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**Professor PIERRE DUYSINX, Vice-Rector for Mobility and International of the University of Liège visits  
ERAIFT**

**Kinshasa, 01 May 2023**

On Monday 01 May 2023, ERAIFT was honored by the visit of Professor PIERRE DUYSINX, Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Affairs of the University of Liège. Upon arrival, he was welcomed by the Director of ERAIFT, Professor Baudouin MICHEL, in his office, for a debriefing before the exchanges in the conference hall.

This ceremony was marked by two strong moments: first by various communications, notably on the achievements of the Central Africa platform of the University of Liège, the historical link between ERAIFT and the University of Liège and the revival of the partnership between the University of Liège-Congolese universities and Belgian actors, and next by the visit of the office of the Central Africa platform as well as of the ERAIFT site.

The Director of ERAIFT, upon welcoming all the participants, gave a brief presentation of the governance of the school, its cooperation agreements at the national, regional and international levels, and its four areas of activity (diploma training, continuing training, research and support for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of projects/programs). He then expressed his gratitude to the University of Liège for its several supports to ERAIFT and IFA Yangambi, especially in the implementation of an adequate agronomic training with the professional sector. Professor Jan BOGAERT, President of PACODEL and of the ERAIFT Administrative Board, reminded the audience of the different missions of the Central Africa platform of the University of Liège as well as the process of the selection of ERAIFT as the preferential institution to host it. Furthermore, Professor MVUMBI LELO Georges, coordinator of the ARES Steering Group at the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), had expressed his gratitude to the University of Liège for its support to UNIKIN through joint research projects, master's and doctoral scholarships, continuous training, particularly in project formulation.

En conclusion, le Professeur PIERRE DUYSINX a exprimé son ambition de faire de l'ERAIFT un partenaire privilégié de l'Université de Liège. Il a également souligné l'importance de la coopération pour relever les défis de la transition écologique et sociale, ainsi que pour l'émergence internationale de l'enseignement supérieur et des institutions universitaires en République Démocratique du Congo.

The event ended with a visit to the Central Africa Platform office followed by the symbolic planting of a tree as a gesture to fight climate change.

ERAIFT sincerely thanks Professor PIERRE DUYSINX for the visit. It also expresses its gratitude to the University of Liège, the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium for their support and renewed confidence.

