it gives out about 2000 scholarships within the perspectives of his programme of mobility and about 700 distant study allocations in relation to his online training programs. His budget is evaluated at 40 millions Euros, thanks to the intervention of some governments, most especially the French government, but as well that of Canada precisely Quebec – Canada, the French community in Belgium, Switzerland, and not withstanding other countries who support their university and places at our disposition, infrastructures and personnel.

The strategic objectives of Francophonie University Agency



To support the developpement strategies of the various Faculties of member Universities.



To make the Francophone Scientific Community a point of reference in the international scene.



To train teachers, students, researches who have capacity to build the developpement of their country.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

Two programs to attenuate the brain drain

Reinforcement of academic
excellence

Innovation through ICT

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

**The reinforcement of Academic excellence in the Universities:
2000 mobility scholarships granted per year**

Initial training scholarships: a 10 months scholarship of 700 Euros in the North and 600 Euros in the South; and an insurance coverage as well as a going and returning flight ticket in the country of origin.

PhD scholarships or grants: this scholarships covers the burden of co – supervisors with alteration of a possible return to their home countries: it covers as a going and returnin flight ticket, insurance and accommodation. This scholarships amount to 650 Euros in the South and 750 Euros in the North.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence


**The reinforcement of Academic Excellence in the Universities:
2000 mobility scholarships granted per year**

➔ Post Doctorate grants: Alternative : 10 months grants, a to and fro ticket, and accommodating allowances. It amounts to 1200 Euros in the North and 1030 Euros in the South.


➔ Scholarships for the defense of thesis and habilitation to supervise research: this includes a 1 – 2 months mobility grants, and a to and fro flight ticket. They amount to 900 Euros in the North and 775 Euros in the South.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

**The reinforcement of Academic Excellence in the Universities:
2000 mobility scholarships granted per year**



Short term missions (two weeks to 1 month) of a teaching and Research assistant, to reinforce the professorial corps of a university in need. This grants covers: teaching allowances, insurance and going and returning flight ticket.



This disposition ease the circulation of teachers especially in the African region without necessarily provoking any kind of Brain Drain (about 100% of the teachers involved in this kind of mobility always return to their home country)

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

The reinforcement of Academic Excellence in the Universities: Brain gain through participation in colloquiums

→ AUF finances the organization of colloquiums in French: this is by taking charge of flight tickets and accommodation with an obligation of a possible return to the country of origin and the publication in electronic a paper format of the acts of the colloquium by the Participants.

→ AUF equally supports the participation of teachers within the network of researchers by financing their flight ticket and insurance. This mobility is about one week.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

The reinforcement of Academic Excellence in the Universities: Regional poles of Excellence

By creating regional poles of excellence, AUF intends to withhold highly qualified Researchers in their home country, in order to permit them exercise their activities in similar condition like any other researcher in a country in the South. Allocations of about 100 000 Euros are attributed to Regional poles of excellence for a period of 3 years. Central Africa host 2 poles of excellence.

The report to Inter – Universities project of specific cooperation is an activity of AUF which is aimed at supporting highly qualified researchers in the exercise of their professional activity.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

Francophone Horizons Programs: New programs for Non PhD teaching Staff

The francophone Horizon Programs has objectives to constitute a network excellent Francophone University Faculties, with a principal objective to reinforce the teaching staff of the South and which is also aimed at promoting the mobility of degree holders.

Concretely, this program is aimed at accompanying the teaching staff who are not holders of a PhD to successfully prepare their thesis by assisting in PhD seminars, and short term motilities while maintaining their employment within their respective universities. The first tender offer in Africa was launched in December 2009 by the Regional Bureau of West and Central Africa

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

Innovation Through Education Information And Communication Technologies: 700 Distant Learning Allocations Per Year

By this program, AUF intends to support online training. Today, close to 70 degrees are obtained through distant learning. This training concerns, Economics, commerce, law, Engineering Science, medicines, sustainable development and ICT (Information and communication Technologies)

The principal objective here is to permit the student especially those in the South to study, and obtain diplomas from the North while in the South, which have the same academic equivalence as if they were in the North. Through distant learning scholarships, AUF intends to take charge of 2/3 of registration fees of allocating students.

AUF : two programs to reduce brain drain and to facilitate the circulation of competence

Innovation Through Education Information And Communication Technologies: 700 Distant Learning Allocations Per Year

For students who are not allocated with AUF scholarship, AUF intends to negotiate a preferential fee for them.

More than 70% of online training students are professionals on duty.

This disposition appears to AUF as one of the most efficient methods to fight against Brain drain.



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Conclusion

From our point of view, the objective of industrialized countries in matters of Brain immigration is triple. The first being a respond in the short term to their immediate human resource need. It is on of their ways to find a solution to the shortage of competence.

The second objective is to increase their stock of human capital, by encouraging scientific studies.

The third objective from our point of view is to encourage brain gain or circulation of competence as well as to promote innovations. The immigration policies of developed countries therefore contribute to the attraction of Brain from the developing countries.

Conclusion

However, this is not the only cause of Brain drain. Other attracting factors together with repulsion factors act to attract this Brain: the gap of development and revenue between the host country and country of origin, the absence of job opportunities, centers of excellence, a conducive working environment as well as political persecution are amongst other factors which are the causes of the Brain drain.

All these reasons explain why, the mechanisms put in place by the Francophonie University Agency for the reduction of Brain drain have very relative impacts. It was therefore for this reason that in AUF, we are militating for the establishment of a global policy in support of the sustainable development of the countries in the South.

Conclusion

Thank you for your kind attention

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