



THE AFRICAN REGIONAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN INSECT SCIENCE (ARPPIS)



Review of the ARPPIS Memorandum of Agreement

A briefing for Vice Chancellors

- During the 33rd Meeting of the ARPPIS Academic Board (AAB) held in Ghana on 1st- 3rd October 2007, the Board considered a number of proposals for the review of the ARPPIS Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). This brief sets out the basis and outcome of those discussions.

I. Current situation

- Currently, a university wishing to join the ARPPIS network executes a MoA with ICIPE. Hence, the arising relationship is between ICIPE on one hand and a university on the other. The MoA does not, in principle create relationships between universities in as much as this is not in practice. So far there are 34 universities that are in the ARPPIS network and who are signatory of the agreement with ICIPE.

II. Reasons for the call for the revision of the MoA

- A number of factors led for the call for the current MoA to be revised. These are:
 - Establishment of the Council of Vice Chancellors (CVC): There has been the view that a CVC, being the highest policy decision making body of the ARPPIS be created. This would not only elevate ARPPIS to the position it deserves at the universities but also create a sense of 'ownership' of the ARPPIS to the universities.
 - Institutionalisation of the Sub-regional centres: Sub regional centres for the training of master students were established in 1992. However these centres are not recognized in the MoA that is currently in force.
 - Cost sharing: Over time, the need to review how costs are shared for various activities ranging from those relating to students themselves to those concerning the convening of the AAB meetings has been in discussion. The current MoA does not deal with this issue adequately.
 - Intellectual property (IP): IP issues are becoming increasingly common in training and collaborative research agreements. The current MoA does not take care of these issues.
 - Appointment of universities' scholars as ICIPE visiting scientists and ICIPE scientists are visiting lecturers: This clause has been in existence since the inception of the ARPPIS network; but has not been implemented.

- Dispute resolution: Whereas since inception of the ARPPIS network no dispute has arisen between or amongst the parties, it is prudent for a mechanism of solving these should they arise, be provided for in the agreement.
- Question on whether to admit membership of non-universities into the ARPPIS network: ICIPE is the only institution not being a university that is in the ARPPIS network. There has been the view that other 'ICIPE-like' institutions that are capable of providing research training in insect science should be admitted into the network. These institutions include national research centres and international research organizations such as CGIAR centres.

III. Major Outcome of the 33rd meeting of the AAB Concerning amending the MoA.

- The deliberations of the 33rd meeting of the AAB marked a milestone in the existence of the ARPPIS network. As far as the MoA is concerned the decisions that were made will not only give direction on the sustainability of the ARPPIS but also ensure that universities will regain a sense of ownership of the ARPPIS network, including increasing their participation. In brief herewith the key decisions that were reached and are reflected in the amended MoA:
 - The establishment of the CVC. This was widely endorsed and among the participants at the meeting of the AAB were three vice chancellors. The CVC will constitute the highest policy making body of the ARPPIS and will give direction on sustainable financing of the activities of the ARPPIS. Upon entry into force of the amended MoA, AAB shall play a more technical role.
 - Cost sharing. It was agreed that it is essential for the parties to share costs and that the CVC shall make decisions with regard to this issue.
 - Sustainable financing of the ARPPIS. It was agreed at the meeting that ways and means of ensuring that the ARPPIS is financed sustainably must be sort actively. This responsibility will lie with the CVC in close collaboration with the ARPPIS Secretariat.
 - It was also decided that the sub-regional Centres should be recognized in the MoA and their roles and functions clearly defined. The sub-regional centres will continue to play the important role of training master students and each university member of the ARPPIS network will need to participate and identify with their sub-regional Centres. The ARPPIS Secretariat may also from time to time delegate some of its functions to the sub regional centres.
 - The meeting of the AAB also mandated ICIPE to continue playing the role of the ARPPIS Secretariat. The universities continue to share the view that ICIPE has played and will continue to play a central role in the ARPPIS network recognizing that the ARPPIS has been one of the most successful programmes of ICIPE.

- Intellectual property. The meeting agreed that it is necessary for intellectual property issues to be considered and agreed on before a scholar begins his or her training. This is reflected in the amended MoA.
- On the issue of appointment of universities' lecturers as ICIPE's visiting scientists and ICIPE's scientists as visiting university scholars, it was unanimously agreed that this needs to be effected immediately.
- On dispute resolution, it was agreed that a mechanism to resolve disputes be considered in the amended MoA.
- It was also agreed that the amended MoA makes provision for admission of research and higher education institutions such as national research centres and CGIAR centres.
- Finally, the relationship between the universities and ICIPE is set to change as all parties in the ARPPIS network will subscribe to one document rather than in the current situation where each university in the network executes an individual MoA with ICIPE. The resulting relationship will among all parties will coherently further the objectives of the ARPPIS.

IV: Steps Towards the enactment of the Amended MoA.

- The amended MoA is attached.
- This MoA reflects the agreement that was reached at the University of Ghana at Legon during the 33rd meeting of the AAB.
- As this MoA intends to reflect an agreement between all Parties, each university or party shall deposit an instrument of signature with the ARPPIS Secretariat. A sample instrument of signature forms the schedule to the MoA and the ARPPIS Secretariat is also enclosing herewith a copy of the instrument.
- The ARPPIS Secretariat requests that the instrument in signature be executed at least in duplicate.
- Once the instrument of executed, the executing party shall send to the ARPPIS Secretariat a duly signed instrument of signature and then the executed counter parts of the instrument of signature shall be retained by the executing Party.
- On receipt of the instrument of signature, the ARPPIS Secretariat shall inform all the other Parties that have executed the instrument of signature of its receipt.