

**MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AT THE GHE CONFERENCE ROOM, ACCRA ON NOVEMBER 30, 2020 AT 10:15 AM.**

**1.0 Attendance**

1. Mr. Osafo-Kissi	DCEO-BPA	Chairman
2. Dr. Eric Oforu Antwi	Dir. RCEES	Member
3. Dr. Samuel Gyamfi	Dep. Dir. RCEES	Member
4. Dr. Emmanuel K. Nyantakyi	I.A. Coord-RCEES	Member
5. Dr. Maxmillian Kwarteng	SPS	Member
6. Mr. Ben Ampomah	Exec Sec. WRC	Member
7. Mr. Seth Mahu	MoEn	Member
8. Mr. Benjamin Ntsin	GRIDCO	Member
9. Mr. Ebenezer Appah-Sarpong	EPA	Member

**In Attendance**

1. Mr. Samuel Akowuah Okyereh	-	Centre Coordinator, RCEES
2. Eric L. Mwintome	-	Recorder

**1.1 Apology**

1. Mr. Kwabena Agyei Agyapong

**2.0 OPENING**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by the Chairman and Dr. Eric Oforu Antwi said the opening prayer and members of the Board introduced themselves.

The Chairman explained to members that he would want the Director-RCEES to steer the affairs of the meeting up to the business of the day because he (Chairman) was not present in the previous (2019) meeting. His explanation was accepted by the meeting and hence the Director took over.

**3.0 READING/CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The previous minutes was reviewed and accepted as the true reflection of proceedings at that meeting after a motion was moved by Dr. Emmanuel K. Nyantakyi and seconded by Dr. Maxmillian Kwarteng for the acceptance of the minutes as a working document subject to the following corrections:

**4.0 MATTERS ARISING**

*Motivational Policy:* The Director reported that the comments from members had been incorporated into it and that it has been finalized, approved and operationalized. Per his

account, the policy stated that 30% of internally generated funds should be used to reward the services members are not paid by the project.

The policy he said also stipulated how the team(s) that wins proposal(s) for the Centre would be rewarded for the effort. He, however, stated that this aspect of the policy had not been activated yet because of a lack of funds in this area.

The Directed reported that the RCEES policy and manual were being recommended by the World Bank (WB) as a reference document for other Centres Excellence. Members lauded the Centre management for this.

**Centre Launch:** members were informed that the launch was successfully done in 2019 and it was the 1<sup>st</sup> and only launched in that year.

**International Accreditation:** The Director again, indicated that no move had been made in this regard. He said this was partly due to the yet to be completed office complex for the Centre. He, however, said that gap analysis would be conducted to find a suitable International Accreditor from the WB's list of Accreditors.

The Director explained that efforts were being made to get some companies (GNPS, Bui Power Authority) to get counterpart funding for the building. On equipping the laboratories, he indicated that because it takes a long time to get lab equipment, permission was being sought from the Public Procurement Authority to use restrictive tendering to procure the equipment.

He further reported that help was being sought from a lab in the USA for equipment.

The meeting recognized that there was still a lot to be in equipping the labs since most of the furnishing was not catered for by the WB.

**Action: The Director was tasked to submit a list of labs equipment to members to enable them to seek support from their contacts to equip the labs.**

**Waste Water Recycling:** The Board was informed that the Centre was yet to explore this area. The Board implored the Centre management to make it a priority since the area presents a huge opportunity.

**Action: The Centre management had been tasked to set Waste Water Recycling as a key research item and also share research themes with members.**

## 5.0 BUSINESS OF THE DAY

***Brief report on activities of the centre for the year 2020:*** The Director apprised the Board of major activities carried out in the year 2020 by reiterating the objectives of the Centre. These are (partly curled from the report);

1. Provide international quality post-graduate education to regional and national students focused on a specific regional development challenge. (Disbursement Linked Indicators):
  - a. Number of students enrolled with a reward for regional and female students, and
  - b. International accreditation.
  
2. Enhance the impact of the ACE on development through private and public sector partnerships. This will also include short term training to professionals already working, internship for students, contract research, data collection, policy advice and research, etc. Proposed (Disbursement Linked Indicators):
  - a. number of students in internship,
  - b. externally generated revenue, and
  - c. the number of non-academic partners contributing at least \$10,000 per year.
  
3. Deliver research in response to development challenges, including through partnerships with private and public partners. Proposed DLI: number of scientific articles in international reviews
  
4. Improve Governance and management of the ACE to become an institution of excellence. Potential (Disbursement Linked Indicators) include:
  - a. Governance
    - i. Head of institution or Deans selected through an open, competitive and merit-based process;
    - ii. At least one-third of the functional Institutional Board is external and non-governmental;
    - iii. national review meetings of ACE progress.
  - b. Good student management:
    - i. Adherence to the academic calendar or published institutional student survey; Results reporting:
    - ii. reporting to the regional PASET (Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology benchmarking initiative.
  - c. Regionality:
    - i. Institutional regionalization strategy; and
    - ii. Student marketing and student support services for regional students;
    - iii. Quality: International institutional accreditation.

5. Strengthen regional and international academic partnerships to raise the quality of education at partner institutions and network partners and to raise the ACE's capacity to manage these partnerships. Results will be achieved through regional students and revenue generated.

**Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic:** The Director said that just like most institutions the world over, the Centre was also hit by the outbreak of the virus. He, however, also said that the global pandemic presented opportunities as well.

**Strategic Plan:** The Centre contracted consultants to develop a 5-year strategic plan for the Centre. This culminated in the development of Vision, Mission statement, Core Values, Strategic Goals and Objectives for RCEES. This framework was further developed into Strategic Actions and a Performance Monitoring Plan. Strategic Goal setting was included as part of the process of setting the strategic direction. The Strategic Goals were derived from the Vision, Mission and Core Values of RCEES. Following the setting of Strategic Goals, another component of the Strategic Planning process was the setting of Strategic Objectives. This provided a foundation on which strategy would be communicated and an operating plan developed.

**The Vision of RCEES:** “to be the leading internationally accredited Centre of Excellence that provides Quality Research and Postgraduate Education in Energy and Environmental Sustainability.”

**The Mission Statement:** “RCEES is a World Bank-funded Africa Centre of Excellence in Energy and Environmental Sustainability based in Ghana. Our mission is to provide Excellent and Quality Postgraduate Education, Discover, Preserve and Disseminate cutting-edge interdisciplinary Research. RCEES also aims, through Training and Capacity Building, Consulting, Professional Development, and securing Grants and Donor funding to enhance the lives of our students, industry and society”.

**The Core Values:**

R: Responsive: Innovative ways to solve energy and environmental challenge.

C: Collaborative: Engage and Build partnership with stakeholders.

E: Equality: Create an environment that promotes equal opportunity, gender balance and diversity.

E: Excellence: Demonstrate world-class leadership in research and teaching.

S: Sustainability: Maintain excellence in higher education, particularly in STEM

**Networking and Partnerships:** He reported that the Centre had forged a collaboration with over twenty (20) institutions within Ghana, Africa and the international community, as well as industry players. Some of these are;

- Kumasi Technical University
- Sunyani Technical University
- Tamale Technical University
- CERMI
- ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Milton Margai College of Education and Technology
- NEA Gambia
- Stella Marie Polytechnic Liberia
- University of Benin
- University of Lome
- University of Sierra Leone
- Accra Compost & Recycling Plant
- Bui Power Authority
- Electricity Company of Ghana
- Ghana Atomic Energy Commission
- Delegation of German Industries GIZ
- Ministry of Roads and Highways
- VIVO Energy
- Zoomlion Ghana Limited

**Infrastructure:** he delineated that construction of the Centre's building had started in earnest and the contractor had made significant progress (currently ahead of schedule). He further reported that at the Industrial Advisory Board meeting held earlier, it advised that provision should be made for hydro laboratories in the building.

The Committee was notified that an amount of Three Million Ghana Cedis (Ghc 3,000,000.00) was given to the contractor for mobilisation and that the contractor was willing to work to the tune of Eight Million Ghana Cedis (Ghc 8,000,000.00) before raising the certificate for payment. He added that extra money needed to be raised to augment the World Bank funding the construction. This, he indicated, some funds would be raked in from the achieved DLIs.

Again, the Director apprised members that discussions were still ongoing with GNPC for possible funding support for the building.

Also, he reported that during the signing of the contract and sod cutting, the Centre received a Toyota Hilux pick-up from the Ministry of Energy. This he indicated was engineered by Steering Chairman, Mr. Wisdom A. Togobo (Director, Alternative Energy-MoEn).

**Internship:** The Director recounted that the outbreak of the COVID-19 had derailed the earlier plan for the four (4) weeks of mandatory internships. He nonetheless said 88 students were currently undergoing their internship due to improvement of the COVID-19 situation. He further disclosed students were supported with funds to go on the internship.

**Students Enrolment (2020/2021 Academic Year):** Due to the impact of COVID-19, the admission of new students had delayed. Nonetheless, about 28 Regional students have been offered admission with 10 of these provided with scholarships. Similarly, about 60 national students have been offered admission about 30 offered support.

**Grants and Awards:** he outlined the following as grants and awards achieved within the period.

- ❖ **Market Entry into Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) for the Productive Sector**
- ❖ Gendered Design in STEAM (GDS) in Lower and Middle-income Countries (LMIC)
- ❖ Hosting of Sustainable Energy Service Centres (SESCs)

*Conferences, Workshops & Visits:* The Board was informed that the Centre participated in the International Renewable Energy conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE. A member of the Centre again benefited from a seminar organized by the Biogas Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture on Biogas Promotion and Management for Developing Countries.

The Centre has also organized several research seminars for faculty and students. Some of these seminars were facilitated by Dr. Susan Krumdieck, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, Prof Robert Andoh, Prof Kondo H. Adjallah and Dr. Niebert Blair from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

*Disbursement Linked Indicators:* DLI 1 (READINESS) - The Centre has satisfied all requirements for and attained all funds associated with the Indicator. **USD 860,789.00** says the Director.

Reaccreditation of Programmes: The Board was informed that plans were afoot to invited the National Accreditation Board to assess the programmes.

*Publications:* A good number of papers had been published. Unfortunately, he said the World Bank accepted only energy-related publications. The World Bank, he intimated further directed that all publications be made in **SCOPUS**.

*Collaborations for the Centre:* The Director underscored the need for members to link the Centre to funding sources. He informed the Board that extra funds are needed to complete the Centre.

He also indicated that Bui Power Authority had expressed interest to jointly run energy programmes with the Centre. Modalities on the proposed Renewable School to be mutually run by the two institutions were yet to be discussed.

## **6.0 SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following suggestions /recommendations were made by the Board.

- ❖ The Centre should prioritise laboratories
- ❖ Health and Environmental Safety be included in the report
- ❖ All partnerships should be anchored with MoUs
- ❖ The Centre should establish International Relation Office to enhance the international recruitment drive
- ❖ Going forward, Students research topics should be sent to Board members for their inputs
- ❖ 2021 report should have percentages of expenditures for ease of tracking and challenges of the Centre
- ❖ Consider Solar Pump Design Installation Technology

❖ In the long run, the Centre should venture into Smart Power Grid Modelling

## 7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members at the meeting sought to know clearly, the Industrial Advisory Board members were. The following were said to be the members;

1. Mr. Osafo-Kissi	DCEO-BPA	Chairman
2. Dr. Eric Ofofu Antwi	Dir. RCEES	Member/Secretary
3. Dr. Maxmillian Kwarteng	SPS	Member
4. Mr. Ben Ampomah	Exec Sec. WRC	Member
5. Mr. Seth Mahu	MoEn	Member
6. Mr. Benjamin Ntsin	GRIDCO	Member
7. Mr. Ebenezer Appah-Sarpong	EPA	Member

While any other person(s) would be in attendance.

The Industrial Attachment Coordinator, Dr. Emmanuel K. Nyantakyi was appreciative of members for accepting students for their mandatory internship despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board indicated that it would pay a working visit to the Centre and Bui Power station on December 16 and 17, 2020 respectively.

The Chairman extolled work so far done by the Centre and encouraged management not to rest its oars in achieving success.

## 8.0 CLOSING

In absence of further deliberations, Mr. Seth Mahu in a motion seconded by Dr. Emmanuel K. Nyantakyi moved for the closure of the meeting and deliberations ended at 1:05 pm.

.....  
Mr. Osafo-Kissi  
(Chairman)

.....  
Dr. Eric Ofofu Antwi  
(Secretary)