THE 3rd ASRIC BUREAU MEETING
HASSAN II ACADEMY,
RABAT – MOROCCO
23 – 27 FEBRUARY 2020

MEETING
REPORT

I. Introduction

The 3rd ASRIC Bureau meeting took place in Rabat, Morocco from the 23rd to 27th February 2020. The meeting was hosted by Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology and organized by the Africa Union Scientific and Technical Research Commission (AU-STRC) the ASRIC secretariat.

II. Opening Ceremony

Prof. Mostapha Bousmina – welcomed the Bureau and highlight the commitment of the Academy and the Kingdom of Morocco to support the ASRIC activities and that the Academy will participate actively in ASRIC programmes and projects. In his welcome remarks, the role of STI as a driving force for the Morocco economy was stated. He further echoed the strong support of the Academy and the Kingdom of Morocco to host the ASRIC 3rd Congress and promised that the Academy will avail all the support needed for a successful congress. Finally he wished the Bureau a successful meeting and a nice stay in Morocco.

In his welcome remark, the Executive Director of ASRIC, **Dr. Eng Ahmed Hamdy** welcome the Bureau members and highlighted the importance of the meeting; and appreciated the hospitality and the commitment of the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology for hosting the 3rd ASRIC Congress.

The Chair of ASRIC, **Prof. Ratemo Michieka**, stated that this Bureau meeting is organized in preparation towards the 3rd ASRIC Congress and to follow up on implementation of the Decisions of the 2nd ASRIC Congress. He equally expressed the Bureau's appreciation for the hospitality accorded to the Bureau by the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology since arrival in Morocco.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

The following agenda was presented and adopted by the Bureau

1. Opening Session
    a. Welcome Remarks by the Chancellor of the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology
    b. Welcome Remarks by the Executive Director of ASRIC
    c. Opening Remarks by the Chairman of ASRIC
2. Presentation on the 3rd ASRIC Congress
3. Hosting Modalities
4. Report and Decision of the ASRIC Journals
5. Presentation and Discussion on the Flagship Projects
6. Discussion on the venue for the Next Bureau Meeting

7. AOB

8. Closing session

IV. **Presentation of the 3rd ASRIC Congress**

The 3rd ASRIC Congress arrangement and concept paper was presented and the following emerged after the discussion

1. The Bureau appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat on the development of the concept note.

2. The Bureau dully requested **Prof. Driss Ouazzar** and **Prof. Mosto Onuoha** to re visit and improve the concept note in light of the discussion.

3. The Secretariat to distribute the modified concept note to the members of the Bureau for consent.

V. **Hosting Modalities**

The hosting modalities was presented by Prof. Driss Ouazzar where he informed the meeting that an intent letter will be signed and sent to the Secretariat reaffirming the hosing of the Academy for the 3rd Congress and identify the support that the Academy will give to ensure the success of the Congress. After the deliberation and discussions:

1. The Bureau appreciates and commends the hosting arrangements and assures the Academy of its full support.

2. The Bureau requests the Academy to send a letter of intent that explains explicitly the support to be availed by the Academy for the 3rd ASRIC Congress.

3. The list of members of the Local Organized Committee (LOC) should be sent to the ASRIC Secretariat for effective communication.

4. The 3rd Congress will have both call for Papers and Posters (only full papers will be sponsored)

5. The Secretariat is to provide the AU Exhibition Manual to the Hassan II Academy.

6. The following target groups were identified as potential exhibitors to be invited: Commercial Companies and Industries; Innovators (Entrepreneurs), Research & Development Startup, National and Private Research Institutions. The potential to partner with the UNDP South-South office in New York needs to explore.

7. The following criteria were identified by the Bureau to guide the selection process: Applicability, Adaptability, Efficiency, Innovativeness, Market accessibility, Scalability, Impact on Community, Value addition and Relevance to the Congress theme.

8. The Bureau established a scientific committee for the 3rd ASRIC Congress that comprises of the Scientific Committee of Hassan II Academy and other distinguished

professors/scientists in the field of the congress. Names are to be provided by the Hassan II Academy, while the Bureau members are to nominate the auxiliary scientists for assistance; the names are to be communicated to the Secretariat **within two weeks** from the date of this meeting.

9. ASRIC Donors meeting should be conducted parallel to the ASRIC Congress Scientific Session (preferably to be in the opening day of the Congress). The Meeting should be composed of donor community, the Bureau and the Academy along with the AU Officials. A list to be developed by the RMC with the support of the Academy and the Bureau not later than May 1$^{st.}$ The Secretariat to work with the Resource Mobilization Committee and the Communication Committee to develop marketing tools and materials such as (Brochures, Presentations and other attraction materials

10. The Academy offers to develop a website and portal for e - submission of Abstracts and full manuscripts for the 3rd Congress that is to be linked to the ASRIC, AU-STRC and the Academy websites.

VI. Report & Discussion of the ASRIC Journals

A report on the status, structure and way forward of the ASRIC Scientific Journals. In the presentation the Bureau was informed on the readiness of ASRIC Journal volume 1 issue 1 for publication. After deliberations:

1. The Bureau unanimously appreciated the efforts made so far to develop volume 1 issue 1 of the ASRIC Journal and requested the Secretariat to proceed with the publication.

2. The Bureau identified the following criteria for the appointment of :

    A. **Editor in Chief of the ASRIC Journals**

        *   Must be a good scholar with publications in high index reputable journals

        *   Must have at least 15 years experience in editing/ reviewing and publishing of a reputable scientific journal

        *   Must be a Member or Fellow of a Science Academy of an AU Member State

    B. **Editor of the ASRIC Thematic Journal**

        *   Must be a good scholar with publications in high index reputable journals

        *   Must have at least 10 years experience in editing/ reviewing and publishing of a reputable scientific journal

        *   Must be a Member or Fellow of a Science Academy of an AU Member State

C. Editorial Board of the ASRIC Journals

- Must be a good scholar with publications in high index reputable journals

- Must have experience in editing/ reviewing and publishing papers in subject areas covered in respective thematic areas of the ASRIC Journal.

D. Editorial Advisory Board for ASRIC Journals

The **Editorial Advisory Board** of the ASRIC Journals is composed of the Members of the ASRIC Bureau and Five (5) other prominent scientists nominated by the Bureau. The following names were suggested by the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat are requested to communicate with them.

East Africa: Mohammed Hassan, Amina Gurib Fakeem, Khamil Idris.

Southern Africa: Himla Soodyall, Robin Crewe

Northern Africa: Mostapha Bousmina, Ismail Serageldin,

Central Africa: Maurice Tchuente, TBD

West Africa: Lamine Ndiaye, Norbert Hounkounou

3. Reflecting on criteria for the Editor in Chief and the competencies and experience of Prof. Driss Ouazar, the Bureau unanimously appointed him as the **Editor in Chief of ASRIC Journals**.

4. The Bureau will identify the Editors of the ASRIC Thematic Journals.

5. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to engage and communicate with the proposed editorial board members to confirm their acceptance of the membership.

On the discussion of ways to attract more scientists to publish their scientific findings in ASRIC Journal, the Bureau made the following guidelines:

a. The Secretariat is to utilize efficiently, the Database of the AUNS to ensure its members are informed about ASRIC Scientific Journal

b. The Secretariat is to circulate the information of the launching and publishing of the ASRIC scientific Journals to all National Academies of Sciences of AU Member States

c. The information on the ASRIC Journal is to be sent to the Global Young Scientists Academy (GYSA), AAU, NASAC, ICS among others.

d. The Secretariat is to notify Universities and Research Institutions in the AU Member States on the Publication of the ASRIC Journal.

VII. Presentation and Discussion on the Flagship Projects

Following the presentation made on the "Report on the ASRIC Flagship Projects Fiche Document", where 28 flagship projects where presented. The Following arised:

1. The Bureau appreciated and acknowledged the efforts made by the Secretariat on the Call and Compilation of the Fiche Document

2. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to re-launch the call and to modify the proposal guideline to include the following:

a. Assessment Scheme:

S/NO	ITEMS		POINTS	REMARKS
1	THE PROJECT THEME	Does project fit into the priorities of ASRIC and the Framework of STISA-2024	5	Very well-articulated = 5 Well-articulated = 3 Fairly-articulated = 2 Poorly-articulated = 0
2	THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Are they well-articulated?	10	Is the overall objective responding to the aim and the project priority area along with the challenges? (4pts) Do each of the detailed objectives contribute to achieve the Aim? (6pts)
3	METHODOLOGY AND	Are the methodologies appropriate and likely to lead to the deliverables?	15	Is the methodology well articulated and suffcient to ensure the achievement of of the research objectives in 2 above? (8pts) Are the implementation

				modalities explained in details? (2pts)
				Is the Methodology spelling out the role of each participating institution, who will do what ,when and how? (5pts)
4	DELIVERABLES/ EXPECTED RESULTS	Are the deliverables/expected results adequate and appropriate addressing the objectives	10	Are the deliverables and expected results clearly articulated and respond to the project objectives and ultimately contribute to the overall objective? (4pts) Are the deliverables and Expected results realistic and achievable through the methodology identified under 4 above? (6pts)
5	PARTNERSHIP	Does the Research Team represent partnership diversities (Academia Industry Cooperation; Multidisciplinary institution arrangement; Participation of Public Private Partnership; Gender representation)	5	1. Is the team representing the partnership comprised of: (a) 3 or more categories of the list in column 2 of this item ? (4pts) (b) less than 3 categories of the list in column 2 of this item ? (2pts) 2. Is there gender representation in the participation in the project? (1pt)
6	IMPACT	Is the Project likely to address the	10	1. The project has a potential of solving a

		community needs (market penetration; job creation; conflict resolution; problem solving; technology transfer, wealth creation among others)		socio-economic problem of a community. (5pts) 2. It has a component that may lead to technology adaptation or transfer. (3pts) 3. The project has a demand in African Market? (2pts)
7	SCIENTIFIC COMPETENCE OF THE RESEARCH TEAM	Does the Research team have sufficient competence to carry out the project? (Relevance, quality and quantity of publications; experience in research Management) This is to be judged by Cvs	15	Qualification of the Research Team. (2pts) Overall experience of Research Team. (3pts) Relevance of qualification and experience to the Project, Theme, Objective and Methodology. (10pts)
8	QUALITY OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROSPECTIVE	This to be judged by reflecting on the research output that includes publication and patents.	10	Can the research lead to the publication of high impact indexed papers? (7pts) Is there any potential for patents? (3pts)
9	CAPACITY BUILDING	Capacity building of the project team, beneficiaries, and the community	5	Does the project offer opportunities for capacity buildings of: a. Participants(3pts), b. Beneficiaries (1pt) c. Community (1pt)
10	BUDGET	Is the budget relevant and appropriate to the project?	5	How realistic and justifiable is the budget? Grade between 0 and 5pts
11	PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY	Can the project self-perpetuate after the granting period (In case the project's overall objective is beyond the time frame of the project?)	5	The Project is likely to achieve the overall objective within the time frame **OR** The Project has post project sustainability plans ad contingencies (5pts)

				The Project will not achieve the overall objective within the time frame neither has a post sustainability mitigation process in place. (0pts)
12	OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT	Are the priority areas, aim, the background, expected results well articulated and interlinked? Appropriateness of the project Management and schedule	5	Assessors overall recommendation : Grade between 0 and 5pts

b. Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria that is to be used in the administrative check for the proposed project that to be recognized as a flagship project. The criteria are:

- The project should address the priority area of STISA 2024 and respond to the criteria identified under the ASRIC flagship project of this call

- The project should involve at least in 3 Institutions allocated within 3 AU Member States

- The Budgetary contribution identified on the budget guideline could be considered in kind

c. Budget Development guideline

The following guidelines are to help those participating in the call to submit a strong and acceptable financial proposal (Budget)

- The participating institutions should contribute not less than 15 percent of the total amount requested.the contribution should be either in cash or in kind which might include institutional overheads

- The travel expenses along with meetings should not exceed 10 percent. The Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) should follow the UN Guidelines

- The Capacity Building that includes short term; and Msc and PhD grants should not exceed 15 percent of the total proposed budget

- The direct investment in the research project must not be less than 60 percent of the total amount of the project

1. The Call should last for at least 6months to enable scientists to submit their proposals.

2. The secretariat to write to those scientists that submitted the fiche documents to improve and re-submit along with the new ones.

3. The Bureau is to screen the newly submitted projects and recommend projects to further assessment, the assessment to be made by independent Committee that composed of 3 assessors. The cost of the assessment per project is tentatively 150 USD per project (1 Project assessment by 3 assessors will cost 450 USD). The Bureau Members are to propose the name of the assessors.

4. The Bureau unanimously agreed to use the project template earlier used as in page 34 of the ASRIC Flagship Fiche Document.

The Venue for the Next Bureau Meeting

After deliberation on this agenda item the following emerged;

1. The Bureau request the Secretariat to organize a joint Bureau meeting between ASRIC Bureau and the Bureau of the STC-EST

2. The Secretariat is to explore the possibilities of holding this meeting in ᵗhe week of june in kampala,Uganda

Any Other Business

1. Special Meeting with Prof. Moustaph Bousmina, President of Euro-Mediterranean University and Chancellor of the Hassan II Academy of Sciences

   - The University offered 10 PhD Scholarship slot to ASRIC towards building capacity of AU Members States in the field of Science and Technology and the ASRIC Secretariat to follow up with the University on the requirement of the candidates.

- The Bureau appreciates and applauds the University and the Vice Chancellor for the generous offer and the support in building the capacity of Africans and calls upon other African University to emulate this gesture.

2. Meeting of the Bureau Member with the Director of Cooperation and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Africa Cooperation and Moroccan Resident Outside.

   - The Director was informed by the Bureau Members of the actions taken so far on the hosting on the 3rd ASRIC Congress by the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology.

   - The Director affirmed her personal and the Ministry's support to the 3rd ASRIC Congress.

3. The Vice Chair for Science Mr. James Phiri informed the meeting on the hosting of the Zambia Academy of Science the 16th Annual Meeting of the African Science Academies (AMASA) under the auspices of the Network of African Science Academy (NASAC) that wil take place from 11 – 13 November 2020 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Adoption of the Report

The Report was presented by the Secretariat and was adopted by the ASRIC Bureau unanimously.

Closing Session

The meeting was closed by the Chair of the ASRIC Bureau **Prof. Ratemo W. Michieka** where he appreciated the members of the Bureau and the ASRIC Secretriat for organizing the 3rd ASRIC Bureau Meeting in Rabat and for the continued support of the members towards ASRIC activities.

The Executive Director of ASRIC **Dr. Ahmed Hamdy** equally appreciated the resilience of the members towards ASRIC programme. He further appreciated his entire staff of the AU-STRC for their support and commitment to ASRIC. He concluded by appreciating the host the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology for the overwhelming support and hospitality accorded to the ASRIC.