



**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

Agreement in respect of the German Research Chair in Mathematics  
and its Applications by and between  
The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Rwanda  
in conjunction with  
The University of Rwanda (UR), Kigali  
and  
The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)

**§ 1 Aims and Scope**

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is establishing a Research Chair, under the programme financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) entitled "German Research Chairs", at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Kigali in Rwanda. The chair includes associated support measures.

The aim of this is to strengthen university education and research as well as capacity building in mathematical sciences in Africa, promote networking between AIMS Rwanda, the University of Rwanda and German universities and support networking amongst the various AIMS centres in Africa.

AIMS Rwanda (<https://aims.ac.rw>) is part of the AIMS Next Einstein Initiative ([www.nexteinstein.org](http://www.nexteinstein.org)), a network of centres of excellence which seeks to establish a coordinated network of 15 supra-regional centres of excellence in Africa over the next ten years to help meet the demand for academics and scientists trained in mathematical sciences. AIMS centres cooperate with partner institutions in Africa, Europe, Asia and North America.

The purpose of this agreement is to record the parties' understanding and responsibilities as to the extent of their respective associations with the joint Chair and as proposed arrangements for management and oversight of the Chair. The Research Chair is located at AIMS Rwanda, Kigali. The Chair holder shall be a scholar recognized through publications and conference presentations for recent original research in the field of "Mathematics and its Applications". The Chair holder should be open to address problems which have the potential to contribute to solving important questions relevant for Rwanda.

He/she should satisfy the requirements of the University of Rwanda to be a professor of an appropriate rank.

During his/her tenure the Chair holder will be expected to: conduct research (produce publications of his/her research results, co-supervise PhD students,



**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

host post-doctoral research fellows), lecture, liaise/collaborate with the Mathematics and other appropriate Departments and Centres of the University of Rwanda and other Rwandan Universities as well as with the AIMS network and German partner institutions and other international collaborators. The Chair holder may also deliver public lectures and addresses and/or communicate with government and non-government agencies to widely disseminate important research findings. At the end of the tenure, he/she would prepare a report detailing the results achieved and identifying possible future directions. Furthermore, there will be yearly interim reports delivered by the Chair.

The selection committee will comprise of six members: Two researchers appointed by AIMS-NEI/Next Einstein Initiative (one as a representative of the AIMS-NEI Secretariat and one as a representative of AIMS Rwanda) and three German mathematicians appointed by the Humboldt Foundation (including the chair of the committee). The sixth member of the selection committee will represent University of Rwanda and will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the University. All members of the committee shall vote in the selection process. In the event of a tie/deadlock, the chair of the committee shall have the casting vote.

## **§2 Duties of the collaborative partners**

1. The obligations of AIMS Rwanda
  - a) To support the organization and implementation of the selection meeting in Rwanda.
  - b) To sit on the selection committee.
  - c) To support the implementation of the Humboldt Foundation project components which are financed by the BMBF in collaboration with the Chair holder.
  - d) To conduct appointment proceedings and appoint the Chair holder.
  - e) To conclude an employment contract with the Chair holder which makes it possible to issue the necessary permits and to help the Chair holder to apply for and obtain these permits. The Agreement also stipulates that the Chair holder shall be integrated as a leading scientist at AIMS and be regarded as equal to a professor at an appropriate rank with all the associated rights of a faculty member of the University of Rwanda. The Chair holder at his/her discretion may but shall not be obliged to give lectures. The extent of the Chair holders' teaching obligation should be part of this employment contract. AIMS Rwanda must ensure that the Chair holder shall not spend more than twenty percent (20%) of his/her time on





**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

undergraduate teaching and/or management responsibilities not related to the activities of the Chair. The Chair may also at his/her discretion supervise PhD candidates. 80% of the Chair holder's overall time, at whatever institution spent, must be related to the Research Chair's duties as described in the "Regulations on the Use of Funds" of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

- f) To support the Chair holder:
  - a. By familiarizing him/her with proceedings at AIMS Rwanda;
  - b. By integrating him/her in the wider academic community in Rwanda;
  - c. By building up and maintaining national and international expert networks.
- g) To manage the funding in a fiduciary capacity in the name and on behalf of the Chair holder.
- h) To acknowledge the right to audit granted to the DLR Project Management Agency, the BMBF as well as the German Federal Audit Office which are entitled to request the submission of books, receipts and other business records within the framework of the project and to verify them according to applicable rules against the principles of necessity and appropriateness.
- i) To use the logo of the BMBF in all publications or other public presentations on the Chair holder and to refer to the federal funding according to the guidelines of the BNBEST-BMBF98 No. 6.5.
- j) To support one or more agreements with collaborating German Universities.
- k) To develop a concept that ensures continued endowment for the Chair.
- l) To support the Humboldt Foundation in the evaluation of the Chair after three (3) years.
- m) AIMS Rwanda shall, after positive evaluation of the Chair Holder's performance by the Humboldt Foundation, consider an appropriate continuation of the position thereafter.

2. The obligations of the University of Rwanda:

- a) To sit on the selection committee.
- b) To regard the Chair holder as equal to a professor of an appropriate rank with all of the associated rights of a member of the faculty of the university. He/she shall be granted access to and use of the facilities of the Mathematics Department like a faculty member of this Department. The extent of the Chair holders' teaching obligation



**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

should be part of an agreement between the university and the chair holder. The Chair holder may at his/her discretion but shall not be obliged to give lectures. The Chair holder should not spend more than twenty percent (20%) of his/her time on undergraduate teaching and/or management responsibilities not related to the activities of the Chair. The Chair shall also supervise PhD candidates. 80 % of the Chair holder's overall time, at whatever institution spent, must be related to the Research Chair's duties as described in the "Regulations on the Use of Funds" of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

- c) To support the participation of the Mathematics and other appropriate Departments and Centres at the university in collaborative research with the Chair holder.
- d) To support infrastructure requirements at the university which may be occasioned by periods when the Chair holder works at the university.
- e) To support one or more agreements with collaborating German Universities.
- f) To support the Chair holder:
  - a. By familiarizing him/her with proceedings at the university;
  - b. By integrating him/her in further academic structures in Rwanda;
  - c. By building up and maintaining international expert networks.
- g) To support the Humboldt Foundation in the evaluation of the Chair after three (3) years.
- h) To be willing—if the evaluation is successful—to jointly support the continued appointment of the Chair holder as an AIMS-University position and faculty member upon cessation of endowment of the Chair provided by the Humboldt Foundation. Before the funding - under the programme financed by the BMBF entitled "German Research Chairs" - ends, the University will consider offering the chair holder a permanent faculty position.

Should the Chair holder already be a faculty member of another leading research university in Rwanda, an AIMS-University of Rwanda appointment is not mandatory. In that case, the respective university must declare its readiness to fulfill the obligations according to § 2.2 under this agreement.

### 3. The obligations of the Humboldt Foundation

- a) To call for applications for the quality-based research Chair and organize the selection of the future Chair holder;





- b) To guarantee a selection based on academic excellence;
- c) To provide the funding, under the programme financed by the BMBF entitled "German Research Chairs", on time according to the call for funds;
- d) to evaluate, with support of AIMS Rwanda and the University of Rwanda, the performance of the Chair Holder after three (3) years;
- e) To provide the Chair holder with support and advice in relation to:
  - appointment proceedings;
  - research stays in Germany;
  - the development of new or integration into existing academic networks (e.g. the African-German Network of Excellence in Science - AGNES);
  - Alumni sponsorship programmes of the Humboldt Foundation.

### § 3 Funding and Support

1. AIMS Rwanda shall support the collaborative project by:
  - a) Providing and maintaining suitably equipped offices for the research Chair with at least two rooms for the Chair holder and his/her assistants, including incidental costs (e.g. electricity, internet connection);
  - b) Providing office space / desks for visiting professors and researchers;
  - c) Providing personnel (and/or resources) to manage the funding amount in a fiduciary capacity and independently audit the reports on the use.
2. The University of Rwanda shall support the collaborative project by:
  - a) Providing access to scientific literature (e.g. online access to scientific periodicals);
  - b) Providing non-financial support and infrastructure for the Chair holder's activities at the university.
  - c) Waiving the study fees for PhD students from AIMS Rwanda.
3. The Humboldt Foundation shall - under the programme financed by the BMBF entitled "German Research Chairs" - provide support by:
  - a) Financing the salary of the research Chair; in addition financing the moving expenses of the Chair holder;
  - b) Financing research stays by the Chair holder at the collaborative partners' institutions in Germany; the Chair holder's participation in national and international conferences; the realization of workshops





**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

and conferences at AIMS Rwanda; financing the equipment, specialist literature and expendable materials for the Chair holder.

Disbursement of funds is dependent on budget availability and in accordance with the "Regulations on the Use of Funds" of AvH.

#### **§ 4 Maintaining Contact and Communication**

Once a year or as necessary, a meeting shall be held between the three collaborative project partners and the Chair holder to discuss the current status of the German Research Chair in "Mathematics and its Applications". If necessary, other academics involved in the collaborative project may also be invited.

#### **§ 5 Contacts**

Each of the institutions shall appoint a representative to act as a contact for the collaborative project. The designated contacts are:

At AIMS Rwanda:

Prof. Dr. Sam Yala  
*Centre President*  
AIMS Rwanda Centre  
KN 3<sup>rd</sup> ST, Kigali  
P.O.BOX 7150  
Rwanda  
E-Mail: [sam.yala@aims.ac.rw](mailto:sam.yala@aims.ac.rw)  
<https://aims.ac.rw>

At University of Rwanda:

Dr. Celestin Ntivuguruzwa  
*Director of Center for Postgraduate Studies*  
University of Rwanda  
KK 737 ST Gikondo  
P.O.BOX 4285  
Rwanda  
E-Mail: [dcgs@ur.ac.rw](mailto:dcgs@ur.ac.rw)  
<https://ur.ac.rw>

At the Humboldt Foundation:

Dr. Daniela Kneissl  
Head of Division Africa, Middle East  
Sponsorship and Network Department  
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation  
Jean-Paul-Str. 12  
53173 Bonn, Germany  
E-Mail: [daniela.kneissl@avh.de](mailto:daniela.kneissl@avh.de)  
<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>

#### **§ 6 Other provisions and information**

The funding provided by the Humboldt Foundation, under the programme financed by the BMBF, is subject to the Humboldt Foundation "Regulations on





**AIMS**

African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
RWANDA



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

the Use of Funds” for the Research Chair in “Mathematics and its Applications” at the African Institute for Mathematical Science (AIMS) in Rwanda.

**§ 7 Dispute resolution**

The parties shall resolve any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Cooperation Agreement by mutual agreement and their decision recorded in writing. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they agree to submit to an alternative dispute resolution subject to the rules that the parties themselves decide to adopt.

**§ 8 Agreement Term, Renewal, Modifications, Termination**

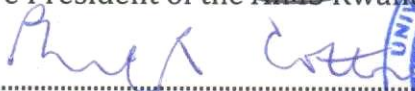
The Cooperation Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by all contracting parties and be valid for the duration of the German Research Chair. If, in the frame of the programme financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) entitled “German Research Chairs”, a second research chair will be established at AIMS Rwanda in cooperation with University of Rwanda, the Cooperation Agreement will be applicable for the second research chair as well. The Cooperation Agreement can be modified or expanded if all the contracting parties agree to this in writing. If, for any reason, it becomes necessary for either party to terminate this Cooperation Agreement, it shall do so only after giving 1-month prior notice to other parties

Signed by



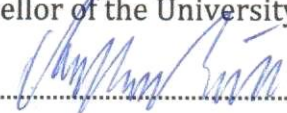
Date: 02 DECEMBER 2019

Professor Sam Yala  
Centre President of the AIMS Rwanda



Date: 03/12/2019

Professor Philip Cotton,  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rwanda



Date: 21 Nov 2019

Dr. Enno Aufderheide,  
The General Secretary of the Humboldt Foundation