Congo Rector Visits the University of Würzburg

Since March 2012 a partnership agreement has been joining together the University of Würzburg and the University ULPGL in Goma in the east of the Congo. Now the Rector of this university has visited Würzburg for the first time.

Professor Léopold Kambale Karafuli is the Rector of the "Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs" (ULPGL). This university is situated in Goma, a city in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since March 2012 the ULPGL (in English: "Free University of the Countries of the Great Lakes") has been linked with the University of Würzburg by a partnership contract and has been participating in the BEBUC excellence scholarship program, which promotes outstanding young Congolese students and pupils at schools and universities.

During his cooperation trip through various European countries, Rector Karafuli also visited the University of Würzburg for the first time. Together with Prof. Peter Merten, Science Manager of ULPGL, he met first with Prof. Gerhard Bringmann of the Chair of Organic Chemistry I and discussed details of their scientific cooperation and of the further extension of the BEBUC program in Goma.

The two guests were then welcomed by the University President, Prof. Alfred Forchel, in his office in the main building, where he presented to them a book on the University of Würzburg and a bottle of typical Franconian wine, a so-called Bocksbeutel.

The University in Goma

With its 3,000 students the ULPGL is still a relatively small university. Initially created as a theological institute in 1985, it was promoted to a university in 1991. Nonetheless it is very productive: According to "University Web Ranking" of 4icu it occupies place 3 out of the 17 best Congolese Universities.

Theology, Law, Economy, Health and Community Development, Psychology and Sciences of Education, and Sciences and Applied Technologies: At present there are six faculties at the ULPGL.

The City of Goma itself has an estimated half million of inhabitants. It is situated north of the volcano Nyiragongo, on the shore of Lake Kivu, where the countries D.R. Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda meet.

The BEBUC Program in Goma

In March 2013 Gerhard Bringmann will, once again, travel to Goma, chairing the next evaluations of the BEBUC scholars and the selection of the new candidates. At present all of the scholars are students at the Faculty of Sciences and Applied Technologies, but in the next evaluation other subjects shall be involved as well.
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Homepage of ULPGL in Goma (Congo)
http://www.ulpgl.net

NGO Förderverein Uni Kinshasa e.V.
http://www.foerderverein-uni-kinshasa.de

University Web Ranking of 4icu
http://www.4icu.org/cd/