

Terms of Reference and Scope of Services

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) Project (P164546)

Terms of Reference and Scope of Services - Industry Liaison Officer

Title: Consultancy Services for the engagement of Industry Liaison Officer at the Regional Facilitation Unit of the Association of African Universities

Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact Project - P164546). (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, and the Association of African Universities (AAU)).

Background Information

The project development objective of the ACE Impact Project is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of postgraduate education in selected universities through regional specialization and collaboration. The project will contribute to participating Governments' objectives of reducing the higher-level skills gaps and improving applied research and technology uptake in the priority sectors. Further, the project would contribute to the strengthening of the best African universities within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Agricultural Sciences; Health Sciences, as well as in Applied Social Sciences and Environment.

The ACE Impact Project covers eleven (11) countries (Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Senegal, Republic of The Gambia, and Republic of Togo).

The AAU is the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) for the project. The responsibilities of the RFU include the coordination and facilitation of regional activities, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building for the selected centres of excellence and sharing of good practices across the countries.

For further information, please see Annex to the TOR for the relevant sections of the Project Appraisal Document. The full PAD is available from AAU.

Main Tasks

The Industry Liaison Officer's main objective of the assignment is to support the Partnerships brokering, Networking and Collaborations with industry partners at the ACE Impact host institutions and RFU.

Scope of Services

1. To function as focal point for partnerships management for the ACE Impact Project at the Regional Facilitating Unit.
2. To assist ACE Impact Centre Leaders to develop / implement entrepreneurship and innovations plans for the Centers under Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) 5.3 (entrepreneurship and innovations) of the Project Appraisal Document.

3. To facilitate student-industry relations through internships, student participation in joint projects with industry, fellowships, seminars, career placement.
4. To assist individual ACEs to meet the DLI 3.1 (internships)
5. To continuously support the Center Leadership and Teams to engage industry partners by networking and actively seeking opportunities for industrial participation in research as well as educational center activities.
6. To provide quarterly progress reporting to the AAU and the World Bank on the input of project partnerships, entrepreneurship, and innovation by ACEs in relation with (a) performance against planned and (b) progress towards achieving the DLIs on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
7. In collaboration with the Monitoring and Evaluation function, to coordinate a Graduate tracer study for the ACE Impact
8. To assist ACEs in the formation of new industry partnerships, establishment of start-up companies, and collaboration with other industrial enterprises.
9. In collaboration with the Centers' Liaison Officers at participating universities, to provide help and assist legal experts in filing disclosures, technology transfer and licensing agreements.
10. To coordinate periodic meetings with center industry partners and all relevant stakeholders and facilitate information dissemination and dialogue with potential investors and financiers. This would include an annual industry fair where the research and innovation outputs of the centers will be highlighted.
11. To maintain an active database for industry partners for the ACE Impact project.
12. To document financial contributions from center industry partners
13. To support capacity building initiatives to target the ACEs, students, and other identified stakeholder groups.
14. To perform any other activities that promote the achievement of building and maintaining relationships with ACEs and Industry partners and perceptions that may be assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Outputs

1. Development of Entrepreneurship and Innovation plans for the ACE Impact Centres
2. Quarterly project partnership, entrepreneurship, and innovations reports
3. Active database for industry partners for the ACE Impact Project
4. Annual Report which includes:
 - a. financial contributions from Centre Industry Partners
 - b. achievements of DLI 3.1 and DLI 5.3.
 - c. disclosures filed, technology transfer and licensing agreements under ACE Impact

Qualification and Experience

- a) At least Master's Degree in STEM, Agriculture, Social Sciences or in a relevant field from an internationally recognized institution.
- b) Excellent communication (both oral and written) in English and French languages with interpersonal, computer and strong negotiation skills.**
- c) At least 5 years of experience working in industry (especially in one of the ACE Impact's broad thematic areas, particularly STEM, Health, or Agriculture is preferred).
- d) 3 or more years working experience and knowledge of industry culture, vast knowledge on partnerships management at a public / international organization where the responsibility substantially covers engagement with industry partners. Experience with World Bank funded projects will be an added advantage.

- e) Sound understanding of the requirements for the efficient and functional University institutional innovation/entrepreneurial ecosystem and student internships
- f) Knowledge and work experience in an institution for higher education, with particular focus on the African Higher Education environment will be an added advantage.

Time Schedule and Contracted Days:

The assignment will be for a period of twenty-four (24) months and renewable annually subject to satisfactory performance.

Availability: The Industry Liaison Officer is expected to make him / herself available full-time throughout the duration of the contract.

Annex

Extract from relevant sections of the Project Appraisal Document – Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) Project (P164546)

1. The proposed project consists of three components: Component 1: Establishing new and scaling-up well-performing existing ACEs (from ACE I) for development impact; Component 2: Fostering regional partnerships and scholarships; and Component 3: Enhancing national and regional project facilitation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Component 1 will aim to strengthen capacity in the ACEs and their host institutions (supply-side), while Component 2 will aim to strengthen non-ACE institutions in the region and allow students to benefit from the capacity in the ACEs (demand-side). Component 3 will aim to support national and regional facilitation of the project and M&E related activities. Financing for Component 1 and 2 will be result-based, while financing for Component 3 will be cost-based.

Component 1: Establishing new and scaling up well-performing existing Africa Centers of Excellence (from ACE I) for development impact (Total: US\$198 million; of which IDA and government contributions are 50 percent each)

- 1. Component 1 aims to build and strengthen the capacity of 16 competitively selected centers located in higher education institutions across West and Central Africa.** Component 1 has two sub-components: Sub-component 1.1 will establish new ACE Impact centers for skills development and knowledge generation (through applied research) to address development challenges, which are not addressed under the ACE I project. Sub-component 1.2 will provide additional support to well-performing ACEs participating in the ongoing ACE I project (these ACE Impact centers will be referred to as renewals) to scale-up impact on development challenges, to strengthen regional collaboration, and ensure that these ACEs are fully fiscally sustainable). Additional funding will support the best engineering and technology institutions hosting ACEs from Sub-components 1.1 and 1.2, to strengthen institutional impact.
- 2. Each ACE Impact center (new and renewals) supported through Component 1 will focus activities on a specific regional development challenge.** Each of these centers is targeted in scope and will deliver postgraduate education and applied research programs developed in coordination with relevant stakeholders. While the center workplans are focused, a multidisciplinary approach will be essential to achieve the goals of each center.

Component 2: Fostering Regional Partnerships and Scholarships (Total: US\$40 million of which the IDA contribution is US\$23 million and government contribution is US\$17 million)

- 3. Component 2 seeks to expand the regional impact of the ACEs funded under Component 1 by providing demand-side funding for partnering institutions and regional students to purchase training and consulting services from the ACEs that are most relevant.** Component 2 has two sub-components: Sub-component 2.1 will finance regional institutional partnerships through support to Emerging centers, while Sub-component 2.2 is optional and will finance governments' contribution towards the PASET RSIF.

Component 3: Enhancing National and Regional level Project Facilitation, and Monitoring and Evaluation (Total: US\$13.5 million; of which US\$10 million is in IDA grant and \$3.5 is in IDA credit)

4. Component 3 will support regional and national project facilitation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Sub-component 3.1: Regional-level project facilitation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (Total:US\$10 million in IDA grant).

5. Through a regional IDA grant of US\$10 million, Sub-component 3.1 will fund the Association of African Universities (AAU), which will continue as the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU), to facilitate the ACE Impact I project's regional activities and support the centers under the project. Activities will include: M&E activities such as development of an online M&E database platform, verification of results, benchmarking of ACE host universities, and graduate tracer studies; site supervision visits of ACEs by independent experts; communications, safeguards support, capacity-building; and knowledge-sharing and networking among ACEs and governments. The RFU will also liaise with ongoing regional and national initiatives in order to strengthen the ACE regional networks, including through digital networking platforms.

Sub-component 3.2: National-level project facilitation (Total:US\$3.5 million in IDA credit).

6. Under Sub-component 3.2 activities in Burkina Faso and Ghana will be coordinated by the national agencies responsible for tertiary education. The total allocation, including contingencies, will be US\$3.5 million. This sub-component will finance project implementation support at the national level in the countries where the ACE Impact I investments exceed US\$25 million. These are the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) for Ghana and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRSI) for Burkina Faso. The MESRSI of Burkina Faso currently hosts the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of its IDA -Funded national higher education project (mentioned earlier in the document). This same MESRSI-PIU will play the national facilitator role for ACEs in Burkina Faso. The objective is to provide national level support to the centers, within their respective countries. Performance of these national level facilitation agencies will be measured by the degree to which the ACE Impact centers in the respective countries achieve the project objectives including compliance with fiduciary, safeguard and anti-corruption guidelines. The activities will include supervision and training related to educational, research, implementation, fiduciary and safeguards aspects; as well as national M&E and minor TA Procurement