





Marie-Thérèse SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA

Appointed Minister of ESURSIT

State Exam 2025
The DRC is moving into
the digital age with
blockchain and Al

3rd Congolese Scientific Genius Forum: Gilbert KABANDA reassures on Okapi radio Gilbert KABANDA will open the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum on August 11, 2025 NCPIR closes workshop to popularize new regulatory texts on nuclear safety and radiation protection



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Genius evaluation: from theory to action in the DRC

enius has always fascinated. By its very nature, it disrupts norms, defies conventions, pushes the boundaries of knowledge and creativity. So, how can we measure what is by definition unclassifiable the value of an idea that has yet to be proven, or an invention whose impact will only be felt over time? Evaluating genius is therefore a delicate process that navigates between recognizing exceptional talent and the need to anchor it in a perspective of progress for humanity.

By immersing its readership in the heart of initiatives aimed at making Congolese engineering a force for transformation, this 41st edition of the Science and Technological Innovation Bulletin eloquently answers this question. It offers a unique opportunity to move beyond abstract contemplation to a concrete reality in the Democratic Republic of Congo, demonstrating that evaluating engineering is not a mere theoretical exercise, but an imperative for action.

The 3rd Congolese Scientific Genius Forum (CSGF), at the heart of this bulletin, embodies this transition. It is no longer a matter of identifying brilliant minds, but of empowering them to act. The evaluation criteriaoriginality, socioeconomic impact, and industrialization potential—are not mere scores on a grid. They are the foundations of a bridge between the idea and its implementation, between the innovator and society. Minister Gilbert Kabanda's speech underscores a fundamental truth: science and innovation are only valuable if they serve to solve the nation's problems: "It is by facing our challenges that we will catalyze science and build a sustainable future." It follows that the evaluation of Congolese Genius

is an act of wisdom that invites societal actors to direct their efforts toward concrete solutions, because engineering is not only a question of intelligence, but also a question of relevance. As Minister Gilbert Kabanda emphasizes, the challenge is to move from prototype to mass production, from an invention to a product that finds its place 'on your plate, your car, or your pharmacy.'

Another point of view reminds us that, while innovators are working on blockchain and artificial intelligence for state exams, echoes from the provinces bring us back to health emergencies (cholera) or ecological threats (environmental crime, volcano monitoring). This duality forces us to rethink the evaluation of engineering. The genius of technology must be able to dialogue with the genius of public health. The inventor of the solution for smart agriculture must be able to collaborate with the researcher studying peanut growth. This is where the true strength of our scientific ecosystem lies: in its ability to unite talents, create synergies, and channel research energy toward shared objectives.

The challenges faced in the areas of volcano monitoring in Goma, health alerts regarding cholera in Mbandaka and Ngandanjika, and the fight against environmental crime are all reminders that science and innovation cannot be disconnected from national emergencies. They must serve as a compass to guide decisions. This is why sustainable development, public health, and environmental protection all constitute fertile ground for a genius.

The National Scientific Council's initiatives, such as African Women's Day, seek to create an inclusive ecosystem where every talent can express itself. They reveal a dual responsibility: to



Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA NSC President,

recognize and promote talent, but also to direct it toward the pressing needs of our society. Indeed, the true test of a genius lies in its ability to have a lasting impact on its field and on society. The impact of an innovation is measured not only by technological advances or masterpieces, but also by the ideas that have transformed our way of thinking and living.

In short, the main theme of the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum, highlighted in this issue, underscores the strength of local talent and the political will to transform it into a force for development. This approach reveals that assessing genius is not an abstract idea, but an act of wisdom that requires patience, humility, and a profound ability to see beyond appearances to recognize the true value of an idea with the power to transform the world.



3rd Congolese Scientific Genius Forum: Gilbert KABANDA reassures on Okapi radio

and Technological Innovation, Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA, was the special guest on the program "Okapi Service" on Radio Okapi. Facing the journalist Jody NKASHAMA, he spoke about the contribution of Congolese Scientific Engineering in the development of the nation, while answering questions from many listeners, including the following.

Jerry Kalangwa (Kolwezi) : "In Greater Katanga, we have areas where mangoes are grown, which ripen in abundance. There are also natural resources, including raw materials for making chalk used in education. We also have copper and cobalt. Minister, what are your plans to ensure that they are processed locally, particularly in the Bukama territory, where mangoes are never in short supply and can be used in other ways? Furthermore, in Kazaza, still in the Bukama territory, settlers used to exploit resources to make chalk, but since the 1970s, this local production has ceased. When will we have Congolese scientific geniuses from Greater Katanga, and when will they be deployed in the territories?"

Answer of the Minister: "I mentioned the raw materials available in our country (plant, metal, etc.). These are the resources that the Belgians transformed before independence. When they left, it took time to train our own experts. Today, 65 years later, we have a critical mass of Congolese geniuses. This is why Congolese scientific genius, through the Forum that I am organizing, is called upon to go to Bukama to discover these realities. The role of my Ministry is to ensure that these geniuses have the means, both industrial and financial, to locally transform these raw materials into consumer goods. I assure you that the Government is doing everything possible to ensure that these resources are exploited by our own skills. It is a matter of

time

Adélard Ngengele (Kisangani): "I would like the Minister to give us some details about the first two editions of the Forum. What happened to the selected geniuses? What did they produce? What is their impact in the provinces? How can we, in the provinces, participate in this competition? Finally, regarding the woman who built the rolling robot, we note that these robots often break down. What is your opinion on this subject?"

Answer of the Minister: "Regarding previous editions, the prototypes presented must now be industrialized. Between the design of a prototype and its production launch, funding is required, manufacturers willing to get involved, and a whole series of conditions must be met for a prototype to become a product available on the market. This process is underway, with the involvement of the Government, the FEC, and foreign investors. It doesn't happen overnight. In a year, or even less, you will see these inventions on your plate, in your car, or in your pharmacy. As for the rolling robots, it's a maintenance problem, not an invention. The innovation has been made; maintenance is now a matter of management."

Roger Marcel (Kananga): "Why does this kind of initiative always benefit Kinshasa? What are the participation criteria for inventors from other provinces? Can the Minister tell us what he has actually achieved since taking office and what we can expect from him?"

Answer of the Minister: "Our ministry has a digital portal accessible to all inventors, worldwide. Information about the Forum is also regularly shared on the RTNC. I invite you to visit this portal to connect with the organizing team. We do not exclude anyone."

Christian Ntonginda (Lubumbashi): I myself am an innovator. During the evaluation last

Tuesday, I submitted two projects, but only one was considered. The first was validated, but I was informed that the second was not included."

Answer of the Minister: "This is probably a justified complaint. After this broadcast, I will ask the jury leader for clarification. Please send me, even via Radio Okapi, the references for your second project, so that I can inquire about the situation."

Rémy Mulamba (Kinshasa): "I applied for the 2025 Forum. In my research, I noticed a paradox: in the interior of the country, food is thrown away, while in the cities, people go hungry. To connect rural areas to urban centers, we need railways. I imagined a 100,000 megawatt mega-dam project, capable of powering 160,000 km of railway, and I even identified donors. Can the Ministry consider a public-private partnership to finance this program?"

Answerofthe Minister: "The role of my Ministry is to stimulate research and innovation. Industrialization and implementation are the responsibility of other ministries. Once an invention is made, I collaborate with my colleagues in charge of Industry, Trade, Energy, etc. I will forward your proposal to the relevant Ministries. The National Fund for Research and Technological Innovation exists, but it is used to finance the research leading to the invention, not the exploitation phase."

Ismaël Mpoy (Lubumbashi): "Why do we set criteria in a forum? Couldn't we first select the best innovators in each province, and then hold a final competition in Kinshasa? What's the difference between a forum and a competition?"

Answer of the Minister: "The jury is based in Kinshasa to allow for the exchange of ideas and informed decision-making. But rest

Decryption: Alain NGABO KAJEMBA Exacte-info.net

assured, we plan to territorialize the initiative. We are setting up a National Agency for the Promotion of Congolese Scientific Genius, which will have branches in all provinces, responsible for identifying talent even in the most remote corners. Also, it is not a competition, but a forum, that is to say, an exhibition space where everyone presents their achievements. It is a kind of large technology fair where the public discovers and appreciates the proposed innovations."

Gilbert KABANDA will open the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum on August 11, 2025

Indeed, the innovators and inventors selected for the second evaluation will participate in this opening of the CSGF. Members of the management committees of Research Institutions can also participate..



Evaluation of innovators at the Congolese Scientific Genius Pre-Forum: a success

Palace was filled with innovators and inventors from various fields who came to be evaluated. These included improved traditional medicine, digital technologies, smart agriculture, renewable energy, robotics, and innovative local materials, among others.

These innovators and invitees are presented to the jury members, made up of at least five (5) people per team, according to the themes or areas of inventions and/or innovations.

Thirty (30) minutes are devoted to each successful candidate, with ten (10) minutes for the presentation of the invention/

innovation and twenty (20) minutes of discussion with the team of evaluators under the aegis of a President and a Secretary chosen from among them.

The evaluations are based on four major criteria: the originality of the invention or innovation, its socio-economic and/or environmental impact, its contribution to job creation across the country and the fight against poverty, the existence of its prototype and the possibility of reproducing it, as well as its industrialization. Each of these criteria counted for ten (10) points, and the evaluation score is worth forty (40) points, expressed as a percentage (%). The daily evaluation scores are forwarded to the general rapporteur at the end of the

meeting for compilation.

The Pre-Forum has currently evaluated 493 projects submitted by inventors and innovators.

It is worth noting that the fields of technology, digital technology, and computer technology, as well as electrical technology, electronics, and mechanics, presented the largest number of inventions and innovations.

The Pre-Forum candidate evaluations were also marked by visits by the Minister of SRTI, Dr. Gilbert KABANDA, to the various FGSC booths. During these visits, CSGF evaluators presented to Minister KABANDA flagship projects submitted by inventors and

Minister KABANDA that fifty the necessary resources would be made available to will be retained. support the organization.

The Minister of Research praised the ingenuity of several young researchers and innovators while reiterating the government's ambition to make science a true lever of technological sovereignty.

The evaluators thanked Minister Gilbert KABANDA for his presence. They assured the Minister that the DRC is not lacking in geniuses capable of providing answers to the potential concerns the Congolese people. It should be noted that the evaluation of candidates for the Pre-forum continues until Monday, August 4,

innovators. He reassured 2025, at the end of which (50) inventions/ innovations to be awarded

> SRTI and Christian MAZONO/NSC communication unit



Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA was appointed Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation on August 7, 2025, in Kinshasa. This article will be detailed in the next edition of STIB.,

Christian MAZONO/NSC



Gilbert KABANDA opens the Conference on the need to catalyze African science through scientific partnership

le Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA, opened on July 23, 2025 at the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), the Conference on the need to catalyze African science through scientific partnership.

Minister Gilbert Kabanda reiterated that the European Union's (EU) assessment on this matter appears to be correct with regard to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which is currently organizing its third Congolese Scientific Genius Forum.

The INRB conference is being held over two days as part of the 25th anniversary of the partnership between the European Union and Africa on science and technology. Note that Brussels will

host a high-level meeting next October to boost cooperation between the European Union and Africa in a wide variety of fields.

Pascal MASIRIKA BISIMWA Cons/Com **MSRTI**



Minister Gilbert KABANDA KURHENGA's Speech at the Conference on the Need to Catalyze African Science through Scientific Partnerships



General Director of the INRB,

Researchers from the Research Centers and Institutes.

Delegates of the European Union Research Council,

Organizers,

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished Guests,

It is with great pleasure that I accept the invitation of the man I usually call 'My Dean,' Professor Muyembe, General Director of our National Institute for Research on Biodiversity (INRB), who has honored me by participating in this important scientific gathering between the European Union, France, and my country, the DRC.

From the outset, I express my great admiration and sincere congratulations to the creators of the theme of this conference: 'Catalyzing African Science through Scientific Partnerships.' In chemistry, we learn that 'To catalyze means to stimulate a reaction using a substance that is quantitatively infinitesimal compared to the reactants brought into contact and the reaction products.'

ut there is more located win

But there is more. 'Catalyzing African science' sixty years after independence

also means recognizing that the critical masses of African scientific intelligence in general, and Congolese in particular, have quantitatively and qualitatively reached a potential for action capable of making them react positively to the stimulation of a European catalyst. The European Union's diagnosis on this subject seems correct to me, at least as far as my country, the DRC, is concerned.

More specifically, in the DRC, at this very moment, the 3rd Congolese Scientific Genius Forum is being held, a framework created two years ago and responding to the expressed political will of the President of the Republic, Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, to see Congolese intelligence take control of the levers of the country's socio-economic development, particularly in the field of science and technology.

The 3rd Forum, like the first two, reveals a qualitatively and numerically overflowing and abundant ingenuity not only among the ranks of the high graduates of our higher and university education but also and curiously among compatriots of low educational levels up to the uneducated, holders of solid ancestral knowledge dating back thousands of years.

This means that the catalysis offered

by our partners in the European Union will be used to stimulate scientific and technological production, from the top of our academic and scientific institutions to the deepest huts of our most remote villages in our forests. This is one of the strategic axes of our scientific research and technological innovation policy. I would like to express, on behalf of Mrs. Judith SUMINWA TULUKA, Prime Minister, the thanks of the Government of the Republic to our partners in the European Union and the CNRS of France for this new diplomatic-scientific approach which is a clear departure from the recent past. In this perspective, my ministry expects to capitalize on the resolutions resulting from our scientific meeting for the joint development of a strategic framework and a roadmap for the construction and implementation of our future catalytic structure.

I thank you...

Prof Dr Gilbert KABANDA KURHENG

Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation



Speech by Prof. MPIANA, President of the Scientific Commission of the third edition of the International Congress on Strategies and Development Issues (CISEDD 3) organized on July 29, 2025 at the INRB



Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of Public and International Institutions.

Dear Fellow Researchers and Academics,

Distinguished Partners and Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in your respective capacities,

As President of the Scientific Commission of the third edition of the International Congress on Sustainable Development Strategies and Challenges (CISEDD 3), it is with a mixture of pride and responsibility that I address you today, on the occasion of the official opening of this forum dedicated to sustainable development strategies and challenges.

Science, more than ever, is called upon to play a central role in developing public policies, in designing alternative economic models, and in supporting societies towards a more resilient, more equitable, and more sustainable future.

With this in mind, our commission has worked for several months to design a rich, rigorous, and cross-disciplinary scientific program, bringing together several presentations, panels, and workshops around interconnected themes, such as:

Lhealth challenges in a changing

world,

- Climate change and energy transition,
- Sustainable agriculture and food security,
- Waste and natural resource management,
- Technological innovation and artificial intelligence at the service of development,
- Social equity, inclusive governance and human rights,
- Urbanization, sustainable infrastructure and responsible mining.

These choices are not trivial. They reflect our desire to anchor scientific thinking in the multisectoral realities of our countries and to foster useful knowledge, practical tools, and models adaptable to local and regional contexts.

Our priority has been to ensure an inclusive, multidisciplinary, and intergenerational space. Thus, established researchers will engage with young people; knowledge from the academic world will intersect with community experiences, indigenous knowledge, and citizen innovations. We deeply believe that diversity of perspectives is an epistemological asset.

The Scientific Commission also ensures that the results of this conference are not limited to the walls of this conference. They will be promoted through policy briefs, scientific proceedings, strategic summaries decision-makers, for and, we hope, through the concrete implementation of recommendations arising from our work. To all of youresearchers, practitioners, innovators, students. technical and financial partners—I extend an invitation: may science be a lever for transformation, a tool for dialogue, and a compass to guide decisions toward sustainable trajectories.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time has passed from observation to contribution.

Sustainable development is not a slogan. It is a scientific, ethical, social, and political imperative.

Let us make CISEDD 3 a hub for knowledge production and a catalyst for change..

I thank you.

Prof. Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA NSC President,



DYFERSCO/NSC celebrates International African Women's Day

s part of the International Day of African Women celebrated on July 31 of each year, the Dynamics of Women in Scientific Research in Congo of the National Scientific Council/DYFERSCO/CSN organized, on July 31, 2025 in Kinshasa, a scientific day with the theme: rights, empowerment and opportunity for all displaced women and girls everywhere in the world.

The activity began at 10:30 a.m. with a presentation of the event program by the moderator, Ms. Banga Uba Kosanga.

After the national anthem, the moderator invited the representative of the NSC President, Mr. Pierrot Kabunda, Administrative and Financial Director of the PS/NSC, to deliver the opening remarks.

He reiterated that this activity aims to foster reflection, exchange, sharing, and the development of new knowledge to enable women to emerge in the scientific research sector. He thanked the steering committee for planning the activity, the speakers for their availability, and the participants for their presence, and expressed his hope for a fruitful discussion before declaring the day's activity open. Speaking in turn, the Vice President of DYFERSCO/NSC, Ms. Meta Marie-Louise, reiterated the objective of this activity, which represents one of the advances in the fight for women's emancipation. She emphasized that the battle here is not yet

won, and that the struggle continues, as major challenges remain in the fields of education and the economy.

Women working in scientific research must renew their commitment to ensure their development in this sector.

The first presentation, led by Professor Patience NGELINKOTO MPIA, focused on the theme: "Women and Scientific Research." She focused her presentation on the following three key points:

1. Origin and objectives of this day

Professor Patience emphasized the objectives of this day, which include: raising awareness of women's rights and persistent inequalities on the continent, encouraging women's participation in the political, economic and social spheres, promoting public policies in favor of women's empowerment and gender equality, highlighting the contributions of African women in various sectors, including education, health, entrepreneurship and promoting the exchange of experiences and solidarity between African women and those in the

2. Some data on women in the world

The speaker demonstrated that for years, a significant gender gap has existed worldwide in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Although women have made tremendous progress in their participation in higher

education, they remain underrepresented in these scientific categories.

She gave examples of some women who have contributed to the development of societies around the world, citing Ms. Kirongozi from the DRC, who invented the rolling robot in 2013.

Professor Patience Ngelinkoto reiterated that women can indeed empower themselves in the research sector, as they have dormant potential that needed to be made available to humanity.

She inquired about the percentage of women in research centers and institutes; the observation is that there is less than 30% representation of women in our research structures.

3. African Women in Science: Challenges and Opportunities

Ms. Patience Ngelinkoto affirmed that the inclusion of women in science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) is essential to ensure diversity of perspectives, innovation, and the development of solutions that are suitable for all.

She concluded by reiterating that it is crucial to combat gender inequalities and stereotypes to enable women to achieve their full potential in science and contribute fully to society.

The second speaker, Ms. Laurette Mbiya Kadisa, Research Assistant at the Center for Research in Applied Sciences and



Technology (CRSAT), spoke on "Women and Human Rights: Legal Instruments Guaranteeing Women's Rights."

In her introduction, the speaker defined discrimination as any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or differential treatment based on sex, which has the purpose or effect of impairing or prohibiting the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women, regardless of their marital status, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all areas of life. Influencing factors include: age, socioeconomic status, racial or ethnic origin, religion, nationality, health status (HIV status or disability), etc.

She also presented the history of the adoption of instruments guaranteeing women's rights, human rights protection instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Maputo Protocol, and Law No. 15/013 of August 1, 2015, on the modalities for the implementation of women's rights and parity, which aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to protect and promote their rights.

The speaker emphasized that women must upgrade their skills (train, inform themselves, and comply), and find strategies to assert their rights if parity is to become a reality.

After these two presentations, a moment of discussion ensued between the participants and the speakers. The representative of the NSC President then closed the session by encouraging the women to support each other.

It should be noted that International African Women's Day is celebrated on July 31st of each year. Thanks to this Day, women's rights in Africa have seen significant improvements. Several states have implemented instruments to provide effective protection for women. Thus, the





African Union (AU) adopted: the Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, commonly known as the "Maputo Protocol," adopted on July 11, 2003, in Mozambique and entered into force in November 2005.

LUVANDU MBENZA Maguy/NSC and MAZONO Christian/NSC



The NCPIR closes the workshop to popularize the new regulatory texts on nuclear safety and radiation protection.

e National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR) closed the popularization and awareness-raising workshop on the new regulatory texts on nuclear safety and radiation protection in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on July 17, 2025 at Fleuve Congo Hotel in Kinshasa.

This workshop was opened by the Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation on July 15 at Fleuve Congo Hotel. The event was held under the theme: "Let's apply best practices in radiation protection together: from the legal framework to the operational level."

In his opening remarks, the Minister welcomed the initiative of the National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR) and invited participants to engage in the debate with a view to contributing to the harmonious application of the regulations.

According to Minister Gilbert Kabanda, the use of ionizing radiation affects several sectors of life, including health, agriculture, and the mining industry. He revealed that this use exposes the population and its environment to several risks that can have enormous health impacts, the repercussions of which can extend over several generations. At this level, the State has an obligation to put in place a rigorous legal and regulatory framework to regulate its use and ensure prevention.

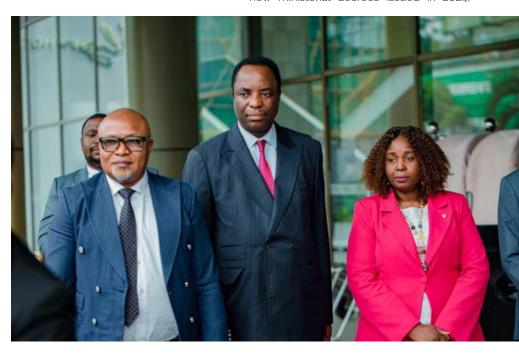
Finally, Minister Gilbert Kabanda emphasized that ministerial decrees intended to strengthen the national legal framework in this area will be raised during this workshop to establish transparency in the authorization procedure and ensure optimal physical security for individuals,

nuclear and other radioactive materials, and associated facilities.

For her part, NCPIR Vice-President Professor Odette Kabena noted that this workshop aims to raise awareness among stakeholders of the technical, legal, and operational implications of these texts, to discuss the challenges and issues involved in optimizing the new measures, and to examine the best options between the NCPIR and its partners.

Professor Florimond Nyamoga Kabanda expressed his satisfaction with the seriousness and commitment demonstrated by the participants from the mining, medical, industrial, and military sectors, as well as public and private institutions.

He praised 'the satisfaction resulting from a job well done,' while affirming that the workshop had achieved its main objectives, namely to inform stakeholders of the three new ministerial decrees issued in 2024,



*Specifically, this workshop's mission was to explain and explore the contents of the three new ministerial decrees amending and supplementing the decree signed in 2021 on setting the fees for authorizations and inspections or practical activities using nuclear materials and other radioactive sources, as well as emitting devices using ionizing radiation in the DRC," she stated.

In his closing remarks, NCPIR President

explain their rationale, and promote their collective ownership.

Professor Nyamoga highlighted the importance of these texts, which concern inspection fees, the physical protection of nuclear materials, and protection against natural sources of radiation.

According to him, these texts represent a decisive milestone in the effort to

modernize the sector's legal framework, filling significant gaps and aligning the DRC with international nuclear safety standards.

The NCPIR President congratulated the speakers and experts for the quality of the discussions, the richness of the contributions, the keen interest of the participants, and the proven expertise of the panelists.

No text, however well drafted, will produce results without the shared will of all stakeholders, he stated, before concluding: *What we have begun here must not stop at the doors of this room. It is up to us,

together, to build a national culture of nuclear safety and security."

Three pillars are thus called upon to guide this culture, notably compliance with national and international standards, transparency in risk management, and the accountability of each stakeholder, he reiterated

He finally reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing his missions 'with integrity, rigor, and openness,' while promising to support stakeholders in implementation, monitoring, and capacity building. The official closure of the workshop was

declared by the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of SRTI, Mr. CHIRISHUNGU CHIZA, representing the Minister who was unable to attend.

Christian MAZONO/NSC and Théodore LUMU/AIPS

Workshop to popularize new regulatory texts on nuclear safety and radiation protection

Professor Odette KABENA NGANDU presents the NCPIR and its achievements.

Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR),
Professor Odette KABENA NGANDU, presented
her NCPIR Institution and its achievements during
the popularization workshop on new regulatory texts on
nuclear safety and radiation protection on July 17, 2025 at
Fleuve Congo Hotel in Kinshasa.

In her address, Professor Odette Kabena Ngandu recalled that the NCPIR was created by Law No. 017/2002 of October 16, 2002, containing provisions relating to protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation and the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, and that its effective operationalization occurred following the adoption of Decree No. 05/019 of September 29, 2005, establishing the organization and operation of this institution.

Vice-President Kabena Ngandu indicated that the NCPIR's mandate is to ensure the protection of humans (particularly workers) and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

According to her, the Institution has very specific missions in the area of the use of nuclear materials and radioactivity, which consist of regulating, monitoring, authorizing, and implementing enforcement measures. Within its organization, the NCPIR has a Protection and Safety Council, a Management Committee, and directorates such as the Authorization Directorate, the Regulatory Directorate, the Inspection Directorate, and various departments.

In terms of achievements, she highlighted that the NCPIR has developed a comprehensive legal arsenal: decrees and orders, on the one hand, and has organized inspections and implemented enforcement measures.

She further indicated that several departments collaborate with the NCPIR and also contribute to nuclear security. These include: AEC, PNC, FARDC, CNSN, OCC, CoE/CBRN, INS, DGM, DGDA, RM, RVA, JUSTICE, and ANR. To conclude her speech, Professor Odette Kabena Ngandu called on the DRC authorities to support the NCPIR in fulfilling its mission to control nuclear materials, other natural

COMITE NATIONAL DE PROTECTION CONTRE LES RAYONNEMENTS IONISANTS





or artificial radioactive materials, as well as practices involving sources of ionizing radiation.

For better protection of human populations and the environment in the DRC, Ms. Odette Kabena Ngandu advocated for the support of users and public services, including the NCPIR, to ensure compliance and safety throughout the national territory.

"Let us together apply the Good Radiation Protection Practices of the legal framework relating to protection," she insisted...

Théodore LUMU/AIPS and Christian MAZONO/NSC

Reflections of our researchers

Influence of the "Booster LK" nutrient solution on peanut growth and yield in Kinshasa

ome researchers from the Faculty of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences of the University of Kinshasa, namely Augustin NGOMBO NZOKWANI, Jeanpy KHANDI MAKOSO, Joël MAKOKA KIANKWENO, Serge MUNGBALANGO and Roger KIZUNGU VUMILIA, have published a scientific article entitled: "Influence of the nutrient solution "Booster LK" on the growth and yield of peanuts in Kinshasa".

According to these researchers, peanuts are the world's third-largest source of vegetable oil after soybeans and sunflowers. They are cultivated by more than 100 countries on over 26.4 million hectares, with an average productivity of 1.4 tons per hectare.

The main producers are India, China, Senegal, Nigeria, the USA, Indonesia, and the DRC. Peanuts are produced throughout the DRC, with savannah regions being the main producers. They rank eighth in national production.

They demonstrate that the majority of

Congolese production is used only for direct consumption in the form of porridge, pounded, or roasted (MINAGRI, 2012). In the DRC, peanuts play an important role in the diet, with average consumption estimated at 12.5 kg per capita. Peanut cultivation is the main source of income for farming households. A small portion is processed in oil mills to produce peanut oil, and the cakes are used as livestock feed. However, in rural areas, this crop unfortunately faces numerous problems, including the use of local, degenerate, and less productive varieties.

Added to this are disease attacks that manifest themselves in reduced crop yields and poor harvest quality. Peanut production and productivity are often limited by several abiotic factors such as salt stress, water stress, temperature, pH, fungal attacks, low fertility of tropical soils due to leaching, low organic matter content, rapid mineralization, low cation exchange capacity, and, in short, the low fertility of tropical soils. Improving peanut growth is of great importance

to increase its yield. Before concluding, they state that much research has been conducted on nitrogen and phosphate fertilization of peanuts, but that on the use of nutrient solutions is almost nonexistent.

The results of their research reveal that the use of a nutrient solution has a positive impact on peanut growth and yield. Future studies could focus on the effects of nutrient solutions on soil fertility.

Augustin NGOMBO NZOKWANI and others/UNIKIN/ Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



State Exam 2025: The DRC moves into the digital age with blockchain and AI

is Monday, July 28, 2025, a page of history is being written for Congolese education. The 58th edition of the State Examination kicks off with a record: 1,079,341 candidates spread across 3,165 centers across the national territory as well as 13 centers established abroad. But beyond the figures, this session marks an unprecedented technological breakthrough

orchestrated by the Ministry of National Education and New Citizenship.

"The State Exam is becoming a strategic tool for strengthening the credibility of Congolese schools," says Minister of National Education and New Citizenship Raïssa Malu, the architect of this transformation. For the first time, registrations have been fully digitized,

creating a secure database for more than 4 million students. This is a major step forward in a country where manual file management regularly generated controversy.

What concrete innovations await candidates? First, a revolution in marking: exams scanned in the provinces will be evaluated via a centralized platform assisted by artificial intelligence.

The stated objective: to halve the time taken to announce results while eliminating human error. Second, the arrival of digital diplomas via the E-Diploma platform, based on blockchain technology. This solution guarantees the inalterability of school certificates, a bulwark against the forgeries that have long undermined the value of Congolese diplomas. This digital transformation is part of a broader educational reform. Starting in the 2025-2026 academic year, a competency-based approach will gradually replace traditional teaching methods. The exams themselves will be redesigned to reflect the realities of the job market. This is essential in a country where youth un-

employment is reaching alarming levels.

How was this modernization made possible despite the security challenges in the east of the country? The government has mobilized exceptional resources, including securing centers in high-risk areas. With 42.9% of girls enrolled in the long-cycle program, parity is slowly but surely improving, reflecting efforts to promote women's education.

This 2025 session raises a fundamental question: will digital innovations be enough to restore the image of a weakened education system? While blockchain secures diplomas and AI accelerates corrections, the real chal-

lenge remains equitable access to technological tools in remote regions. The success of this Congolese school reform will be measured by its ability to reduce educational divides while effectively preparing young people for the economic challenges of tomorrow.

Yvan Ilunga /mediacongo.net



Cholera in Ngandanjika: 28 suspected cases and 3 deaths in two weeks, maximum alert in Lomami

major health alert is shaking the territory of Ngandanjika in Lomami Province, where health authorities have recorded 28 suspected cases of cholera accompanied by three deaths in just fourteen days. This epidemic outbreak, mainly concentrated in the health area of Mande, 12 kilometers from the center of Ngandanjika, is causing growing concern over its rapid progression.

Dr. René Lumbala, chief physician of the Mulumba health zone, confirms this alarming development: "Since the 24th week, two initial cases were reported in Mande. The following week, this number rose to around ten, then exceeded thirteen cases in the 26th week. Although not yet laboratory-confirmed, the samples were urgently sent to Kinshasa." This exponential acceleration raises fears of a major health crisis in this already vulnerable region.

How can this rapid spread be explained? Like wildfire, cholera thrives on precarious access to drinking water and poor hygiene infrastructure. The Ngandanjika territory, like many rural areas of Kasai Oriental and Lomami, provides ideal breeding grounds for the Vibrio cholerae bacterium. The lack of adequate latrines and the consumption of untreated water are transforming local streams and wells into veritable

epidemic time bombs.

Faced with this emergency, medical teams are providing free patient care but are sounding the alarm about a critical lack of resources. "We are facing a dramatic shortage of medical supplies and equipment," laments Dr. Lumbala. This shortage is seriously compromising the response capacity, at a time when every minute counts to save lives: extreme dehydration caused by cholera can kill an adult in less than 24 hours without proper treatment.

What reflexes should be adopted in the face of this invisible threat? Health authorities emphasize three vital measures: systematically boil drinking water, wash hands with soap before every meal, and immediately report any suspicious symptoms (sudden watery diarrhea, uncontrollable vomiting). These simple actions constitute the first barrier against the spread. 'At the first signs, the population must immediately go to the nearest health centers,' the chief physician reminds.

This new outbreak occurs in a worrying national context where cholera has already caused more than 750 deaths in the last six months, according to the latest epidemiological reports. The Kasai Oriental province, which includes Lomami, remains particularly exposed due to its poor coverage of basic

health infrastructure. Specialists emphasize that a coordinated response including an emergency supply of oral rehydration salts, water chlorination campaigns, and reinforced community surveillance could reverse the trend

While waiting for medical reinforcements, the local population lives in daily anxiety. The first three recorded deaths tragically illustrate the speed with which this waterborne disease can strike. Affected families describe descents into hell in just a few hours, a scenario unfortunately all too familiar in remote areas of the DRC. This health crisis in Ngandanjika serves as a cruel reminder: without universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the spectre of cholera will continue to haunt the country's most vulnerable communities.

Congo quotidien

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science)

Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural.

Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

ATSRC (Applied and Technologic Sciences Research Center)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés Objective: To develop materials, equipment, methods or processes with a view to finding solutions to the population's urgent problems in various fields: housing, rural develop ment and the modernization of the society.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

RCHS (Research Center in Human Sciences)

Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development.

Address :33,Av.comité urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching)

Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality.

Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe: E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail. com; Tel: 0815031877

GRC (Geophysical Research Center)

Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC. Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe(within GMRC); E-mail:tondozi@gmail.

AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies)

Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies.

Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcibangu@yahoo.fr; Tel:

0996658741

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi)

Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences

Address :Hôtel de la porte Matadi; É-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel:0815037949

NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of ionizing Radiation)

Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as

Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@ gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research

Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel:

CGI (Congo Geographic Institute)

Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives. Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

GMRC (Geologic and Mining Research Center)

Objective: To carry out studies and analyses to improve knowledge of the soil and subsoil of the national territory.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel.

NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research)

Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm. Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities.

To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed. Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results.

Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP: 2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikankonde@ vahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture)

Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African lan-

guages and cultures. Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi)

Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products. To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control.

Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible.

Address: 1, Av. Président ILEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

SSRC (Social Science Research Center / Bandunduville)

Objective: to carry out practical scientific research into major socio-economic and cultural issues

To promote sustainable aquatic development.

Address: 29, Av. de la mission, Q/Salongo, C/Basoko. BANDUNDUVILLE, BP. 223; E-mail:akuzituka@gmail.com; Tel: 0815898971

FERC (Forest Ecology Research Center / Mabali)

Objective: Scientific research on plants, aquatic species and animal species. Address: D.S/MBANDAKA D.S/MBANDAKA/PROVINCE OF ECUADOR; E-mail: bosomboependi2@gmail.com; Tel: 0825241704

NDRC (Nutritional Diseases Research Center/Gemena)

Objective: Research into diseases linked to malnutrition, such as related diseases by isolating certain molecules, such as SYZYSIUM GUINESIE to combat amoebic yeasts and diarrhea in South Ubangi.

Address: Mobutu n° 220/A. GEMENA/ SOUTH UBANGI PROVINCE; E-mail: cherusangi@ yahoo.fr; 0992416091

NSRC (Natural Sciences Research Center /Lwiro)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate research in the fields of science, technology and industry throughout the DRC.

Address: LWIRO LWIRO . TERRITORY OF KABARE/SUD KIVU; E-mail: robert.kasisi@umontreal.com: Tel: 0996806699.

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center /Bunia)

Objective: To carry out operational research in the north-east of the DRC in the fields of applied linguistics, African cultures and applied sciences. Study of nature, fauna, flora and protection of endangered species.

Address:BUNIA/ITURI; E-mail: Kermwathomas@gmail.com; Tel: 0997717070

HRC (Hydrobiology Research Center in Uvira)

Objective: To program, coordinate and monitor research activities in hydrobiology, limnology and hydrology.

hydrobiology, limnology and fisheries in all ecosystems.

Address: 115, AV. du Congo, Q/Kimanga, C/Kalundu, UVIRA / SUD KIVU; E-mail: bidakamuhoza@gmail.com; Tel: 0997716307.

CBRNEC (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Excellence Center)

Objective: To contribute to the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: coe.cbrn.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0817742543.

GVO (Goma Volcanological Observatory)

Objective: Prevention of volcanic risks by monitoring volcanoes and Lake Kivu. Kivu; Management of natural risks; scientific research.

Address:142, Avenue Du Rond Point ; Quartier Les Volcans ; Commune de Goma ; Ville Goma; North-Kivu; E-mail: mavotulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0998584734

WERC (Water and Environment Research Center)

Objective: To serve as a training and research center focusing on water and environ-

To propose solutions to problems that could arise around water. Create a national network of Congolese scientists and researchers to analyze and disseminate information on the impact of climate change in the DRC. Promote education and the right to the environment.

Address: 44, Comité Urbain C/ GOMBE; E-mail: ngelipatience@gmail.com; Tel: 0818105625.

RCSARP (Research Center for the Selection and Adaptation of Ruminants and Pigs)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of ruminant and pig breeding

Address: 45, Av. Lumumba, Q/de la gare, LUPUTA/ KASAI-ORIENTAL; E-mail: tshamalagabriel@gmail.com; Tel: 0851817370

NCRS (National Center for Remote Sensing)

Obiective: Research in remote sensing.

Address: PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE KASAI; E-mail: davidnginduh@amail.com: Tel: 0815103502

NCROS (National Center for Research in Oral Science)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of oral health.

Address: 13, 10ème Rue, Industriel Quarter, C/Limete; E-mail: Cnrsbd.rdc.@gmail.com; Tel: 0822244152; 0811835159; 0840922982

CAS(Congolese Academy of Sciences)-----

Objective: Promotion and dissemination of science, technology,arts and letters Support for inventive initiatives

Address: Sciences Faculty/ UNIKIN local 28; E-mail: jjmuyembet@gmail.com; Tel: 0813330242

MIPRC (Matadi Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Research Center)

Objective:--Information science.

Address: The buildings of the Matadi Higher Pedagogical Institute; Tel: 0896501462



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