PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

10th ACE Impact Regional Workshop

Sustaining Progress and Celebrating a Decade of Change
Accra, Ghana (23 October 2023) – The Africa Higher Education Centre of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) project is set to hold its 10th bi-annual regional workshop in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, from Tuesday, 31 October to Friday, 3 November 2023.

The workshop is being organized with sustainability as its primary theme. This theme holds particular significance due to the recent grant of a no-cost extension, extending the project’s timeline until 2025. This extension period offers an opportunity to operationalize the project’s sustainability plans. Additionally, a crucial highlight of this event will be a dedicated session during which the findings of an impact assessment report for the project will be presented.

In addition, the four-day event will provide a platform to: discuss best practices and implementation plans for the financial and operational sustainability of the project; and provide implementation support to enhance project efficiency and address technical challenges hindering successful project execution.

The Opening ceremony and launch of the ACE @ 10 celebrations will be held on October 31, 2023 (8:00 GMT) at the Latrille Events Center. Hybrid workshop activities (virtual and onsite), including plenary and parallel sessions and steering committee and experts’ meetings, will be held from November 1-2, 2023 at the Noom and Movenpick Hotels concurrently. The closing ceremony is scheduled for November 3, 2023 at the Latrille Events Center.

The 10th regional ACE workshop is co-organised by the French Development Agency (AFD), the World Bank, and the Association of African Universities, in collaboration with the Ivorian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The workshop cultivates a space for exchanging knowledge and building networks amongst the centers and relevant agencies by bringing together over 400 higher education stakeholders, including vice-chancellors, project team members, subject matter experts, government representatives, and policy think tanks. The workshop offers in-person collaborative opportunities, fostering the exchange of regional insights and learnings. Participants receive essential tools and guidelines for efficient project implementation, promoting long-term sustainability.

As part of the regional workshop, the 10th anniversary of the Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence series of projects (ACE@10) will be launched- celebrating a decade of empowering higher education and fostering innovation across the African continent. “The ACE projects have been a transformative force over the past decade in the tertiary education sector, specifically, training the next generation of Africa’s STEM workforce and fostering cutting-edge research. The projects have made significant strides in addressing Africa’s critical development-edge challenges while tackling brain drain.”
Since its inception in 2014, the projects have supported over 80 centres, in more than 50 universities, across 20 African nations. As we celebrate ACE@10, it’s evident that its contributions enrich Africa’s academic landscape, enhancing the global competitiveness of African higher education and research to build a more prosperous Africa.” Scherezad Latif, World Bank Practice Manager for Education, Western and Central Africa.

The launch will highlight activities to be rolled out towards the celebrations in 2024. “ACE@10 activities will mark a decade of excellence, collaboration, and transformative impact in African higher education. The ACE @ 10 activities would amplify the project’s impact in African higher education and its crucial role in shaping a prosperous future for Africa.” AAU Secretary-General, Prof. Olusola Oyewole.

“The ACE @ 10 will provide concrete solutions tailored to African development contexts and generated by African research, that can be promoted and disseminated widely.” AFD Head of Education, Virginie Delisée-Pizzo.

Prior to the workshop virtual national-level roundtable implementation support meetings will take place from October 16-23, 2023.

The media are invited to cover the opening ceremony and launch of the ACE @ 10 celebrations. Media personnel can register here

For further clarification, contact:
Ministry of Higher Education, Cote d’Ivoire: Mme Yelly TOURE (mt_yelly@yahoo.fr)
The World Bank: World Bank: Harry Gerard Crimi Jr (hcrimijr@worldbank.org)
The Association of African Universities: Millicent Afriyie Adjei (makyei@aau.org)
ABOUT THE ACE PROJECT

Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACE) is a World Bank/AFD-funded programme, in collaboration with the governments of participating countries to support African higher education institutions to specialise in strategic thematic areas with the aim of promoting sustainable growth and development in Africa.

Initiated by World Bank, the first phase of the ACE programme (ACE I) was launched in 2014 with 22 centers in nine West and Central African countries, and the second phase (ACE II) in 2016 with 24 centers in East and Southern Africa. These two initial phases of the ACE programme succeeded in building and strengthening the capacities of African higher education institutions to deliver high-quality training and applied research and enhance skills demand for Africa’s development.

Based on these successes, World Bank, together with AFD, launched the Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) project in 2019 with 53 centres in 35 universities in 10 West African countries and Djibouti to further strengthen post-graduate training and applied research in existing fields and support new fields that are essential for Africa’s economic growth.

Under the ACE Impact project, these 53 centers are specializing in the broad thematic areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); agriculture, health, environment, social science/applied science, and education, which have been identified as essential ingredients to Africa development.

Learn more about the ACE Impact project at https://ace.aau.org
ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Cote d’Ivoire:
Founded in 1967 and operating as the voice of higher education in Africa, the AAU aims to improve the quality of African higher education and strengthen its contribution to Africa’s development by supporting the core functions of higher education institutions and facilitating critical reflections and consensus-building on issues affecting these institutions. The AAU is the regional facilitation unit for the ACE Impact project.

The World Bank Group: The World Bank Group is a multilateral development institution that works to reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity. The Bank, through its subsidiary International Development Association (IDA) co-finances the ACE Impact project. IDA, established in 1960, helps the world’s least-privileged countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programmes that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve quality of lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world’s 74 least-privileged countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3 billion people who live in IDA countries. Since 1960, World Bank through IDA has provided some 500 billion dollars to over 114.

Association of African Universities (AAU): The Association of African Universities is an international non-profit, non-governmental network of almost 450 African universities, which have come together to promote cooperation among them, on the one hand, and between them and the international academic community, on the other. Established in 1967 and operating as the voice of higher education in Africa, the AAU aims to improve the quality of African higher education and strengthen its contribution to Africa’s development by supporting the core functions of higher education institutions and facilitating critical reflections and consensus-building on issues affecting these institutions. The AAU is the regional facilitation unit for the ACE Impact project.
Learn more about the ACE Impact project at https://ace.aau.org

Science, applied science, and education, which have been identified as essential ingredients to Africa's technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); agriculture, health, environment, social build and strengthening the capacities of African higher education institutions to deliver high-quality training and applied research and enhance skills demand for Africa's development.

Based on these successes, World Bank, together with AFD, launched the Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) project in 2019 with 53 centres in 35 countries. The two initial phases of the ACE programme succeeded in building and strengthening centres in nine West and Central African countries, and the second phase (ACE II) in 2016 with 24 centres in East and Southern Africa.

Collaboration with the governments of participating countries to support African higher education and research, and promotion technical and non-technical staff to improve the quality of higher education and research in Côte d'Ivoire, aimed to promote access to and improve the quality of higher education and research in Côte d'Ivoire. The ministry exists to formulate policies and develop strategies that promote access to and improve the quality of higher education and research in Côte d'Ivoire and innovation in Côte d'Ivoire.

French Development Agency (AFD): For more than 75 years, the French Development Agency has been fighting global poverty supporting policies and investments that benefit the least-privileged populations in the world. Strengthening the social link among individuals, groups, and territories is at the heart of its actions in education, health, employment, urban planning, climate, and biodiversity. L’Agence Française de Développement is the ACE Impact project co-financier.

Ministry of Higher Education, Côte d'Ivoire: Mme Yelly TOURE (mt_yelly@yahoo.fr)

For further clarification, contact:

The media are invited to cover the opening ceremony and launch of the ACE @ 10 celebrations.

The ACE @ 10 activities would amplify the project's impact in African higher education and its crucial role in shaping a prosperous future for Africa.

The ACE @ 10 activities will mark a decade of excellence, collaboration, and transformative impact in African higher education. Since its inception in 2014, the projects have supported over 80 centres, in more than 50 universities, fostering excellence in research and education.

The ACE Impact project co-financer.

AAU Secretary-General, Prof. Olusola Oyewole.

AFD Head of Education, Harry Gerard Crimi Jr.

AFD: For more than 75 years, the French Development Agency has been fighting global poverty supporting policies and investments that benefit the least-privileged populations in the world. Strengthening the social link among individuals, groups, and territories is at the heart of its actions in education, health, employment, urban planning, climate, and biodiversity. L’Agence Française de Développement is the ACE Impact project co-financier.

Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3 billion people who live on less than $1.90 a day in 108 countries – 18% of the world’s population, which accounts for 70% of the global population living in extreme poverty. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the poorest countries, providing grants and zero-interest loans for projects and programs, measured in terms of poverty reduction.

The Bank, through its subsidiary International Development Association (IDA), provides grants and zero-interest loans for projects and programs, measured in terms of poverty reduction. The Bank also facilitates solutions for the most acute challenges, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflict. The Bank is a provider of last resort, providing a financial safety net when other sources cannot or will not.

The World Bank Group is a collection of five institutions that work together to help develop sustainable solutions to challenges in developing countries. The World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Development Association (IDA), International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) form the World Bank Group. They are dedicated to helping countries become prosperous development partners.

The media are invited to cover the opening ceremony and launch of the ACE @ 10 celebrations.

The ACE @ 10 activities would amplify the project's impact in African higher education and its crucial role in shaping a prosperous future for Africa.

The ACE @ 10 activities will mark a decade of excellence, collaboration, and transformative impact in African higher education. Since its inception in 2014, the projects have supported over 80 centres, in more than 50 universities, fostering excellence in research and education.

The ACE Impact project co-financer.

AAU Secretary-General, Prof. Olusola Oyewole.

AFD Head of Education, Harry Gerard Crimi Jr.

AFD: For more than 75 years, the French Development Agency has been fighting global poverty supporting policies and investments that benefit the least-privileged populations in the world. Strengthening the social link among individuals, groups, and territories is at the heart of its actions in education, health, employment, urban planning, climate, and biodiversity. L’Agence Française de Développement is the ACE Impact project co-financier.

Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3 billion people who live on less than $1.90 a day in 108 countries – 18% of the world’s population, which accounts for 70% of the global population living in extreme poverty. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the poorest countries, providing grants and zero-interest loans for projects and programs, measured in terms of poverty reduction. The Bank, through its subsidiary International Development Association (IDA), provides grants and zero-interest loans for projects and programs, measured in terms of poverty reduction. The Bank also facilitates solutions for the most acute challenges, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflict. The Bank is a provider of last resort, providing a financial safety net when other sources cannot or will not.

The World Bank Group is a collection of five institutions that work together to help develop sustainable solutions to challenges in developing countries. The World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Development Association (IDA), International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) form the World Bank Group. They are dedicated to helping countries become prosperous development partners.

The media are invited to cover the opening ceremony and launch of the ACE @ 10 celebrations.

The ACE @ 10 activities would amplify the project's impact in African higher education and its crucial role in shaping a prosperous future for Africa.

The ACE @ 10 activities will mark a decade of excellence, collaboration, and transformative impact in African higher education. Since its inception in 2014, the projects have supported over 80 centres, in more than 50 universities, fostering excellence in research and education.

The ACE Impact project co-financer.

AAU Secretary-General, Prof. Olusola Oyewole.

AFD Head of Education, Harry Gerard Crimi Jr.