

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PROJECT STAFF OF AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN COASTAL RESILIENCE (ACECoR) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 AT DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES' LIBRARY**

**PRESENT**

Prof. Denis W. Aheto	Director, ACECoR	Chairman
Prof. Kobina Yankson	Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	Member
Prof. John Blay	Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	Member
Dr. Precious Agbeko D. Mattah	Deputy Director, ACECoR	Member
Dr. Isaac Okyere	Academic Coordinator, ACECoR	Member
Dr. Samuel Tulashie	Applied Research Coordinator,	Member
Dr. Emmanuel Acheampong	DH & ISM, ACECoR	Member
Dr. Noble Kwame Asare	SLO ACECoR/HoD, DFAS	Member
Dr. Michael Miyittah	Team Lead, ES & B, ACECoR	Member
Mr. Ernest A. Afrifa	ESSO, ACECoR	Member
Mr. Joshua Adotey	M & E Officer, ACECoR	Member
Ms. Elizabeth Effah	Team Lead, CCA&M, ACECoR	Member
Ms. Esinam Attipoe	Communications Manager, ACECoR	Member
Ms. Ivy Akuoko	Team Lead, BEGS, ACECoR	Member
Mr. Moses Setiga	Head of ICT and Logistics, ACECoR	Member
Mr. Ernest Chuku	Communications Team	Member
Mrs. Sika Abrokwah	Grants Manager, ACECoR	Member
Mr. Ekow A. Prah	Administrator, ACECoR	Secretary

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY**

Prof. Edward Obodai	Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Dr. Samuel Aglorti	Team Lead, DRM & M, ACECoR
Mrs. Elizabeth Obsese	Financial Management Co-ordinator
Mr. Eric Agyenim-Boateng	Accountant, ACECoR
Mr. Nicholas Ampofo	Procurement Officer, ACECoR

## **1.0 OPENING**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting. Mr. Joshua Adotey gave the opening prayer to start the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

## **2.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **2.1 Highlights of the USA trip**

The Chairman informed members that the USA trip was attended by himself (Prof. Denis W. Aheto - Director, ACECoR), Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah (Vice-Chancellor), Mrs. Elizabeth Obese (Director of Finance), and Dr. Noble K. Asare (Sectoral Liaison Officer, ACECoR/Head of Department, DFAS). He said that the trip to USA was very productive. He said that many lessons had been learnt to facilitate the ACECoR project. He added that some linkages had been established for the successful running of the ACECoR project.

Dr. Noble K. Asare reported that their meeting with the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) revealed that the eight (8) programmes ACECoR intends to run was not sustainable, taking into consideration the time for the project and facilities for running some of the programmes. He said that GSO members advised that ACECoR should consider consolidating the numerous programmes into few programmes with specialization in the proposed areas. He indicated that GSO had only (1) programme in Oceanography but with several areas of specialization.

The Chairman also reported that the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast and the President of University of Rhode Island signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a Dual Degree.

The Chairman said that plans were underway for a collaboration between West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) Management Programme and University of Cape Coast. He added that WACA has requested the Centre to compile information on expertise and equipment/facilities in the area of coastal work in Ghana.

Members were informed that Prof. Denis W. Aheto was nominated to be part of an Interim Technical Advisory Committee for WACA.

## **2.2 Discussions on some of the Issues Raised from the USA Trip**

Members decided that with the advice from some of the USA institutions visited, the programmes for ACECoR project should be reduced to the three (3) existing postgraduate programmes (Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Oceanology and Limnology, and Fisheries Science) at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (DFAS) with some modifications. Members also decided that the programmes should be delivered in modular form.

Members also decided that with the proposed postgraduate programme in Marine and Coastal Engineering, the need to start building the capacity of lecturers who would teach the courses and also work on the facilities needed to run the programme.

## **2.3 Structural Procedures with regards to Centre for Coastal Management (CCM) and Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (DFAS)**

The Chairman informed members that there was the need to have some systems in place to regulate the relations between CCM and DFAS. He suggested that some Memorandum of Understanding could be signed, so that as the Heads of Department changes at DFAS, there would be clear regulations that manages the relations between CCM and DFAS. He suggested that this issue could be tabled before the School of Biological Sciences' Board for consideration.

The Chairman stated that in future CCM may eventually be upgraded to become the Africa Center of Excellence in Coastal Resilience. He said that this proposal for the upgrade would later be forwarded to University Management for consideration. He indicated that if this upgrade is approved, then ACECoR must have some systems in place to regulate its dealings with other departments and the University as a whole.

The Chairman said that it is his wish that the Centre would continue to be a research Centre and serve the other departments without running academic programmes. He added that if the Centre becomes more focused as a research Centre, it would bring a lot of advantages to the Centre.

## **2.4 Presentation on the Advertisement for Recruiting Postgraduate students –**

## 2019/2020 Academic Year

Ms. Esinam Attipoe, the Communications Manager of ACECoR gave a presentation on the advertisement for recruiting postgraduate students for the 2019/2020 academic year. Members gave their inputs, comments, suggestions, and contributions to fine tune the advertisement. Some of the inputs were as follows:

- a) “Letter of Motivation” should be “Statement of Motivation”
- b) Areas of specialization for the existing three (3) postgraduate programmes
  - i. M.Phil/PhD (Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
    - Forestry Engineering
    - Disaster Risk Management and Migration
    - Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning
    - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
    - Marine conservation and Protected Area
    - Blue Economy
    - Governance and Social Resilience
    - Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity
  - ii. M.Phil/PhD (Oceanology and Limnology)
    - Marine Meteorology
    - Marine and Coastal Engineering
    - Brackish Water Ecosystem
    - Fresh Water Ecosystems
    - Physical Process and Geomorphology
    - Marine Biodiversity
  - iii. M.Phil/PhD (Fisheries Science):
    - Fish Genetics
    - Fisheries Stock Assessment and Modelling
    - Mariculture
    - Fisheries Management
    - Fish Taxonomy
    - Gear Technology
    - Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU) fishing

- c) Minimum requirement for admission into the Master of Philosophy programme was Second Class (Lower Division).
- d) Language – English language would be the medium of instruction. There would be English language support services at the University of Cape Coast for student who may need them.
- e) The need for students to have a minimum CGPA of 3.0 to gain continuous fund support for the programme.
- f) Dual Degree – Students would have the option of obtaining a dual degree from the University of Cape Coast and University of Rhode Island, USA.

**2.5 Retreat to Work on ACECoR Implementation Plan**

The Chairman informed members that a retreat had been scheduled for some members to work on the implementation plan of ACECoR project. He stated that the retreat was scheduled for Monday, May 20 to Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Pempamsie Hotel, Cape Coast.

**2.6 Workshop for Curriculum Development**

Members were also informed that there was the need to have a 3-day retreat to develop curriculum for the ACECoR project. Members agreed that the workshop should be scheduled for Sunday, June 16 to Thursday, May 20, 2019 at Portea Hotel, Takoradi.

**3.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

**3.1 Start-up Incubator**

A member said that with the Incubator programme proposed, Koforidua Technical University has technical experts and they could support the Centre in this area.

**4.0 CLOSING**

The Chairman thanked members for their fruitful contributions. Mr. Joshua Adotey gave the closing prayer to close the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

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**PROF. DENIS W. AHETO**  
**CHAIRMAN**

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**MR. EKOW A. PRAH**  
**SECRETARY**