



**THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTERPRISE EDUCATION (ACEEE)**

--- accrediting for entrepreneurial excellence and leadership

**THE ACCREDITATION DIVISION OF INSTITUTE OF CLASSIC
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, NIGERIA (ICENT)**

ACEEE CONSTITUTION 2021

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ARTICLE ONE

Name

The name of this organisation is The Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Education, a nonprofit, non-governmental subsidiary of Institute of Classic Entrepreneurship, Nigeria (ICENT) – established with Corporate Charter by Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C20, LFN, 2004, hereinafter referred to as “ACEEE”.

ACEEE is a federation of member institutes under the umbrella association of **The Global Confederation of Entrepreneurship Institutes (Home of Entrepreneurship and Innovation)**, convened by Institute of Classic Entrepreneurship, Nigeria. These institutes and their individual members collaborate through ACEEE to develop standards of quality, known as ACEEE Criteria, on which our review teams base their evaluations of programmes under consideration for accreditation.

ICENT is Africa's foremost institute of entrepreneurship with superlative expertise in the production of successful entrepreneurs by building capacity in entrepreneurship, innovation management and small business management of all kinds, through offering of a powerful formula that not only equips people with a well-rounded and internationally-relevant entrepreneurship education based on an internationally-competitive curriculum, but also provides them with extensive practical experience, effective mentoring and industry-relevant skills required for turning ideas into viable businesses.

ARTICLE TWO

Purposes, Goals and Activities

The main objective of ACEEE is accreditation for entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes, making assessment in order to contribute to enhancing the quality of entrepreneurship and enterprise education within and outside Nigeria. Thus, it is aimed to improve the welfare of the institute by educating people to be better educated and more qualified entrepreneurship professionals equipped with a well-rounded and internationally-relevant entrepreneurship and enterprise education based on an internationally-competitive curriculum, but also provides them with extensive practical experience, effective mentoring and industry-relevant skills required for turning ideas into viable businesses. Below are the purposes:

A. The Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Education (ACEEE) is the only globally-operating quality assurance body with a focus entrepreneurship and enterprise education in Tertiary Education. As such, ACEEE strives to lead the way in a new era for higher education through evaluating, supporting and igniting the potential of Tertiary Institutions on their road to third mission excellence.

B. To further the public welfare, ACEEE assures quality through the accreditation of educational programmes, thereby assuring the competence of graduates entering professional practice. ACEEE accomplishes this through the development and promulgation of accreditation criteria.

C. ACEEE will help assure educational quality within the academic community by stimulating innovation, fostering continuous improvement, and facilitating the strategic planning needed to achieve these goals.

D. Educational programmes of interest to ACEEE include applied science, computing, engineering, engineering technology, and other such disciplines as may be approved by the ACEEE Board of Directors

E. In support of the programmes described, ACEEE will engage in other appropriate projects and programmes.

Goals

1. Evaluating and accrediting entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes upon the application of institutions

2. Continuously monitoring the current and future needs of the stakeholders of entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes

3. Organising meetings such as national and international courses, seminars, conferences, panels, workshops etc. and supporting the other activities within this scope

4. Communicating, cooperating, conducting joint projects, helping each other with national and international associations, professional organisations and accreditation bodies related to education, evaluation and accreditation

5. To prepare the accreditation processes of entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes and the sustainable infrastructure for graduate programmes

6. To adapt entrepreneurship and enterprise education accreditation processes to national and international external quality assessment processes

Activities

In line with this purpose, ACEEE aims to advance the welfare of the society by educating people to be better educated and more qualified entrepreneurship professionals equipped with a well-rounded and internationally-relevant entrepreneurship and enterprise education based on an internationally-competitive curriculum, but also provides them with extensive practical experience, effective mentoring and industry-relevant skills required for turning ideas into viable businesses.

ACEEE carries out the following activities as stated in the association's statute in order to realise its establishment goals:

1. Evaluating and accrediting entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes upon the application of institutions,

2. Conducting the selection and training of evaluators to take part in accreditation studies,

3. Informing and training the programme managers and faculty members about programme evaluation,
4. Constantly monitoring the current and future needs of the stakeholders of entrepreneurship and enterprise education programmes, to determine the programme evaluation criteria, to review and renew the evaluation criteria and processes when necessary,
5. Organising courses, seminars, conferences, panels, workshops etc. meetings at national and international level in order to realise its goals, and supporting the activities within this scope,
6. Communicating, cooperating, carrying out joint projects, helping each other with national and international associations, professional organisations and accreditation organisations regarding education, evaluation and accreditation,
7. Making international mutual and multilateral recognition agreements,
8. Being a member of relevant national and international organisations,
9. To make or have it made examinations and researches for the activation and development of its activities,
10. To obtain all kinds of information, documents and publications required to achieve their objectives, to establish a documentation centre, to create a web page, to announce their work, publishing publications such as newspapers, magazines, books, and to distribute them to their members, To prepare relevant printed, audio-visual material, to disseminate by mail and e-mail,
11. Establishing and operating economic, commercial and industrial enterprises, or partnering with similar-purpose enterprises in order to obtain the incomes needed to achieve their goals
12. Buying, selling, renting and leasing movables and immovables and establishing the same right on immovables, which are needed for activities,
13. Establishing a federation or joining an established federation if deemed necessary for the realisation of the purpose, establishing facilities that associations can establish with permission by obtaining the necessary permissions, establishing foundation associations with some of their properties,
14. To carry out joint projects with public institutions and organisations in matters that fall within their scope of duty, without prejudice to the provisions of relevant laws.
15. To create platforms to achieve a common goal with other associations, foundations, unions, unions and similar non-governmental organisations in areas related to its objectives and not prohibited by law.

ARTICLE THREE

Members

ACEEE is a nonprofit, non-governmental subsidiary of the Global Academy of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (GAEIN) – established with Corporate Charter by Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C20, LFN, 2004. ACEEE is a federation of member institutes under the umbrella association of **The Global Confederation of Entrepreneurship Institutes (Home of Entrepreneurship and Innovation)**. These institutes and their individual members collaborate through ACEEE to develop standards of quality, known as ACEEE Criteria, on which our review teams base their evaluations of programmes under consideration for accreditation.

ARTICLE FOUR

Admissions

A. Organisations meeting the conditions of provisions B and C of this Article whose goals can effectively support those of ACEEE may qualify for admission as Member, Associate Member or affiliate of ACEEE.

B. Characteristics that support organisation eligibility for Member status include the following:

1. Active engagement in the dissemination of entrepreneurship and enterprise management knowledge;
2. Demonstrated interest and capability in the accreditation process;
3. Substantial membership of employed graduates in the discipline;
4. An organisational structure that has an educational component; and
5. Evidence the institute speaks for the entrepreneurship community it represents.

C. Applicants for admission as a Member must demonstrate they would have responsibility for a discipline within entrepreneurship, enterprise management, MSME, innovation management, vocational training or other such disciplines as may be appropriate, at the post- secondary level.

D. Approval of an application for membership as a Member or an Associate Member is by majority vote of the Board of Directors, with the recommendation by the Board of Delegates and subsequent ratification by at least two-thirds of the governing bodies of the Members.

E. Organisations not meeting the eligibility requirements in Article Four provision B, but having interest in education for entrepreneurship, enterprise management, MSME, innovation management, vocational training, or other such disciplines as may be appropriate and whose goals can effectively support those of ACEEE may qualify for admission as Associate Member of ACEEE.

F. Applications for membership as Associate Members must be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors, with the recommendation by the Board of Delegates and subsequent ratification by the governing bodies of at least two-thirds of the governing bodies of the Member Institutes.

ARTICLE FIVE

Withdrawal

A. A member may only withdraw from ACEEE effective at the end of an ACEEE fiscal year. Upon withdrawal, the member shall forfeit the equity, if any, it has in the assets of ACEEE and shall cease to have any rights or privileges in ACEEE. The member shall continue to be liable for any fiscal assessments until the effective date of withdrawal.

B. Whenever a member fails to meet its responsibilities to ACEEE, such failure shall, at the option of the Board of Directors, constitute a request by the member to withdraw from ACEEE.

ARTICLE SIX

Board of Directors

A. The governing body of ACEEE shall be the Board of Directors.

B. The Board of Directors shall establish those policies and procedures needed to carry out the purposes defined in Article Two. It shall establish and modify as needed the Constitution, subject to the ratification procedure defined in Article Eleven. It shall establish the annual budget and member assessment formula and in all other ways maintain responsibility for the well-being of ACEEE. The Board of Directors delegates authority for establishing and revising accreditation policies, procedures and criteria to the Board of Delegates (Article Seven) with the constraint that compliance is maintained with all requirements of Recognitions, Accords, and Agreements in which the Board of Directors has committed ACEEE to be a participant.

C. The Board of Directors shall be composed of those individuals who serve as officers (Article Eight), one Director for each Area Delegation elected by each respective Area Delegation (Article Seven) established in accordance with ACEEE Bylaws, one Public Director, and two At-Large Directors each elected by the voting members of the Board of Delegates.

D. Public and At-Large Directors are individuals of trust and responsibility in their communities. At-Large Directors shall be leaders, one from Higher Education and the other from Industry or Government, each with expertise in at least one area ACEEE accredits. The Public Director shall not otherwise be affiliated with the specific professions represented by ACEEE. These Public and At-Large Directors enjoy all the privileges of governance including voting. Their qualifications, and terms of service are defined in the Bylaws.

E. Terms of service for members of the Board of Directors, including starting dates and duration, are set forth in the Bylaws. Should a vacancy occur during a term of service, the Board of Delegates, or the Area Delegation of the Board of Delegates (Article Seven), as appropriate for the vacated seat, shall elect another Director to complete the term. Completion of an unexpired term will not be counted toward the total allowable period of service.

F. A quorum of the Board of Directors exists at a meeting when there is a majority of voting Directors present. The Board of Directors will establish and follow rules for voting.

G. The Board of Directors shall schedule meetings to conduct its business. Special meetings may be called by the President, by at least three other members of the Board of Directors, or by at least 15% of the Member Institutes acting through their respective chief staff officers. Agenda items to be addressed at a special meeting will be included in the call for said meeting. All meetings will follow an established agenda that will be promulgated according to rules set by the Board of Directors. Methods for dealing with exceptions to the agenda shall be set by the Board of Directors.

H. Actions of the Board of Directors will be recorded in an official report that will be made publicly available and sent to each Member and Associate Member Institute. The Board of Directors will publish reports annually that 1) detail accomplishments of ACEEE, 2) provide a financial statement, and 3) provide a budget for the coming year.

I. Stewardship and fiduciary responsibility for ACEEE assets shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer, under the direction of the Board of Directors, shall have general supervision of the fiscal affairs of ACEEE and shall be responsible for the keeping of records thereof. ACEEE shall obtain an annual audit of its financial operation by an independent certified public accountant whose selection shall be approved annually by the Board of Directors.

J. The Governing Council of the parent organisation- The Global Academy of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, shall have power to do anything, including overriding the decision of the ACEEE's Board of Directors, which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of the activities of the ACEEE.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Board of Delegates

A. Delegates are selected and appointed by their Member Institutes, with each Member Institute appointing at least one but not more than three Delegates. The number of additional Delegates above the minimum number for each Member Institute depends on the number of accredited programmes for which the Institute is responsible according to a formula set forth in the Bylaws. In the case of Associate Member Institutes, the Institute shall appoint one Associate Delegate.

B. At times, the Board of Delegates shall operate in Area Delegations, one for each accreditation Commission Area of ACEEE. The number of delegates from each Member Institute appointed to an Area Delegation depends on the number of accredited programmes in the respective Commission Area for which the Institute is responsible according to a formula set forth in the Bylaws used to constitute the Board of Delegates. However, no Delegate will be seated on an Area Delegation by a Member Institute with no programmes for which it is responsible with the following exceptions:

1. A Member Institute with co-lead or cooperating status for programmes within a Commission area will be allotted one seat on the associated Area Delegation if it does not already have an allotted seat;

2. ICENT, GAEIN, ATIME, ACSBE, IIFEM and YELEAD each shall have one seat on each of the delegate or accreditation areas; and,

3. Associate Member Institutes may have a non-voting seat on any Area Delegation(s) in which they have an interest. The Bylaws will establish processes for authorising alternate delegates to serve on either the Board of Delegates or an Area Delegation in the event that scheduling conflicts prevent a Delegate from serving at a meeting.

C. The President-Elect (Article Eight) shall serve as the non-voting Chair of the Board of Delegates. The Directors elected by the Area Delegation shall also serve as non-voting Chairs for the respective Area Delegation. Secretaries for the Board of Delegates and Area Delegations shall be selected from the delegates sitting on those respective bodies, and the Secretaries shall continue to represent their Member or Associate Member Institute.

D. Terms of service for members of the Board of Delegates, including starting dates and duration, are set forth in the Bylaws. Should a vacancy occur during a term of service, the Member Institute or Associate Member Institute shall select another Delegate or Associate Delegate to complete the term. Completion of an unexpired term will not be counted toward the total allowable period of service.

E. Associate Delegates appointed by Associate Member Institutes enjoy the full privileges of debate and discussion within the Board of Delegates, but are without vote.

F. A quorum of the Board of Delegates or individual Area Delegation exists at a meeting when there is a majority of voting Delegates present and at least two-thirds of the Member Institutes serving on the body are represented by at least one Delegate. The Board of Delegates will establish rules for voting for the Board of Delegates and the Area Delegations.

G. The Board of Delegates shall schedule meetings to conduct business. Special meetings may be called by the President-Elect or at least 15% of the Member Institutes acting through their respective chief staff officer. All meetings will follow an established agenda that will be promulgated according to the rules set by the Board of Delegates. Methods for dealing with exceptions to the agenda shall be set by the Board of Delegates.

H. A report on the actions of the Board of Delegates and Area Delegations will be provided to the Board of Directors, and these actions will be communicated to each Member and Associate Member Institute and to the public.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Officers

A. The officers of ACEEE shall be a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers will each serve a one-year term except for the Treasurer who will serve a two-year term.

B. The officers of ACEEE shall be elected by the voting members of the Board of Delegates. No individual may serve as President for more than one term of office, not including that portion [if any] of the unexpired term of the preceding President.

C. Officers shall be nominated by a Nomination Committee composed of members of the Board of Directors and Board of Delegates. The President-Elect serves a one year term of office and shall thereafter hold the office of President for the subsequent year and the office of Immediate Past President for the year subsequent thereto.

D. In the event that any officer other than the President is unable to perform the requisite duties, the Board of Delegates shall elect a replacement. Should the President become unable to perform the requisite duties, the President-Elect shall assume the position.

ARTICLE NINE

Accreditation

A. In pursuit of its purposes (Article Two), ACEEE will conduct accreditation of educational programmes.

B. The ACEEE Board of Directors delegates responsibilities for conducting accreditation activities to the Accreditation Commissions. Appointments of members to the Accreditation Commissions are approved by the Board of Delegates' Area Delegations.

C. The Accreditation Commissions are responsible for conducting accreditation evaluations of educational programmes and rendering decisions on these programmes based on policies and accreditation criteria that have been approved by the Board of Delegates or appropriate Area Delegation. The Accreditation Commissions shall make final decisions, except for appeals, of accreditation actions. In the event of an appeal of a commission's action, the Board of Directors shall render the final decision on behalf of ACEEE.

D. Each Accreditation Commission is responsible for the continuous review and improvement of its particular criteria, policies, and procedures. All changes to the area-specific parts of the accreditation criteria require approval by the appropriate Area Delegation; changes to other parts of the accreditation criteria and changes to the accreditation policies require approval by the Board of Delegates. The Board of Delegates will determine the means for obtaining these approvals.

ARTICLE TEN

ACEEE Bylaws

ACEEE Bylaws shall define the basic implementation of this Constitution and the interaction of the Board of Directors and Board of Delegates. As such, and as specified in the Bylaws, a mechanism shall exist so that either body can propose changes to the Bylaws and any such changes shall require the approval of both bodies and review by the Member Institutes.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at any meeting of the Board of Directors, by the President or by at least 15% of the Member Institutes acting through their representative chief staff officers. Proposed amendments shall be circulated with the agenda of the next Board of Directors meeting. Approval of amendments requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors and subsequent ratification by the governing boards of at least two-thirds of the Member Institutes.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Dissolution

The ACEEE may be dissolved by the Governing Council of the Board of Trustees of The Global Confederation of Entrepreneurship Institutes in accordance with the relevant law.



Nuru Oyekola
Secretary