

Africa Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology

Progress Report

September to December 2018

A. Component 1: Capacity development for Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund

1.1 Setting up the RSIF Permanent Fund

- 1.1.1 Terms of reference for a consultant to study establishment of the fund was prepared and submitted to the World Bank for review on 23 November 2018. The consultancy will be advertised as soon as the Bank gives its no objection, tentatively by 15 December 2018.
- 1.1.2 An interim resource mobilization plan was prepared and shared with the Bank on 29 November 2018. Parts of it are being implemented.

1.2 Management of PhD scholarships and research grants

- 1.2.1 A second [call guidelines](#) and application materials for RSIF host universities was prepared and approved by the PASET Executive Board on 6th November 2018. It was published on 8th November 2018; the deadline for receipt of application is 17 January 2019.
- 1.2.2 The [Expression of Interest for RSIF partner organizations](#) was prepared and approved by the PASET EB on 6th November 2018. It will be announced in French and English on 30 November 2018. The process of identifying partner organizations is ongoing.

1.3 Capacity building of host universities

icipe and the 4 existing host universities will meet on 3 – 4 December 2018 at *icipe* in Nairobi, Kenya to align requirements for the call for PhD scholarships, and discuss issues on current RSIF PhD scholars and other RSIF activities.

1.4 Management of innovation grants

icipe has started preliminary discussions on the concept and guidelines for innovation grants sub component.

B. Component 2: PhD Scholarships, research grants and innovation grants

2.1 PhD Scholarships

The call guidelines and application materials for the PhD scholarships was prepared and approved by the PASET EB. A [pre-announcement of the call](#) will be made on 5th December 2018.

2.2 Research grants

icipe has started preliminary discussions on the concept and guidelines.

2.3 Innovation grants

icipe has started preliminary discussions on the concept and guidelines.

C. Crosscutting activities

- 3.1 AAU has handed over RSIF documents, host universities and students as at 29th October 2019. Further, AAU transferred the RSIF website, which *icipe* is now managing. The face book account has also been transferred to *icipe*.
- 3.2 *icipe* has completed recruitment of RCU manager, who is expected to commence work on 15th January 2019. Shortlisting of candidates for other essential positions was completed as at 28 November 2018.
- 3.3 Terms of reference for translations services was prepared and approved by the World Bank. The Expression of interest will be advertised before 10th December 2018.
- 3.4 *icipe* prepared RSIF brochure; and has hired a short-term communications consultant to prepare additional materials.
- 3.5 *icipe* was represented by Dr. Julius Ecuru at the first Africa-Japan Higher Education Partnership workshop from 22 – 26 October 2018 in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan.
- 3.6 *icipe* was represented by Dr. Rob Skilton at the Technical Review Meeting of the Africa Centres of Excellence from 12 – 14 November 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- 3.7 *icipe* Director General, Dr. Segenet Kelemu and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Amina Mohamed, signed the French version of the PASET/*icipe* memorandum of understanding, and also recognized the USD 9.0 million contribution from the Government of Korea towards the PASET RSIF. The [ceremony](#) took place on 24th November 2018 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 3.8 All the other relevant legal documents and processes were all concluded, including the financing agreement between World Bank and *icipe* for the RSIF Project, the World Bank RSIF letter of effectiveness, agreement between the World Bank and *icipe* for the administration of the Korea Government contribution to RSIF, and the opening of relevant bank accounts.

D. Key planned activities for the next quarter (January – March 2019)

Endowment Fund

- 4.1. Hire consultant to undertake a study on the establishment of the permanent fund.
- 4.2. Implement the interim resource mobilization plan per the activities and schedules indicated therein.

Management of PhD Scholarships and Research Grants

- 4.3. Select the second cohort of host universities
- 4.4. Advance in the selection of at least 2 additional partner organization
- 4.5. Finalize the concept and guidelines for research grants.
- 4.6. Finalize the concept and guidelines for innovation grants.

Capacity building of host universities

- 4.7. Complete host university capacity and training needs assessments (both existing and new)
- 4.8. Finalize specifications for ICT infrastructure support to host universities and *icipe*

PhD Scholarships

- 4.9. Complete the selection and pairing of the first cohort of PhD students with their academic advisors at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology.
- 4.10. Open the call for PhD scholarships

Cross cutting activities

- 4.11. Complete the recruitment of RSIF RCU staff
- 4.12. Hire consultant to offer English to French/French to English translations
- 4.13. Prepare relevant communication materials targeting key stakeholder segments, including governments, private sector executives, and donors.