Brief Biography of Rwagasana Gerard

(October 14, 2010)

Rwagasana Gerard is an independent researcher and international consultant, he works as Director of the ICTEDU Learning Centre, a Centre he created in January 2010, to allow people handicapped by time, distance or lack of accommodation, to access higher education in foreign universities through elearning and OERs. He is a visitor lecturer at various public and private Rwandan higher educational institutions.

Rwagasana is a highly experienced educator and teacher. Before retiring in January 2010 and joining the ICTEDU LC, he has been teaching Physics for more than 30 years in Universities of Rwanda, Congo, Niger and Burundi. He introduced elearning / blended learning mode of teaching at the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and played the major role in designing and implementation of the Centre for Instructional Technology at NUR. He served as Director of the Centre for Instructional Technology and the African Virtual University's Learning Centre at the NUR. He has organized many workshops and trainings for university staff in ICT Skills, eLearning pedagogy and tools.

Rwagasana is member of " One Laptop Per Child Project"'s Steering Committee. He is also the In-country representative of the Teachers Without Boarders Organization. Teachers: http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/about-us/our-team/country-representatives/gerard-rwagasana

Rwagasana has been very active in the faculty management as member of various university organs: department, Senate, Executive Council, Human Resources Development Committee, Appointing Committee, University Management Committee, University Board of Directors and as Chairperson of the academic staff association for many years.

LANGUAGES:

Kinyarwanda (native), English (fluent) , French (fluent), Russian (fluent), Swahili (fluent).

AFFILIATIONS

OER Movement; Teachers Without Boarders (TWB)

EDUCATION

Doctoral Studies, Russian Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow, Russia (1987 – 1991)
Master ICT in Teaching and Training, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France. (2004 – 2005)
MS. Physics, Russian Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow, Russia (1965 – 1971)

Postgraduate training:

2004: How to evaluate an online course; Evaluating the usability of online materials for students success
How to encourage and support university teachers for using ICT in Education; Using MERLOT in the disciplines; Instructional design skills for online learning. Costa Mesa, California, USA
Training in Center for Instructional Technology management: PGCC, Maryland.

2003: Discovering online teaching and learning resources; Creating new learning environments with MERLOT
Enhancing hybrid course with MERLOT learning materials; Problem Based learning and Information Technology,   Vancouver, Canada.

2002: Conflict Management online Course: certificate of completion, Maryland, PGCC, USA
Classroom Online Assessment Strategies; teaching and Learning online; Enhancing learning with interactivity and simulations; Teaching and learning with **MERLOT**. Atlanta (USA).

2002: Workshop in Human resources development for the Center of Distance Learning: PGCC, Maryland, USA.

2002: Physics Institute for Teachers. Prince Georges Community College, Maryland, USA

1997 : Dec -1998 Feb.: "University Teaching Pedagogy" (Pédagogie Universitaire), IUFM, Versailles, France.

EMPLOYMENT

National University of Rwanda, Butare, Rwanda (1995-2009)
Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, Congo (1981 – 1995)
United Nations – UNDP - PDR Niamey, Niger (1978 – 1980)
University of Burundi, Bujumbura, Burundi (1973-1978)
Burundi Military Academy, Bujumbura, Burundi, (1975 – 1978)
National Pedagogical Institute of Rwanda, Butare, Rwanda (1971 – 1973)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Rwagasana and Stucki : Strategic Options and Results of Introducing Blended Learning at the National University of Rwanda, Presented at the eLearning Africa, the fourth International Conference for ICT in Development, Education and Training Dakar, Senegal, May 2009 http://www.slideshare.net/rwagasana/stucky-rwagasana-presentation

2. Open Educational Resources, a solution to the problem of access to the knowledge for developing countries. Presented at the e-Learning Africa, the third International Conference for ICT in Development, Education and Training, Accra, Ghana, May 28-30, 2008.

3. How open educational resources can contribute to the improvement of physics teaching/learning at the undergraduate university level. Presented at the e-Learning Africa, the 2nd International Conference for ICT in development, education and training, 28 – 30 May, 2007 Nairobi, Kenya.

4. Improving Physics Traditional Teaching by Introducing Blended Learning at the National University of Rwanda. Presented at the e-Learning Africa, the first International Conference for ICT in Development, Education and Training, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 1st 2006.

5. How students maximize their experiences by creating learning objects for service-oriented projects: Case of the Project "Relate-Create-Donate" in Rwanda. MERLOT International Conference, 2004. http://conference.merlot.org/conference/2004/program.php

6. L'Enseignement de la Science par la Découverte : Cas de l'enseignement de la physique à l'école secondaire du Rwanda : Guide méthodologique de l'enseignant et des manipulations pour les élèves. Université Nationale du Rwanda : NUR 2003. http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/rwanda/modules/

7. How teachers can be prepared for the future distance learning challenges: Case of the National University of Rwanda: African University Day , Kigali – November 12, 2003

8. Le rôle des TIC dans la lutte contre la pauvreté au Rwanda. Seminaries de l'OSSREA, Butare UNR , 2202.
9. Rwanda: A case study of the International Benefits of MERLOT**:** MERLOT International Conference, Atlanta, 2002. http://conference.merlot.org/conference/2002/program/detail_program.php#SatConc2

10. L'amélioration de l'enseignement des sciences à l'école secondaire du Rwanda au moyen des TICE : Séminaire sur l'enseignement des sciences et des mathématiques au secondaire. Minéduc, Kigali Février 2001.

11. La Pédagogie Universitaire : situation à l'Université Nationale du Rwanda. Conférence Internationale ADMES – AIPU, Paris – Nanterre, Avril 1999.

12. La formation des savoirs, des savoir faire et savoir être au cours de l'enseignement de la physique à l'école secondaire : XXVII ème Conférence Internationale Scientifique (CIS) , Moscou 1991.

13. Le système éducatif et les échecs à l'école secondaire en R.P. du Congo : XXVII ème Conférence Internationale Scientifique (CIS) , Moscou 1991.
14. L'activation du raisonnement des élèves au cours de l'enseignement de la physique à l'école secondaire : XXVI ème Conférence Internationale Scientifique (CIS) , Moscou 1990.
15. Enseigner la physique à l'école secondaire avec des matériaux locaux : XXV ème Conférence Internationale Scientifique (CIS) , Moscou 1989.
16. La problématique de l'enseignement des sciences dans les pays en développement : XXIII ème Conférence Internationale Scientifique (CIS) , Moscou 1987.
17. Les propriétés électriques des semi-conducteurs et les dispositifs à semi-conducteurs : U.B. 1977
18. Méthodologie de l'enseignement de la Physique à l'école secondaire : Université du Burundi, 1977

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Teachers Without Boarders
- Open Educational Resources Movement (UNESCO)
- Wikieducators

LANGUAGES.

- Fluent in **French, English, Russian, Swahili, Kinyarwanda (native)**

ACHIEVEMENTS

- In July 2003, Rwagasana conceived and designed the project of creation of a Centre for Instructional Technology (CIT) at the National University of Rwanda (NUR). The project was implemented in December 2003 and the CIT became fully functional in January 2004. He wrote the elearning policy and proposed Moodle as the NUR's official LMS. These proposals were adopted by the institution.

- In January 2005, Mr Rwagasana initiated for the first time the eLearning blended mode of teaching at the National University of Rwanda, with the course of Introductory Modern Physics, using DOKEOS platform.

- In 2006, under his proposal, the Centre for Educational Technology (Centre des Technologies Educatives – CTE) of the "*Université Libre de Bruxelles*", organized at the NUR, a two weeks training for lecturers of Great Lakes Region's Universities, in designing online course and in using Learning platform.

- In April 2009, Rwagasana wrote and presented for funding, to "IOM/MIDA Great Lakes Programme", a three-year (2010 – 2012) capacity building project, aimed to reinforce the capacity of the CIT. The project was accepted and is funded.