

HIGHLIGHT ON STEP-B PROJECT CR. ID NO P.0174132

**PRESENTED AT THE *NIGERIA ICT FORUM
OF PARTNERSHIP INSTITUTIONS SEMINAR***

HELD AT

Digital Bridge Institute

on

24TH JULY, 2007

**Prof. M. U. Adikwu
National Project Coordinator**



Analytical and Consultative Reports Done in Preparation for the STEP-B Project

Nigeria STEP-B: 6 Technical Background Studies were carried out:

1. Review of policies in science, technology and innovation in the Science and Technology at Post-Basic Education level
2. Financing trends and expenditure patterns in Nigerian Post-Basic Education: A Focus on Science & Technology



CONTD.

3. Teaching and learning, curricula and assessment practices
4. E-learning
5. Labour Market Responsiveness in Nigeria
- A study of the supply and demand for S&T graduates
6. Improving E-Readiness of Nigerian Higher Education Institutions



CONCEPTION OF STEP-B PROJECT

- The above study informed the conception of the STEP-B Project
- The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) with support from the World Bank is thus implementing a Science and Technology Education at the Post Basic level (STEPB) project whose objective



CONTD.

- The STEPB project targets only the science and technology (S&T)-related federal post-basic education institutions i.e. senior secondary schools, polytechnics, colleges of education, universities and research institutes



STEPB Project Vision and Desired Impact

The vision underlying the STEPB Project is for a strong S&T-led growth for Nigeria. The project aims to achieve impact by strengthening the capacity of federal post-basic education institutions and their management systems to deliver high quality products that are relevant to the country's S&T-related needs; and by sensitizing the broader stakeholder community in Nigeria on the critical role of S&T to enhance economic transformation and human development within an increasingly globalizing world.



Specifically, the project will:

- Improve the quality of teaching and learning in federal post-basic S&T institutions
- Strengthen S&T research capacity in tertiary institutions, including skills to transition from research output to commercializable products and services
- Support a few selected institutions that have the potential to eventually become centers of excellence in key areas deemed critical to national development



CONTD.

- Address cross-cutting sector-wide issues in S&T policy, management and development that have a national character and whose implementation will have an impact beyond the lifetime of the project
- Compared to the magnitude of the challenges facing the STEPB sub-sector in Nigeria, the STEPB Project is relatively quite small. Thus, the project is designed to avoid spreading funding over many activities. Instead, a few key activities will be selected and adequately funded to produce visible results that have a demonstrable effect.



STEP-B PROJECT COMPONENTS

- **Component 1 - Quality Enhancement and Innovation Fund (QEIF).**
 - **Component 2 - Supporting the emergence of centers of excellence**
 - **Component 3 - Supporting sector-wide initiatives**
- 

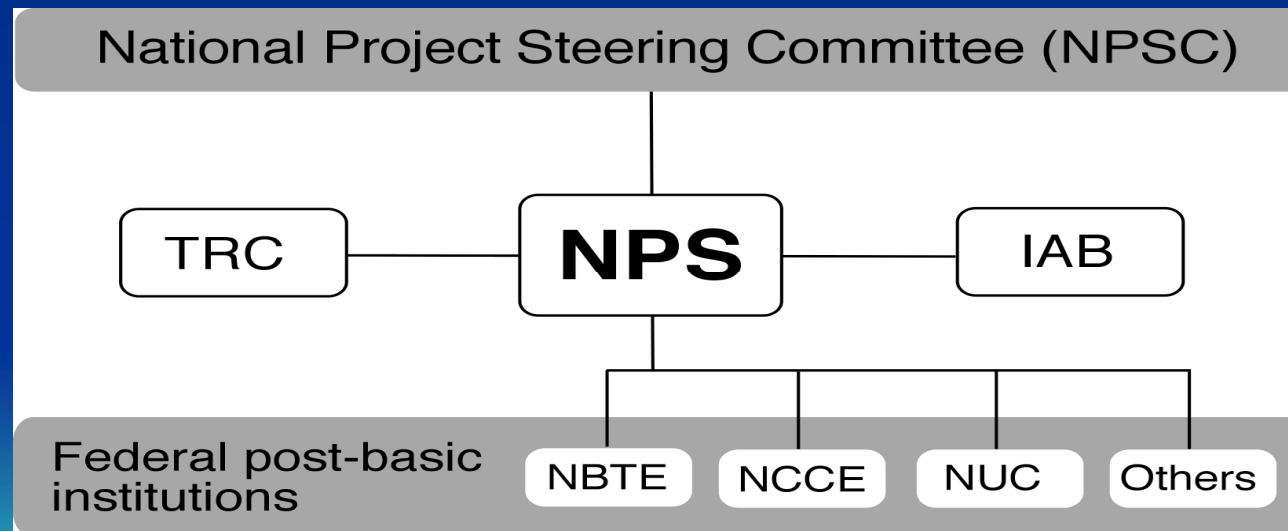
Implementation Structure

- The Federal Ministry of Education (FME) will be the coordinating and implementing agency for the STEPB project, working in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST), the Federal Ministry of Finance and the World Bank. The project will be implemented in accordance with the organizational structure shown below.



Organization structure and composition

- The figure below depicts the relationship between the implementation organs described.



CONTD.

- The project will be overseen by the **National Project Steering Committee** (NPSC) which may have up to 15 members appointed by the Minister, FME. The function of the National Project Steering Committee is to oversee the implementation of the STEPB project in accordance with the project documents and provide policy guidance for the project.
- The HME shall approve annual work plans and budgets, select institutions/clusters of institutions to be developed into centers of excellence status and review project progress & annual reports prepared by the National Project Secretariat. The NPSC will advise the FME and the World Bank on the progress of the report as necessary. The Minister, FME or his/her designate will appoint the other members and chair the Committee. The PS of FME will be the deputy chairperson.

CONTD.

- The **National Project Secretariat** will be charged with the day to day administration and management of implementing the STEPB project. The National Project Coordinator will be the head of the Project Secretariat and will have the overall responsibility for the secretariat and project implementation. The Project Secretariat will perform all administrative, procurement, financial, auditing. etc, in accordance with the procedures agreed to between the FGN and World Bank.
- The role of the **Technical Review Committee** is to review award proposals under components 1 and 2 after referral by National Project Secretariat, evaluate each proposal according to the criteria and scoring methods agreed to, create short lists of finalists for each grant category and recommend those winning proposals for grant awards



STEPB Project implementation will adhere to international best-practice rules for competitive allocation of research/project resources, including:

- *Transparency and rule-bound operating procedures.* Project rules and procedures will be widely and readily disseminated, and information on the STEPB Project will routinely be made available publicly in a timely manner particularly on our website.
- *Merit-based selection.* Grants will be chosen according to clearly defined criteria, disseminated to all potential grant proponents. Selection will rely on the use of qualified scientific peers who constitute the membership of the Technical Review Committee for grant proposal review. Feedback on proposals will be provided to all proponents.
- *Avoidance of conflict-of-interest.* Members of the Technical Committee and other decision-makers will not decide on issues where they have a material interest in the outcome. Members of the STEPB Steering Committee, the Technical Review Committee, and the STEPB Project Secretariat are not eligible to compete for, or participate in, STEPB Project grant activities.

Contd.

- *Safe, ethical and environmentally acceptable research.* Funded research teams and other participants will adhere to appropriate project-specific and national guidelines on safe and ethical conduct of research (bio-safety, laboratory safety, informed consent, etc.)
- *Accountability.* All sponsored STEPB Project participants will be accountable for scientific and technological results, progress toward activity objectives, and timely and accountable use of resources. Regular reporting following the pre-determined formats described in the PAD or PIM is mandatory for all STEPB Project participants.
- *Confidentiality.* All those involved in the review and/or administration of the STEPB Project will respect appropriate guidelines for confidentiality of proposals and related information.



PROGRESS SO FAR

In order to see the early take-off of the project we have been working very hard on various facets of the preparatory stages. Many of our vital documents and applications have been approved while some will require fine-tuning.



CONTD.

- The National Project Steering Committee has been inaugurated and names and portfolios forwarded to the World Bank.
- The first meeting of the National Project Steering meeting was held on the 21st of June, 2007. During that meeting various vital decisions were taken.



CONTD.

- The lists of Technical Review Committee (TRC) and International Advisory Board (IAB) were approved by the National Project Steering Committee. This has been sent to the World Bank and the reviewed lists are receiving attention.
- The strategy to be used for setting up the centres of excellence in the selected institutions was also agreed upon during the NPSC meeting of 21st June, 2007. It was agreed that it should be based on national needs and sustainability.
- We have scrutinized all the proposals already submitted to see those that meet the criteria for assessment so that they can be sent for review.



CONTD.

- An advertisement for the core staff has been published in four (4) Nigerian Newspapers-Daily Champion, New Nigeria, ThisDay and Tribune and interview conducted.
- Our request for an external auditor has been approved and the firm concerned notified.



CONTD.

- A General Procurement Notice (GPN) for the project has been advertised on the Development Gateway online. the same has been advertised in three Nigerian Newspapers- New Nigeria, ThisDay and Tribune.
- After the publication of the GPN, people are already expressing interest according to various categories-goods, training and consultancy.



THE WAY FORWARD

- Once the final fine-tuning is done of the IAB and TRC members the proposals already submitted will be reviewed.
- There is need for sensitization visits to the institutions to further clarify certain aspects of the Grant Proposal Preparation Guidelines (GPPG).
- Sustainable relationship and collaboration especially in the area of Technical assistance is very paramount with Private Sector and Development Partners.
- A lot more of active and participatory involvement of stakeholders in the STEP-B Project activities is necessary

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

- THE NATIONAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
STEP-B NATIONAL PROJECT SECRETARIAT,
ABUJA.
- TELEPHONE NUMBER: 09-710648-9.
- Email: npc_stepb@yahoo.co.uk
- Web site: www.stepbnigeria.org



THANK YOU

