



les ateliers
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine



On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Benin,

West-African Workshops of Urban Planning of Porto-Novo

1st session
from July 30th till August 20th, 2010

For a sustainable valuation of the banks of the lagoon: Development of an attractive ecological and university center.

Indisputable natural heritage, support of a local economy and major component of the city identity, the lagoon of Porto Novo is both sensitive ecological space and a space of development, for tourism as well as real estate.

At the East of the city, the lagoon meets the geographic depression of Donoukin - which serves as evacuation of the rainwaters of the city center - , forming a vast wetland largely flooded in rainy season. Similarly to others cities in Africa,

this fragile ecosystem is today threatened by the urban extension, with the construction of individual housing without networks of urban services nor control of land occupation.

Willing to make the best use of the unique heritage of the banks of the lagoon, and wishing to protect it from a crushing real estate consumption, the Municipality of Porto Novo wishes to develop a new ecological and university center, which would contribute to create an attractive city.



Porto Novo and Les Ateliers: A sustainable partnership

Since 1982, the NGO Les Ateliers develops its original method which consists in gathering students or professionals of various countries and making them work in multidisciplinary teams on a subject of urban planning proposed by the local authorities.

In November 2005 within the framework of a cooperation with Cergy-Pontoise (France), a international workshop for professionals was held in Porto-Novo to think about the urban project of the capital of Benin, its strategies of development and promotion of its territory.

In June, 2009 at the request of the new mayor Mr Moukaram Océni, Les Ateliers came back to Porto Novo for an express workshop to propose a plan for the development of banks.

Today, the Municipality of Porto Novo wishes to develop its own cycle of international workshops, with the support of Les Ateliers and the participation of the EAMAU - African School of architecture and urban planning.

Format of the workshop

3 workweeks managed by a mixed team *Ateliers* - local authorities according to the method of *Les Ateliers*.

4 mixed teams of 6 international participants, among which 3 Africans in each.

Selection of 24 participants on the basis of a preliminary research work - Soon graduated students or young professionals.

An international jury chaired by the Mayor of Porto Novo, with the participation of representatives of the local authorities and international experts.

For more information: www.ateliers.org and contact@ateliers.org

