

AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (ACE)  
CENTRE FOR NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE AND FORENSIC BIOTECHNOLOGY  
(CNTDFB)  
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY,  
ZARIA – NIGERIA

3<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL MINUTES OF CENTDFB MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY  
12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2013 AT CONFERENCE ROOM OF CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH & TRAINING, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA.

<p>1.00 ATTENDANCE</p> <p>1.01 Prof. A. J. Nok - Chairman</p> <p>1.02 Dr. H. M. Inuwa - Member</p> <p>1.02 Prof. J.K.P. Kwaga - Member</p> <p>1.03 Prof. Y.K.E. Ibrahim - Member</p> <p>1.04 Prof. I. Ndams - Member</p> <p>1.05 Dr. A. A. Dzikwi - Member</p> <p>1.06 Mr. Nuhu Ishaya - Member</p> <p>1.07 S. K. Yashim - Secretary</p> <p>2.00 APOLOGY</p> <p>2.01 Dr. J. Kabir - Member</p> <p>3.00 ABSENT</p> <p>3.01. Dr. (Mrs) H. Makun - Member</p> <p>3.02 Dr. N. M. Useh - Member</p> <p>4.00 OPENING</p> <p>4.01 The meeting began at 10:25 am with members praying according to their individual faith.</p> <p>4.02 The Chairman, Prof. A. J. Nok welcomed members to the meeting and appreciated their commitments and dedication toward getting the Africa Centre for Excellence.</p> <p>4.03 The Chairman disclosed that the major reason for convening the meeting was to congratulate the House for the approval of the Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease and Forensic Biotechnology (CENTFB) granted to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria by the World Bank.</p> <p>4.04 He told the Meeting that the World Bank approved 7 centres of excellence namely: (i) Redeemers University/University of Ibadan Group (ii) African University of Science and Technology, Abuja (iii) Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (iv) Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (v) University of Benin (vi) University of Jos and (vii) University of Port-Harcourt.</p> <p>4.05 He reminded members that our national/international collaborators remained: (i) Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), (ii) Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis (NITOR) and Bremen University, Germany.</p> <p>4.06 He informed the House that the World Bank had sent a form on Evaluation and Procurement to be filled, which he immediately filled and sent back to the World Bank.</p> <p>4.07 The Chairman reported that he had a Telephone Conference with the World Bank along with other Centres. The Conference was organized and conducted by Mrs. Hindered of Washington D.C, who is in charge of African Centres. She was confident that those who had experience in working with the World Bank before, would not have problems on the adequate need for prudence management of funds. Some members of the CENTDFB have had good experienced working with the World Bank. Thus, CENTDFB/A. B.U. had no problem.</p> <p>4.08. He told the World Bank during the Telephone conference that the Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease and Forensic Biotechnology had been meeting. He also raised the problem of “No Objection” encountered during the Step-B, where release of funds became difficult. To avoid the same problems in release of funds that usually brought set back in carrying in its projects, Mrs. Hindered recommended for direct funding in order to isolate the bureaucracy process in releasing funds through the institution.</p>	ACTION
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- 4.09 The Chairman revealed that \$1 million dollars would be released in January 2014 by the World Bank as a start. The meeting resolved to fast track the Postgraduate Diploma/Masters' Degree in Forensic Biotechnology.
- 4.10 The Principal Consultant from the World Bank was being expected to access all papers relating to the CENTDFB
- 5.00 POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/MASTERS' DEGREE IN FORENSIC BIOTECHNOLOGY  
In anticipation of the \$1 million dollars to be disbursed by the World Bank, the House noted that Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Biotechnology would attract more candidates, which needed to be given more priority as it would give the Centre a high turnover and quick results. Therefore, the program should be fast-tracked.
- 5.01 The meeting resolved to apply for money to purchase the necessary equipment and reagents and keep the receipts/procurement papers to be used in settling the amount to be disbursed by the World Bank. The measure was to avoid delay and begin activities immediately.
- 6.00 OPENING OF ACCOUNT FOR CENTDFB.
- 6.01 After careful considerations and advice given by the by Accountant, the Meeting agreed to open an account with United Bank for Africa Plc. Samaru.
- 7.00 PROJECT FOR THE FIRST YEAR
- 7.01 The House resolved to embark on a project that would give quick results. It would begin by admitting thirty (30) students for Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Ph.Ds. Following the need to commence activities without delay, a 4-member committee was appointed to draw a curricula for the programs to be mounted. The members included included: (i) Prof. J.K. P. Kwaga, (ii) Prof. Y.K.E. Ibrahim, (iii) Prof. I. Ndams and (iv) Dr. H.M. Inuwa
- 7.02 The meeting expressed the necessity to advertise the programs for the benefit of the counterpart countries like Cameroon, Togo, Ghana and Cote'd'Ivoire so that interested candidates from those countries could apply.
- 8.00 CONVERSION OF A.B.U. STEP-B OFFICE SECRETARIAT TO CENTRE FOR NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE AND FORENSIC BIOTECHNOLOGY SECRETARIAT
- 8.01 The House expressed the need for CENTDFB to use the defunct A.B.U. Step-B Office Secretariat at the Centre for Biotechnology Research & training as its office secretariat and its facilities.
- 9.00 APPRECIATION
- 9.01 Members unanimously agreed to find a way of appreciating Prof. Steven Abah for his relentless efforts, and commitments he demonstrated in working hard to ensure that A.B.U. succeed in getting the Africa Centre of Excellence.
- 9.02 Also, the 15 postgraduate students who were invited during the visit by Association of African Universities (AAU) on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 for interaction with the AAU for the proposed A.B.U. Centre for Excellence, were to be paid N5,000=00 each for their transportation as a way of appreciating their wonderful contributions during their interactive session .
- 10.00 ADJOURNMENT
- 10.01 Prof. J.K.P. Kwaga moved for the adjournment of the meeting, and he was seconded by Prof. Y.K.E. Ibrahim.
- 10.02 The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.

Prof. A. J. Nok (MFR, NNOM)  
Chairman

S. K. Yashim  
Secretary