

ACE Project

SCIENTIFIC & EDUCATION ADVISORY TEAM

Terms of Reference

Rationale:

Much progress has been made in the administration of the ACE Project to ensure its success but concerns have been raised about the scientific quality of the project and the need for an oversight mechanism.

The results-based financing approach of the ACE project has primarily focused on quantitative results that only to a certain extent require scientific excellence, quality, relevance and impact.

It is important that more intentional efforts are made to ensure that the work of the ACEs and the funding they receive translate into quality and relevant higher education service provision and research.

While the centre leaders are responsible for ensuring that their research outputs are published in relevant, high impact and internationally reputed journals, the need for scientific oversight for the ACEs is key to ensuring the excellence the ACEs are pursuing.

In particular, the ACEs are conducting research and publishing in various journals. It is desirable that the quality of research and the resulting publications be verified by subject-matter experts.

The Scientific & Educational Advisory Team is expected to provide technical assistance to the ACEs in their quest for quality relevant research and publications for the benefit of the society they seek to serve.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Scientific & Educational Advisory Team include:

1. Advise the Project Steering Committee, Regional Facilitation Unit, the World Bank, the governments, and the ACEs on the educational and scientific progress of the project.
2. Support the ACEs in their self-analysis of education excellence, research and outreach outputs. In particular, assess the relevance and transfer of scientific knowledge to the organizations and firms that can use the knowledge.
3. Support the WB/AAU to assess the utility of the research outputs of the ACEs.
4. Provide technical assistance on international collaboration in teaching and research.

5. Provide technical assistance on innovations in teaching, learning and research.
6. Identify and support overcoming project implementation challenges.

Key Tasks:

The key tasks of the Scientific & Educational Advisory Team should include:

- Participate in the supervision and implementation support visits to the ACEs.
- Report to the Project Steering Committee during its Meetings.
- Participate in the regional ACE workshops and lead the disciplinary/sector sessions.
- Review the relevance of the research publications for each ACE.
- Review annual workplans and budgets to make recommendations to the governments, RFU and WB for approval.

Composition of the Team:

The Scientific & Educational Advisory Team is selected by the RFU in consultation with the World Bank. The team should consist of experts from the ACE disciplinary fields of STEM; Health; and Agriculture.

The current team includes:

a) STEM

(i) Prof. Idris Assani; (ii) Prof. Mamadou Diallo; (iii) Gen. Xavier Michel

b) HEALTH

(i) Prof. Michelle Niescierenko; (ii) Prof. Nawar Tewfik; (iii) Prof. Ok Pannenburg

c) AGRICULTURE

(i) Prof. Raphael Wahome; (ii) Dr. Solange Uwituze.