

Success Story

Samuel TANON,
Major of the International MBA Promotion 2007/2008



“My educational background is agronomy engineering, with a specialization in human nutrition. I got my first job in a start-up making prepared food dishes for people with allergies, in Montpellier, France. After 18 months in this company, I grabbed an opportunity to work in a development NGO in Niger. There, I led a large microfinance project (reaching around 6,000 people) based on an innovative methodology with self-financed and self-managed savings and credit groups. Then I launched a similar project in Kinshasa, with people affected by HIV/AIDS. I then led a third project, in Niger again: developing a new model of human-powered irrigation pump and training local companies to manufacture it and sell it without subsidies.

When I wanted to come back to Europe, in the for-profit sector. I was fearing that my three and a half years of experience in the non-profit sector, in remote countries, would be of little interest for European companies. Moreover, I wanted to take advantage of my experience of managing teams and projects. Also, I did not want to get back to technical positions in the food industry. The IMBA was the best way to validate my international management experience and re-introduce myself in the European employment market. I chose RMS for its international profile and its growing reputation.

Attending the RMS IMBA appeared to be a successful strategy. Before the end of the course, and thanks to RMS's MBA Career Development Services, I found the tailor-made job: MBA Executive Assistant to the Head of Africa in an international company based in Luxembourg. I finished the courses on June 30th and started my new job on July 1st, at Millicom International Cellular. Six months later, I am now Executive Assistant to the Chief Officer Operations. I am entering the mobile telephony business in a fast growing company that offers interesting international career opportunities.

The strong multinational profile of the RMS MBA, and the full English teaching were for me the key value adding elements: I am now working with 30 nationalities among 90 people. This MBA is also an investment of high "value for money", which I expect to pay back in less than three years.”