

# MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY VIA ZOOM ON NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 12:00 PM

## 1.0 Attendance

1. Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah	-	Chairman
2. Prof. Chris Gordon	-	Member
3. Prof. Kondo Adjalla	-	Member
4. Prof. Kodjo Gbossou	-	Member
5. Prof. Robert Andoh	-	Member
6. Prof. Ijaz Rauf	-	Member
7. Dr. Eric Ofosu Antwi	-	Member
8. Dr. Samuel Gyamfi	-	Member
9. Dr. Prince Antwi-Agyei	-	Member
10. Mr. Albert A. Banan	-	Member
11. Dr. Akpoti Komlavi	-	Member
12. Mr. Samuel A. Okyereh	-	Member
13. Eric L. Mwintome	-	Secretary

## 1.1 Apologies

14. Prof. Susan Krumdieck

## 2.0 Opening

The Chairperson expressed her delight to welcome members after a long while. It was indicated that the meeting was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 3.0 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 Prof. Chris Gordon and seconded by Prof. Robert Andoh for the acceptance of the minutes as a working document after a minor correction.

## 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 and approved for use.

**Centre Launch:** members were informed that the launch was successful according to the planned activities.

**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.

**Training for Research Supervisors:** The Director proposed a training workshop for supervisors since the University has a young faculty. He indicated that the proposal was

accepted at the 6<sup>th</sup> management meeting. The meeting supported the idea but advised that need analysis be conducted first to ascertain the gaps to be filled.

**Action: The Director to discuss with Prof. Chris Gordon about the need assessment template**

Prof. Chris Gordon graciously agreed to be the facilitator when the supervisors training workshop is organized.

Additionally, the meeting reiterated that MSc would have two (2) supervisors while PhD has three (3). This, the Board said would be done by pairing experienced supervisors with less experienced ones. Furthermore, the Board consented that an agreement between supervisors and students be developed, spelling out the obligations /duties of both supervisors and students. They must agree and sign the document which would binding on them before they proceed with their respective duties.

## **5.0 THE BUSINESS OF THE DAY**

***Brief Report on Activities of the Centre covering the period, 2020:*** The Director apprised the Board of major activities carried out in the year 2020 by reiterating the objectives of the Centre. These are;

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 contracted had made significant progress. He further made a clarion call to the Board to support the Centre with funding opportunities to ensure timely completion of 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.

**Students Enrolment (2020/2021 Academic Year):** Due to the impact of COVID-19, the admission of new students has 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 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 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members advised the Centre to widen the net on publications by collaborating with other energy Centres in this regard.

Due to the late submission of the PhD and MSc thesis topics, it was agreed that members should study and send their comments later.

In a quest to publish more, the Board suggested students be required to produce at least two reviewed papers in the course of their studies.

It was also suggested that the Centre should explore the possibility of collaborating with the Ghana Standard Authority (GSA). To this, Prof. Chris Gordon declared that his wife was working the GSA and he needed to make this known to the Board because of a conflict of interest.

***Adding Dr. Thomas Mensah to the Board;*** the Board consented that his curriculum vitae and other information about him be made available to it for study and possible consideration.

## **7.0 CLOSING**

The Chairperson lauded members for making time out of their busy schedules to be part of the meeting. And in absence of further deliberations, Dr. Samuel Gyamfi in a motion seconded by Dr. Prince Antwi Agyei moved for the closure of the meeting and deliberations ended at 1:18 pm.

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Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah  
(Chairman)

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Eric L. Mwintome  
(Secretary)