**REPORT OF DANIDA ALUMINI DAY IN BENIN**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2018, 10H VENUE: CHANT D’OISEAU / COTONOU**

**AGENDA:**

1- Opening Ceremony

• Welcome from the President of the Organizing Committee

• Representative of the UPMB

2- Panel 1: "Contribution of former Danida scholars to the fight against the effects of climate change"

3- General debate

4- General discussions on strategies to adopt

5- Closing remarks

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| **I-Opening Ceremony** | |
| **Opening Ceremony** | While welcoming the participants, to the day of the Alumni of the Kingdom of Denmark in Benin, the President of the Organizing Committee, Mr Gérard GUEDEGBE clarified the aims of the meeting. These include:  - share how Danida former fellows from different fields of expertise can contribute to the development of Benin;  - discuss volunteer mentoring ideas for young professionals in Benin;  - develop a short or medium-term roadmap;  - and discuss strategies to increase membership .  "We want to set up a group in which former fellows will be privileged. It's up to us to define our fields of action, "he added. It is a meeting of networking and reflection supported by Danida fellowship Centre. Mr Guedegbe expressed his gratitude to Lene [Christina Mosegaard](http://dfcentre.com/about-us/contact/communication/) who constantly showed commitment for the succesful implementation of this project.  Following him, the representative of the Union of media Professionals of Benin (UPMB), Mr. Hervé HESSOU, took the floor, stating that the UPMB is happy to support this initiative. "The support of the Union is clear. We will be on your side to help this initiative grow and participate in our program on the specialization of media professionals, "he added. |
| **II- Panel Discussion "Fight against the effects of climate change: contribution of former Danida alumni"** | |
| Dr. Akibou AKINDELE, Assistant Professor of DGAT / FASHS / UAC | The Panel discussion was facilitated by Dr. Akibou AKINDELE, Assistant Professor of DGAT / FASHS / UAC. According to him, the global warming is quite threatening and this warming is mainly related to modern human activities.  Awareness for a prompt and preventative response is imperative for all. Actions must be taken to limit the impacts of climate change, he said  o Scholarships  o Youth training  o Involvement of the African diaspora  o Promoting climate risk assessment tools  o Mitigation measures  o Look for reliable information closed to credible structure |
| **Discussions** | Participants' concerns focused on a number of issues, including:  • community perception of climate change  • What small actions to initiate in Cotonou to fight against climate change  • What concrete and reasonable actions to take  • Reflect on the useful involvement of students in climate change issues:  • The problems caused by cotton growing in Benin and the use of toxic chemicals  • The fact that African coalitions are not audible enough in climate change debates  • Lack of experts who can formulate projects to consume the climate funds.   Question on the actions to be taken:  o youth training  o Investment in the waste management sector; agricultural and energy recovery of waste   Promoting the green economy: contributing to the greening of our economy   Integrate the youngest in this device   * Networking system: by integration |
| **III-General discussions on strategies to adopt? take volunteers to work on a flexible and dynamic coordination team** | |
|  | Participants made several proposals for future actions. So :   * Set up an exchange panel to provide information * Meet quarterly * Create a whatsapp group * Exchange trainings with other networks * Organize competitions with awards for media men, NGOs and individuals working in specific fields * Collaboration with experts to help the group develop projects to seek funding * Advocate for funding to build dikes * Reflect on activities that can directly impact our community and see their impact * look for younger targets in colleges, high schools etc. * Form Thematic Groups, on the environment and youth, on the dissemination of good practices, on the laws relating to the production of the environment (brochures, comic strips in easy French) * Create the Green Group for the Media. Follow up on the actions carried out by the Government * Follow the Danida programs and the SDGs. * Choose themes, seek experts, network and seek the necessary funding to act.   The partner (Danida) does not have to suggest a program. Our resources must focus on several topics   * Put in place a directive framework with respect to the group * Establish a link with eco-citizenship organizations: in the context of climate change, a fairly large area * Focus on the consequences of using biodegradable plastic bags * Awareness of mass by the media. Act, initiate awareness campaigns, information. Stay in our field of action * Reflect, search for innovative ideas that make us out of ourselves. We can do great things. Continue thinking and see what can be brought. * Make environmental actions. Green Group of Media Professionals |
|  | The urgency:   * ensure the creation of the platform * propose two or three activities to be done in the next 30 days * designate 4 volunteers: two women and two men, * the task: to make sure that everything said is captured, that the group exists and that it has a five point roadmap   Dead line: one month.  The coordination team is composed as follows :  **Coordinator : S Gérard Guedegbe**  **Members :**  Arnaud ADIKPETO  Prisca MIKPON NEKEYAN  Yves patrice LOKO  Eloise OUINATO |
| **IV-Closing remarks by Gérard GUEDEGBE** | |
|  | At the end of the session, the President of the Organizing Committee and designated Coordinator, Mr Gérard GUEDEGBE thanked all the participants for making the trip and made relevant contributions. |