

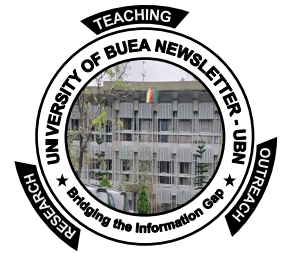


# UNIVERSITY OF BUEA NEWSLETTER

## UBN

**Motto: Information Sharing for Empowerment**

**A Quarterly Publication on latest Developments in UB**



## Vice-Chancellor Welcomes Readers to the First Edition of 2024 Publications of the University of Buea Newsletter (UBN)



**Prof. Ngomo  
Horace Manga,  
Vice-Chancellor**

Once more, I am delighted to voice out on this platform, a number of issues making our institution unavoidably "The Place to Be". Indeed, we are already on the first edition of the UBN this year, 2024 and the 7th edition of its publication since inception without a halt. I am elated and proud of this news forum where all the energy is invested to see its regular publication. To this effect, I thank the editorial team for their continuous efforts to fan the flames of the newsletter.

I am not supposed to be told the extra hours this devoted editorial team is putting to publish the UBN. I know and they even work when on vacation. I must congratulate them and urge others to emulate the determination of the UBN team to give UB visibility. Indeed, I wish to recognize the cardinal role of the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor/RCB, Professor Rosemary Shafack, who, within a short time, has proven her worth not only as the acting Coordinator of the UBN, but, has rigorously put in place her skills and energy to ensure the constant publication of the newsletter which is becoming a reliable pride of the institution.

Within this period in question (January-March), the University has been involved in prolific activities: the first semester exams were written and results released, the Committee for the Recruitment of Assistant Lecturers (CRAL) met, and serious scrutiny was done to select the best to join the powerful team of teaching staff. Also, our students were involved in Youth Day

activities, the Commonwealth and Francophonie Days were commemorated, and the maiden UB Open Day was spectacular. I use this opportunity to thank all teaching and support staff for putting in efforts towards realization of the three missions of the institution.

On behalf of the UB community, I also congratulate all teaching staff who were promoted to the grade of Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor during the last CCIU meeting in Yaoundé. For those who did not succeed to cross over, I encourage them to prepare their files for the next CCIU meeting.

It is my utmost pleasure to recognize and applaud the patience and maturity of support staff in the process of requesting for what duly belongs to them. Like we all know, the current request by support staff for their dues runs through all state universities and consequently, it is a national challenge. Though UB has not got the mandate to handle the issue as a state university, she has been doing everything to respect government policy on the matter through a series of meetings with staff delegates and also financing the delegates to attend deliberation meetings in Yaoundé with other state universities. I reiterate that sooner or later, support staff will hear positive feedback from hierarchy. I use this opportunity to remind us all that more is achieved through meaningful dialogue and wisdom. Never link yourself to an outrageous crowd because of emotions. Let wisdom lead you all in whatever you do.

*Happy Reading!*

**March 2024, No. 7**

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**UBN No. 7**

## University of Buea Maiden Open Day Exposes Institution's Excellence, Inspires Secondary and High School Students

The maiden edition of the UB Open Day, held on 15 March 2024, was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, DVCs, Registrar, Deans and Directors, partner Universities, staff and students of the University of Buea, and secondary/high school students. The first part of the programme was the opening ceremony at the Dorothy Limunga Njeuma Amphitheatre 750, beginning with an overview of the UB Open Day by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor/TIC, Professor Sone Michael Ekonde.

In his address, Professor Sone welcomed visitors present. He called on them to be ready to discover the history and heritage that UB has developed within thirty years of existence. Within this context, he reiterated that those in attendance will discover what UB has, within her competence, to offer. He assured the audience that something new will be discovered by each and every one during the tour of the stands. He further emphasized that the Open Day will provide an opportunity to other institutions to engage in business with the University of Buea. He cautioned visitors to visit the various stands not as judges, but as counsellors whose advice could be a way forward for a better 2025 UB Open Day. As an opportunity for choosing a career path, the DVC/TIC observed that the event will be an indirect orientation to high school students vying to further their studies in the days ahead. He called on the students to look at the various programmes offered by different establishments, and the infrastructure to host them when they eventually enroll into UB. Like a take home assignment and concluding words, he called on the students to be ambassadors of UB by informing others of what has been discovered, seen, and experienced.

This balanced overview by the DVC/TIC made way for the presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's address. He commenced the address by thanking the secondary and high schools authorities who accepted to allow their students to attend the maiden Open Day. The VC pointed out that the Open Day was not an occasion for speech making, but an opportunity for all to see what UB has done and is doing, in addition to what it can offer.

The VC highlighted that the government has assigned universities to train efficient man power that could be able to paddle the engine of economic development. In line with this, he pointed out that the government has insisted on the professionalization of academic programmes in universities.

He attested that the Open Day is testimony to the clarion call by the government for universities to go professional. The VC demonstrated UB's competence in building a professional base by reflecting on the expo organized by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the former French Cultural Centre. The success recorded by the event caused the administration to think of running a similar event covering the entire university.

In addition, the VC called on the high school students to start making career choices after visiting the exhibition stands, and ask questions that could guide them. He thanked all those present, especially UB partners, for their enduring trust.

Taking a tour round the various stands, the UBN noticed with distinctions the following:

- \* Bottled vinegar and various cleaning detergents produced by the Department of Biochemistry on sale
- \* Medicated soap produced by the Department of Biomedical Science, CHITECHMA University, and currently on sale
- \* Automatic flour producing machine produced by COT, UB;
- \* Fresh milk produced by the Department of Food Science and Technology, UB; and
- \* Dresses designed and produced by the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, UB.

In an interview with a Lower Sixth student of Government High School (GHS) Great Soppo, Ms Bayem Blessing, she revealed that the occasion was a unique one, considering that she has never had this kind of opportunity before. The happy interviewee expressed her interest to have discovered different opportunities from which she could make a choice in future.

Another Lower Sixth student of Bilingual Grammar School (BGS) Molyko, Itoe Prince, informed UBN that from what he saw in the course of visiting the various stands, UB is his final bus stop for university studies.





## Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Records another Milestone in Research Profile: First Calf birth from Artificial Insemination (AI)

On 23 December 2023, the Acting Head of Department of Animal Science, Dr Divine Ewane made known to the university research team and community, news of the first calf birth through the process of artificial insemination (a cross between the Ngaoundere Gudali and Italian Simental). The good news raises the University's research profile and puts smiles on the faces of staff and students of the Department of Animal Science. This milestone was realized through a partnership with the Centre for Agricultural Excellence and Promotion of Environmental Resilience-Cooperative Society (BOD). This partnership, which is currently under negotiation, is facilitated by The Support Programme for the University of Livestock Production and Agripreneurship Student Business Incubator (SP-UB-LPA-SBI).

The Acting Head of Department of Animal Science pointed out that Artificial Insemination (AI) is key to livestock improvement both in terms of quality and quantity. Using Cameroon as case study, the researcher noted that the institution's high level of importation of animals and animal products like meat, milk, and life dairy cattle could be reversed by AI technology.

In order to reduce this high level of importation by encouraging local production, the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine has engaged in training students to improve on livestock production. To this effect, the MSc Animal Science (Livestock Production) Programme, Assisted Productive Technologies (ARTs) which include AI are emphasized in all the 5 core courses dealing with the practical production of specific conventional and non-conventional livestock.

Still throwing light on the success of AI, Dr Ewane made it known to UBN that the funding to make this first calf possible was through donations and good will. The HOD pointed out that Dr Etchu Kingsley of

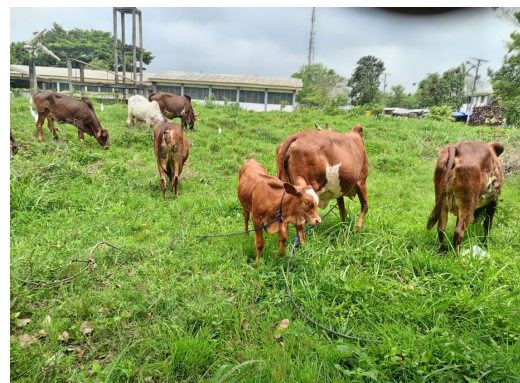
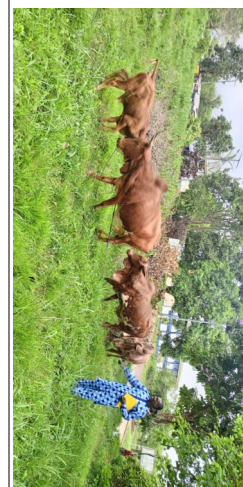
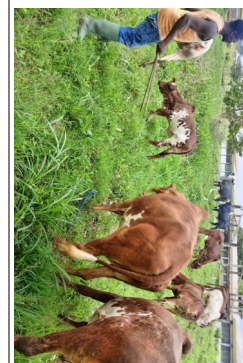
IRAD and Dr Manchang Kingsley, HOD for Veterinary Medicine donated three cows to the Department of Animal Science. The assistance also included custody of the cattle and financing all inputs to make the cattle always available for training of students in the Department of Animal Science.

The cattle were inseminated at Temple Farms in Idenau, which is one of the members of CAEPER-FARMING. After insemination, they were brought back to the University campus at a time when basic logistics were already in place.

What future of the AI to the community, the UBN inquired from the HOD, Animal Science. In his response to this, he said the SP-UB-LPA-SBI is now ready to transform this training into a short course, for all who can participate.

One of the courses in the training expected to take place in May 2024 is necessary to guide stakeholders including women, youths, farmers, and civil servants into the production of ruminants (cattle sheep and goats). In a critical statement, he pointed out that the near disappearance of indigenous breeds of cattle is giving the youths an impression that cattle production is an alien culture. He emphasized that with a successful drive towards AI and its sustainability, the near disappearance of indigenous breeds will be history.

The UBN wishes to thank and applaud the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAVM), Professor Jean Pierre Mvodo Awono, the President of CAEPERFARMING-COOP, Dr Besong Ojong Wellington, the Manager of Temple Farms, Mrs Wirba Odette Ngewiyi and the HOD, Animal Science, Dr Divine Ewane for their relentless efforts to see Artificial Insemination come to realization in the University of Buea.



## UB Breaks Ten Years Deadlock, Presents New Year Wishes to Vice-Chancellor



The event which took place on 16 February 2024 at the Dorothy Limunga Njeuma Amphitheatre 750 after ten years of stalemate was a spectacular occasion. The New Year wishes to the Vice-Chancellor came along with a series of activities which made it outstanding and regrettable to those who could not attend. Attended by the Vice-Chancellor and his family, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Registrar, Deans and Directors, staff and students, and well wishers, the occasion turned out to be like a musical jamboree with different categories of music: traditional; gospel; solo singing and to crown it all, exemplary exhibition of talents displayed by the University of Buea Marching Band with their newly acquired equipment.

The sound of the UB Marching Band, because of its quality, drew the attention of the audience as it ushered the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga and his entourage into the hall. After the national anthem, the Head of Teaching and Teaching Staff, Dr Emile Monono was called upon to present to the audience all those who by merit, were promoted to different ranks (Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor). He exercised maximum patience and went through the CCIU May and November sessions, reading one after the other, all the names of those who were promoted.

This action was carried out for the first time by UB to present to its stakeholders, the newly promoted staff and indeed was a moment of joy to those who were promoted and their families and above all, a reflection for those still hoping to file in for promotion. The UBN, in a special way, congratulates all those who were promoted and uses this opportunity to declare her readiness to advertise their research careers.

As part of the activities marking the New Year wishes to the VC, the Director of Students' Affairs, Professor Lucy Ndip, used the opportunity to present to him and the audience the reputable performance of the students during the ninth edition of the University Festival of Arts and Culture (UNIFAC) in Maroua. Topmost and worth noting was the first prize UB won in oral poetry and this was brought to UB through the brilliant performance of Andang Marylyn. With confidence, seriousness and good sense of humor, the student presented to the audience her poetry which depicted the rich Cameroon culture. The reaction and comments from the audience during and after her presen-

tation were glaring testimonies that Ms Andang Marylyn deserved something more in addition to the first prize that was awarded in Maroua.

This brief interlude gave way for the full presentation of the prizes won during the UNIFAC come together by the Director of Students' Affairs. She told the audience that the University of Buea came overall fourth position out of the twelve institutions that participated. She presented the rest of the results as follows:

S/N	Activity	Position
1	Oral Poetry	1st
2	Dress Arts	1st
2	Singing	2nd
4	Decoration	2nd
5	Cultural Entrepreneurship	2nd
6	Solo Singing	2nd
7	Prose and novel	3rd

Another giant step marking the celebration of the New Year wishes was the presentation by the Registrar, Professor Eneke Bechem. She painted an ideal and coherent picture of the exceptional leadership role by the Vice-Chancellor, good enough to prevent UB from wreck during the Anglophone crisis. She acknowledged the VC's competence in leadership, paying attention to staff security and safety during these turbulent years. She pointed out that in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the VC mobilized resources to check the spread of the disease and kept the university moving.





## UB Breaks Ten Years Deadlock, Presents New Year Wishes to Vice-Chancellor Cont ...

The Registrar compared the leadership role of the VC to that of Moses in the Bible, who courageously led the Israelites from Egypt, crossing miraculously through the Red Sea. In addition, she highlighted important activities of the institution like teaching, mass convocation and the ongoing development of software to closely monitor teaching. Her last statement on behalf of the UB community was wishing the VC and his family a Happy New Year.

Looking energetic and ready to respond to the Registrar, the VC mounted the rostrum and started by thanking the UB community for the kind words to him and his family. He called on the people to keep aside personal differences and shake hands together as a sign of peace and collaboration. He acknowledged UB's quest for excellence as evidenced in the admission process. This selection procedure has made UB not only to go in for the best students, but to produce quality students who are occupying important positions nationally and internationally.

The VC reiterated that the quality of students produced by UB is a direct consequence of the quality knowledge obtained from the institution through quality teaching, research and assessment. The VC made some genuine promises to the teaching and support staff. To the teaching staff, he said UB will continue to build the capacity of young researchers to equip them to be able to compete and win externally funded foreign grants through the organization of research conferences. He also assured the teaching staff that more will be done to assist them change their grades.

To the support staff, Professor Ngomo promised to continue reclassifying deserving staff and to implement the new salary adjustments when means will be available. This promise to support staff rose their voices up in jubilation. The VC appreciated the support staff delegates for believing in the verdict of dialogue as a means of seeking solutions.

In line with the vision of entrepreneurship, the VC acknowledged the existence of UB Corporate, created by UB staff and for UB staff. He told the audience that UB Finance will serve UB students as a platform for internships. Still, he called on the Faculty of Science to facilitate the production of water by UB Spring which, if not, other universities may hijack UB's initiative. In his closing statement, he called on colleagues to stop running down each

other on social media. He thanked everyone who was present.

The last scene of the event was the flute music which saw people changing positions trying to follow the tune of the flute with their heads and interpreting the songs with their mouths. This was followed by handshakes with the Vice-Chancellor which started with the services of the Central Administration, followed by the establishments.



## DOBRE Technologies (DOBREtech) and University of Buea Partnership Agreement Leads to Re-Launching of Activities at the IT Centre

This eminent occasion which took place in two phases was attended by a wide category of audience including the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Former Vice-Chancellor and DVC/TIC, Deans and Directors, representatives of DOBREtech, staff, and students who came to witness the re-launching of activities of the IT Centre on Thursday, 14 March 2024. Top on the agenda was the cutting of the ribbon to re-launch the IT Centre's activities and this first phase was jointly done by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga, assisted by the General Manager of DOBREtech, Mr Bella Manga and the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dorothy Limunga Njeuma. Subsequently, the entourage made a tour to have a good view of the renovated structure and new equipment.

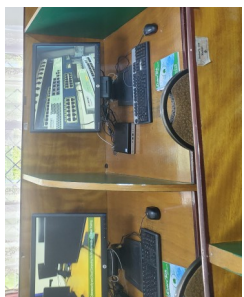
The second phase of the re-launching of activities at the IT Centre was done in the Amphitheatre 750 where the DVC/TIC took the floor to welcome those who were present. In the course of presenting his welcome address, he painted a historical picture of the IT Centre since its inception. He recalled that the centre was first launched in 2002 by the pioneer Vice-Chancellor with the aim of assisting students and staff in research and training as well as to generate income. In addition, he noted that due to some technical difficulties over the years, the centre could no longer hold on to its initial objectives. Based on this shortcoming, he pointed out that the Vice-Chancellor requested him to do something to revamp the centre. It was due to this reason that the University met DOBREtech who accepted to renovate and equip the centre, the reason we are gathered here today, he explained. In his concluding statement, Professor Sone pointed out that the new IT Centre will be once more able to generate income and serve as a veritable option to do research and training.

The architect who designed and renovated the IT Centre to give it a new look, the Manager of DOBREtech was invited to present the new centre to the UB community. He introduced the working team which comprised of members home and abroad. He pointed out to the audience that the new structure and its facilities will be capable of providing training in Cyber Security and Cloud Computing. The detailed programme of the competencies of the new centre was provided by the Chief Technical Officer, Mr Junior Ewane Don Metuge. In his presentation, he outlined the various options the new centre will be capable to handle as follows: cyber security, hard skills, soft skills, cloud computing training with school fees from 400 000

(four hundred thousand to 600 000 (six hundred thousand) FCFA.

At this juncture, the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Njeuma thanked UB for inviting her to the ceremony. Regarding the first launching of UB IT Centre in 2002, she acknowledged the contribution of the British Council, Dr Nkweteyim Denis, Dr Ali Joan and former Head of Department of Computer Science, Professor Suh. She expressed thanks to DVC/TIC for his untiring efforts to revamp the IT centre. She called on DOBREtech to continue without stopping to execute her plan of action in the training of young Cameroonians to acquire modern competencies in IT. In conclusion, she said "forward ever and backward never".

In his closing remark, the VC thanked the former VC for responding to the call and equally paid homage to College of Technology (COT) and Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) for training students who are creating impact in the world. He immensely thanked the DVC/TIC for the partnership with DOBREtech resulting in the facelift of the IT Centre. Finally, he thanked the Head of State, His Excellency President Paul Biya for putting in so much to enable the training of the youths in higher education. He concluded by reminding the audience that in future, state universities will be compelled to generate their own income for sustainability .





## Results of 2023 Comite Consultatif des Institutions Universitaires (CCIU) Amplify UB's Research Competence

One of the major areas where UB's competence has grown deep and wide and which has won international and national recognition is in research. The 2023 edition of the CCIU increased the quality of UB's stock of research experts through the changing of grades from Assistant Lecturers to Lecturers, Lecturers to Associate Professors and Associate Professors to full Professors. During the March session of the CCIU which ran from 29th to 31st of March, UB recorded a total of 49 promotions while a total of 54 promotions were recorded during the November session which took place from 28th to 30th of November making a grand total of 103. The details have been provided in the table below:

Session	Lecturer	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
March	31	18	5	54
November	44	4	1	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>103</b>

After both sessions of the CCIU, a good number of Assistant Lecturers were promoted to the rank of Lecturer. The strength of UB in research is not only seen through their registered successes, but their increasing number of externally funded projects won over the years. The University is still working relentlessly to make its position in research weightier through a series of research conferences bringing together a pool of researchers for the exchange of ideas.

In a special recognition to arriving the peak of academic ladder during the new year wishes of the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndong, the newly celebrated professors of the University of Buea were invited to share with the Minister, their success.



The new Professors are as follows:

No	Name	Establishment
1	Professor Sone Patience Munge	FLPS
2	Professor Wanchia Titus Neba	ASTI
3	Professor Mbah James Ajek	Science
4	Professor Stephen Ghogomu	Science
5	Professor Mboudou Gernain Marie	Science
6	Professor Agyingi Christopher	Science

As usual, the Faculty of Science is on the lead and it is believed that the other establishments are working hard to follow suit.



## UB Women join Counterparts Worldwide to Celebrate 2024 International Women’s Day

It was on 08 March 2024 that UB women, under the leadership of Mrs Tangie Louisa, raised the name of the university high through their spectacular participation in this year’s edition of the International Women’s Day which was celebrated under the theme: “Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress”. In commemoration of the Day, UB women were involved in numerous activities to showcase their strength and prove to the entire UB community that investing in women is directly accelerating progress to humanity.

UB women commenced this year’s celebration on 01 March 2024 with a peace walk from Clerks Quarters to the campus, characterized by chanting. While on campus, the women entertained the audience with aerobic dances, football between support staff and UB yard women, sack and egg race, and a tug-of-war. Still in preparation for the great day, the UB women on 5 March 2024 carried out a series of human investment around the main campus; cleaning both the lecture halls and its surroundings. To caution the women on some crucial health hazards, the head of the University of Buea Health Unit, Dr AKo Vera addressed participants on Diabetes and Hypertension. Apart from establishing a correlation between the two, she diagnosed their causes and possible ways to avoid and manage the situation.

Another UB female staff, Ms Ngwa Marceline brought glaringly the implications of the theme of the 2024 Women’s Day. The UB women in an attempt to show the extent of their abilities to accelerate progress, organized Women’s Talent where they exhibited to the audience their potentials. On display were evidence of rural talents seen in packaging of vegetables, restoration and dress making. However, the last but not the least event marking the commemoration of the 2024 Women’s Day was a solidarity visit to Great Soppo Health Centre to morally encourage the patients. Gifts were handed to the centre.

On 08 March, UB women turned out in their numbers colourfully dressed in the Women’s Day fabric for the activities which started with a march past at Bongo Square. In his address to the women in general, the Governor of the South West Region, Mr Okalia Bilai, thanked the women for their role in the family. He requested them to be ready to work hard to be prominent entrepreneurs, medical doctors, pilots and engineers. He urged the women to devote more time to the girl child. He also regretted the indecent dressing of some of these young girls in the Molyko vicinity and elsewhere. The Governor’s address to the celebrants was followed by a march past which saw UB women displaying their hidden talents like soldiers.

While at CURELF for the feasting, the President of the University of Buea Women’s Association had the opportunity to address the women. In her speech, she thanked the Vice-Chancellor and his collaborators for the unlimited support the women had gained from the administration to enable them function. She mentioned that Women’s Day serves as “a call to action”, urging them to collectively strive for a more equitable world. Prizes were awarded to deserving partners to grace the occasion.

The massive turnout at the events; from the commemorating activities to the march past itself, caught the attention of the UBN. In an interview with the President of the Women’s Association, Mrs Tangie Louisa, she said her team developed a strategy to get women involved in many activities like a campaign on mental health, education on cancer, production of detergents and site visits. During these activities, women were encouraged to join and participate. She pointed out that at the end, women became more productive and saw the need to belong to an association like the UB Women Association. She emphasised that the crowd we have today is due to “the success of our campaign strategy.”





## University of Buea Celebrates 2024 Commonwealth Day

Present in the ASTI Conference room on 12 March 2024 were different categories of people ranging from Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans, to staff and students who, despite the holiday period, still attended the 2024 Commonwealth Day which was celebrated under the theme: "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Commonwealth".

After the singing of the national anthem by the University of Buea Choir, a Biochemistry student, Ms Mbile Jennifer mounted the rostrum to read the Commonwealth message as documented by its Secretary General, Patricia Scotland. In her message, the Secretary General described the importance of living and working together in the following words: "Alone, we are invisible, together we are visible." She highlighted the ongoing climate change and its negative repercussions varyingly from one member state to the other and assured that, solutions to this could be fast to come when the Commonwealth of Nations work together for a common future. In the social sphere, she announced that the Commonwealth will continue to stand together to better deliver health and education facilities as well as to promote democracy. Regrettably, she noted that the world is becoming more and more complicated and challenging even with an increased connectivity.

In his address to the Commonwealth, the Monarch emphasized the notion of togetherness when he said "Commonwealth is like the wiring of a house and its people our energy and our ideas are the current that runs through those wires". As one family, he pointed out that it is necessary to work together to understand each other's perspectives, including the inequalities and injustices.

This occasion was an opportunity for UB Commonwealth to present her projects to the audience. Speaking on behalf of the group, the incoming President of the group, Mr Boning Ngueko Nervis took the floor and highlighted some of the projects that have been carried out. In line with this, he pointed out that they had been involved in a sensitization campaign against HIV, cleaning campaign and above all, the organization of a Commonwealth game to breed in the spirit of togetherness. The President, while summing up his presentation, introduced to the audience both the outgoing and newly elected executives.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor who was unavoidably absent because of other valuable administrative commitments, the DVC/TIC took the floor to address the

audience. After thanking those in attendance, he cautioned the UB Commonwealth association to do a lot of sensitization this year in preparation for next year's celebration. He acknowledged that each year of the Commonwealth celebration has its own theme for a specific reason, all geared to promoting the understanding of global issues. He also observed that member states, each in its own sphere of influence, is helping others to grow stronger through a series of ministerial meetings where ideas on good values and governance are shared. The growing influence of artificial intelligence in our growing world is something we have to embrace, the DVC/TIC reiterated. While paying particular attention to what UB has gained as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the DVC/TIC identified the following: scholarships to both staff and students, UB has benefitted from expert resource persons who came and imparted knowledge to students, and being host campus to Commonwealth students.

In a round table discussion moderated by Dr Kiven James, Associate Professor and Head of Department of International Relations and Conflict Resolution at UB, presenters talked on different topics which all related to the theme of the celebration. The first presenter, Dr Asong Fred thrilled the audience on Climate Change and Resilient Common Future. Next on line was Dr Mbiatem Albert who dwelled on the Youth Agency for a Resilient Common Future, and finally, Mr Elinge Thomas Lyonga who concluded the session with his topic Leaving No One Behind: Efforts for Resilient Future. These three presentations prepared the way forward for our better future while seeing the Commonwealth as a converging point.

In the closing remark, the Acting DVC/RCB congratulated panelists for their eloquent presentations and discussions. She expressed hope for a more brilliant celebration in 2025.



## UB American Corner Organizes off-Campus three-day Workshop on Enhancing Entrepreneurial Skills for the Start-up Ecosystem



The American Corner which is directly under the mentorship of the Director of Library, Professor Rosemary Shafack, in three days (31st January-2nd February 2024), organized a workshop on Enhancing Entrepreneurial Skills for the Start-up Ecosystem, this time out of the institution's premises. The off campus three days' workshop whose major topics of discussion were Cultivating Entrepreneurial Mindset, Essential Entrepreneurial Skills and Sustaining Expanding Start-ups took place in the Conference Hall of the Regional Delegation of Youth Affairs and Civic Education.

On the first day of the event, the 51 participants in attendance were drilled on how to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset with the aim of introducing them to start-up ecosystem. The modules that formed part of the introductory lessons were: understanding entrepreneurship, identifying and evaluating business ideas, and developing a business model. During the presentation, the participants were schooled to understand the indispensable role of entrepreneurship in contemporary society.

The second day of the event, which was 1st February 2024, witnessed the presence of 57 participants who had the opportunity to listen and learn the various essential entrepreneurial skills. Participating remotely, two experts from the American Embassy provided enriching insights by defining the contents of entrepreneurial skills in the following sub modules; effective communication and pitching, financial literacy for start-ups, building a strong team, and sales and marketing strategies. The informative and impactful event emphasized the importance of nurturing business development skills and encouraged participants to apply the

knowledge and skills gained during the workshop to engage in something meaningful.

The final phase of the workshop which took place 2nd February 2024 was attended by 54 participants who were aspiring entrepreneurs and youth mentors. During the workshop, they were drilled on how to sustain and expand start-ups. The essence of this module was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to sustain and expand their business ventures. The sub modules that featured during the presentation were divided into the following categories: funding and investment strategies, innovation and product development, building strategic partnerships, and entrepreneurial leadership. During this segment, participants were drilled to understand the necessity of building entrepreneurial leadership skills which included effective leadership techniques and fostering a positive start-up culture. The workshop highlighted the most difficult bridges to cross when envisaging to start-up a business scheme. A series of funding sources were indicated to the participants which included venture capital, angel investment, crowd funding and grants.

The University of Buea will continue to be proud of the activities of the American Corner in her attempt to achieve the outreach mission. In the closing remarks, the Coordinator of the American Corner, University of Buea thanked the presenters and participants for a-three-day event intended to build an entrepreneurial spirit among youths. He also observed American Corner's commitment to promoting entrepreneurial journeys.





# NIH Official Visit the D-SINE Africa Center Hosted at the University of Buea

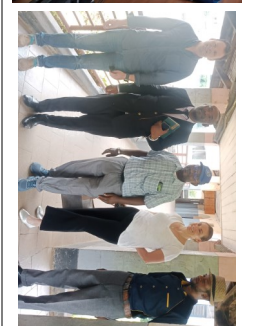
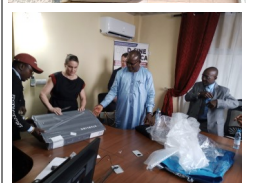
Official from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Fogarty International Center (FIC), based in the United States of America paid a maiden visit to the D-SINE Africa Center hosted by the University of Buea (UB). The project titled: "Harnessing Data Science to Promote Equity in Injury and Surgery for Africa" (D-SINE Africa), was won by a consortium of four universities with UB as the lead institution and Professor Chichom Mefire of the Faculty of Health Sciences as the lead Principal Investigator.

The project seeks to create a Data Science Center for the Study of Surgery, Injury and Equity in Africa (D-SINE Africa) and its core mission is to reduce the burden of injuries and bridge the gap of inequities to surgical services in African countries.

As a follow-up to the implementation of the D-SINE Africa Center, an NIH Official Dr. Brad Newsome made a supervisory visit to the University of Buea from 24th to 28th March 2024, to assess the progress after running for two and a half years. Other team members of

D-SINE Africa project based in the USA and South Africa, seized the opportunity to also visit the University of Buea, making it a delegation of 10 visitors. After a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor and a site visit of the D-SINE Africa Office, the curtain was drawn in the Faculty of Health Sciences where the NIH Official gave a talk on NIH funding opportunities and mechanisms to interested UB based-researchers.

The UB based researchers who showed up for the interactive session with the NIH Official were also satisfied and optimistic to win more research grant from NIH, as they were drilled on the tips and tricks involved in conceiving an idea, constituting a collaborative team and submitting a winnable proposal. In his closing remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Halle Ekane thank the PI and his team for their ingenuity, and the NIH's Official for giving a highlight on how to win its grants.





### Three Days Free Kidney Screening at the University of Buea Health Unit



As part of the activities marking the commemoration of the 2024 World Kidney day, a three-day free screening for chronic kidney disease was done in the Health Unit of the University of Buea which started from 12 to 14 March 2024. Celebrated on the theme Kidney Health for All, the essence was to focus on “the increasing burden of chronic kidney disease and achieving optimal kidney care to overcome these challenges at different levels.” To this effect and in partnership with CAMAIR, Pierre Fonkem Foundation, CARNA Health, Buea Regional Hospital, and Actions for Clinical, some staff, students and nearby community benefited from the free screening exercise.

The screening exercise was coordinated by a final year student of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ms Fongwazi Louisa who in a brief

discussion with UBN explained that the screening was essentially necessary to detect early signs of kidney problems and recommend immediate treatment. For those who did not have the opportunity to benefit from this exercise, she cautioned them to go in for screening in the hospitals.

The Head of the team, a Nephrologist, Dr Ronald Gobina from the Regional Hospital Buea in evaluating the screening noted with deep regret that the results were far beyond expectations implying that many more people were diagnosed with kidney problem. To this his effect, he said a free consultation will be given to all those detected to have problems for immediate treatment to start



### University of Buea runs a two-day workshop on how to use Koha Software and Archiving on the Institutional Repository

The two days’ event which was housed in the University of Buea America Corner on 27th and 28th of March 2024 brought together the workers of the Library to acquaint them on the essence and functioning of the new technology, Koha. The new software, Koha is a systematic online platform to access UB’s extent of research achievements thereby increasing her visibility in research. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the DVC/TIC, Professor Sone Michael was happy to see the event unfolding. He pointed out that the library is the heart and core of all the universities and in line with this, he underscored that the capacity building initiative to enrich the library staff with the practical implementation of the Koha software was very necessary and unavoidable. He called on the staff be ready to upgrade their skills in order to be better equipped to benefit from all the advantages of Koha technology. Using this opportunity, he announced that in future, there will be software to track

teaching on campus. In his acknowledging words, he thanked and appreciated the relentless efforts of the Director of Library, Professor Shafack Rosemary to build the UB repository. In a historical overview, Dr Nkweteyim Denis recalled that the institutional repository which is practically visible in UB today started some years back when Professor Nalova Lyonga was the DVC/TIC. The two days’ event involved the presentation of the Koha, UB repository and practical sessions.

