POLITICAL SCIENTIST, ANTHROPOLOGIST OR SOCIOLOGIST
Grade A4 (or equivalent)
Sahel and West Africa Club

EXD/HRM/VAC(2001)058

Fixed term appointment : two years

This post is open to nationals from OECD and West African countries.

The Sahel and West Africa Club of the OECD is looking for a senior administrator to review African political systems and analyse the impact that the democratisation of government and society is having on the changes taking place in West Africa. The post-holder will work under the direction of the Management Team. (http://www.oecd.org/sah/index-fr.htm).

The Sahel and West Africa Club is beginning a new three-year programme combining innovative research, leadership and facilitation, with the objective of promoting African leadership and disseminating stakeholder views. This programme of work has three components: decentralisation and local development, regional integration via the spatial dimension of development, and prospective studies.

The objective is to generate and disseminate new ideas leading to concrete initiatives for the Club’s clients, namely African policy-makers, members of civil society in OECD and West African countries, and aid agencies working in the sub-region.

To adapt to this new role, the Club Secretariat is being restructured with emphasis on the following elements:

1. The extension of its geographic coverage to include all of West Africa, as illustrated by a new name, the Sahel and West Africa Club.

2. Developing its activities with:
   - Focus on strategic management of analytical research;
   - African expertise joining the Club Secretariat;
   - Promoting an interdisciplinary approach to its work;
   - Preserving potential for renewal of competencies.

Senior positions in the Club Secretariat have been redefined to better implement this programme and create real synergy among the three components.
The job...

1. Analyse West African political systems by assessing the sustainability of existing institutions and ongoing democratic processes, and examining their impact on society and governance.

2. Identify areas requiring fin-depth analysis of risks in the sub-region, in particular those associated with the current democratic processes, and the emergence of the rule of law, notably individual rights. Assess the importance of these risks, their implications for the population (demographics, migration, labour productivity) and ways that they proliferate in time and space.

3. Study the social and cultural attitudes of West Africans towards violence and peace. Link this analysis to the issues of social relations and of new forces emerging under the impetus of money, politics or the role of the army.

4. Collect, analyse and disseminate the findings of the Club’s research and the outcome of its meetings with West African networks and stakeholders or working groups, especially on topics such as democracy, governance and issues relating to regional integration.

5. Plan, co-ordinate and supervise research projects conducted by a team of consultants.

6. Draft, or contribute in drafting reports and/or studies for submission to working parties or for publication.

7. Participate in the general work of the Club, where necessary. Contribute to the dissemination of its work via meetings and workshop seminars and develop contacts with partner networks.

The person we are looking for should have...

1. An advanced university degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) in social science, with a special focus on political science, anthropology or sociology, and an understanding of empirical analysis.

2. At least ten years’ experience in the field of development, in particular good practical knowledge of international institutions and bilateral and/or multilateral development co-operation systems.

3. Good knowledge of Africa, and more specifically West Africa, regarding its history, culture and political institutions, both old and new. Good field experience in the various African countries and communities.

4. Familiarity with current development approaches, as seen through issues raised by democratisation of government and society, good governance, and discussions on the challenges ahead, including the fight against poverty.

5. Proven ability to supervise and motivate a multicultural team. The ability to conduct meetings and synthesise results. Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to maintain good working relations with people at all levels in a multicultural environment.

6. Good communication skills, including clear, concise drafting, and the ability to explain social and cultural issues to both experts and a wider audience.
We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage applications from female candidates.

Applications (in English or French) from nationals of OECD Member countries should quote reference EXD/HRM/VAC(2001)058 and be sent via our on-line application form on www.oecd.org/hrm by 23 August 2001.

Only candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

For more information on OECD and our recruitment, please see www.oecd.org