BEBUC, a unique and sustainable scholarship program for the renewal of excellence in higher-education institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
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Théodore Jordy Dinga, BEBUC scholar. PhD candidate in Chemical Engineering, in the Hydrometallurgy Lab, Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.
A) BEBUC Scholars’ Studies

1) PhD Candidates

Théodore Jordy Dinga Ngumbu

BEBUC scholar and PhD candidate in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town

Théodore is a PhD candidate, working in the Hydromet Research Group, Department of Chemical Engineering, at the University of Cape Town, in South Africa.

He has been a BEBUC scholar since 2012 and he obtained the BEBUC Award in 2015. He currently is a holder of a bachelor degree obtained in Chemistry with four distinctions and one great distinction from the University of Kinshasa (2016).

Théodore started his master studies in Chemical Engineering in April 2017, specializing in Hydrometallurgy.

His research relates to copper extraction from chalcopyrite. In early 2019, he was proposed to upgrade his MSc to PhD studies.

He was granted funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) through the Mineral Beneficiation Research Chair of his supervisor. His research project was presented in June and approved in July 2019.

Since then, he has been registered as a PhD student with the provisional thesis title “Mechanistic Study of the Effect of Organic Additives on the Dissolution of Chalcopyrite in Sulphate Media”.

His research was presented at the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) Conference in November 2019.

On his way, he faced some challenges; he specifically went through a surgery (hip replacement) four months after starting the master studies.

During these hard times he was strongly supported by his wonderful personal sponsor, both financially and morally.
2) Master Students and Master Holders

**Nérée Bapolisi Akonkwa**

Postgraduate student in Emergency Medicine and Trauma at the Alexandria University Main Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt

Nérée completed his medical studies with distinction at the Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB) in May 2015. During the following two years, he practiced dedicatedly in the Departments of Surgery and Internal Medicine at the Hôpital Provincial Général de Référence de Bukavu, where he realized the crucial role of Acute Medicine, particularly the role of Emergency Medicine in the effective management of critically ill patients.

In September 2017, he was granted the “Alexandria University Nile Basin Scholarship”, which allowed him to start clinical master studies in Emergency Medicine and Trauma at the Alexandria University Main Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. There, he was nominated “The Best Junior Resident of the Year 2018” in the Emergency Department.

He attended The African International Conference on Emergency Medicine (Francophones & Anglophones Africa) from 16 to 18 December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt, where he had the chance to network with many African emergency physicians, pioneers of the Emergency Medicine in Africa.

After his master and PhD studies, he wishes to implement this young specialty in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Having been a member of the NGO IUNIKIN for nearly seven years, Nérée was awarded a BEBUC Master Scholarship in 2018 as a co-funding with the “Alexandria University Nile Basin Scholarship” for his postgraduate studies in Emergency Medicine.

*We are so proud to have you among us! Keep up the excellence!*  

**Christophe Malenga Divava**

Master candidate in Tax Law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Christophe has been a BEBUC scholar since 2015. He completed his bachelor studies in Law at the Université Kongo (UK). There, he got three distinctions (in G2, L1, and in L2) and one great distinction (in G1).

For having been the best student of the Faculty of Law and the best student of his university for the academic year 2016-2017 (77%), he was awarded the RAWJI Foundation Award worth 3,000 USD. Deputy Speaker for two years, Christophe obtained the BEBUC Master Scholarship in 2018. In September of the same year, he started his master studies in Tax Law at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne in France. He is now completing his training at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

*Congratulations Christophe! All the best for your master studies!*  

**Richard Ampa Nasima**

Current Tutor of the BEBUC scholars in Bukavu and former Third Vice-Speaker of the BEBUC External Scholars, he is currently an Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics and Management Studies at the Université Officielle de Bukavu (UOB)

BEBUC scholar since 2014 and Tutor of the BEBUC scholars in Bukavu since October 2018, he obtained his bachelor degree in Public Economics in 2015 with great distinction (84%).

As a result, he was awarded a master scholarship and successfully completed his master studies in Accounting and Finance at the University of Makerere, Uganda, with a cumulative GPA of 4.62/5 (= 92.4%).

In the final year of his master studies, he conducted a research on “Transparency and Accountability among Public Sector Entities in Bukavu (East of DRC)”. In August 2019, he brilliantly passed the first screening of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture and Technology (MEXT) Scholarship conducted at the Embassy of Japan in Kinshasa (DRC).

In February 2020, he was successfully selected for the MEXT Scholarship to pursue his postgraduate program (MSc and PhD) in Economic Engineering at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan. He has started his program in May 2020.

*Well done, Richard! Congratulations and keep it up!*
Patient has been a BEBUC scholar since 2014. He was a Deputy Speaker (2014-2017), Main Speaker (2017-2018), Tutor (2018-2019) of the BEBUC scholars in Goma and is currently Prime Speaker of the BEBUC scholars.

During his six years of bachelor studies, Patient obtained four distinctions (>75%) and two consecutive great distinctions (>80%) in G1 and G2. Consequently, he was awarded a scholarship of his university to study without paying academic fees in G1 and G2. Also, he was classified among the best students of his university each year.

After his bachelor studies, Patient sat for the assessment of his English performance by the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in Kampala in November 2018 and got an overall band score of 6, qualifying him as a competent user of English.

In the same month, he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering at his university. From January to August 2019, he attended four course units as an assistant (in Tech 1 and Tech 2) and successfully taught two course units in Tech 2 (Tunnels and Railways, as well as Hydraulic Constructions). In August 2019, Patient was admitted at the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, China

study program of Civil Engineering and has received a partial scholarship from the Chinese Municipal Government of Beijing (Excellent Freshmen Scholarship).

He started his classes in October 2019.

Congratulations, dear Patient, on your excellence and leadership skills!

Florent made an oral presentation on his graduation work: “Evaluation of Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL) at the University Clinics of Lubumbashi”.

He sustained that AMTSL is a key method to prevent postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), which is the first cause of maternal mortality in the world, of which 99% of all cases occur in developing countries.

The DRC has the tenth-highest maternal mortality rate worldwide. Therefore, the correct use of AMTSL will help our country to save many lives.

Florent’s work was awarded the Best-Abstract Prize by the scientific committee of the Scientific Days.

Florent is the current Vice-Prime Speaker of the BEBUC scholars.

All the best for your next steps! BEBUC is proud of you!

BEBUC scholar since April 2017, Théophile got his bachelor degree in Ecology at the Université de Kisangani (UNIKIS) with satisfaction (69.8%) in August 2018.

During his bachelor studies, he got four successive distinctions.

He was awarded the BEBUC Master Scholarship to carry out his studies on the “Dynamic of Tree-Fall Gaps in Central Forester Sector” at the Université de Montpellier, France.

He started his master studies in October 2018.

He is currently in Kourou (French Guyana) to continue the second year of his master studies after a stay at the Forester Reserve of Yoko, DRC (near Kisangani) for the fieldwork as part of his project on the dynamics of tree-fall in the tropical forest of the Forest Reserve of Yoko, a project funded by the Conservation Aspire Research Network (CARN) and Florent receiving the Best-Abstract Prize from the Rector of the Université de Lubumbashi, Prof. Gilbert Fitula (left), in the presence of the Director of the School of Public Health, Prof. Françoise Malonga (center).
BEBUC under the supervision of the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) of Montpellier researchers and the BEBUC Scholarship Program.

**Congratulations on this achievement!**
**All the best for your MSc studies!**

Janvier Kamundala

Former Tutor and Speaker of the BEBUC scholars in Goma, and Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technologies of the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL)

With the support of the African Union Commission and the BEBUC Scholarship Program, he completed his master studies in Energy Engineering at the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES), including Climate Change, in Algeria, with great distinction.

In the final year of his master studies, he conducted a research on “Multi-Criteria Decision Making for Energy Planning for Rural Electrification in DRC: Case Study of Idjwi Island” at the Center of New Energy Systems of the University of Pretoria, with the support of the BEBUC Scholarship Program.

In parallel to his master studies, Janvier and his colleagues created “Jua Jamii” (in Swahili Jua = Sun and Jamii = Community): “Solar Community”, an interdisciplinary team that participated to the “Solar Decathlon Africa 2019” in Morocco. This is a contest that aims to contribute to the knowledge and dissemination of solar and sustainable housing. They designed and built a smart, energy-efficient house powered only by solar energy.

In January 2019, Janvier and two of his classmates in Energy Engineering presented as finalists from Africa a solar containerized micro-grid system Jua Box at the “Empower a Billion Lives’ Competition” of the Institute of Electrical Electronic Engineering (IEEE) in Seville, Spain.

**Well done, Janvier! Congratulations and keep it up!**

Réussite Malembaka Bugale

Master in Soil science and former Vice-Prime Speaker of BEBUC scholars

Réussite has been a BEBUC scholar since 2013. He was the Vice-Prime Speaker of the BEBUC scholars from 19 April 2019 to 07 April 2020. He brilliantly completed his bachelor studies with five successive distinctions at the Faculty of Agronomy, Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB), in 2016.

In 2017, he was awarded the BEBUC Master Scholarship and was admitted to the Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technologies at the University of Nairobi, where he is completing his master studies in Soil Science. During the research of his bachelor studiesin 2016, he performed an internship at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Bukavu, Kalambo Station, where he gained significant knowledge on the production of Rhizobium inoculants, on their quality control, and application for maximizing agricultural production.

In 2019, he presented an oral talk on his master research contribution to science in the “First International Symposium on Tropical African Mycology”, held in Parakou in Benin, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

He is affiliated to the Department of Mycology and to the East African Network on Mycology.

During the research of his master studies, he worked on developing a biological fertilizer containing mycorrhizal fungi for application on maize grown in South-Kivu, DRC, to improve plants production, soil fertility, and resistance to drought stress.

He is interested in the application of low-cost technologies and climate smart agriculture practices in mitigating climate change in crop production.

**Well done, Réussite! Congratulations and keep it up!**

Richesse Gala Basomi

BEBUC scholar and master student in Science and Environnement Management in Developing Countries at the Université de Liège, Belgium

Richesse has been a BEBUC scholar since 2015. In 2018, she completed her bachelor studies in Biology at the Université Officielle de Bukavu (UOB) with three distinctions.

She is currently pursuing her specialized master studies in Sciences and Environment Management in Developing Countries at the Université de Liège in Belgium since September 2019.

Thanks to her quick adaptation and integration, she attended two important conferences:

The Sixth Symposium of the Association Francophone de Géographie Physique on “Physical Geography: Risks and Disasters Management”, which took place in Arlon, Belgium, from 19 to 21 September 2019.
She learned a lot about the causes and consequences of natural disasters and their possible management, as well as how to empower the population in preventing and adapting to the changes in their environment.

The conference “One Health and Climate Change, How are Challenges of Climate Change Calling for More Interdisciplinarity in Health” organized by the Université de Liège, Eclosio (the NGO of the University of Liège), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, BE-TROPLIVE (a platform bringing together Belgian expertise in animal husbandry and animal health in the tropics), and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (the agency in charge of international relations Wallonia-Brussels).

She profited from this great opportunity to meet and learn more from different specialists, who collaborate and work together to find solutions to different health issues and to cope with sanitary risks related to climate change.

Enthusiastic and courageous, Richesse is a highly motivated BEBUC scholar, with her strength to complete successfully her master studies, to conduct her doctoral research as soon as possible, and to return to the Congo for her professorship in order to build science!

Congratulations Richesse! All the best for your master studies!

3) Bachelor and High-School BEBUC Scholars

Hervé Tshikomba Mbuyamba

Bachelor degree holder in Medicine from the Université Officielle de Mbuji-Mayi, with the typical festive robe

Holder of a bachelor degree in Medicine from the Université Officielle de Mbuji-Mayi (UOM), Hervé was awarded the BEBUC bachelor scholarship in March 2014. His scholarship was prolonged every year until he completed his bachelor degree in Medicine in July 2019.

During his academic cursus, he got three distinctions.

Hervé initiated many philanthropic actions during his 18-months internship with the purpose of assisting patients who could not afford suitable healthcare because of poverty. Ten patients benefited from the support.

He is currently doing his internship at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana. After that he will start his master studies.

Congratulations Hervé and keep it up! All the best for the next steps!

Dieumerci Kaseso Wasingya

BEBUC bachelor scholar in Medicine at UCG
Butembo and founder of Inter-Sciences

Dieumerci is a BEBUC scholar in the Faculty of Medicine at the Université Catholique du Graben (UCG) in Butembo. He was selected as a BEBUC bachelor scholar in December 2015, and he has so far achieved four distinctions.

He is a proactive student. On 22 May 2018, he initiated, in collaboration with his friends, an interdisciplinary space Inter-Sciences, of which he is the chairman, at his university.

It now comprises more than 20 active members, among them two BEBUC scholars (Mathieu Manzekele and Alexandre Amini). Inter-Sciences has now one online member at the University of Bukavu.

Inter-Sciences gathers students around scientific debates related to health, ecology, and ethics. It welcomes students from different faculties, mainly Medicine, Pharmacy, and Public Health.

In 2018, Inter-Sciences organized an interdisciplinary conference on “Medical, Juridical, and Ethical Matters of Contraception in African Youth Population”.

The conference, supported at 90% by the members of the organization, was attended by students from UCG and other universities in Butembo.

Apart from conferences, Inter-Sciences prepares its members to get better results in academic activities and to deliver presentations on problems of health in our daily context.

To discuss various important topics, a seminar is organized and attended each month by the members of Inter-Sciences and the large public thanks to the online advertisement.

Inter-Sciences plans to gather more students and to extend partnerships with other scientific associations in the country and abroad.

Congratulations Dieumerci and keep it up! All the best for your studies.

Dieu-Merci Wasingya Musonia

Final-year student doing bachelor studies in Law at the Université Catholique du Graben (UCG)

Dieu-Merci has been a BEBUC scholar since March 2017.

He is in his final year, with a record of four successive distinctions at the Université Catholique du Graben.
In August 2017, he participated in the 5-day “Conference Internationale de Missiologie” in Butembo, which was organized in order to conciliate the different views of the academics and scientists with the mission of the church in peace-making actions in the DRC, and in the region of Beni-Butembo in particular.

In June 2018, he brightly defended his G3 monography in Public Law on “Les Guaranties de l’Indépendance du Juge Congolais”.

In March 2019, he was elected Speaker of UCG and Main Speaker of the BEBUC scholars of Butembo. In August 2019, he had the privilege of performing a one-month internship at the Provincial Assembly of the province of North-Kivu (DRC).

Congratulations Dieu-merci and keep up the excellence!

4) BEBUC Scholars in Medicine in Training in Lusaka, Zambia

Nestor, Papin, and Florent have been medical doctors from the University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) since July 2018. In order to prepare for their master studies, they did a medical training at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) of Lusaka, Zambia.

They were all interested in rare specialties strongly needed in Lubumbashi. Nestor worked in Medical Imaging, Papin conducted his internship in Anesthesia and in Intensive Care, while Florent first worked in General and then in Pediatric Surgery.

The time spent at UTH was useful to all the three of them and will surely have a great impact on them in their respective careers in developing research and adapting the medical management to international standards, as it is done at UTH.

Apart from the medical training, they followed English courses at the Evelyn Hone College of Lusaka thanks to the generous funding granted by the BEBUC Scholarship Program, to which they are very grateful.

Presently, Nestor is in Alexandria, Egypt, where he is pursuing his master studies in Genitourinary Surgery at the Alexandria University.

Papin and Florent are doing their master studies at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal, in Internal Medicine and Pediatric Surgery, respectively.

Congratulations Nestor, Florent and Papin! BEBUC is proud of you!
B) BEBUC Scholars’ Symposia, Conferences, Meetings, and the Award “BEBUC Scholar of the Year 2019”

1) BEBUC Scholars’ Symposia

The BEBUC Scholars’ Symposia are events organized by the scholars in order to discuss general questions, as well as to think about social purposes to be achieved by the scholars for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These symposia aim at bringing scholars together more closely in order to stimulate more connections and teamwork among them, despite the geographic distance and the diversity of research interests.

Through these events, the BEBUC scholars find an opportunity to discuss some relevant questions related to their lives, the challenges they face along the way of becoming doctors, their professional situation after PhD studies, and the best ways they can contribute to the development of the country.

Through the symposium of 2019, the Pharmacy Research Group presented on “Plants with Anticancer Activity Present in the DRC” and the Geology Research Group on “Improving Access to Clean Water in Beni Territory for Rural Communities of Mabalako and Kyanzaba in the Eastern DRC”.

Beyond the discussion of the two research groups around these projects, the BEBUC scholars discussed important topics, notably the Young Academy of Science (YAS) in the DRC, the mentorship system to increase the helpful collaboration between advanced BEBUC scholars and young ones, the vision of the Self-Reliance Project to increase the ability of the BEBUC scholars in effectively impacting the community, as well as in solving a range of their social problems in togetherness by themselves.

They also debated about the different ways to overcome difficulties in one’s academic cursus towards PhD.

Furthermore, emphatic attention was put on the necessity of improving efficiency of work in different research groups that seemed to be rather inactive.

A special focus was also put on BEBUC activities in conjunction with other organizations in science and education in the DRC, especially the Young Academy of Science.
Participants to the BEBUC scholars’ Symposium in Bukavu

Participants to the BEBUC scholars’ Symposium in Goma

Participants to the BEBUC scholars’ Symposium in Butembo
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has a great role to play in the process of the development of the African continent.

BEBUC aims at making the DRC a society capable of accompanying the machine of progress already in motion. Women, the pillar of any society, will play a key role in this process.

It is for this goal that the BEBUC scholars of Kinshasa organized a Women’s Conference on 16 March 2019 around the theme: “Congolese Women and their Place in the Country’s Development”.

Four speakers from different fields, but driven by the same passion for the Congo, shared their visions with the audience to finally draw the attention of the audience to the challenges ahead.

Prominent speakers were Raïssa Malu (Professor of Science and Mathematics, and Director of the NGO “Investing in People”, IIP), Vivi Maketa (PhD in Medicine at the University of Kinshasa), Clarisse Falanga (Expert in event organization), and Rebecca Sikumbili (Congolese student of Chemistry at the University of Kinshasa and BEBUC Bachelor Scholar).

The concepts of education, innovation, sense of community, and knowledge were fundamental ideas conveyed throughout the presentations during the meeting.

Women should play an active role in the social and scientific leadership to drive the Democratic Republic of the Congo ahead. Sharing awareness of one’s duties for this society will make sustainable the development that we work hard for.

Thus, the importance of the role to be played by women in the development of the DRC should be effectively communicated to children by mothers and other educators in order to ensure the full implication of women in the process of rebuilding the country, and to eradicate any kind of gender exclusion that is responsible for lacking feminine significant contributions to many sectors of the DRC.
A conference for the celebration of the Environment day was planned in Goma on 29 June 2019, some days after the international celebration that took place on 05 June 2019 around the yearly topic “Air Pollution”. For their conference, the BEBUC scholars of Goma chose the theme: “Young Elites, Active Agents in Environment Preservation for a Sustainable Development”. The conference was attended by around 50 people.

The conference started with the introduction of the attendees by Abigael Bisimwa, the moderator of the conference, which was followed by a compelling opening word by the Budget Administrator of ULPGL Goma.

The main presenter of the activity was Prof. Ndemo Mbassa. He focused his presentation on the consequences of environmental destruction. After having defined both the environment and sustainable development in his introduction, he detailed the following consequences of environment destruction: air and atmospheric pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, sound pollution, and the destruction of the biodiversity and the ecosystem. After the exposition, the debate was opened for questions, which were responded by the principal orator.

The floor was given to the Tutor Patient Kubuya in order for him to present BEBUC. In his speech, he talked about the history of BEBUC, its objectives, vision, selection criteria, the path of BEBUC scholars to a professorship (insisting on the reentry), and also spoke about the sources of funding.

After the Tutor had presented the BEBUC Scholarship Program, the floor was given to Janvier Kamundala, who testified about his contribution to the environmental protection through his project of Solar Cooker. He presented the solar cooker ANSOLE (African Network of Solar Energy) and how it works, types of solar cookers, solar cooker history in the East of the DRC, why to think of solar cookers in Goma, and the advantages of its use for sustainable development in DRC.

Then, the moderator called upon the Provincial Director of the national institution “Agence Congolaise de l’Environnement” (ACE), Michel Buroko, to present the role of their institution in the protection of the environment. The audience knew about the definition of some concepts, the ACE, its mission and activities, and the evaluation of the environmental and social impact of projects.

The mission of the ACE is to prevent environmental and social risks for environmental protection and sustainable development. It evaluates, approves, and follows up on the execution of projects. They also propose new methods that mitigate negative impacts on the environment and follow them up. According to their status, no project can be executed without their approval.

They carry out the following studies to evaluate impacts of projects on the environment: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Study, Environmental and Social Compliance Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Notice, Environmental and Social Management Framework, Action and Resettlement Plan, Brief Resettlement Plan, Environmental and Social Management Plan (site, works).

Afterwards, the floor was given to Gédéon Bakerethi to talk on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). He presented its intervention domains, and its efforts in natural resources management. He ended in presenting a project of WWF wherein he associates young people in the environmental protection.

The WWF is an international non-governmental organization for the protection of nature and the environment, strongly involved in sustainable development. Its mission is to build a world, wherein people and nature live in harmony by protecting the environment and preserve natural resources and biodiversity. WWF intervenes in the provinces of North-Kivu and South-Kivu.

This last presentation was followed by stimulating questions and competent answers.

At the end, the Representative of the Rector, William Kakule, delivered the closing word.

After that closing word, the attendees enjoyed the catering prepared for the seminar, then pictures were taken, and the day ended with a practical act consisting in planting some trees and collecting garbage and dirt from the university.
From left to right: Kristen Furaha, Patient Kubuya, and William Kakule planting young trees for the future
4) BEBUC Scholars Welcome Prof. August Stich in Butembo

The BEBUC scholars welcomed the outstanding German Professor August Stich from Würzburg in a meeting in Butembo in August 2019.

Prof. Stich, Chief-Physician at the Department of Tropical Medicine of the Missionary Medical Clinic in Würzburg, was happy to address BEBUC scholars praising the efforts of the BEBUC Scholarship Program, which promotes Congolese young excellent students with the purpose of helping them become ethically-skilled university professors capable of raising the level of education in the DRC.

He let the scholars know that he was looking forward to meeting the BEBUC scholars of Butembo in order to encourage them to work hard for the improvement of the daily life of Congolese people.

He emphasized the self-confidence and the importance of mutual solidarity that young people must live in the process of jointly improving the life quality in the DRC.

Prof. Stich therefore suggested the formation of exchange groups between young Congolese aspiring to change so that they can discuss problems and useful solutions to the problems of the country. He advised the young people to become more involved in issues that affect the future of the DRC.

Ending his speech, he explained his role as a clinician working in the Department of Infectious Diseases.

He highlighted the productive-led relationship that the clinicians and epidemiologists must have to improve the health state of citizens, especially during this period of Ebola.

Every individual must commit to ending this epidemic. Prof. Stich was accompanied by Prof. Emmanuel Vyakuno, former General Academic Secretary of the Université Catholique du Graben. Escorted by H.E., the Bishop of Butembo-Beni, Mgr. Paluku Sikuli, he visited a group of BEBUC scholars in Butembo.

Prof. Vyakuno also praised the efforts of BEBUC and thanked Prof. Bringmann, the President of BEBUC, for his leading involvement in the education of the youth in the Congo.

Prof. Stich talking to Butembo BEBUC scholars

Family photo (from left to right): Patrick Kambale, Jonathan Muyisa, Anette Kasambo, Gabriella Syaluha, Dieu-Merci Wasingya, Prof. Stich, Mathieu Manzekele, and Dieumerci Kaseso
Some of the BEBUC scholars studying in Europe met in the city of Lausanne, Switzerland, in July 2019. The BEBUC scholars came from different countries: Russia, Germany, Belgium, France, and Spain.

The meeting was very rich in experience. The scholars had the opportunity to discover the city of Lausanne in its beauty, wealth, and creativity.

They discussed various topics in a family mood and then held their formal meeting. It was moderated by Prof. Karine Ndjoko, the General Manager of BEBUC, and the brainstorming on the Democratic Republic of the Congo was led by Prof. Ambroise Bulambo, Professor of Law at the “Université Catholique du Congo” in the DRC, and Prof. Stellor Nlandu, Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich; after a bright presentation of Mr. Hansueli Homberger, member of “Association d’Instauration de l’Observatoire Sociale Sud Kivu” (OSSK), on his initiatives in Bukavu, DRC.

The philosophy of the meeting was to increase the engagement of people who are intelligent, humble, respectful, generous, visionary, and open to criticism and free will.
The General Manager of BEBUC, Prof. Karine Ndjoko, published the names of the five BEBUC scholars, recipients of the Year 2019 Prize. The prize she offered will be an up-to $100 personal contribution of the Manager to each of them during their 2020 activities. Here are the winners:

1. Dr. Christian Nkanga Is’alomboto - Pharmacy - UNIKIN / Rhodes University
2. Dr. Blaise Kimbadi Lombe - Chemistry - UNIKIN / University of Würzburg
3. Doctor MD Hervé Monka Lekuya - Medicine - UNIKIN / Makerere University
4. Mr. Daniel Paluku Lwanzo - Engineering - Kazan State Power Engineering University
5. Miss Eve Loando Kavira - Medicine - Université Catholique du Graben

Recognized for their qualities: humanity, humility, scientific excellence, service to the community, respect, critical thinking, generosity of their knowledge and resources, the spirit and promotion of BEBUC, all embody a spirit of conquest, testifies Prof. Ndjoko in the lines below:

While many only dream to study in Europe, he studied in the Congo and then in South Africa, where he won everything as an award. He was selected as the “Next Generation Scientist 2018” by the famous company Novartis. At Rhodes University, he shared his knowledge and resources with the young students doing their bachelor studies at the University of Kinshasa by guiding them and doing analyses for them, materialized in two publications. He is one of the pillars of the Young Academy of Sciences in the DRC.

He has always been proud to quote BEBUC in his publications and communications. He has shown that it is possible to shine in science and to get important opportunities in Africa. In February 2020, he left for the University of California, where he is now working as a post-doctoral fellow in Nanotechnology.

In the end, he studied these plants, which showed promising activities against pancreatic cancer. He honored Mbandaka by naming one class of its molecules ‘Mbandakamines’.

He represented the Congo with dignity by having been one of the only Congolese to be invited to the Nobel Prize Meeting in Lindau.

Blaise is a discreet young man behind the scenes who helped a lot of scholars by welcoming them to his home in Würzburg.

He was the very first BEBUC speaker. He has always been there to help organize the annual meeting of the NGO /UNIKIN. With generosity, he helps in the development of the Youth Academy of Sciences and shares posts concerning BEBUC.

He has always shown his pride and recognition towards BEBUC, unlike others who never quote BEBUC as if they had arrived there alone. “You should never throw away the backpack that helped you cross the paths of your life”: quote from Gabriel Peisker, a brilliant entrepreneur based in Biel.

Blaise now works as a post-doctoral fellow at the Faculty of Biochemical and Chemical Engineering of the Technical University in Dortmund, Germany, where he does research in Organic Analytical Chemistry and Natural Products Chemistry.

Christian applied for the BEBUC Scholarship for the first time and was not selected. He reapplied for the BEBUC Master Scholarship after taking our remarks into account. He strongly convinced us.

Blaise is an outstanding chemist. He obtained the highest distinction for his thesis in Germany at the University of Würzburg, under the dedicated supervision of Prof. Gerhard Bringmann.

He is the conqueror who had accepted to complete his master degree at UNIKIN with a lot of difficulties, harassment. For his research, he collected the plants himself from the rainforest near Mbandaka in DRC. He lived in huts full of mosquitoes, crossing dangerous rivers, hardly eating anything substantial.
Hervé is one of the few doctors in the DRC who will specialize in Neurosurgery. For five consecutive years at UNIKIN, he was the first among more than 600 students.

Prof. Ndjoko still remembers when we had a conversation in Kinshasa, he was hesitant to start his dream of Neurosurgery because the training is long and is regarded as difficult. With the support of BEBUC he managed to pursue his dream with a lot of determination, overcoming the difficulties that he was facing.

He is among the rare foreigners to be accepted in the school of Neurosurgery in Uganda, to pass in front of all the Ugandans and to be selected for training in Neurosurgery Robotics in Austria and in the USA.

A heart full of generosity, Hervé was the one who helped one of our scholars during her hard times. He made successful the scheme of the President of BEBUC, Prof. Bringmann, to save the life of our dear scholar Eve Loando Ka-vira. When she had left Butembo, Hervé and his family welcomed her into their home and looked after her like their own daughter.

Hervé and his wife Marilou Beny are not from Butembo, nor from Eve’s ethnicity. It is this spirit, this generosity that we love.

Finally, thanks to Hervé, several BEBUC scholars have been able to do their internships and courses at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. While many scholars remain at Kinshasa, he works as a medical doctor at the Hospital of Kamituga, in the province of South-Kivu, east of the DRC.

Daniel is the embodiment of tomorrow’s DRC: confident, positive, excellent, offensive, playful and smiling, and finally a conqueror who took the DRC and BEBUC to Russia.

He performs excellently in the Russian language, in Engineering until winning the President Vladimir Putin’s Award. He is the pride of the DRC and BEBUC. It was highlighted in the newspapers in Russia. Yet he does not have an easy life, but he remains positive in everything. He is proud to be part of BEBUC and to learn from elders.

He guides and encourages the youngest and he puts people in contact with one another. The future is reaching out to him and he will seize the opportunities to continue to excel.

Eve is the only woman in this selection, she represents this new generation of Congolese, proud to be an academic and ready to conquer the world, grateful for what life has brought her.

Eve (as she allowed Prof. Ndjoko to say) suffered from a life-threatening disease at the age of 15. She was saved thanks to the intervention of Prof. Bringmann and the active help of Doctor Hervé Lekuya, her determination and solidarity in BEBUC, with the contribution of the members of the NGO. She returned this to all, by successfully completing her state exam.

With courage, she branched off from commercial to scientific in order to begin medical studies, to be useful to society, and to other children like her.

Eve is a strong young woman, full of sincerity and charm. In Butembo, she helps the youngest to learn English and to believe in themselves.

This is our DRC of tomorrow. We believe in it and think that all the scholars believe in it, too. We have to build it: Let us give others our time, our expertise, or a little of our money.

Our deepest gratitude for your support to this beautiful work that the BEBUC Scholarship Program is doing.

We started small, but we grow for the good of the youth, of the Congo, and of the world. BEBUC takes everyone to meet and understand each other better.
The Directory Board of the NGO ŽUNIKIN and the Panel Members of the BEBUC Scholarship Program

From left to right: Prof. Dr. Hypolite Mavoko, Prof. Dr. Christian Janzen, Mrs. Christine Wolf, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Gerhard Bringmann, Prof. Dr. Karine Ndjoko, and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. J.-Chr. Virima Mudogo

Gratitude to our partners

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung