

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

Draft Summary Progress Report 19 September 2019

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This Summary Report provides a summary of progress in implementation of the RSIF Program for the three-month period, July to September 2019. The activities undertaken during that period are presented in the key result areas of the program: Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund and Component 2: PhD Scholarships, research grants and innovation grants. Overall, the activities for the program remain on 'track'.

A. Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund

1.1 Capacity building for management of the RSIF General Fund and setting up the RSIF Permanent Fund:

1.1.1 Resource mobilization

Discussions have been held with various development partners and African governments to make them aware of PASET and to engage them to join the Partnership.

- a) Formal invitations signed by the Chair of the PASET GC have been sent to South Africa and Mauritius to join PASET. These followed discussions with key country institutions in both countries including the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, and the University of Pretoria. In Mauritius, various discussions were held with the relevant ministries and the University of Mauritius.
- b) The RCU has shared PASET RSIF information and held discussions with additional African countries in the reporting period including Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Morocco, Sudan, The Gambia, and Uganda.
- c) There have been discussions with private sector groups such as OCP Group, and the Hagar Holdings company from Sudan.
- d) RCU continues to engage with the countries that are expected to join through various World Bank projects including Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, Benin, Tanzania and Mozambique.
- e) In the reporting period the RCU had the chance to present RSIF to Norad Norway, Germany, DAAD, BRIDGIN Foundation, UK Research and Innovation, the African Development Bank, and the Mastercard Foundation.
- f) Through International Foundation for Science (IFS) linkages were made with Swiss institutions, including the Leading House Swiss TPH and University of Basel and EPLF Essential Tech.
- g) A proposal was submitted to IDRC in a competitive global call to support RSIF's gender work.

1.1.2 Permanent Fund design

1. The process for procurement of the firm to undertake the Feasibility Study for the RSIF Permanent Fund identified Lions' Head Global Partners. Contracting is now underway. The team is expected to engage with the PASET EB and other key stakeholders during the month of October in order to finalize their inception report. The feasibility study is expected to be finalized by December, 2019.

1.2 Capacity development for the operation and management of doctoral training scholarships in selected AHUs

1.2.1 Host university selection

During the period, *icipe*-RCU and RSIF AHUs engaged in virtual discussions with all current AHUs to finalize partnership agreement incorporating feedback from ongoing partnership discussions. A draft partnership agreement is to be signed on 7th October, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

1.2.2 Selection of 2nd Cohort of PhD Scholars:

The proposed process for selection of the 2nd cohort of PhD scholars (50 PhD students) was finalized. The bi-lingual Call for applications for the second cohort of RSIF scholars was published on 13th June 2019 and disseminated widely with deadline for 26 July 2019. Timeframe for the application process has been updated as in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed timelines for selection of 2nd Cohort of RSIF students

Activity		Timeline (2019)
1	RSIF Scholarship Call for Applications	June 13-26 July
2	RCU Compliance and eligibility check	23 August
3	African Host university admission list; and ranking based on University and RSIF criteria	13 September
4	RSIF scholarship applicants' record virtual (one-way) interview	23-27 September
5	Review of applications by Independent Review Committees	23 September
6	IRC virtual meetings (AHU, CAG and RCU representatives as observers)	14-18 October
7	Independent Evaluation Committee Virtual meeting and shared with EB	21-25 October
8	Approval of final list of selected applicants by EB	31 October

A total of 1752 applications were received from across the continent that applied to the 10 eligible universities. Following eligibility check, 1178 were found to be compliant, of which 250 were female (Table 2). The universities have finalized their pre-admission, and these will be sent for independent review and shared with the EB for final selection and award.

Table 2: applications received by *icipe* b university and gender

University	Total Applications	Total Female Applicants	Total Valid	Valid Female Applicants
Port Harcourt	128	25	51	9
Kenyatta University	94	18	55	14
NM-AIST	164	24	111	20
University of Rwanda	120	19	70	11
University of Nairobi	106	14	106	12
University of Ghana	253	41	173	41
Bayero	284	58	213	42
UF-HB	191	42	118	33
SUA/SACIDS	213	58	131	40
MITIC	199	43	150	28
Total	1752	342	1178	250

1.2.3 Partner university selection (Korean, US universities and others) and MoUs

Discussions underway with 16 international universities/ institutions in Europe, North America, and Africa. MoUs were signed during the period with Virginia Tech and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

1.2.4 Strategies for increasing the participation of women in PhD training and in research in ASET fields

RSIF was among the co-organizers (AWARD, UKRI, DFID, IDRC, Carnegie Corporation, and AAS) of the Global Forum for Women in Scientific Research (GoFoWiSeR) conference, July 18-19, 2019 in Dakar. GoFoWiSeR brought together 302 participants from 29 countries – leaders of research institutions, research funders, female scientists, and others – for a global conversation on how to enhance the numbers and experiences of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Dr. Moses Osiru’s presentation “How is the Africa’s Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET) widening the pipeline of women in science?” was included in the high-level conference opening. Dr. Osiru also moderated a panel “Lessons from institutions; interventions to increase the number and experiences of female researchers.” Dr. Monica Fisher presented “Why so few female PhDs? Designing a research approach to understand the African STEM shortage” and held focus group discussions to solicit stakeholder inputs on practical interventions for RSIF’s gender strategy to enhance female participation in PhD programs and research in STEM fields.

A proposal was submitted by RSIF to IDRC (CA\$ 500,000) for action research that will contribute to the knowledge base and establish evidence-based strategies to address women’s under-representation among PhD scholars and faculty within African university ASET departments.

1.3 Capacity development for improving quality of PhD programs and research in ASET fields

1.3.1 Scoping study and gap analysis

The Scoping Study Workshop will be held at icipe headquarters at Duduville Campus in Nairobi from 7-9 October 2019. The aim of the Workshop will be to discuss the outcome of the scoping study led by icipe and to identify key gaps in the selected training programs/ universities and to design relevant plans to respond to these. Specifically, the study will:

- a) Provide update on the implementation status of the PASET RSIF
- b) Identify gaps in the host universities in providing high level PhD training in the ASET fields and relevant enabling environments for research and innovation, including cross cutting areas;
- c) Facilitate universities to initiate (where not started) or further plans for accreditation of the RSIF supported PhD programs;
- d) Agree on the relevant capacity building interventions in the context of the RSIF to reduce or fill the identified gaps;
- e) Facilitate collaboration and cooperation among AHU in area-specific and cross-cutting areas.
- f) Discuss the best delivery methods for the proposed capacity building interventions.

The scoping study workshop will discuss the PhD training at the AHU and the related enabling environment, including research, training and innovation. Participants will include Vice Chancellors and senior officials from the AHUs and representatives of PASET governing bodies (including the Consultative Advisory Group), icipe, World Bank and Ministry of Education staff. Through a moderated discussion (See Program in Annex 1), participants will share and discuss experiences, including best practices, challenges and gaps in capacity strengthening for PhDs training, research and innovation and discuss ways to increase collaboration.

Two additional RSIF AHUs (bringing to total of four AHUs) facilitated to access research for Life (R4L) R4L includes approximately ~85,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases provided by the world’s leading science publishers. More effort is needed to enhance use of the free resources.

1.3.2 Partnerships Workshop at UM6P in Morocco

A workshop was co-organized by Mohamed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), icipe and the World Bank at the UM6P campus in Benguerir Morocco between 4-6 September 2019 to discuss the implementation arrangements for the recently signed MoU between PASET and UM6P. Specifically, the objectives of the three-day workshop were to:

1. Identify potential areas for collaboration and partnership between the two institutions, including in new research areas;
2. Identify opportunities for joint research and supervision for PhD students registered at the PASET RSIF African Host Universities to undertake research at UM6P as part of their sandwich training;
3. Deepen understanding of Innovation platforms/ systems and related capacity available at UM6P and identify opportunities for collaboration to strengthen AHU innovation capacity and training;
4. Identify opportunities for exchange of faculty professors and researchers;
5. Discuss how to strengthen partnerships between PASET and the OCP Group (i.e. by joint research & innovation through competitive grants on specific thematic areas of relevance to OCP).

The Workshop was attended by representatives from the eleven AHUs and counterpart research teams from UM6P. Representatives from the World Bank, OCP, and icipe also attended the three-day meeting (See Annex 1 for List of Participants). The workshop was designed to allow the two parties to better understand their respective missions and ‘modus operandi’ to facilitate partnership building and identification of specific areas and activities for the collaboration. The three-day workshop included facilitated discussions, site visits and breakout sessions. The discussions were arranged based on the five PASET thematic areas of i) food security & agribusiness, ii) climate change, iii) energy including renewables, iv) ICT including artificial intelligence and v) Minerals and Material Science. Icipe is following up on agreements from the workshop, which included several joint activities to further the PASET vision.

1.4 Capacity development for the operation and management of innovation grants

Table 2 below provides update on the status of each of the calls and proposed dates for implementation.

Item	Details	Status
Award of Grants	Window 3 Type 1 (Institutional Capacity Building Program Grant)	Call published in August 1, 2019. Communication sent to RSIF AHUs Vice Chancellors and PhD Program contact persons. Call published on RSIF and <i>icipe</i> Website and publicized through RSIF social media platforms (twitter, facebook, linkedin) Call closes on September 30, 2019 Webinar session conducted on September 19, 2019 to questions and provide clarifications to interested applicants.
	Window 3 Type 2 (Cooperability Grants)	Call to be published in December 1, 2019, and will close in February 1, 2020
	Window 2 Type 1 (Research Awards)	Call to be published in October 1, 2019 and will close in November 30, 2019.
Proposal Review Process	Setting up Grants Independent Technical Committee	Seven (7) eminent expert members identified; an invitation has been sent to each member requesting consent to participate in the committee. The final list shared with PASET HE CAG for advice prior to engaging them. Expertise includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering sciences • Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social sciences and humanities • Industry/ private sector representatives with experience in commercialization of knowledge • Higher Education representative
	<p>Selection of independent expert reviewers for the review of the ICBP Grant</p>	<p>RCU is selecting nine (9) expert reviewers with expertise in innovation ecosystem strengthening to review the proposals submitted in response to the ICBP Grant.</p>

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

2.1 Status of first cohort of scholars and engagement with KIST

The 15 RSIF Students submitted their quarterly reports have received stipends for July, August and September. Overall students are progressing well, and focus has been on transiting to their internships. Progress is as below:

- Six students matched with Korea: Four students (Sylvia Wairimu, Kenya; Emmanuel Kifaro, Tanzania; Humphrey Mabwi, Kenya; Maxwell Waema, Kenya) have started their internships at KIST in Korea. Two students, Frejus Sodedji (Benin) and Noel Gahamani will join by early next year.
- Six students matched with WPI. All have applied for visa to the US with support from WPI. Unfortunately, one will not be able to travel with family and a second (Pauline ...), her visa application has been rejected. WPI is following up on the issue.
- Two RSIF scholars undertaking their sandwich training at KIST, Frejus Ariel Kpedetin Sodedji and Sylvia Wairimu Maina have been competitively selected by the Samsung Dream Scholarship Foundation as Samsung Hope Scholars. They will receive a modest stipend in addition to access to complementary capacity building opportunities including; Korean language classes, mentorship, leadership training, career workshops, club activities, etc. Additionally, selected RSIF scholars will be a part of a growing global network of Samsung Dream Foundation supported scholars.
- The last three students have now been tentatively matched with the BeCA facility in Nairobi Kenya, awaiting discussions with their supervisors and scientists at the International Livestock Research Institute.
- Two RSIF scholars participated in the 2nd Africa-Japan Higher Education Partnership Workshop which was hosted by the world bank on the heels of TICAD 7 in Tokyo, Japan. RSIF scholars presented their work and discussed their experiences with RSIF with Japanese participants including universities and companies with the aim of increasing collaboration.

Following the premature exit of one of the recipients of the RSIF PhD scholarship called Lilian Malewa Robert (Reg.No. PVM/D/2018/0094) a Kenyan national around April 2019, based on the recommendations of the PASET Executive Board, on 23rd August 2019, a three member independent panel was formed by ICIPE. The panel was led by Prof. Tolly.S.A. Mbwette and the other members were Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Penina Mlama. The panel was given the task to investigate the specific case and to make some specific recommendations on the case as well as regarding measures that can lead to improvement of the management of the current and future cohorts of the PhD scholarship recipients. The Panel provided recommendations to RSIF and PASET including (full report to be shared with the next reporting):

Recommendations to RCU:

- a) To urgently finalise the new agreements to be signed with all the eleven HUs prior to admission of the second cohort of PhD scholars.
- b) To review the provisions of the contract between HUs and KIST or any other external university hosting the RSIF scholars in order to amend the current provisions that take away the Intellectual Property Ownership of HUs for research work undertaken abroad.
- c) To review the existing contract between the RCU (ICIPE) and the RSIF scholarship holders in order to minimize the frequency of occurrence of unjustified premature exit from PhD studies by introduction of clauses that guarantee completion and return to their respective homes.
- d) To strengthen the admission procedures to ensure all employed applicants are bonded with a guarantee for refunding the expenditures in case of an unjustified premature exit from PhD studies. For unemployed applicants, their respective guardians or guarantors will have to sign bond forms to be designed by ICIPE.
- e) To intensify communication with HUs on all the decisions taken about payments for all RSIF scholars to ensure no gaps of information exists. The HUs must be kept in the loop for all communications between ICIPE and the RSIF scholarship recipients. All students will have to forward any request for payment to ICIPE through the HUs.

For the PASET Board, the following recommendations were made:

- a) To consider adopting the payment of stipend to RSIF scholars monthly as approved by PASET organs through the HUs and should stop paying these quarterly.
- b) To pay supervision incentives at rates approved by PASET to the HUs instead of paying directly to the supervisors to avoid interference with institutional incentive rates for supervision.
- c) To make the international research attachment an option rather than making it a compulsory provision to ensure enhanced local capacity building and intellectual ownership.
- d) To revisit the benefits of the policy of payment of the initial stipend disbursement while the RSIF scholars are still at home.

3.1 RSIF communications

Icipe has focused the last three months on development of a draft communications strategy for RSIF. Procurement of a firm to support marketing and communications is also underway. The firm is expected to be on board by early November, 2019.

3.2 Safeguards, risk management and development of a grievance redress mechanism

A one-day workshop was held with RSIF staff and discussions held on key risks for the project at the RCU on August 2019. Discussions were also held with universities to 'pretest' some of the tools developed. A draft GRM has been developed and is being discussed.

3.3 Key Challenges

There appears to be some confusion on the accreditation status of the PhD program selected by PASET RSIF to host RSIF scholars. Icipe is thus moving to suspend Kenyatta University and to commission a team to review the status of the program and request the EB to make final decision on the participation of this PhD Program in PASET RSIF. Students from this program will need to be moved to another university.

3.4 A summary of utilization of funds from the Governments of Kenya, Rwanda and Ivory Coast

B8501E-RSIF-SUBCOMPONENT 3.1:- (January 2018 To September 2019)					
Amounts in USD					
INCOME	Recieipient	Description			Total
B8501G00001	icipe	Balance from AAU			3,413,977
B8501G00001	icipe	From Ivorian Govt			1,033,497
	Total Income				4,447,474
EXPENDITURE	Payee	Description	Jan-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Total
B8501G21001	Maxwell Wambua Waema	Student's stipend	7,200	7,200	14,400
B8501G21002	Sylvia Wairimu Maina	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21003	Humphrey Andalo Mabwi	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21004	Levi Omache	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21005	Lilian Mulewa	Student's stipend	7,200	-3,600	3,600
B8501G21006	Gahamanyi Noel	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21007	Jean Nepomuscene Hakizimana	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21008	Emmanuel Effah	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21009	Fatoumata Thiam	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21010	Richard Kipyegon Koech	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21011	Jeanne Pauline Munganyinka	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21012	Jean Baptiste Habinshuti	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21013	David Oluwasegun Afolayan	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21014	Sodedji Frejus Ariel Kpedetin	Student's stipend	7,200	3,600	10,800
B8501G21015	Traore Abdoulaye	Student's stipend	7,200	0	7,200
B8501G21201	Other PhD expenses	-	-	-	-
	Total Expenditure		108,000	46,800	154,800
	Balance				4,292,674

3.5 RSIF Funds Allocation Report -Government Contributions (20th September 2019)

INCOME	Notes	KENYA		RWANDA	IVORY COAST	TOTAL
Funds received	A	1,979,177		1,963,292	1,033,497	4,975,966
Less : AAU Admin charges	B	131,105		130,387	-	261,492
Funds available for Scholarships	C =A-B	1,848,072		1,832,905	1,033,497	4,714,474
Scholarship Cost per student (4 years)	E	97,300		97,300	97,300	
Number of Scholarships Available	F=C/E	18		18	10	46
Allocation of Scholarships						
80% to Nationals	80%	G 15		15	9	39
20% to Non Nationals	20%	H 3		3	2	8
Scholarships Awarded						
Nationals	60%	I 6	80%	4	-	10
Non Nationals	40%	J 4	20%	1	-	5
Scholarships to Award						
Nationals	K=G-I	9		11	9	29
Non Nationals	L=H-J	(1)		2	2	3
Funds spent on Scholars						
By AAU	M	178,000		89,000	-	267,000
By <i>Icipe</i>	N	100,800		54,000	-	154,800
Fund Balance	O=C-M-N	1,569,272		1,689,905	1,033,497	4,292,674

Annex 1: Key planned activities for the next quarter (October–December 2019)

General Fund and Endowment Fund

- 4.1. Complete feasibility study on the establishment of the permanent fund.
- 4.2. Continue to implement the interim resource mobilization plan per the activities and schedules indicated therein

Management of PhD Scholarships and Research Grants

- 4.3. Sign agreements with second cohort of host universities
- 4.4. Advance in the selection of at least four additional international partner organizations
- 4.5. Launch call for proposals for innovation grants (Window 3 Type 2 -Institutional Capacity Building Grants)
- 4.6. Conduct proposal writing training workshops for prospective grant applicants in RSIF Host Universities.

Capacity building of host universities

- 4.7. Finalize tools development for the scoping studies for university research and training and undertake scoping study
- 4.8. Build capacity of host universities to implement safeguards and the grievance redress mechanisms for RSIF
- 4.9. Enhance access to journals and databases for RSIF scholars

PhD Scholarships

- 4.10. Finalize discussions on matching of students with partner institutions in Korea and other countries
- 4.11. Revise quarterly and annual student reporting tools
- 4.12. Implement the selection process for the second cohort of students
- 4.13. Host virtual orientation session for independent evaluation committee to provide in-depth details on the student selection process and RSIF scholarship selection criteria
- 4.14. Initiate development of cross cutting courses for RSIF students

Cross cutting activities

- 4.15. Finalise development of an RSIF communication strategy and continue preparations of relevant communication materials targeting key stakeholder segments, including governments, private sector executives, and donors in English and French.
- 4.16. Finalise hiring of a communication firm to support communications and branding for RSIF
- 4.17. Finalise Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and social risk management framework for the project and initiate implementation.
- 4.18. Finalise hiring of marketing firm to support communications and branding for RSIF
- 4.19. Update RSIF website and branding