

**WELCOME REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES**

PROF. ETIENE E. EHILE

AT THE

**JOINT ACE I & ACE II PROJECT WORKSHOP
(Eighth ACE I and Third ACE II Project Workshop)**

ACCRA, GHANA

November 7-10, 2017

- *The Hon. Minister of Education, of the Republic of Ghana*
- *The Hon. Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana*
- *The Hon. Minister of Health of the Republic of Ghana*
- *The Hon. Minister of Education of The Gambia*
- *The World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone*
- *The Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Tertiary Education of Ghana, Prof. Salifu Mohammed*
- *The Executive Secretary of the Inter University Council for East Africa, Prof. Alexandre Lyambabaje*
- *Members of ACE I Project Steering Committee and ACE II Regional Committee,*
- *Distinguished Vice Chancellors here present*
Subject area Experts
- *Centre Leaders and their Colleagues*
- *Staff of the World Bank, IUCEA and AAU, here present*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press*
- *Distinguished Participants*

- *Ladies and gentlemen*
- *All protocols observed*

On behalf of the Association of African Universities, and indeed on my own behalf, I warmly welcome you all to the maiden ***Joint ACE I & ACE II Project Workshop***. I say "Akwaaba" to Accra, Ghana.

I wish to start my remarks, by extending the gratitude of the AAU and the World Bank to the Government of Ghana for its continuous support to the African Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project, and for hosting the ACE project workshop for the second time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in addition to the staff of AAU and the World Bank, this three-day workshop has brought together participants from the Ministries of higher education of various countries in Africa, as well as university and faculty members of both ACE I and ACE II. This first joint regional ACE workshop will among others;

- Provide the much needed platform for learning and knowledge sharing among the two ACEs
- Present an opportunity for the provision of guidance on improving university-industry linkages and collaboration

- And also help ACEs to review progress made towards results verification and planning of next disbursement.

We are further hopeful, that the site visit to the West African Center for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI), both situated at the University of Ghana, will add value and enrich the learning process for both ACE I and ACE II officers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, having recently been appointed the coordinator of African Union's Higher Education Cluster, the AAU will continue to fully support initiatives aimed at pushing forward Africa's higher education agenda. The ACE project is one such key initiative which is also in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 on the ***"the Africa we want"***, in terms of its vision of providing the requisite human resources to handle all development issues.

Distinguished guests, though substantial progress has been made since our last meeting in Lagos, in the areas of supervisory missions, national review meetings, monitoring and evaluation, and verification of results, there still remains a lot more to be

done on the side of all stakeholders to ensure the full realization of the ACE project's goal.

I seize this opportunity to again congratulate the many Centers which have taken the lead and which have shown strong performance, and call on other ACEs to strive hard in meeting the established disbursement linked indicators.

On another note, I wish to inform you that the AAU holds series of workshops during the year.

I invite you to the "**Quality Assurance Training Workshop on Innovative and Quality Research Methods Knowledge and Skills for the 21st Century**" which is scheduled to take place in Uganda from ***12-14 December, 2017***.

You are also invited to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) in 2018. A call has already been sent out and the closing date is 30th December 2017.

Calls for institutions and Quality Assurance Experts to participate in 2018 has been sent out.

I take this opportunity to invite you all to these highly informative and educative workshops.

Your Excellency, Distinguished participants, Ladies & Gentlemen, on this note, I end my delivery, by welcoming you all once again to this important meeting. I wish us all fruitful deliberations and a successful Joint ACE I and ACE II regional Workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

The Secretary General of AAU

Prof. Etienne Ehouan EHILE