

**Mikael Passare, Stockholm University, Sweden,
and Modeste N'Zi, Laboratory of Applied Mathematics and Computer
Science, Ivory Coast**

Sadly, Mikael Passare passed away in 2010 and no further work was undertaken on the project beyond this time. Activities undertaken before 2010 and the plans that were in place for the project are outlined below.

General description of partner department

The Department of Mathematics at University of Cocody has a total of 49 teaching staff, of which 2 are full professors. The administrative/technical staff consists of 12 persons. The total number of students is close to 1500. Both MSc and PhD programmes are offered in Mathematics.

Current research interests include Probability theory, Mathematical Statistics, Mechanics, Harmonic Analysis, Algebra and Optimization. There is also an interest in developing the competence in Geometry.

Things done so far

In December 2008 Mikael Passare and Anders Wändahl, librarian of the Karolinska Medical University and creator of the website "e-math for Africa", visited the partner department in Abidjan. The former gave a mini-course on Tropical Geometry, while the latter conducted a very successful workshop on how to access electronic papers and books in Mathematics. (Anders would be most willing to help other mentoring projects with similar workshops if asked to do so.)

During this visit in Abidjan, the mentor and his partner discussed what would be the next steps in the project, and the following have now taken place.

- Two visits from Africa to Stockholm, by Modeste N'Zi and Jean-Marc Owo (PhD student) in 2009.
- During the whole period, electronic access to research journals and databases has been arranged and paid for from the grant.
- A number of central text books (at the level of Graduate Texts in Mathematics) were bought and shipped to Abidjan.

Plans for 2010

- A visit by Paul Vaderlind (Stockholm) to Abidjan to teach a comprehensive graduate course on Advanced Combinatorics as a basis for research in Probability Theory and applications in Mathematical Biology.
- A subsequent visit by a colleague (to be decided) to give a course on Mathematical Epidemiology and/or Biomathematics.
- A workshop on "Mathematical Models for the Life Sciences" is scheduled to take place in Abidjan in June.