



**Gilbert KABANDA reappointed
to SRTI: Who is he?**



**Appointment of Minister
Raïssa MALU: a choice for
national education**

GIF: J. ALINGETE reveals that a priori control is
not interference in management



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Editorial

The dawn of a new era

Who hasn't been captivated by the awe-inspiring beauty of the dawn, a powerful symbol of renewal and hope? You don't have to be Benjamin Franklin, Galileo, Victor Hugo or Léopold Sédar Senghor to be dazzled. As Albert Camus put it, the dawn retains "an original freshness" that awakens the soul and inspires all those who cherish light. It is precisely this promise of a new day that animates the hope raised by the appointment of Dr Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGHA to head the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation on May 29, 2024.

This dawn, which has opened up a radiant outlook for the sector, could not fail to capture the attention of the Science and Technological Innovation Bulletin. And there's no shortage of reasons to be enthusiastic, as evidenced by this issue's profile of the Minister and his enlightened vision, perfectly in tune with that of the Head of State.

The arrival of the new Minister marks the dawn of a new era for science and innovation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). His commitment and determination to promote this sector, which is vital to the country's development, is a source of immense hope. This special issue reflects this optimistic spirit, highlighting the Minister's career and ambitions.

A major contribution to the realization of this vision lies in the organization of the National Conclave of the Congolese Scientific Genius in 2023. A retrospective analysis of the images of this event is presented in this issue, with a view to identifying avenues of improvement for future activities aimed at further energizing the Scientific Research and Technological Innovation sector in the DRC.

This number of the Sciences and Technological Innovations Bulletin also enthusiastically welcomes the appointment of Ms. Raïssa Malu as head of the Ministry of National Education and New Citizenship. A renowned scientist and exceptional woman, Ms. Malu was appointed to the Suminwa Government on May 29, 2024 by the President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO. This judicious choice reflects the urgent need to meet the major challenges facing the Congolese education system.

As the field of education is closely linked to that of scientific research, collaboration between the two ministries is essential to better coordinate public policies in these strategic areas. The promotion of Science and Technology Week is a concrete example of this synergy, the images of which are presented in this number.



*Professor Pius Mpianga Tshimankinda
President of NSC,*

It celebrates the advent of a new era for science and innovation in the DRC, and is also distinguished by the publication of a word of thanks from the Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, His Excellency Dr Gilbert KABANDA. On this occasion, the Science and Technological Innovation Bulletin wishes him every success in his term of office, confident that his scientific freshness will continue to inspire all those who cherish the light of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in the DRC.

As dawn spreads its beneficent rays over the horizon, the arrival of Minister KABANDA heralds a new era for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in the DRC, symbolizing, in the words of Nelson Mandela, "hope for a better future", a hope that the Bulletin Sciences et Innovations Technologiques will continue to share.



Activities of the Minister of SRTI

Portrait

Gilbert KABANDA reappointed to the Ministry of RSIT: who is he?

Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA, a physician specializing in space and aeronautical medicine, was reappointed Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation by the President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, on May 28, 2024. This choice is in line with the desire to pursue far-reaching reforms within this Ministry, which is crucial to the development of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



HEM of SRTI, Gilbert KABANDA

His Excellency Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kinshasa in 1973, before enlisting in the Forces Armées Zairoises (FAZ). He was promoted to colonel before specializing in aeronautical medicine in Italy. Returning home, he served in the air force for 20 years.

In 2007, he was appointed head of the FARDC health service before being awarded the rank of Brigadier General in 2013, then Major General in 2018, the year of his honorable retirement. He has more than 45 years' loyal service to the FARDC, and is fluent in French, English and Italian. The new Patron of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation has been Minister of National Defense and Veterans since April 28, 2021. He was also a specialist in conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region.

In this capacity, he has worked for many years with a number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. He is one of the founders of the Catholic University

of Bukavu (UCB). Minister Gilbert KABANDA is the initiator of the Conclave du Génie Scientifique Congolais to be held in August 2023 in Kinshasa.

Naturally calm, Gilbert KABANDA, Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, rarely lets his emotions show. His voice is always firm and assured, even in times of crisis. He has proven moral integrity. All those who have come into contact with him during his long career testify to his exemplary morality. His career illustrates excellence in a variety of fields, making him a model of inspiration for future generations.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

Appointment of Ministers: Gilbert KABANDA thanks the President of the Republic

"On the occasion of my reappointment as Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the trust you have placed in me. To this end, I assure you of my readiness and loyalty to legally fulfill the missions entrusted to me under your leadership."

Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA



SRT Retrospective Activities

To the discovering the Conclave of Congolese Scientific Genius

The Congolese Scientific Genius Conclave (CSGC) was held from August 19 to 29, 2023 at the Palais du Peuple tent in Kinshasa. Placed under the patronage of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Félix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, the main aim of this scientific event was to identify Congolese inventors and innovators, both at home and in the diaspora, with research results capable of contributing to the country's development and improving the socio-economic conditions of the Congolese population. The organization of this conclave has been entrusted to a preparatory and organizing commission, set up by ministerial decree.

The Congolese Scientific Genius Conclave (CGSC) was held from August 19 to 29, 2023 under the big top of the Palais du Peuple in Kinshasa. Placed under the patronage of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Félix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, the main aim of this scientific event was to identify Congolese inventors and innovators, both at home and in the diaspora, with research results capable of contributing to the country's development and improving the socio-economic conditions of the Congolese population. The organization of this conclave has been entrusted to a preparatory and organizing committee, set up by ministerial decree.

This commission was subdivided into four sub-commissions (scientific, administrative and financial, logistical, communication) under the coordination of His Excellency the Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation. The scientific sub-committee was led by the President of the National Scientific Council.

It worked in two teams: one responsible for evaluating inventions and innovations, and the other for updating the national scientific research policy document, proposing priority guidelines for technological innovation policy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and revising Ordinance-Law no. 82/040 of November 05, 1982 on the organization of Scientific Research and Technology. During the pre-conclave, sixty (60) evaluators selected one hundred and twenty-seven (127) best inventions/innovations for a second evaluation session, out



of a total of two hundred and ninety-seven (297) registered. A new ranking was established after this final evaluation. In view of their ranking, the inventions/innovations selected were those that had demonstrated their strengths in solving various Congolese problems and contributing to the socio-economic development of the DRC, across the sectors of health, agri-food, digital and computer technology, energy and electrical or electronic technology, defense and security, the environment, mobilization

of financial revenues, etc. The most outstanding inventors and innovators were selected to receive medals in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Gold medals were awarded to the first ten (10) winners, silver medals to the next fifteen (15), and bronze medals to the next twenty-five (25). At the end of the editors' work, a number of legal texts and other legal instruments relating to the scientific research and technological innovation

sector were collected, making it possible to prepare the revision of Ordonnance-Loi n°82-040 du 05 novembre 1982 on the Organization of Scientific and Technical Research.

The sub-committee proposed a complete overhaul of the bill, including its title, explanatory memorandum and text architecture. This reworking was based on an in-depth examination of the scientific research policy document. This review highlighted the need to redefine the vision of scientific research policy, clearly establish the principles and values that will guide it, update the strategic axes and orientations, and identify priority research areas.

With regard to technological innovation policy, the sub-committee not only identified the issues and challenges at stake, but also proposed strategic orientations, notably the organization of the transfer of innovative knowledge from producers to users, support for innovative initiatives and companies, the implementation of the socio-economy of innovations, the valorization of research results and links with the entrepreneurial world, the prevention and management of conflicts surrounding innovations, the synergies of innovations with other processes, etc.

The Conclave made the following recommendations :

1. Reach 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to be allocated to Research and Development (R&D) expenditure in line with Discovering the Congolese Scientific Genius Conclave Sciences and Technological Innovations Bulletin SPECIAL EDITION CONCLAVE SEPT. 2023 5 recommendations of the African Union (AU) ;
2. Increase the budget of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation to at least 7% of the national budget; 3. Make the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (NFSRTI) operational, by setting up its bodies, coordinators, etc., and include the NFSRTI in the State budget from fiscal 2024, with a view to supporting the marketing of endogenous research products on consumer goods. ;
3. Make the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (NFSRTI) operational, by setting up its bodies, coordinators, etc., and include the NFSRTI in the State budget as of fiscal 2024, in order to support the marketing of endogenous research products on the consumer goods market.;
4. Promote national scientific expertise by supporting the implementation of its research results; by integrating them into development programs in the country's various socio-economic sectors;
5. Set up an inter-ministerial commission to inject into national industry any product of national invention or innovation, scientifically developed and duly approved by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation. ;
6. Elaborate research programs in the Government's priority areas and promote the funding of research projects in line with the priorities of these programs.
7. Promoting a culture of valorization of research results in Congolese society
8. Creating a national intellectual property agency ;
9. Create a framework for interaction between stakeholders (government, research institutions, civil society, companies, inventors and innovators, etc.) with the aim of improving collaboration;
10. Creating an order of merit in science, innovation and technology ;
11. Promoting active science diplomacy through key diplomatic missions;
12. Encouraging public-private, public-public and private-private partnerships in Research and Technological Innovation;
13. Transform the Department of Evaluation and Valorization of research results (inventions and technological innovations) into a public service under the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation.;
14. Set up a multi-disciplinary task force (economists, lawyers, etc.) to train, equip and support innovators, inventors and production units in research institutions, particularly in the design of their business plans, with a view to optimizing their profitability ;
15. Assist innovators, inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs in the process of certifying their products, processes or services ;
16. To adopt an interministerial decree on the ad valorem royalty on companies using the results of research and technological innovation ;
17. Encourage public and private companies to collaborate in their research and development projects with research institutions in the DRC that are relevant to their fields of activity ;
18. Involve the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in the management of university and post-graduate scholarships in line with the country's priority needs;
19. Involve the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in the development of primary and secondary school textbooks, with a view to gearing teaching towards priority needs in the fields of Research, Innovation and Technology. ;
20. Promote the basic sciences (physics, mathematics, IT, engineering, chemistry, biology, etc.) in the choice of training courses for young people and in public information.
21. Strengthen financial and technical support for public and private institutions involved in scientific and technological research within the framework of the concept « a single health » ;
22. Implement digital technology for dematerializing tax procedures, starting in fiscal 2024, to optimize the collection of tax, customs and state revenues;
23. Update the ministerial decree on the share of revenues generated by research centers and institutes ;
24. Improve the quality and quantity of scientific and technical staff, with a view to increasing their efficiency, technical skills and numbers in line with international standards.;
25. Promoting moral and ethical values and combating mismanagement in the field of research ;
26. Institutionalize biennial conferences on Congolese scientific genius, with the support of the National Scientific Council and the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (NFSRTI). ;
27. Ensuring the protection of the inventions and/or innovations of Conclave participants by publishing a register of them and facilitating their registration with the relevant authorities ;
28. Validate the updated National Scientific Research Policy and the elaborated

National Technological Innovation Policy documents ;

29. Set up a drafting committee for the bill establishing the fundamental principles of scientific research and technological innovation;
30. Set up a mechanism to monitor and implement the conclave's recommendations.

**Christian MAZONO and
Consort BELESİ
NSC**

Scientific Genius Conclave in images (1st edition) 2023



Photo of the President of the Republic with (from left to right) the Minister of SRTI, the President of the Senate, the Prime Minister and the President of the Scientific Council during the playing of the national anthem.



Photo of the trophy reception by the Minister of SRTI.



Photo of the presentation of the patents and the general report of the work by the Minister SRTI and the President of the Scientific Sub-Commission.



Illustration of the presentation of participation certificates by Minister SRTI.



Photo of the President of the Republic receiving the trophy.



Photo illustrating the presentation of participation certificates by the Head of State.



Photo of the trophies presented to the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister of SRTI and the Senior Advisor to the President of the Republic at the College of Education and Research, as well as to a number of renowned inventors/innovators.



Appointment of Minister Raïssa MALU: a choice for National Education

The Ministry of National Education and New Citizenship is now headed by a woman. Mrs. Raïssa Malu, a scientist and woman of intrinsic quality, was appointed to the Suminwa government. She was chosen on May 28, 2024 by the President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, to meet the profound challenges facing the Ministry of National Education and New Citizenship.

Who is Raïssa Malu?

Raïssa Malu is the daughter of Professor, physicist and engineer Félix Malu wa Kalenga, "one of Africa's great intellectuals", whose passion for science and technology she inherited.

The Minister is well known for her efforts to encourage young people in general, and girls in particular, to love science and technology.

She is President of the non-profit organization Investing in People, founded in 2013 to offer scholarships to women in STEM in the DRC.

Raïssa Malu is the initiator of Science and Technology Week (STW), an annual event that brings together players in the education sector to discuss science and technology.

STW was launched in 2014 when Raïssa Malu contacted the Ministry of Primary,

Secondary and Technical Education (PSTE) and offered to organize the event. And since then, she has been promoting Science and Technology Week (STW) in the DRC every year. The latest edition had the merit of being held in two countries: the DRC and Belgium.

The New Minister Malu is a Congolese physicist, teacher and author, who promotes education in the physical sciences, mathematics and technology.

The Boss of National Education was also a member of the Presidential Panel responsible for supporting the DRC's term as President of the African Union for the 2021-2022 financial year, previously chaired by DRC President Félix Tshisekedi.

As advisor to Congolese-Togolese inventor and expert Manuel Ntumba, she oversaw the development of a roadmap on the use of space technologies, digital transformation and geospatial applications in achiev-

ing the objectives of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063. She is also the author of several books.

The new Minister, Raïssa MALU, was Head of the Technical Support Unit (PEQPESU) at the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education (PSTE). PEQPESU is a World Bank project which she managed for five (5) years.

The National Education Minister knows the ins and outs of primary, secondary and technical education. That's why she was chosen by the Prime Minister to bring a breath of fresh air to the National Education sector.

What are the challenges facing Minister Raïssa Malu?

The new Minister, Raïssa Malu, has a number of challenges ahead of her at the DRC's Ministry of Education. These include :

- The quality of education leaves much to

be desired, not only because of the conditions in which pupils study, but also, and above all, because of the qualifications of teachers: poorly trained, many Congolese teachers have glaring shortcomings in almost all subjects.;

- Inappropriate school curricula, with content that no longer corresponds to today's realities, at both secondary and university levels.;

- Glaring inequalities persist in girls' drop-out rates, a blatant illustration of gender inequalities and other types of inequality,

particularly between urban and rural areas.;

- With management shortcomings, fictitious teachers and massive misappropriation of funds earmarked for education, the Congolese education system is plagued by an unacceptable waste of resources..

- Continuation of free basic education projects.

- Helping students who travel long distances to get to school. A situation that can change if more schools are built in the provinces.

**Christian MAZONO and
Consort BELESI/NSC**

Retrospective activities of Investing In People ASBL

Kinshasa organizes Science and Technology Week

Science and Technology Week is an event organized by Investing In People ASBL, Elongo ONGD, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education, the Ministry of Higher and University Education, and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation.



The event takes place every year and aims to develop scientific and technological culture in Africa, promote knowledge and know-how in these fields, and to inspire vocations students and young professionals.

During the week, conferences, workshops, presentations and other events are organized to help stimulate curiosity and interest in science and technology in the Democratic Republic of Congo and throughout Africa..

The organizer, Madame Raissa MALU, often invites research institutions to take part. Thus, NSC, AEC, WERC, RIHS, CoE/CBRN, ATSRC, NCPIR often take part in the different editions through conferences, exhibitions, etc.

Organizer Madam Raissa MALU regularly invites research institutions to take part in the event. Frequent participants include NSC, AEC, WERC, RIHS, CoE/CBRN, ATSRC and NCPIR who contribute to the various editions through conferences, exhibitions and other activities..

Consort BELESI/NSC

The Director of Investing In People ASBL Mrs Raïssa MALU

L In an interview conducted in Kinshasa, the "Sciences and Technological Innovations" Bulletin spoke to the Director of ASBL Investing In People, on the occasion of the 11th edition of Science Week organized from April 6 to 10, 2024 in Kinshasa. During this interview, she demonstrated that it is absolutely important to promote knowledge and know-how. If you want the research budget to be increased, it's a good idea to share knowledge with the population about its importance, impact, etc."».

Christian MAZONO: Could you introduce yourself to our readers ?

Raïssa MALU : I am Mrs Raïssa MALU, Director of Investing In People ASBL..

Christian MAZONO: Could you briefly describe the 11th Science and Technology Week (SST 11) in the DRC ?

Raïssa MALU : The non-profit organization Investing In People, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education (PSTE) and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (SRTI) organized the 11th (SST11) from April 6 to 10, 2024 in Kinshasa and in several provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with the aim of informing the public and private sectors to raise awareness of the importance of research to contribute to the country's development.

This edition promises to be a major milestone in the promotion of scientific and technological culture in the DRC and, more broadly, on the African continent. It will also be held in Brussels from April 27 to 29, 2024. The 11th edition of Science and Technology Week is set to become a key event in the scientific and educational calendar in the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond, with ambitious objectives aimed at promoting science and innovation as a driving force for development and social change.

The event positions itself as a bridge between diverse scientific communities, encouraging a fertile dialogue to address and solve global challenges through the prism of science. This year, 2024, the focus is significantly on the dynamism and impact of the network of Catalysts, those passionate young people scattered across the country whose commitment and local initiatives embody Africa's vibrant contribution to global science and innovation.

Christian MAZONO: What is the theme developed for SST 11 ?

Raïssa MALU : This is the 11th edition of



Madam Raïssa MALU

Science and Technology Week, whose theme is "Science as a common language here and there". This shows that science and technology are now disciplines that resemble the generation, the people, and so on.

Christian MAZONO: Who are your partners in the success of your business?

Raïssa MALU : Investing In People works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education (PSTE) and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (SRTI), as well as many others..

Christian MAZONO: a word for CSN and the researcher ?

Raïssa MALU : The NSC is the sole supervisory and management body for research centers and institutes in the DRC. It has several missions, in particular: to deliberate on the orientations and priorities of the scientific and technological research plans and programs to be

carried out in the country. I take this opportunity to ask the NSC to mobilize the Research Centers and Institutes to participate massively in the 11th edition of Science and Technology Week in Kinshasa.

Researchers are called upon to improve their knowledge in various fields of research. They must publish regularly to contribute to the country's growth and development.

Christian MAZONO: what contribution could Investing In People make to the development of science in the DRC?

Raïssa MALU : L'ASBL Investing In People émet des avis et fait des propositions en matière de recherche qui peuvent permettre aux décideurs de prendre de bonnes décisions en ce qui concerne la science.

Christian MAZONO : quel est votre mot de la fin ?

Raïssa MALU : The Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation should work in synergy with other ministries, notably the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education, to combine their efforts. This will enable us to better solve society's problems. It's impossible to get out of underdevelopment without science and technology.

Interview conducted by Christian MAZONO/NSC

Science and Technology Week in pictures



Several partners were delighted to support this scientific event



ACP Journalist Serge NKASA comes to find out more about the event from the Director of the NGO Investing People, Raissa MALU and the President of the NSC Prof. Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA.



The NCPIR devoted a stand to the 11th Science and Technology Week.



Microsoft launches new computers powered by generative AI

On Monday, Microsoft presented its new computers with artificial intelligence (AI) functions. AI will be integrated directly into the Windows operating system, enabling it to help users with all their tasks.

These computers will be called Copilot + PCs, said CEO Satya Nadella, speaking at an event on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington. The group expects over 50 million sales of these "AI PCs" in the next twelve months. "These improvements will provide the best reason in a long time to change computers," said Yusuf Mehdi, vice-president of the U.S.-based group.

consumer offer

The integration of AI into its PC range should, among other things, enable the IT giant to revive sales of media (laptops, tablets), which were down 9% year-on-year last year. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, launched the generative AI revolution at the end of 2022, making it possible to produce content based on simple queries in everyday language.

As the main investor in OpenAI, Microsoft is in a fierce race with its rival Google to deploy generative AI tools. Microsoft intends to address the general public with its.

The announcement comes on the heels of those made by Google last week. The world's number one in digital advertising set out its vision of ever more omniscient AI assistants, ready to make it easier for consumers to use all its services, from writing messages to planning meals and vacations, or even sports sessions.

Competition with Google

And on the search engine, users will now get answers written by AI, above the usual links to websites (only in the U.S., initially). Long considered the leader in artificial intelligence, Google seemed taken by surprise

by the arrival of ChatGPT and the addition of generative AI to Microsoft's technologies.

For its part, Apple, Microsoft's main competitor in computers and operating systems, has remained discreet about generative AI until now. However, it is expected to present its own innovations next month, having already launched new tablets with AI-enhanced capabilities this month..

The Echos / MCP, via mediacongo.net

GIF : J. ALINGETE reveals that a priori control is not interference in management.

Inspector General of Finance, Head of the General Inspectorate of Finance (IGF), Jules ALINGETE, organized a conference-debate on the theme " Control a priori : interference or prudential measure ", on May 25, 2024 at the University of Kinshasa..



The conference was organized on the initiative of the Forum Economique, part of UNIKIN's Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences. The speaker explained the contours and merits of a priori and concomitant control, otherwise known as financial patrol,

and demonstrated its impact in preventing mismanagement of state enterprises and public services.

Accompanied by a delegation from the GIF, Jules ALINGETE explained to an audience

of teachers, supervisors, assistants and students what really happens during the financial patrol.

On the subject of the misconception that a priori control is a kind of co-management of public companies and services, he pointed out that, as a supreme control body, the Inspectorate General of Finance can choose between 3 types of control: a priori, concomitant and a posteriori.

He revealed that the GIF has opted for a priori control, which has many advantages and is a pedagogical tool for overcoming the shortcomings of a posteriori control.

« We have demonstrated that the a priori control system introduced 3 years ago in the Democratic Republic of Congo does not constitute interference in management. It is even less a form of co-management,



but rather a type of control which exists elsewhere and which was already provided for in all the provisions of our country, but which unfortunately was not activated", explained Jules ALINGETE.

The country's financial super cop maintained that the exercise of a priori control does not hinder management and is simply a prudential control, a mechanism aimed at safeguarding the management of public finances, with the main objective of avoiding the commission of acts of irregularity in the management of public finances.

According to the DRC's financial watchdog, a priori control has helped the country to make progress in the area of good governance.

Consultations for the formation of the government: a scent of manipulation from the Prime Minister's Office.

This is an invitation to teachers and students to embrace the vision of the President of the Republic in the fight against corruption in public management.

« Today, the fight against corruption in public management is the best way to free our country from certain burdens, in order to achieve real development sooner. », declared Jules ALINGETE.

In response, the Rector of the University of Kinshasa paid a vibrant tribute to the leaders of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, who had managed to get the Inspector General of Finance despite his busy schedule.

« I would like to thank the organizers of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences for bringing us the head of the IGF depart-

ment, who gave us a basic understanding of a priori, concomitant and a posteriori control», enthused Professor Jean-Marie KAYEMBE.

he insisted, in line with Jules ALINGETE's speech, that managing state assets is not the GIF's business.

For the organizers of this event, the aim of the conference was to find out what results a priori control has produced since it was introduced 3 years ago.

« The introduction of the financial patrol led to much criticism in the media. As learners, we had to understand the need for this control in the context of an economy like ours », declared Bushabu Joël, President of FOREC..

Alternance / MCP, via mediacongo.net



Climate: history, issues and conspiracy at the foot of the flux tower

As May drew to a close, rumors and conspiracies invaded social networks, Facebook and WhatsApp, about the cabal origin of the heat being felt in Kisangani, a town located over 95 km from Yangambi. "A false alarm", said the Director of the National Institute for Study and Agronomic Research (NISAR), an institute that owns and monitors the flux tower with the Congolese government's partners in the sector.

« The inhabitants of YANGAMBI mobilized to destroy the flux tower installed there? These residents believe that this infrastructure is at the root of the current global warming in the DRC in favor of European countries. This tower must be cut down... », posted one Internet user on WhatsApp, amassing comments that are creating panic as they seek explanations of how the flux tower works.

In the hours that followed, the office of

the Minister for the Environment tried to calm overheated spirits, but to no avail. Rumor takes the place of truth. Boyomais spread the rumor by word of mouth. The intoxication goes viral. Powerless, the Tshopo provincial government is unable to communicate on the matter.

On Saturday May 18, the Managing Director of NISAR broke his silence. In a joint press briefing with the head of the Tshopo environmental division held at the Ho-

tel Congo Palace, Dieu-Merci Asumani, Engineer and Director of NISAR, revealed that the temperature currently being felt is the result of climate change, which is a lasting modification involving disturbances to climatic parameters.

« Two main factors account for this heat: two-thirds of the radiation coming from the sun and penetrating the earth, and man's anthropogenic activities. In this case, we're talking about human activities linked to slash-and-burn agriculture, deforestation, urbanization through demographic growth, industrialization... These human activities release energy, and this energy generates heat. The flux tower has nothing to do with the heat wave we're experiencing these days. It's more a question of a false campaign against this tower, one of whose instigators is already under arrest », he said.

Genesis of the flow tower

Yangambi and the forest is a matter of love. For many years now, this part of Tshopo province has been preserving the forest in its original state, attracting numerous researchers in the field for in-depth studies.

This instrument, which measures gas exchange, is an important tool for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to access the carbon market. Reaching a height of 55 meters (15 meters above the forest canopy), this structure is already filling a huge data gap on the importance of African rainforests in capturing global carbon emissions, changes in local and regional rainfall patterns, and the effect of forest degradation and deforestation on global warming.

All data produced is open and free to the international scientific community.

The installation of the flow tower is part of a NISAR project financed by the European Union and Belgium to turn Yangambi into a scientific hub for the benefit

of the DRC's populations and biodiversity. Managed by Congolese technicians working with NISAR, who have received all the necessary training on technical and operational aspects, the aim of the project is to support scientific research, promote the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, and improve the living conditions of rural communities living around the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve.

Global issues

On October 13, 2020, Amand MBUYA KANKOLONGO, Honorary Director of NISAR, told the press: "Our research station in Yangambi has a long history in climate studies. This tower will enable us to continue producing important scientific knowledge to inform national, regional and international policies in the context of global warming ».

This statement shows the path our country should take in its quest for a place in the global carbon market. With the green funds mechanism in place, however, these are not accessible to the country by forest area, reveals DCR Yangambi.

« Just because the DRC has a large forest area doesn't mean it can access its funds. Rather, it is up to the DRC to quantify the carbon stock in its forest. ».

« Today, with the data produced by this tower, we can with conviction confirm that the DRC is the world's leading lung in terms of carbon sequestration. This is a source of pride and a responsibility to further protect our tropical forests. We welcome this cooperation with the various partners, and we believe that this project will be extended to other forests in our country, so as to have more scientifically proven data on our capacity to sequester carbon", said Eve BAZAIBA as she stepped down from the flux tower on January 19, 2022.

According to the REDD project monitor-

ing database managed by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), a total of nearly 780,000 carbon credits were sold on the voluntary market up to 2020, and nothing since.

« The volume of carbon sequestered in our plot has dropped. We didn't pass the certification stage during the second audit in 2019," admits Jacques IPOMA, the project manager interviewed by le-monde.fr.

Let's note that North Kivu is the first province in the DRC to benefit from the sale of carbon credits. This is the result of projects implemented by WWF DRC in the province over the past 15 years.

The first payments will be made between 2020 and 2021. The province of North Kivu has benefited from 1.3 million US dollars. Checks are made on a 5-year cycle for reforestation and on an annual basis for improved stoves.

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CENTRES ET INSTITUTS DE RECHERCHE DU SECTEUR PUBLIC EN R.D.CONGO

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