



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**



# REPORT

## **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG BENINESE STUDENTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF ABOMEY-CALAVI**

**15 -17 February 2023**



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## Section 1: Context of the Capacity Building Workshop

Scientific research is a vector for the development of any nation. All emerging countries have science, technology, and innovation at the heart of their development policy. In this process, young scientists play an important role. For an effective involvement in this process, it is important that the capacities of this youthful layer be strengthened to have quality human resources for the achievement of the development objectives of our countries. The research institutes or entities must play their part fully. Benin Young Academy of Science (AJSB) is one of young association involved in Beninese scientist capacity building and the promotion of the young scientist's excellence. It is a group of young scientists supervised by wise seniors who have an impressive track record on the national and international level. Their members use as strategies, among others, the application to calls for projects both at the national and international levels for the research of solutions to various problems in different areas of science, the promotion of scientific research and the valorization of the results of scientific research through innovations. Their different actions show the usefulness of the energies consented by their multidisciplinary members. Based on their experience in capacity building in Benin and with the support of the Global Young Academy (GYA), Benin Young Academy of Science initiated the present workshop as part of the GYA networking program which foster the collaboration between 3 members of the GYA where an average of 250 young students and scientific researchers of Benin were recorded. It was an opportunity to have 3 members of the GYA from the West and Central Africa region, address the challenges faced by young scientists and specifically build their capacity through soft skills. Dr. Chika, Prof. Victorien and Dr. Nzweundji Justine Germa from GYA have been working since October 2022 in collaboration with the ASJB to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of young scientists in Benin. This will allow a collaboration between their respective institutions to further expand the vision and fruitful partnership in the coming years. During this program, the Beninese authorities, the represented institutions, and the young scientists were able to have a general idea of the GYA and the different opportunities it offers.



## Section 2: Objectives and Expected Results of the Capacity Building Workshop

### OBJECTIVES

*The main objective of the workshop is to contribute to building students' research experiences and confidence. Specifically, it was to :*

- ⌘ Share ideas on mentoring with some practical examples of mentoring, modeling mentoring for Beninese students and young researchers.*
- ⌘ Inform young Beninese students and researchers about the importance of cooperation and the opportunities available at the level of the vice-rectorate in charge of International Cooperation, Partnerships and Professional Integration (CIPIP)*
- ⌘ Strengthen the capacities of young Beninese students and researchers on best practices of article writing and publication as well as application to Grants.*
- ⌘ Promote the network of young Beninese students and researchers.*

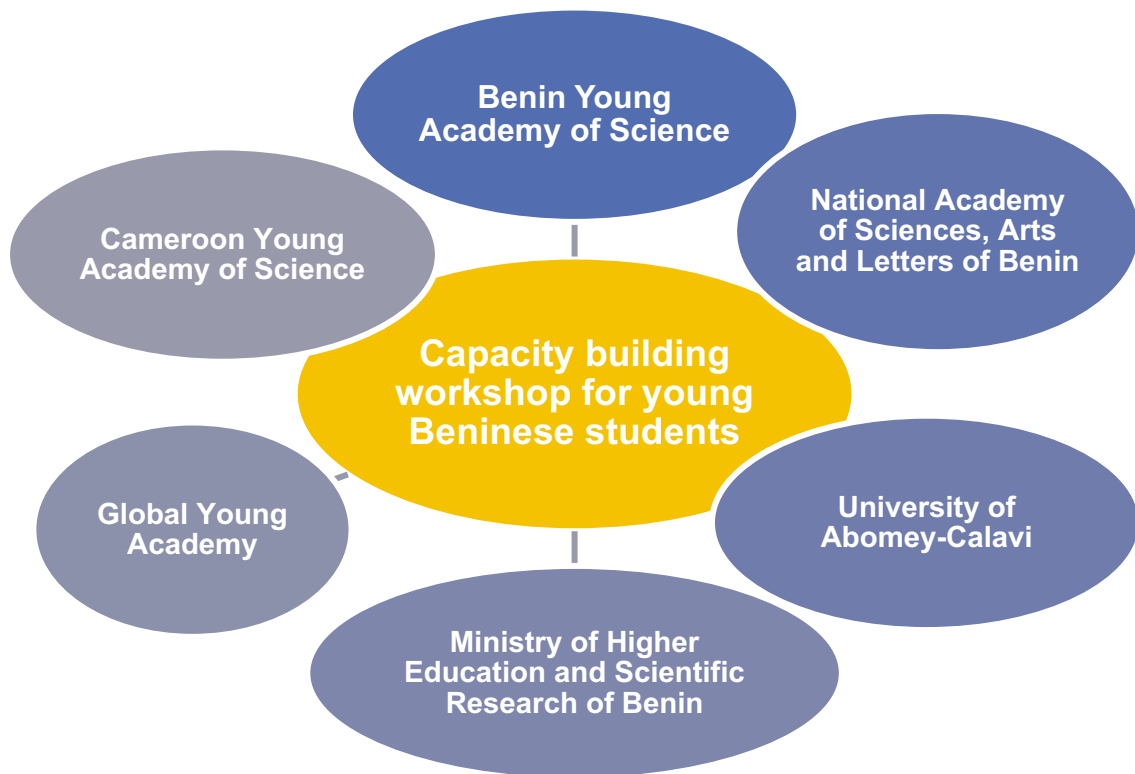
### EXPECTED RESULTS

*At the end of the workshop:*

- ⌘ Mentoring is promoted among Benin's young scientists.*
- ⌘ The importance of cooperation as well as the services in terms of opportunities provided by CIPIP is known by young Beninese students and researchers.*
- ⌘ The capacities of young Beninese students and researchers are strengthened with particular attention to skills related to article writing, publication and application to grants.*
- ⌘ A network is established between young Beninese researchers from different research fields*

## Section 3: Mobilization of institutions

*Several institutions were co-opted for the success of the capacity building workshop for young Beninese students. The Benin Young Academy of Science, through its different members, was able to take up the challenge of gathering institutional actors around the university event: the Global Young Academy (GYA), the Cameroon Young Academy of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters of Benin (ANSALB), the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS), the University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), the Lecturers and Researchers, the young researchers and students of the different universities of Benin The diagram below illustrates the actors involved in the effectiveness of this workshop.*



#### Section 4: Key Organizational Steps

*The organization of the capacity building workshop for young Beninese students included several steps:*

- **Step 1: Sending letters and contacting institutional partners.**

*The first step in the organization of this major event was to write letters to obtain the support of strategic partners. Thus, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) the National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters of Benin (ANSALB) and the University of Abomey-Calavi were contacted and associated. Following the letters, some meetings were held to define the practical bases of the organization.*

- **Step 2: Logistics**

*This phase consisted of identifying the site of the event, which is the University of Abomey-Calavi, and setting up arrangements for welcoming participants. It considered both the assurance of the effective arrival of partners at various levels or their representatives and the scheduling of meetings with actors involved in the successful organization of the workshop.*

- **Step 3: Call for application**

- A call for application to attend the workshop was also organized to have many participants in the camp. The poster of the call have been published on social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and WhatsApp.

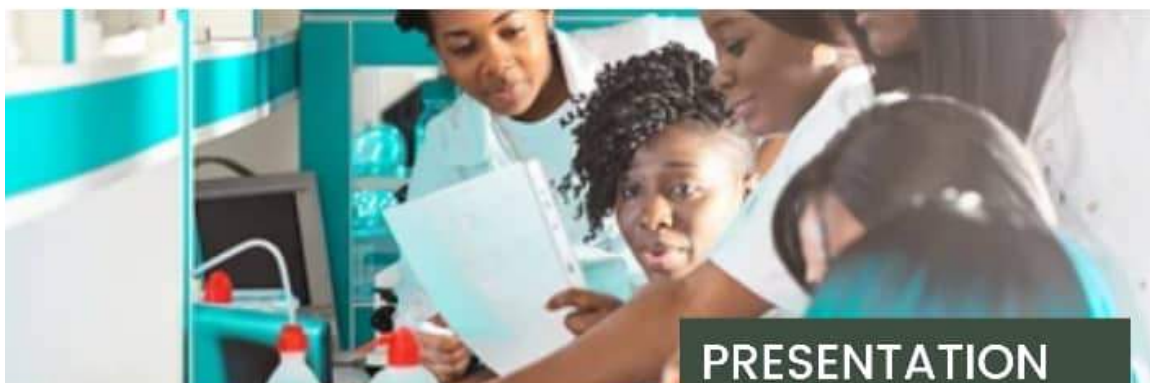
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## APPEL A CANDIDATURE

### ACTIVITE DE RENFORCEMENT DE CAPACITES DES JEUNES ETUDIANTS BENOIS



#### Cibles

- Les étudiants béninois de cycle I, II et III
- Les jeunes chercheurs

#### Date et Lieu

L'activité se tiendra du 15 au 17 Février 2023 à l'Amphithéâtre Idriss Deby Itno de l'Université d'Abomey-Calavi (UAC)

#### Inscription


Les candidats doivent remplir le formulaire de candidature au plus tard le 18 Janvier 2023  
lien: <https://urlz.fr/kgTy>

#### Activités prévues

- partage d'idées sur le mentorat et quelques exemples pratiques de mentorat
- la modélisation du mentorat pour les étudiants du premier, du deuxième et du troisième cycle,
- le renforcement de capacités des étudiants,
- des activités de remue-méninges sur les moyens pratiques d'incorporer nos recherches dans l'enseignement afin d'améliorer l'expérience des étudiants

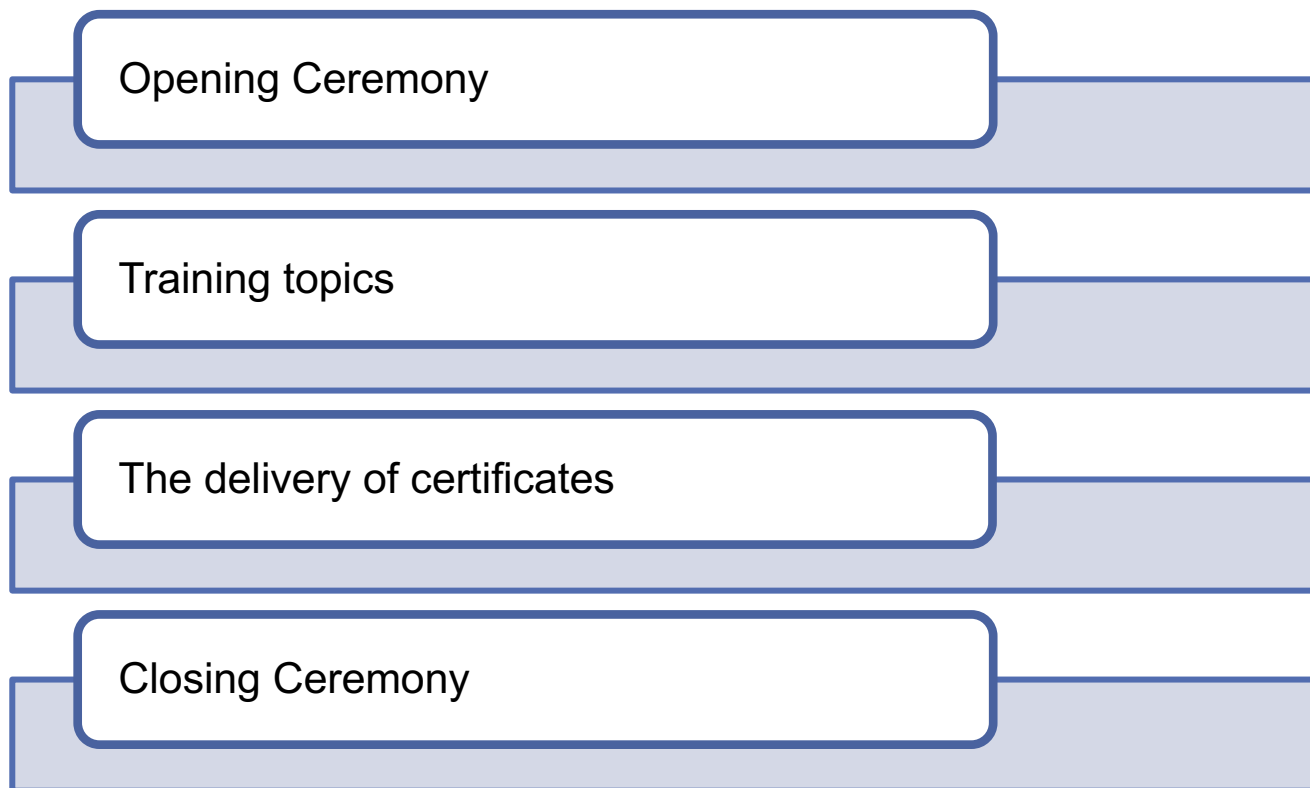
#### PRESENTATION DE L'INITIATIVE

Grâce à l'appui de la Global Young Academy (GYA), et en partenariat avec l'Unité de Recherche en Microbiologie Appliquée et Pharmacologie des substances naturelles (U.R.M.A.Pha), l'Académie des Jeunes Scientifiques du Bénin (AJSB) organise une activité de renforcement de capacités des jeunes étudiants béninois, du 15 au 17 Février 2023 à l'Université d'Abomey-Calavi (UAC). L'objectif de cette activité est de contribuer au renforcement des expériences et de la confiance des étudiants en matière de recherche.

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## Section 5: Main Activities

*The capacity building workshop of Beninese students and young researchers held on February 15-17, 2023, can be summarized in five stages as shown in the following diagram:*



### **Step 1: Opening ceremony**

*The launching of the capacity building workshop for young Beninese students was done in a solemn way by Professor Michel BOKO, representing the President of the National Academy of Arts and Letters of Benin (ANSALB). The presidium of the inaugural ceremony was composed of Professor Zul Kifuli ADEOTI, representing the Rector of the University of Abomey-Calavi, Professor Josué AZANDEGBE, Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) of Benin, representing the Minister of MESRS, Professor Nelly KELOME, Vice-Rector in charge of International Cooperation, Partnerships and Professional Insertion (CIPIP) and Dr. Victorien DOUGNON, President of the Benin Young Academy of Science (AJSB). From the different speeches, it emerged that research is an essential part of the development of nations. The future generation of young scientists must be well equipped and motivated so that excellence can be achieved in all areas of scientific society.*

# OPENING CEREMONY



**Prof. Michel BOKO**  
Rpt / Président / ANSALB



**Dr (MC) Victorien DOUGNON**  
Président de l'AJSB



**Prof. Nelly KELOME**  
Vice-Recteur / Coopération / UAC



IMAGES & COMMENTAIRE  
**B. HOUNDEGNON & N. KPOGBE**



**Prof. Zul kifuli ADEOTI**  
Représentant / Recteur / UAC



RENFORCEMENT DE CAPACITES DES ETUDIANTS BENINOIS A L'UAC  
L'AJSB ŒUVRE POUR LA PREPARATION D'UNE RELEVÉ DE QUALITÉ



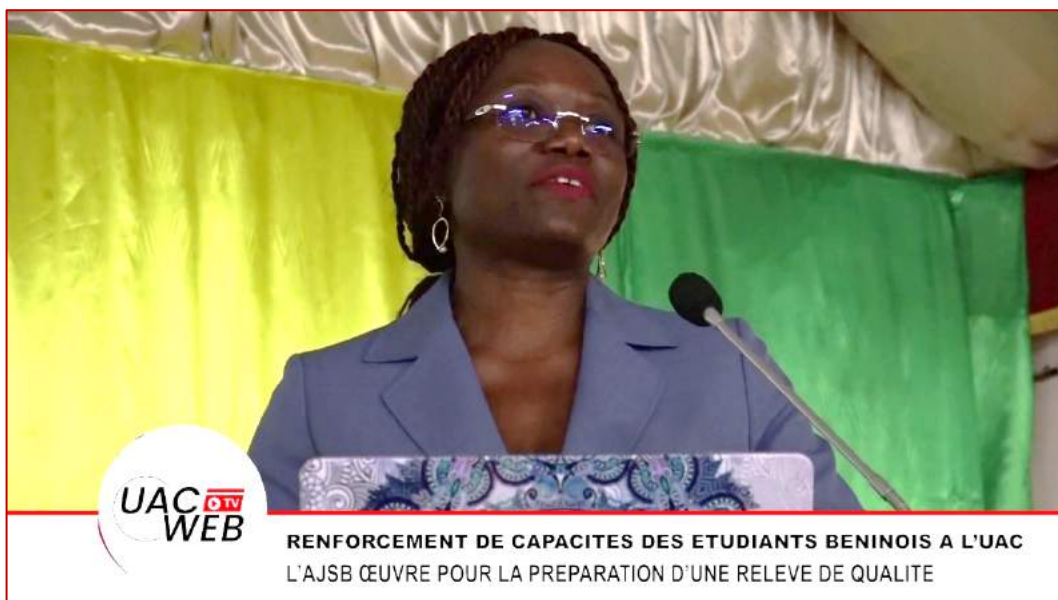
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## Step 2: Training topics

Seven different communications presented by experienced researchers and combine by interactive exchanges characterized the capacity building workshop for young Beninese students and researchers. During the first day of the camp (February 15, 2022), one communication was presented followed by exercises to better extend the participants' field of understanding.

**Communication 1: Mentoring and networking: conceptual clarification and applications to the young researcher's career.** This first communication was presented by Dr. Justine Germe NZWEUNDJI, Researcher at the Institute of Medical Research and Studies of Medicinal Plants and President of the Cameroon Young Academy of Science. In her presentation, she highlighted the notions of mentor-mentee relationship, how to build an effective network and useful tools for good networking.



In the afternoon of the first day, practical exercises and role-playing related to mentoring took place. While building on the concepts acquired after Dr. Geramo's presentation, the participants, divided into several groups, answered questions related to mentoring and networking. Question was about the identification of the mentor, a technik related to the “rule of 3” where participants identified 3 essential points of their work, 3 reasons why the work is important, 3 research questions, 3 results found and 3 potential implications. The last exercise was about “the elevator pitch” where participants in a situation of taking an elevator have not more than 60 seconds to present a best project idea to a potential donor to get funded. The images below illustrate the course of the activities.



During the second day of the workshop, participants have been trained around four topics.

**Communication 2: A scientific publication: why and how to succeed in avoiding scientific plagiarism?** This was presented by Dr. Sylvestre DJAGOUN, Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources at the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences of the University of Abomey-Calavi. Essential concepts such as the different types of articles, why publish?, how to write a scientific article?, how to recognize a good manuscript?, the different parts of an original article and the wording of each part, how to respond to reviewers after the evaluation of an article submitted for publication? and the different forms of plagiarism were discussed.



**Communication 3: The importance of cooperation in the development of a nation: tips for a young researcher at the beginning of his career.** This training was delivered by Professor Nelly KELOME, Vice-Rector in charge of International Cooperation, Partnerships and Professional Insertion (CIPIP). She gave important explanation about different aspects of cooperation and described the cooperation in the academic context, the policy of the University of Abomey-Calavi in terms of cooperation, the benefits of cooperation for the students and the young researchers and how to take advantage of the opportunities and advantages of the cooperation as a young researcher.



**Communication 4: The threat of predatory journals and conferences in science: how to guard against it?** This training delivered by Dr Victorien DOUGNON, Senior Lecturer at the University of AbomeyCalavi and President of Academy of Young Scientists of Benin highlighted technics to identify predatory journal, how to avoid predatory journal, risks and consequences of predatory practices and the main conclusions from the workshop on predatory practices on behalf of The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP).



**Communication 5: Opportunities offered to students by the international cooperation service of the University of Abomey-Calavi.** This last training topic of the second day was delivered by Ms. Lydia SOGNON, Assistant at the Vice-Rectorate in charge of International Cooperation, Partnerships and Professional Insertion (CIPIP). From her presentation, participants have been well informed about the different partnerships the University of Abomey-Calavi is involved in, where the students, young researchers and staff of the university can benefit from mobility, Doctoral research grants, Post-doctoral research grants and project.



The last day of the capacity building workshop for students and young researchers in Benin was characterized by two training topics and the presentation of certificates of participation. *The two training themes were delivered jointly by Dr Hornel KOUDOKPON, Researcher at the University of Abomey-Calavi and Dr EJIKEUGWU, Senior Lecturer & Researcher, Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Agbani, Nigeria.*

**Communication 6: Writing grant.** *This presentation highlighted potential grant funder, how to best identify the research problem, the research question, the tips to write the research strategy/study design, how to identify resources in place, the resources required and the potential to make an impact when writing a grant.*

**Communication 7: Build a personal statement and CV.** *This last presentation shows an overview on characteristics of a good personal statement and keys point to take in account and how to present them in a CV.*



**Step 3: Delivery of certificates**



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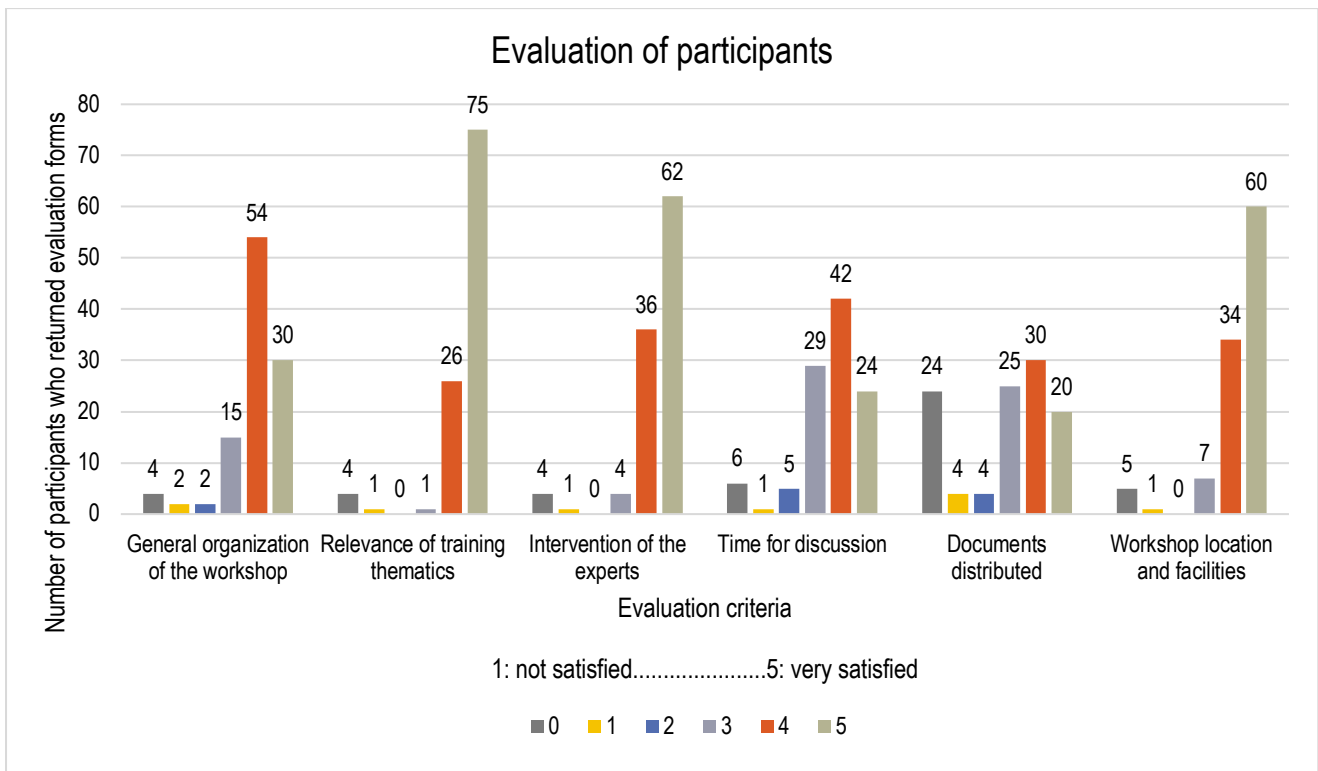
### **Step 3: Closing ceremony**

The closing ceremony of the capacity building workshop for students and young researchers of Benin was marked by words of *thanks from the President of the Benin Young Academy of Science, the Vice-Rector in charge of International Cooperation, Partnerships and Professional Insertion* and the President of the Cameroon Young Academy of Science. They all urged the young scientists to be more ardent and serene in their research activities for a better contribution to the sustainable development of the Beninese nation.



## **EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS**

*At the end of the workshop, participants were given evaluation forms to assess criteria such as the overall organization, the relevance of the presentations, the interventions of the experts, the time allocated to the discussions, the location of the camp and facilities, and the snack. The rating scale ranged from 1 (not satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). The information received was used to create the figure below. It appears that most of the participants who contributed to the evaluation showed a level of satisfaction with the organization in general.*



## Section 6: Acknowledgment

We would like to thank.

- ☞ ***The Global Young Academy***
- ☞ ***The National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters of Benin***
- ☞ ***Members of the Benin Young Academy of Science***
- ☞ ***The President of the Cameroon Young Academy of Science***
- ☞ ***The Rector of the University of Abomey-Calavi***
- ☞ ***The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Benin***
- ☞ ***Dr Chika EJIKEUGWU for its commitment to the workshop***
- ☞ ***The Press of the University of Abomey-Calavi***