MINUTES OF 1ˢᵗ BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Skype)
08. 10. 2013 – 14HRS

Present

Dr. Nii Narku Quaynor, Chair

Prof. Michael Faborode (MF)

Dr. Venant Palanga (VP)

Dr. Ousmane Moussa Tessa (OT)

Dr. Boubakar Barry, CEO

Agenda

1. Welcome remarks by the Chair
2. Brief self-introductions of Board members
3. Update from the CEO
5. Update from the Chair
5. AOB

Minutes

Minute		Action by:
	1. Welcome remarks by the Chair	
001/13	The meeting started at 14:02hrs with the Chair welcoming all members present. He expressed his hope that there will be a strong commitment by all members and a good cooperation for the benefit of WACREN. The agenda was then presented and adopted unanimously.	
	2. Brief self-introductions of Board members	
002/13	All members present introduced themselves briefly. It appeared from the self-introductions that all are active in the higher education and research sector and involved in the NREN establishment and development process of the NRENs in their respective countries.	
	The Chair specifically requested from all Board members a strong support to the CEO. All committed themselves to their best to do so and to assist WACREN in its development.	

3. Update from the CEO

3.1. NREN Development

003/13   The CEO *informed* that there are encouraging developments in some countries in the region in regard to NREN development.

For instance, Nigeria is establishing high-capacity links between the 27 federal universities and the Network Management Center of NgREN. The NgREN network is close to being commissioned by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In Ghana, GARNET has negotiated with connectivity provider bandwidth prices that are attractive for GARNET members. Five institutions have already formally expressed their interest and it can be expected that the GARNET network will go live within the next few months.

snRER in Senegal has already connected 4 of its public universities to the government fibre backbone; a solution to connect the fifth university that is in an area not served by that backbone but where the NOC resides is being worked out.

Côte d'Ivoire has also reported progress regarding interconnection of its public universities, but the campus networks have yet to be upgraded/developed.

For NigerREN, discussions are underway for a link to Nigeria through the REN cluster SokREN, probably wirelessly.

3.2. Interconnection with GEANT

004/13   Discussions are *ongoing* with DANTE for the preparation of an interconnection between WACREN and GEANT, first through a Dakar-Paris or a Lagos-London link.

005/13   A router has *been donated* by Cisco through ISOC to support this interconnection. Arrangements are being made to get the equipment shipped to a data center in London.   CEO

006/13   An agreement is *being discussed* with the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN). Object of this agreement is primarily to share hosting space in a data center in London, in order to minimize cost. ASREN got also a router donation from Cisco/ISOC. It is intended to use this router to also cross-connect with the ASREN and the UbuntuNet Alliance networks.   CEO

3.3. Secretariat activities and membership issues

007/13   The CEO is currently using his former office at Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD), his university of origin. Resources have to be secured for a fully operational secretariat.

008/13   The CEO *informed* that an account has been opened for WACREN at ECOBANK Ghana; opening accounts in other countries of the region may be needed to ease operations. This will be dealt with when the need arises.

009/13   A process is underway to get from the Ghanaian government a NGO status for WACREN; this would give WACREN some advantages, including on tax issues.

	A facilitator has been contacted for this effect and part-payment of the service fees has already been made. This process is to be followed up by the CEO.	CEO
010/13	At the 1ˢᵗ AGM held in Abuja on 3ʳᵈ July 2013, it was *decided* that starting 2014, members have to pay their annual membership fees.	
	The CEO will contact the NRENs and remind them to make provision for the payment of their membership fees.	CEO
011/13	The CEO *proposed* that due to the annual schedules of activities relevant to research and education networks, it is advisable that the WACREN AGM be scheduled at a period that avoids clashes with other annual events that are always organized in the same period. He proposed to choose March for the WACREN AGM that should be combined with a conference. Despite the short time until next March, he proposed that WACREN should try to organize its next AGM in March 2014 and to combine it with a workshop.	
	He *informed* that first interactions with the NRENs on the matter showed that the organization of the next AGM in March 2014 is possible; NgREN even expressed its willingness to host it again.	CEO
	However, as it is important to give other NRENs the opportunity to host WACREN events, it is necessary to follow due process and to make a call in order to identify the host of the next AGM.	
	The Board *agreed* on this process.	
012/13	Generally, all members should be given the opportunity to play an active role in WACREN's operations and activities.	
	Member NRENs can for example be given the role of coordinating certain areas (network management, cyber security, identity federation, capacity building, etc.) and even given the mandate to provide related services on behalf of WACREN.	

3.4. Partnerships

013/13	The CEO *informed* that he has contacted current WACREN partners as well as potential partners and donors for the strengthening of the existing collaborations as well as well as the provision of support to WACREN for its operations and activities.	
	These contacts are in their very early stage and will followed up on in the coming months.	CEO

4. Update from the Chair

014/13	The Chair *informed* the Board that he has formalized the appointment of Dr. Boubakar Barry as WACREN CEO by sending him an appointment letter on behalf of the Board of Directors.
015/13	The appointment letter does contain neither a remuneration offer nor conditions of service for the CEO. He agreed to wait until the Board comes up with an offer.
	The Chair *announced* that he will set up a Remuneration Committee that will work on an appropriate remuneration for the CEO, taking into consideration common practices in organizations similar to WACREN.

He *informed* that he will appoint by the next week two (2) Board Members as well as one person external to the Board to form the 4-member Committee that will be chaired by him. The Committee should then come up with a proposal in not more than three (3) months.

Chair

016/13 The Chair further *informed* that a letter has been sent to the Rector of UCAD, where the CEO was expected to resume office in October 2013, with the request for UCAD to allow the CEO to be on secondment for WACREN for one year.

The regular salary for UCAD staff would be paid to the CEO and WACREN would secure resources to pay the difference. This arrangement would allow the CEO to have some resources while working on fundraising for an adequate funding of WACREN's operations and activities.
The CEO to follow up on this with UCAD's authorities.

CEO

5. AOB

017/13 It was *acknowledged* seen as important for WACREN to grow its network by involving as many players as possible. Especially, regular contact should be maintained with the Regional Economic Communities and other regional and international organizations (ECOWAS, CEMAC, UEMOA, etc.).

018/14 The Board *recommended* the Secretariat to encourage and support the establishment of Network Operators Groups, training centers, etc.

019/14 The Board *requested* the CEO to ask Mr. Omo Oaiya, who has represented WACREN in various projects, to list the projects WACREN is currently involved in and to give an update on their status.
However, WACREN should focus on new projects and improve its visibility.

CEO

020/14 The Board also *acknowledged* the fact that due the important of communication, WACREN should improve its visibility.

Closing

021/14 The meeting was *adjourned* at 14:58hrs.