



REPORT ON THE PUTOR PARTNERS MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2019 AFTER THE LAUNCH

The PUTOR Partners meeting held on Friday 17th May, 2019 at the NIM Louche after the Launching of the Centre by 12:45 p. m. The Centre, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji welcomed the Partners and thanked them for coming despite their tight schedule. He briefed them on how far we have gone with the implementation plan and the MOU. He informed them that the University Management has passed the students' training curriculum. He informed them that the implementation plan and the MOU will be sent across to stakeholders and get their inputs.

The Centre, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji encouraged the Partners to be involved in all PUTOR's activities as they are co-owners in the project. He also encouraged them to make robust inputs to the draft documents including the MoU that would be sent to them within a week from the date of this meeting. He highlighted that regular engagements with partners is one of the pre-requisites set by the ACE Impact operating guidelines.

Comments

Members were asked to make their details available to ease communication.

They congratulated PUTOR for the giant strides and appreciated the University for inviting them. All the stakeholders present expressed their willingness to collaborate with the Centre in terms of training and that the draft MOUs earlier sent to them are receiving the needed attention within their institutions.

The House Committee Chairman on Environment in the Rivers State House of Assembly thanked the Centre for this move in the Rivers state despite it being a Federal University. He promised to look at the law and see how they can accommodate the activities of PUTOR into their plans.

The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji requested his assistance on getting the Rivers State Ministry of Environment and the Rivers State Waste Management Agency fully on board and supportive of the activities going on in PUTOR. The Honourable Chairman of the House of Assembly Committee on Environment asked the Centre Leader to send a request to them through his office.

Dr Ibitein N. Okafor of FMOH/EURC Assistant Director informed members that it is about time academic partners come together but to enable them to contribute or participate, the documents must be sent to them. The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji in his response assured

her that the details of the MOU and Implementation plan will be sent to all of them present within a week.

Prof Ikhide of the African Biosciences Centre in Ibadan was happy that this Centre has finally come to past and would want to know all the Partners as he is often outside of Nigeria. That he observed that there is nothing on the website to show about partners and what they do. He encouraged the Centre to think about not just renewal by World Bank but to figure out how to raise more money to sustain the Centre instead of waiting for renewal. He advised the Centre to look for opportunity from other side like using the Partnership they have to extend PUTOR and that nothing stops PUTOR from applying for grant from other sources.

The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji in his response informed the Partners that PUTOR has 59 prospective partners cutting across local and international organisations. All these partners have been sent the draft MoUs and four of them have returned them to the PUTOR's secretariat. He also highlighted that besides the Partners, PUTOR's ecosystem accommodates an International Scientific Advisory Board and an Industry/Sector Advisory Boards which is constituted by members in this meeting. These Boards have been constituted by the Vice Chancellor and all members have been contacted. Those who have responded have been sent the Centre's operating documents for their inputs.

The representative of the Honourable Minister of Health thanked the University for extending a hand of fellowship to the Federal Ministry of Health and asked for the PUTOR's Implementation Plan, MOU and the research plan.

The Representative of NAFDAC congratulated the Centre Leader and supported the motion moved by the Federal Minister of Health. That PUTOR should find out what happens in the industry, hospitals and find a way of creating solutions to the Centre.

The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji in his response informed him that being the representative of the DG of NAFDAC he can serve as the official communication link between PUTOR and NAFDAC.

Prof Ikhide of the African Biosciences Centre suggested that PUTOR need to strive to be innovative and competitive by creating local solutions to problems in the region and commercializing their products. The Centre Leader appealed to him to send in a white paper on how to go about which he promised to send.

The Representative of the University of Malawi also thanked the Centre and the University for inviting him and appealed that the MOU should be sent to Malawi to enable them to contribute.

The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim S. Ogaji in his response informed him that there would be exchange of staff training between the ACEs of Malawi and PUTOR.

Vote of thanks

Dr K.C. Patrick-Iwanyanwu, on behalf of the Centre and the University thanked every Partner for their patients and contributions and informed only three (3) MOU have been returned to PUTOR. He encouraged them to take back what they have seen and discussed to as we expect feedback from them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', written over a horizontal line.

Admin Head/Desk Officer