

# UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

## WORLD BANK AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (ACE) PROJECT

MINUTES OF 2<sup>ND</sup> JOINT ACE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2021 AT THE SENATE CHAMBERS

### ATTENDANCE

#### A. Present

1. Prof. Stephen Okodudu–Chairman
2. Prof. Onyewuchi Akaranta – Coordinator, UniPort ACE Project

#### ACE-GEFOR

3. Prof. Ogbonna Joel– Centre Leader
4. Prof. Ikechukwu Agbagwa – Deputy Centre Leader
5. Prof. Ibisime Etela- Procurement Officer
6. Dr. Benson Timah – Finance Officer/Project Accountant
7. Mrs. Benedicta Omeni–Communication Officer

#### ACE-PUTOR

8. Dr. Daprim Ogaji – Center Leader
9. Prof. Orish Ebere Orisakwe – Deputy Center Leader
10. Dr. K.C. Patrick-Iwuanyanwu – Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
11. Mrs. Nengi M. Isagua – Finance Officer/Project Accountant
12. Mr. Anselemi Godpower Umor –Internal Auditor
13. Engr. Nicholas Abule – Procurement Officer

## B. AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Reading and adoption of previous minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. Reports from ACE-CEFOR & ACE-PUTOR
  - Progress Reports
  - Challenges
6. 5<sup>th</sup> ACE Impact Regional Workshop (May 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
7. A.O.B
8. Closing

	<b>OPENING</b>	The meeting began by 2:10p.m with the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. S. Okodudu presiding. The opening prayer was said by Prof. O. Akaranta.	
	<b>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	The agenda presented for the meeting was adopted as a working document for the meeting.	
	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>	The Acting Vice Chancellor welcomed all members present and said that the meeting will be very brief because of his engagement with the visitation panel.	
	<b>READING, CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	The minutes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Joint ACE Project Steering Committee meeting were considered. The minutes were adopted as a working document by Prof. O. F. Joel and supported by Dr. P. Iwuanyanwu.	
	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	<b>ACTION PARTY</b>
		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Joint ACE Project Steering Committee meeting</b>	
<b>A.</b>		The Ag. Vice Chancellor observed that the Matters Arising from the previous meetings should be specified and action parties also clearly stated.	Secretary to the committee

<p><b>B.</b></p>	<p><b>REPORT FROM ACE-CEFOR CENTRE LEADER</b></p>	<p>Prof. O. F. Joel informed the house that he attended the Round table virtual meeting organized for the Nigerian ACES on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. He briefed the house on the outcome of the meeting. He said that the issue of financial disbursement to the Centres was still an issue since the Ministry of Finance is yet to get the endorsement of the Senate. He also said that the Executive Secretary of NUC gave assurances that he is working towards achieving that soonest.</p> <p>Prof. O. F. Joel also said that from the just released earnings by the AAU, CEFOR has made great progress. He stated that the past two years have been strenuous without funds. So far, CEFOR has been able to conclude interview for the PhD admission of the 2020/2021 session. A total of twenty-nine (29) students applied, while twenty-four (24) were invited for interview. He explained that since the Centre removed the scholarship option, subscription into the programme has reduced greatly. He also informed the house that the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) has given the Centre additional six (6) students.</p> <p>He said so far, CEFOR has been able to conduct a short course for the newly employed Technical staff in the University. The international certification programme (NREP) was also conducted for the students from participating Centres. These were achieved in February, 2021.</p> <p>He also informed the house that after the just concluded verification exercise, CEFOR earnings stood at about 500 million Naira. He said that the major challenge CEFOR is presently facing is with the funds that are yet to be disbursed which is delaying the execution of projects on hand.</p>	<p>Centre Leader</p>
<p><b>C.</b></p>	<p><b>REPORT FROM ACE-PUTOR CENTRE LEADER</b></p>	<p>The Centre Leader for ACE-PUTOR, Dr. D. Ogaji in his report told the house that PUTOR is in its third year of effectiveness. They have been able to achieve 31% of their DLIs. They have not been able to upload the audited account of the University because the audited University account has not been approved by the Council, as such, they have not been able to meet up with everything that the World Bank and AAU have requested.</p> <p>Dr. Ogaji also said that they are facing the same challenges as CEFOR. A lot of things have been approved but yet to be executed due to lack of funds. He said</p>	

		<p>that their externally generated revenue is presently at 61%. Their website has been properly updated with all the documents requested by World Bank. They are preparing and getting ready for national accreditation but for lack of funds. The same goes for international accreditation. These will be done as soon as the Centre receives money. He appreciated the Ag. Vice chancellor for the support that he has continued to give to the Centre especially in the new guidelines for admission into graduate studies. He emphasized that PUTOR is afloat because of the Midwifery programme they initiated. He said that there is also the need for the Rationality policy to be integrated in the University Strategic plan as requested by the World Bank.</p> <p>In his response, the Ag. Vice Chancellor agreed that it is okay for the University Strategic plan to be robust enough to accommodate every aspect of the University. The Ag. Vice Chancellor mandated Prof. I. O. Agbagwa who served in the University Strategic Plan Committee to follow up on that and see that the rationality clause is incorporated into the University Strategic Plan.</p>	
	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> ACE IMPACT REGIONAL WORKSHOP</b></p>	<p>The Centre Leader, CEFOR, told the Ag. Vice Chancellor that for the workshop, he is expected to know what each centre is doing, achievements and challenges just in case he is called upon to speak on any of these areas. Prof. Joel also told the Ag. Vice Chancellor that the workshop is also an avenue to learn from other Centres' experiences. He encouraged him to attend since he will also be doing so from his office because the workshop is virtual.</p>	
	<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p>Prof. E. Orish in his contribution said that assessing himself and the Centre (PUTOR), he would gladly say they have done very well though he had expected that they would have had more subscriptions than they presently have. Being a Centre for Public Health and Toxicological research, it should attract more regional students than it is currently doing. He hopes that this will improve if they have been able to carry out regional outreaches which have not been done. He asked if there is anything that the University can do for them in that regards.</p> <p>Secondly, he pointed out that researchers who write papers should be allowed to get all the proceeds from their successfully verified papers instead of the 60/40 % that was approved by CEFOR which PUTOR has adopted.</p> <p>In his response, the Ag. Vice Chancellor noted that most of the things observed by Prof. Orish are administrative in nature. He advised that he should get in touch with his Centre Leader for further discussion.</p>	

		The Centre Leader for AC PUTOR assured Prof. Orish that the regional outreach /awareness will be addressed as soon as the Centre has funds.	
	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	In the absence of any other business, the motion for adjournment was moved by the Ag. Vice Chancellor.	
	<b>CLOSING</b>	The closing prayer was said by Prof. O. F. Joel and the meeting came to an end by 2:45 pm.	

**Prof. S. Okodudu**  
Chairman

**Omeni, Benedicta Mrs.**  
Secretary

#### MATTERS ARISING

<b>S/N</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ACTION PARTY</b>
1.	Financial Disbursement to ACEs	ACE-CEFOR & ACE-PUTOR Centre Leaders
2.	Uploading of the audited accounts of the University of Port Harcourt on AAU portal	ACE-CEFOR & ACE-PUTOR Project Accountants
3.	Incorporating Rationality Clause into the University's Strategic Plan	Prof. I. Agbagwa