

## **REPORT OF NIGERIA RCEs FORUM MEETING**

Doko Hotel, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

8:30pm-10:15pm

### **In Attendance**

1. Prof. O. Akpezi – Regional Adviser, African RCEs
2. Dr. Abdul Husaini – Coordinator RCE Minna/President, African RCEs
3. Dr. Okorie U. Okoro – Coordinator RCE Lagos
4. Dr. Ashiru Bello – Representative of RCE Zaria
5. Prof. Kolade Joseph – RCE Candidate Ilorin
6. Dr. Yahaya Mohammed – Nasarawa State University
7. Engr. Abdullahi Kesto- Secretary RCE Minna
8. Ibrahim Akibu Jaafar- Coordinator RCE Minna Youth Network

### **Apology**

1. Prof. Akaranta – Coordinator, RCE Port Harcourt

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Nigerian RCEs Forum had its first national meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Doko Hotel, Minna. The Coordinator of RCE Minna gave the opening remarks and welcomed other RCEs to Minna, the capital city of Niger state.

### **2.0 Agenda**

**2.1 Brief Report from the various RCEs:** Each RCEs present at the meeting were given opportunity to highlight their programmes and activities as well as their challenges:

- a. RCE Lagos:** The Coordinator of RCE Lagos, Dr. Okorie U. Okoro stated that they have being carrying out their programmes along reviving the secondary school education systems towards having productive youth. He mentioned that their major challenge has been funding and communication gap with UNU service centre.

- b. RCE Zaria:** Although recently acknowledged, the centre has being able to galvanized resources for research and funding to implement the outcome of their research.
- c. RCE Ilorin:** The centre is working towards restructuring its application for full acknowledgement by the UBUNTU committee. There focus is to have a sustainable flagship project to improve the life of their immediate community.
- d. RCE Minna:** RCE Minna reported to the meeting that the centre has being able to record some success due to the efforts of its functional youth network. RCE Minna also reported the support they have being enjoying from the Niger State Government in its programmes and activities.
- e. Nasarawa State University:** The University is interested championing the establishment of RCE Nasarawa. They have shown commitment and are willing to send in their application to the UBUNTU Committee. They intend to look at mining activities and communal conflicts across their region with a view to come up with a sustainable community based solution.

2.2 Prof. O. Akpezi, the Regional Adviser for Africa, appreciated the efforts of the RCEs in Nigeria and specifically thanked RCE Minna for bringing the RCEs together as a family. She however, pointed out the need for the RCEs to have a National Focus and be able to come up with projects that will enhance the visibility of RCEs across the nation.

### **3.0 Recommendations.**

#### **3.1 The meeting recommends as follows:**

- i. To have annual contact (i.e., conference, meetings etc).
- ii. Institute an award to reward good projects with funds so as to encourage good research across RCEs.
- iii. That a National Agenda be drafted for collective implementation in line with the various peculiarities of the RCEs.

- iv. That the Nigeria RCEs Forum should work with federal government, through its Ministries of Education and Environment, towards actualizing policy implementation in line with Sustainable Development Goals.
- v. That the RCEs Forum should explore the possibility of partnership with regional and national organizations (i.e., the African Union, ECOWAS, TETFUND, NUC, ETF etc.).
- vi. That RCEs should not abandon their original flagship projects/programmes which was the basis for their acknowledgement.
- vii. That the RCEs Forum should adopt virtual meetings for regular communication and knowledge sharing.
- viii. That RCE Zaria should share their expertise on fund raising/sponsorship with other RCEs.

#### **4.0 Major Outcome:**

4.1 The meeting identified the need to have Training Workshop for African RCEs that will bring together all RCEs in Africa for a week long training. The aim is to effectively use their various RCEs as centres for national growth and development in their countries through practical oriented research. The idea is to bring in experts from successful RCEs to share their experiences and expertise. The training would also include proposal writing on how to secure funds for research, which has always be a challenge for most African RCEs.

#### **5.0 Closing:**

5.1 The meeting ended with high hopes that the Nigerian RCEs Forum will serve as a catalyst towards achieving efficient and vibrant RCEs in Nigeria geared towards achieving common goal for sustainable development.