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SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIVISION DES POLITIQUES SCIENTIFIQUES ET DE LA PLANIFICATION

CELLULE DE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNIQUES

Republic of Cameroon

Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC POLICY AND PLANNING

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY BUILDING UNIT

Yaoundé,

N° _____/MINRESI/BOO/COO/C30/C31

Excellence Week for Scientific Research and Innovation in Cameroon (JERSIC 2009)

***Theme: The Cameroonian Diaspora, Science and
Sustainable Development***

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The first Excellence Week for Scientific Research and Innovation in Cameroon (JERSIC) organized in Yaoundé from 3 to 5 October 2007 by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation which, is in charge of animating, coordinating, and controlling all research activities in Cameroon, manifested the will of the Cameroonian authorities to highlight research and have science and technology work towards the sustainable development of our country. It is therefore necessary to produce scientific and technological knowledge with the aim of solving identified strategic sector problems in order to improve the standard of living of the populace and alleviate poverty.

Given the resounding success of the first edition of JERSIC, and echoes of it from within and without Cameroon, the Government of the Republic, through the Prime Minister's voice, decided to institutionalize the event and gave it a biannual periodicity.

That 'Week', which focused only on the local component (public and private universities and research institutions and independent researchers) of the National Scientific Research and Innovation System, did not consider the Cameroonian scientific competence of the Diaspora. In order to attain our objectives, a synergy of all the internal and external competences is necessary. Hence, the problem of the scientific Diaspora. This question of involving the Diaspora in the development of third world countries has been successful in some third world countries. This has been the case of some Asian countries like India and South Korea.

The objective of the Government is to promote a development policy based on solid knowledge capable of providing sustainable solutions for economic, social and cultural development of the country.

In adopting the theme “**Science and Sustainable Development: the Role of the Cameroonian Diaspora**” for the Excellence Week for Scientific Research and Innovation in Cameroon (JERSIC 2009), the Government intends to put the scientific contribution of Cameroonians living abroad to advantage through an acknowledgement and effective consideration of their knowledge, competence and expertise in the development process of the country in key sectors like renewable energy, biotechnologies and bio-security, climate change, traditional pharmacopoeia and mineral natural resources, food security and the problem of migration and development.

These serious problems and challenges that call forth humankind have been taken up by the President of the Republic of Cameroon on several occasions. The intention in concrete terms for MINRESI is to stimulate collaboration and effective partnership between the Cameroonian scientific Diaspora and public/private development stakeholders and to create an environment conducive for the effective contribution of this group of Cameroonians to the development of our country.

Generally, JERSIC 2009 will be a forum for reflection and exchange, for valorisation of research results and the promotion of Cameroonian scientific and technological potential through the award of special prizes, including that of the President of the Republic.

OBJECTIVES:

a) Broad objective:

The principal objective of JERSIC 2009 is to put science and technology at the service of sustainable development of Cameroon through a vibrant and structured integration of its scientific and technical Diaspora.

b) Specific Objectives:

- 1) Discuss the problem of sustainable development as regards matters of national strategic interest with the contribution of the scientific and technical Diaspora;
- 2) Propose mechanisms to enable the scientific and technical Diaspora play fully its role of facilitator between the national research system and international research networks to the benefit of Cameroon.
- 3) Sketch out the outlines of a permanent framework for exchange and dialogue between local development stakeholders and the Cameroonian scientific and technical Diaspora.
- 4) Identify major strategic elements for enlisting the Cameroonian scientific and technical competence in the Diaspora, who are likely to invest their knowledge and know-how in the sustainable development of the country;
- 5) Exhibit research and innovation results and products;
- 6) Incite development actors in creativity and in culture of innovation;
- 7) Promote scientific and technical excellence and encourage innovation through the award of junior and senior prizes for MINRESI research organisation and the special prize of the President of the Republic.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- 1) The contributions of the scientific Diaspora on national strategic issues are considered in the final recommendations;
- 2) The partnership between research, enterprises and the scientific and technical competence of the Diaspora is operational and its impact is visible;
- 3) The framework for scientific exchange between development actors and the Diaspora is put in place;
- 4) The strategies for mobilising the scientific and technical potential of the Diaspora are defined;
- 5) The role of research in the socioeconomic economic development of Cameroon is better understood many people;
- 6) The role of innovation in the socioeconomic development of the country is taken into consideration by development actors;
- 7) Outstanding researchers are valorised and compensated.

ACTIVITIES OF JERSIC 2009:

JERSIC 2009 will involve exposés in plenary sessions, work in committees, exhibitions and award of special prizes outstanding researchers. Five sub sectoral themes and a transversal theme on the 'scientific Diaspora' shall be treated in plenary sessions before being thoroughly discussed in workshops. These are:

1. Renewable energies ;
2. Climatic change;
3. Biotechnologies and bio-security ;
4. Traditional pharmacopoeia ;
5. Mineral resources ;
6. Migrations and development.

A day will be dedicated to exchange of ideas on the role of the Diaspora in the sustainable development of the country. The theme of this 'Week' will constitute the subject matter of presentations in plenary sessions followed by discussions in workshops. Discussions are expected to centre on elements of an integrative and prospective science and technology policy with regards to the scientific and technical Diaspora and Cameroon's future.

Local qualified competence shall be solicited. Research organizations under MINRESI shall present aspects of their activities which relate to issues under debate, as well as their aspirations and respective visions to take up, with all the participants, new or complementary activities to maintain the Cameroonian scientific and technical awareness permanently on the watch for crucial future developments.

Various stakeholders (local or of the Diaspora) shall be able to exhibit their know-how in the various science and technology domains. In this connection, exhibition stands shall be set up according to the major development sectors / domains.

Prizes shall be awarded with a view to promoting scientific and technological excellence and encouraging innovation. Research organizations under MINRESI, shall each, award prizes to their outstanding junior and senior researchers. Encouragement prizes shall be awarded to the best independent researchers, as well as a pre-eminent researcher of the Cameroonian 'Scientific Diaspora'. To crown it all, a Special Prize, "the Golden Lion" of the President of the Republic will be awarded to the paramount Cameroonian researcher.

PARTICIPANTS:

JERSIC 2009 shall enlist all categories of actors of the local National Research and Innovation System and of the Diaspora. Consequently, national partners (sectoral ministries, research organizations under MINRESI, State and private universities, private research institutes, independent researchers, production companies etc.), bi- and multi-lateral partners, national sponsors, all users of research results and the Cameroonian scientific Diaspora, will be able to set off collaboration, jointly discuss current concerns and meet Cameroon's priority development needs.

ORGANIZATION:

For JERSIC 2009 to function smoothly, an organizing committee, made up of commissions and specialized sub-commissions with specific duties shall be set up. For this purpose, the organizers shall call upon facilitators, experts and support persons including an advertiser. The Diaspora will be adequately represented in the scientific aspects of the organization.

DATE AND VENUE:

JERSIC 2009 will be held in Yaoundé from 27 to 30 October 2009.

CHRONOGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:

Monday 26th October 2009	
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and registration of participants• Venue: MINRESI, Hilton Hotel Yaoundé and 20th May Boulevard
Tuesday 27th October 2009	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key note presentation: The Role of the Scientific and Technical Diaspora in Development• Formal opening
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit of exhibition stands• Cocktail• Plenary session 1 (Renewable Energies)
Wednesday 28th October 2009	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary session 2 (Climatic changes)• Plenary session 3 (Biotechnologies and bio-security)
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary session 4 (Traditional Pharmacopoeia)• Plenary session 5 (Mineral Natural Resources)
Thursday 29th October 2009	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plenary session 6 (Migrations and Development)• Workshop sessions
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop sessions (continued and finish)
Friday 30th October 2009	
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and discussion of commission reports• Writing of final report
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of final report• Formal closing