

ACE for Development Impact (ACE Impact)

2022 Annual Workplan Narrative

(to be submitted along with the attached detailed work plan and budget)

Name of Center	World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE) in Oilfield Chemicals Research (ACE-CEFOR)
Institution	University of Port Harcourt
Country	Nigeria
Center Leader	Professor Ogbonna Friday Joel
Annual Workplan	January 01-December 31, 2022

Narrative

1. **Center Highlights in 2021** (maximum of 3 Highlights, maximum 100 words each) In a concise, descriptive statement suitable for public understanding, provide up to three Highlights from the Center accomplishments in the past year. You may attach: weblinks; press releases; photographs.
 - The ACE-CEFOR conducted online interviews and admitted the 5th Batch of 25 PhD students billed to graduate in 2024. Hybrid lectures (blend of online and physical) are ongoing through Learning Management System (LMS) Platform.
 - Participated in the virtual West Africa Centers of Excellence on Energy Network (WACEENET) Regional Symposium, which featured thematic presentations on Energy and Power by faculty members and students from the five ACE Impact member centers comprising one each from Ghana and Togo, and three from Nigeria. The Centers are: (1) Regional Centre of Excellence on Energy and Sustainability (RCEES) in Ghana; (2) Centre d'Excellence Régional pour la Maîtrise de l'Electricité (CERME) in Togo, and the rest three located in Nigeria - (3) Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Power and Energy Development (ACE-SPED); Africa Centre of Excellence for Future Energy Systems (ACE-FUELS), and Africa Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemicals Research (ACE-CEFOR).
 - The Center supported the upgrading facilities at the Open and Distance Learning (ODEL) Center to facilitate Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) in UniPort.

2. **Key Center Achievements in 2021** (Maximum 500 words) Describe the Key Accomplishments of the Center in the preceding Calendar Year. Focus on: Teaching, Research, Center-level Operations. In addition, comment on how the Accomplishments align with the ACE Impact Project Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and the Center Implementation Plan.

- Generally, the Centre has achieved 47% of expected total earnings.
- In May 2021, the 5th Batch of 25 PhD students admitted, compared to 57 in 2019 and 46 in 2020. Cumulative to date, is 128 PhDs giving 91% earnings. (DLI 3.1)
- A total of 80 MSc students were admitted, compared to 114 in 2019 and 149 in 2020. Cumulative to date, is 343 MSc giving 17% earnings. (DLI 3.2)
- Organised short course for 338 persons (with 70 regional), compared to 59 in 2019,(with 54 regional). Short course was not organised in 2020 due to COVID-19 related lockdowns with the associated shock. Cumulative to date, is 397 short course participants trained giving 100% earnings. (DLI 3.3)
- A total of 36 papers were published in high quality journals, compared to 67 in 2019 and 38 in 2020. Cumulative to date, is 121 papers giving 30% earnings from publishing research findings in high quality journals. (DLI 4.2)
- A total of \$709,300.99 externally generated revenue was earned, with \$456,174.14 earned in 2020, while EGR in 2019 was zero. Cumulative to date, is \$1,165,475.13 giving 100% earnings. (DLI 5.1)
- In May 2021, ACE-CEFOR, took part in the virtual West Africa Centers of Excellence on Energy Network (WACEENET) Regional Symposium, which held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The symposium featured thematic presentations on Energy and Power by faculty members and students of the five ACE Impact member centers of WACEENET, including a presentation by ACE-CEFOR Center Leader, Prof. Ogbonna Joel, and ACE-CEFOR PhD student, Ms. P. E. Dike. WACEENET a group of Energy and Power Thematic ACE Impact Centers, is made up of Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Power and Energy Development (ACE-SPED), Nigeria; Regional Centre of Excellence on Energy and Sustainability (RCEES), Ghana; Africa Centre of Excellence for Future Energy Systems (ACE-FUELS), Nigeria; Centre d'Excellence Régional pour la Maîtrise de l'Electricité (CERME), Togo; and Africa Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemicals Research (ACE-CEFOR), Nigeria. (DLI 5.1)

3. **Status/Progress on Implementation** (Maximum 250 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is ahead of schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan.

- In October 2021, the Center received confirmation from the Association of African Universities (AAU) that, it had achieved 100% status for earnings of the funds due it for DLI 3.3 (New Professional Short Course Students), with an outstanding balance of \$5,061 due the Center. The Center has since organized additional Short Courses.
- Still in October 2021, ACE-CEFOR also received confirmation from the AAU that, it had achieved 100% status for DLI 5.1 (External Revenue). The Centre has continued to generate more externally generated revenue.
- The 25 new PhD students admitted for 2021 was above the 12 new PhD students approved as target for 2021. The Center is ahead of the 56 PhDs targeted for the five-year ACE-Impact Project having admitted 46 PhD students in 2020 and 57 in 2019 (total is 128 PhDs). (DLI 3.1)
- New MSc students as at 2020 is 149 (compared to the targeted 10 new MSc for 2020 and 80 for the five-year duration of ACE-Impact. New admissions are currently ongoing for fresh MSc students into the 2021/2022 academic session, so the number of new MSc students will increase yet again. (DLI 3.2)
- New international publications for 2021 were 36 while in 2020 publications were 32, compared to the targeted 10 publications for each year. Total publications for both years is 68 (compared to the targeted new international publications of 50 for the five-year duration of ACE-Impact. (DLI 4.2)

4. **Plan for Acceleration** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is behind schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan. How will the Center adjust to achieve the anticipated project deliverables by the conclusion of ACE Impact?

Table 1: Center targets behind schedule with reasons and proposed mitigation plan

DLI Behind Schedule	Reason	Mitigation Plan
DLI 4.1 (Program Accreditation)	Non-release of funds	ACE-CEFOP is in the process of being accredited by the National Accreditation Agency. This is possible since funds have now been released. Preparations are also in top gear for International Accreditation
DLI 4.3 (Infrastructure Improvement)	Non-release of funds	Projects are now being implemented since funds have been released
DLI 5.2 (Interns)	COVID-19 lockdown	With the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown together with administration of vaccinations, ACE-CEFOP students have secured internship spots in some companies. The Centre is aggressively pursuing more internship opportunities.
DLI 7.5 (Institutional Impact)	Non-release of funds	Institutional Impact now being implemented since funds have been released

5. **Key changes to approved IP, including Covid-19 Related Activities** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center proposes changes to its approved Implementation Plan. Focus on the reasons for the proposed changes, any impact on the proposed activities, and how the proposed changes will affect the anticipated projects deliverables.

- No major change in the Implementation Plan is envisaged. However, should there be need for such changes, the Centre shall seek a “No Objection” from the World Bank through the Association of African University, Ghana and the National Universities Commission, Nigeria.