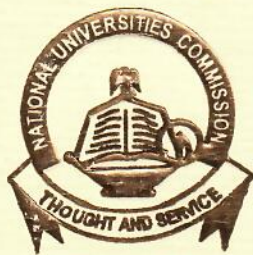


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The Vice Chancellor,
Ahmadu Bello University,
Zaria.



6 March, 2019

NOTIFICATION OF CONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF YOUR CENTRE UNDER THE AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT PROJECT

I am pleased to inform you that at the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) Project held at the Association of African Universities (AAU) in Accra, Ghana on the 2nd of November, 2018, your institution's Project titled: **Africa Centre of Excellence in Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB)** was renewed as a Centre of Excellence under the Africa Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE IMPACT) Project.


The renewal was based on the positive recommendations of international experts on the field after a transparent and rigorous evaluation exercise of all proposals submitted to the AAU. However, this is subject to final ratification by the Board of Directors of the World Bank.

Attached herewith is the evaluation feedback that details the performance of your institution's proposal and areas that need to be addressed. We expect that the ACE Management team at ACENTDFB would work assiduously and expeditiously to address all recommendations satisfactorily.

You will be contacted in due course regarding next steps concerning your Centre of Excellence.

Once again, congratulations.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.


Professor Abubakar A. Rasheed, *mni*, MFR
Executive Secretary

Centre leader, ACENTDFB
Ms note, fms.
vc 11/4/19

**On-site Evaluation
ACE Impact Component 1.2
Proposals for RENEWALS of ACE 1 Centers**

Proposal Title: The Africa Centre of Excellence for Neglected Tropical Disease and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENDTFB)	
Institution: Ahmadu Bello University	
Country: Nigeria	
Name of Evaluator: [REDACTED]	
Signature of Evaluators: [REDACTED]	
TOTAL SCORE:	110/130

Criteria for Evaluation	Score
Institutional Leadership and Project Ownership (maximum 10 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Vice-Chancellor fully support the proposed ACE Impact center? • Does the Vice-Chancellor offer the appropriate institutional support to the center? • What has been the institutional support – including the Vice-Chancellor – for the existing ACE 1 center(s)? • Does the institutional leadership offer a compelling vision that fully incorporates the proposed center? • Is the institutional ownership of the proposed center evident from faculty and student awareness and inclusion? 	Score 10/10
Comments to justify score: The university is fully supportive of ACE. They have developed new TOR for all faculty to ensure compliance with ACE. The Vice Chancellor has provided a key leadership role and has provided ACE with vision and resources. The university has ensured strong institutional support for ACE and it is completely encompassed in the day-to-day support.	
Potential for Institutional Impact (maximum 5 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the institution committed to incorporating global best practices for higher education management? • Does the Vice-Chancellor and institutional leadership support targeted institutional reforms? • Does the institution have a strategic plan for management, governance and operational improvements/reforms? • Does the institution have a commitment to regionalization, and a plan for implementing a regionalization strategy? • What institutional impact has the current ACE 1 Center had? 	Score 4/5

<p>Comments to justify score: ACE is committed to implement international best practices for higher education management. They have developed strong partnerships with international institutions: academic, private sector and NGOs, which has led to a number of management improvement. A number of innovations have come out of ACE 1, in addition, they have published of 20 academic publications. The challenge remains implementing a regionalization strategy. In the past, a number of students had come from other countries, but currently just a few international students reside in the university.</p> <p>The rest of units and departments are not yet modeled in line with ACE.</p>	
<p>Government Involvement and Ownership (maximum 5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the government fully committed to support the proposed ACE Impact center? • How has the government supported current ACE I centers? What specific support did the government offer the existing ACE 1 center? • Does the government offer a compelling vision for the higher education sector that fully incorporates the proposed center? • Is the government committed to academic independence in the ACE Impact centers? 	<p>Score 4/5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score: The government has funded all faculty staff in the university as well as the ACE. They have not imposed any restriction on ACE's academic freedom. A number of federal government institutions have already pledged support for the forensic program, which will be part of the next phase.</p>	
<p>Center Leadership (maximum 10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposed center leadership suitably qualified and motivated to lead a center of excellence? How did the leadership perform in the ACE 1 project? • Does the proposed center leadership present a compelling vision for the center renewal? • Are faculty, staff and students supportive of the center leadership? • Is the management plan clearly delineated? 	<p>Score 9/10</p>
<p>Comments to justify score: The Center's leadership is well-qualified and highly motivated. The students hold the Center's leadership in high regards. The Center's leadership received strong support from the faculty. The current leadership is less than a year old, but has made substantial strides in taking ownership of the center and developing a strategy for ACE 2.</p> <p>ACE should hire a properly qualified Project Manager. The Business Plan should be included to ensure sustainability.</p>	

<p>Center Management and Administrative Capacity (maximum 10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed Center have the personnel capacity - at the management and administrative levels – to implement the education and research plans? • Does the proposed center and institution have effective policies and practices in place to support the education and research activities? What have the center and the institution learned from ACE 1 implementation, and how are these lessons incorporated into the renewal proposal? 	<p>Score 8/10</p>
<p>Comments to justify score: ACE has four committees in place to support the center: Project Management, Project Academic, Audit, and Procurement. These committees help streamline the management process and manage some of the challenges that existed in the past, such as: procurement.</p>	
<p>Resources (maximum 5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed center have the physical resources – classrooms, teaching laboratories, etc. – necessary to undertake its education plans? • Does the proposed center have the physical resources – laboratories, computational resources, library resources, etc. – necessary to undertake its research plan? • What resources were obtained through ACE 1 funding, and have these resources been effectively integrated into the renewal proposal? • Does the proposed center have a convincing, and reasonable, plan to procure new equipment, materials and other items necessary to complete the proposed ACE Impact workplan? 	<p>Score 5/5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score: The existing equipment purchased under ACE 1 is more than adequate to engage students in research. They have a plan to procure a DNA sequencer and other lab equipment. They over a dozen lab in the center and have plans on completing an animal housing building, which will include forensic tools.</p>	
<p>Center and Institutional Capacity to Implement Activities (maximum 5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the institution have a record of achievement in supporting large project awards? Does the institution have effective policies and practices in place to manage large awards? • Do the center and institution have an adequate understanding of potential risks, and a management strategy to mitigate issues that arise? • Do the institution, the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Sectoral Advisory Board (SAB) have an appropriate role in center management and oversight? 	<p>Score 3/5</p>
<p>Comments to justify score: The university has already implemented a \$15 million grant and have also received previous World Bank grants. The potential risk is understood by the center, in terms of food security, availability of new vaccines, and potential scientific breakthroughs that would not have the potential of being realized without having a full research center in place. Since biochemistry research does have some physical risk, the center has put in place a good security protocol.</p> <p>There's little evidence of an active International Advisory Board.</p>	