

**DRAFT REPORT OF**

**THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN AU-STRC AND THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
– UK**

**9<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

**AU-STRC Headquarter ABUJA, Nigeria .**

The African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC) and The Lancaster University had a bilateral meeting on the **9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**. The Meeting was for the proposition for collaboration between the **AU-STRC** and the **Lancaster University UK**.

The meeting was attended by the following:

**Lancaster University - UK**

- Prof. Kirk Semple; **Director International Engagement, Lancaster Environnen Centre**
- Dr. Akanimo Odon; **Africa Strategy Adviser, Lancaster Environment Centre**
- Dr. Cynthia Forson; **Provost, Lancaster University - Ghana**

**African Centre for Global Eco-Innovation**

- Prof. Lawrence I.N Ezemonye; **Director - Africa Centre for Global Eco-Innovation Benin – Nigeria.**

**AU-STRC**

- Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy; **Executive Director**
- Dr. Mohammed Kyari; **Senior Scientific Officer Coordination**
- Mme Marie Johnson; **Technical Assistant to the Executive Director**

**1. OPENING SESSION**

The Executive director of STRC welcome the delegation of Lancaster University to the STRC Headquarter and urge the participants to work together for the benefit of their respected institutions and to work together on building a smart partnership. The meeting was also briefed on the strategic action, activates and programme under the STRC. Finally the Executive Director thanked the Lancaster University team for visiting the AU-STRC and for the proposal on the cooperation and partnering with STRC.

On his remarks Prof. Kirk highlighted the interest of Lancaster University to partner with the AU-STRC and he introduced the members of his delegation to the meeting; and expresses his gratitude to the STRC to host such meeting.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF RECIRCULATE

The Lancaster University made an extensive presentation of the “**RECIRCULATE**” a project towards Driving Eco-Innovation in Africa and Capacity-Building for a safe circular water economy. It was emphasized that **RECIRCULATE** will support new partnership-based approaches to enable African researchers to grow transformational impact through working with, in and for their communities and developing robust, durable and equitable partnerships with UK researchers.

The Executive Director of AU-STRC, Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy was invited to be a member of the Steering Committee, which he accepted.

## 3. AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST

In the course of the meeting, Two (2) possible areas for engagement with the AU-STRC were highlighted as follows:

1. Expansion of Eco-Innovation Hubs with the AU-STRC in Africa.
  - Work with AU-STRC to develop partnerships in North Africa
2. Strategic Capacity Building.
  - Strategic Leadership Programme on Academia – industry – Policy Engagement
  - PhD programme bringing together Universities and Industry.

After deliberations, the meeting arrived on the way forward as follows for the possibilities of engagements:

### a. The Pan-African Forum/Conference on Academia, Industry and Policy makers

- The Pan-African Forum/Conference on Academia, Industry and Policy makers is a biannual conference to be co-organize by the AU-STRC and Lancaster University
- The 1<sup>st</sup> conference is scheduled to take place by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of September 2018, **Accra - Ghana**
- Target group: Academia – Industry – Policy makers
- Lancaster University Ghana to host the Conference
- Expected Number of Participants **90 – 100**
- Conference to have Three (3) breakaway sessions
- Development of Concept Paper to be done by STRC
- Set up of a Working Group to work on the Conference.
- Development of the Working Group Terms of Reference
- Development of action plan

### b. Lunching of the Lancaster University AU-STRC Award on Eco-Innovation

30 thousand USD award for African inventors to be awarded biannually during the Pan-African Forum/Conference on Academia, Industry and Policy makers:

- Development of a concept paper by STRC on the Award
- Action plan on the Award

**c. Capacity building programme**

- Concept Note development on the two phases of the programme:
  - Africa Based Training and
  - Lancaster Based Training
- Development of the Modules by Lancaster University
- Resource mobilization for the Pilot Phase
- Launching of the **1<sup>st</sup> Pilot Phase** in Nigeria 2018 and to be hosted by the STRC
- Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Development of action plan.

**d. Lancaster University AU-STRC joint Ph.D. Industry based Programme.**

- Concept not to be developed by Lancaster University
- Resource mobilization within the Lancaster University and from other sources
- Development of action plan.

**e. Eco-Innovation Hubs**

The STRC welcomed the initiative of the Lancaster University Eco- Innovation Hub and congratulate them for the establishment of Africa centre for global Eco-innovation; University of Benin, Nigeria and request to be participating fully in such remarkable inattentive.

A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to be drafted by STRC and sent to Lancaster University for reviewing in due course to further strengthen the partnership and collaboration.

**4. Focal Persons nominated were:**

**AU-STRC**

Dr. Mohamed Kyari  
Mme Marie Johnson

**Lancaster University**

Prof. Kirk Semple  
Dr. Akanimo Odon

**5. Closing**

The meeting came to a close on a positive note and in expectation of making positive impact on the lives of Africans in the three major spheres: Academia – Industry – Policy Engagement. The Executive Director assured the team from Lancaster University that the STRC is ready to partner with the Lancaster University in sphere heading sustainable development through engaging in the aforementioned projects.

The meeting was urged on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2017

Developed by STRC

Mme Marie Johnson

Verified by Lancaster University