

# PREFACE

**« Let's make our raw materials a source of growth »**

**« Stop the export of our raw soil and subsoil products with no added value »**

These are the slogans of the "LOCAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION" International Conference abbreviated LOREXP, placed under the theme "Value Chains and Integral Transformations of Local Resources", and held at the University of Ngaoundéré, from April 20 to 23, 2021. Registered in line with the 2020-2030 development objectives of the Cameroonian State set out in the National Development Strategy (NDS30) for the emergence of Cameroon by 2035, the LOREXP 21 Conference supports the words of His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic, when he addressed the youths on February 11, 2021. He urged each citizen to immerse themselves deeply in the NDS30, in order to identify all the opportunities it offers and to each bring their contribution, commensurate with their skills, on the path to emergence. For the President of the Republic, there is above all a need for industrial development based on own resources and consistent with the Master Plan for Cameroon's Industrialization. He therefore invites every Cameroonian citizen to register positively in favor of this dynamic of national construction in order to bring Cameroon to the rank of a New Industrialized Country by 2035.

This book of abstracts, which contains all the work carried out throughout the 2021 edition of the LOREXP International Conference, is the response of the participants to this invitation from the President of the Republic. Convinced that it is necessary "to create a balance between theoretical training (know-why) and concrete training (know-how) in our training institutions", the speakers invite everyone to take cognizance of the results of their research projects that shine by their number and diversity, to appropriate and implement them. By so doing, they will develop their leadership skills. He also invites them to carefully observe their environment and make full use of the available resources, while ensuring them of their socio-politico-techno-economic support, so as to be immediately productive in the professional circuit. This is why, in addition to scientific articles, short communications and posters, the "presentation of business projects" component was one of the most important points of this Conference, which saw the effective presence of project leaders of structures in creation or to be revitalized.

It should be remembered here that in the process of creating wealth, it is the transformation of a given resource that gives meaning to the concept of the value chain. For a given company, the value chain consists of different main and secondary activities, ranging from upstream to downstream processing through to distribution to the consumer, and which create added value. The value chain is directly linked to the concept of the chain of activities, behind which are a set of components that participate in the creation of added value. The added value of the chain considered is obtained by summing the economic values added to the starting material, and due to the activity of each link creating added value in the chain. This added value is essential for solving local, national and even sub-regional development problems.

Along with these notions on value chains, LOREXP in this first edition, looks at the integral transformation of the resources of our soil and subsoil. The process also involves transforming by-products and waste into wealth, hence the notion of a cascade of treatments, which makes it possible to derive the greatest possible profit from a given resource. All this must be done with respect for the environment and ensuring that these cascading treatments do not destroy the added value. In other words, it is a question of mastering the operating mode of the system and adjusting activities dynamically, to iteratively increase the added value of the overall structure. This means that in the chain, we must analyze all the links in order to identify all the obstacles that reduce productivity and eliminate them, while valuing the opportunities and ensuring that each task, each corrected activity, takes place at best and generates more wealth. Several skills and actors, thus intervene, from one point to another in the chain, which can be technical, scientific, academic, legal and which come from the State, local communities or the private sector.

The examination of the proceedings of the LOREXP International Conference compiled in this multidisciplinary book shows that the lecturers/researchers of our universities fully assume their mission of supporting the development of the Nation, by developing optimal techniques for transforming the resources of the soil and subsoil, as well as the development of equipment to conduct or facilitate processing operations, and this is to their credit.

In this regard, in my capacity as Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, President of the Consultative Committee of University Institutions (CCIU), I will continue, more than in the past, to ensure that the criteria for the promotion of university teaching staff to higher levels, places higher importance to activities supporting development in all its components. I therefore invite lecturers/researchers to form multidisciplinary teams and to participate in setting up business projects and their implementation. By pooling their skills and resources, they contribute, alongside the Government, to the work of national construction.

I am also delighted with the active participation of the eight State Universities in this first edition of LOREXP 21 dedicated to the issue of industrialization of Africa. By their presence, they demonstrated their full adherence to the objectives of pooling skills as they appear in the new policy of university governance inspired by HE Paul Biya, President of the Republic and implemented under the coordination of Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute, Prime Minister, Head of Government. I also welcome the presence at this Conference of several other ministerial departments (MINHDU, MINPMEESA, MINEPIA, MINMIDT, MINEFOP), administrative and traditional authorities of the Adamawa region and many parastatal and private partners who thus show their support and their determination to support universities in the development process of our country. Finally, the participation of two international organizations (PNUD, AUF) and fifteen (15) foreign countries including nine (09) African, confirmed the thirst for industrial development of African countries and the determination of African youth to find endogenous solutions.

The LOREXP-2021 Conference is the first edition of a long series of Conferences that will take place every two years on the theme of valuing local resources. It enabled the University of Ngaoundéré, to be the first University in Cameroon and the Sub-Region, to organize an International Conference on the exploitation of local resources. On this subject, I would like to send my warm congratulations and all my encouragement

to the organizing committee, whose seriousness has been recognized and attested by the strong involvement of the university community and its partners (craftspersons, professionals, etc.), the reading committee, the holding of parallel online and face-to-face workshops, and the permanent website with live streaming of the activities on the Conference web pages, in a world afflicted by COVID-19.

By expressing my total satisfaction for the smooth running of the Conference, I can safely say that the LOREXP-2021, by its emphasis on the pooling of skills and the full use of our resources, has laid the groundwork for the response from the Cameroonian University to the concerns of the NDS30 and will contribute, in its own way, to the development of our country and its emergence by 2035.

**Pr Jacques FAME NDONGO**

Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education,  
Republic of Cameroon.

***LOREXP TRANSLATED VERSION***