



ARPPIS ACADEMIC BOARD (AAB)



Summary Report

of the

33rd Meeting of the ARPPIS Academic Board (AAB)

1st - 3rd October 2007

Centre for African Wetlands (CAW)

University of Ghana, LEGON

I. Participation

The 33rd Meeting of the ARPPIS Academic Board (AAB) was held on 1 - 3 October, 2007 at the Centre for African Wetlands (CAW), University of Ghana, Legon under the overarching theme “Building Institutional Partnerships for Enhanced Research and Training in Africa”. The meeting comprised of 22 representatives of the ARPPIS participating Universities and was hosted by Professor C. N. B. Tagoe, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, who also chaired the discussions.

The following universities were represented at the meeting:

a) ARPPIS MSc Sub-regional Centres

- University of Ghana (*Professor Kwame Afreh-Nuamah*)
- Addis Ababa University (*Dr. Gurja Belay*)
- University of Zimbabwe (*Dr. Peter Chinwada*)

b) ARPPIS Participating Universities

- Ahmadu Bello University (*Prof. Rowland Agbede*)
- Cape Coast University (*Prof. Mary Botchey*)
- Egerton University (*Prof. Moses K. Limo*)
- Gulu University (*Prof. Pen-Mogi Nyeko*)
- Ibadan University (*Prof. Adebayo J. Odebiyi*)
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (*Dr. Hellen L. Kutima*)
- Kenyatta University (*Prof. Jones Mueke*)
- Maseno University (*Prof. Frederick N. Onyango*)
- Moi University (*Prof. Frederick Wanjala*)
- National University of Rwanda (*Prof. Daniel N. Rukazambuga*)
- North West University, South Africa (*Prof. Johnnie van den Berg*)
- University of Development Studies, Ghana (*Dr. Charles A. Kyorku*)
- University of Lome (*Prof. Yawovi Gumedzoe*)
- University of Malawi (*Mr. Dylo F. Pemba*)
- University of Mauritius (*Prof. Daneshwar S. Puchooa*)
- University of Nairobi (*Dr. Richard Mukabana*)
- University of Namibia (*Prof. Godwin Kaaya*)
- University of Pretoria (*Dr. Kerstin Kruger*)
- University of Zambia (*Prof. Jassiel Zulu*)

II. Programme of Work

The business session of the Academic Board Meeting was preceded by an opening ceremony on Monday, 1st October 2007, which received ministerial statements of support from the Assistant Ministers' of Education and of Health who graced the occasion. The Keynote Address was delivered by Professor Jerome S. Djangmah, a pioneer ARPPIS participant from the University of Ghana, who had been actively involved in the designing, planning and launching of the network in the early 1980s.

The opening ceremony also received scientific presentations from ARPPIS scholars undertaking their studies at the University of Ghana and from the University of Cape Coast.

During the business session of the Board meeting which was held on Tuesday, 2nd October 2007, the following issues were discussed:

- Report of the AAB Sub-committee on Implementation of recommendations on the revitalization of ARPPIS
- Progress report from the ARPPIS Secretariat (2005 - 2007)
- Issues on Capacity Building arising from *icipe's* external review (2007)
- Proposals on the review of the ARPPIS Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)
- New university applications to join ARPPIS

III. Major outcomes of the 33rd Meeting of the AAB

The AAB made a number of significant decisions, which aim to improve the performance and sustainability of the network. Key among these includes:

a) Setting up of a Council of Vice Chancellors

The AAB meeting endorsed the proposal of setting up a Council of Vice Chancellors as the apex policy organ of the ARPPIS network which would oversee and guide the network programmes, and which will, among others, give direction on sustainable financing of the activities of ARPPIS. A major function of the Council would be to undertake the function of mobilization of resources for the network. The Council would consist of the Vice Chancellors of the participating universities as well as heads of institutions granted membership.

b) Adoption of the Recommendations of the Report on the Revitalization of ARPPIS:

The meeting adopted the report of the sub-committee on revitalization of the ARPPIS Network, and asked the university representatives to discuss the recommendations with their respective Vice Chancellors. The meeting proposed that the newly established Council of Vice Chancellors of the participating universities be involved in overseeing the implementation of the recommendations.

c) Review of the ARPPIS Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)

The deliberations of the 33rd AAB meeting marked an important milestone in the history of the ARPPIS network, as it recommended and approved significant reviews of the Memorandum of Agreement. These reviews 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.

The key decisions reached and reflected in the amended MoA are:

- i) Establishment of the Council of Vice Chancellors. The meeting proposed an amendment of the MoA to provide for the establishment of a Council of Vice Chancellors. With entry into force of the amended MoA, the reconstituted AAB would henceforth undertake a technical function.

- ii) Formal recognition of ARPPIS Sub-regional Centres: The meeting agreed that the ARPPIS Sub-regional Centres needed to be recognized in the amended MoA and their roles and functions clearly defined. The Centres will continue to play the important role of training master students and universities in the ARPPIS network need to actively participate and support programmes of their Sub-regional Centres. The ARPPIS Secretariat may also from time to time delegate some of its functions to the Sub regional Centres.
- iii) icipe requested to continue to host the ARPPIS Secretariat. The universities were of the view that *icipe* has played a central role in the implementation of the ARPPIS programmes, and therefore requested that *icipe* should continue to host the ARPPIS Secretariat.
- iv) Sustainable financing of ARPPIS. The meeting agreed that funding was crucial to the sustainability of ARPPIS and suggested that this important responsibility lie with the Council.
- v) Intellectual property issues. The meeting agreed that it is necessary for intellectual property issues to be considered and agreed upon before ARPPIS scholars formally begin their training. This provision is reflected in the amended MoA.
- vi) Dispute resolution. The meeting agreed that a mechanism to resolve disputes be considered in the amended MoA.
- vii) Admission of non-university institutions: It was agreed that the amended MoA makes provision for the admission of non-university institutions such as national research organisations and international research centres (IRCs).
- viii) Ownership of the network. With the signing of the amended MoA, 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*. It is envisaged that this type of arrangement will ensure joint ownership of the network among all parties and will help to collectively further the objectives of ARPPIS.
- ix) Joint appointments. The meeting resolved that the clause providing for university lecturers participating in the ARPPIS programmes to be appointed as *icipe*'s visiting scientists, and *icipe* scientists participating in supervising students to be appointed as visiting university lecturers, be retained in the amended MoA and implemented.

d) New Members to the Network:

The meeting reviewed applications to join the network and granted full membership status to the applicants. The universities are:

- University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- University of Lome (Togo)
- University of Mauritius
- University of Namibia

III. **Date and Venue of next meeting**

An application by the University of Namibia to host the 34th meeting of the AAB in 2009 was endorsed.