



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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## Interview with Engr. Esther Gonda on Telecommunication

*Engr. Esther Gonda is a telecoms engineer and has experience in teaching. She joined the civil service as a deputy director in the Ministry of Communication after which she rose to the level of a director. Engr. Esther Gonda is now a Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation.*



Engr. Esther Gonda

**E-Newsletter:** *What can you tell us about telecommunication in the country?*

**Engr. Esther:** I think Telecommunication should be cited as a great success of deregulation of any particular sector. It was difficult at first because of entrenched interest but I think everybody can now say that they are reaping the dividend of telecommunication as the industry was opened to more participants. Then we could see that Nigerians who have not thought of telephones and telephone services as something that could be enjoyed, are now enjoying such services. Virtually in all areas of the country we have some form of services and there is great room for improvement. There is great room for improvement in terms of the spread of the services, variety of the services that are affordable, the quality of service and so forth; but there are challenges and I expect that the Telecoms service providers are now working to see that they will improve on their services and give Nigerians a great variety that they need. The Nigerian population are young people and these are the generation that need to con-

tact one another, be able to network at anytime and be able to expand their horizon to opportunities that are available. I think this is something that the telecom service providers should be able to do. The Information Technology industry as a whole should ensure that the youths of this country that are very intelligent, very dynamic, are able to leapfrog into areas that they are not exposed to, so that they can see what other youths have been able to do in other parts of the world. So I think it is a very great industry, it has done well for itself and we can say Nigerians have reaped its dividend.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much Madam. How best do you think the challenges can be tackled?*

**Engr. Esther:** Well we are all aware of our great national obstacle that is the power sector. The telecoms service providers have always cried that they provide the power they use. I think that if that is crushed or that obstacle is overcome, it will help a lot and it will help also on the consumer side for the people who cannot access the services in the rural areas. This I think will help a lot if we can deal with the power sector. In the area of education, the curriculum needs to be updated so that young people can be equipped with the skills; the competence that they need to really optimize all the opportunities that are available to them. These are some of the challenges that I think we need to look into.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much madam.*

The Executive Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch led by the branch chairman Engr. Denis Dania MNSE, paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Engr. Tele Ikuru FNSE, on Thursday 12th April 2012 in Rivers State Government House, Port Harcourt.



Engr. Denis Dania MNSE (left) & some EXCO members



Engr. Tele Ikuru FNSE, Deputy Governor, Rivers State



The Internet Society celebrated its 20th Anniversary and Global INET on 23th and 24th April,

2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. Present at the event were personalities like Vint Cerf (Vice President of Google & Chief Internet Evangelist who is widely known as Father of the Internet. He is a co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the internet), Leonard Kleinrock (Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, UCLA & he pioneered the mathematical theory of packet networks, the technology underpinning the internet), Jimmy Wales (founder of Wikipedia), Mitchell Baker (leader of the Mozilla Firefox web browser) and others who over the years had contributed to the growth of the internet.

The E-Newsletter team of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt were in attendance and had interviews with:

1. Leonard Kleinrock
2. Lynn St. Amour (President of Internet Society)
3. Elizabeth Feinler (ARPANET)
4. Nii Quaynor (A Ghanaian & the Father of Internet in Africa)
5. Engr. Ernest Ndukwe (Former Executive Vice Chairman of Nigerian Communications Commission)
6. Dr. Tex Wariboko (Coordinator of NEPAD in Rivers State & Special Advice to the Rivers State Governor on NEPAD was spotted in the event and was interviewed).
7. Stefano Trumpy (Was part of the .ng domain creation)



Lynn St. Amour (President, CEO of Internet Society)



Leonard Kleinrock (left) & Vint Cerf at the event



NSE PH Branch EXCO members in a meeting on Thursday 12th April 2012 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat, Port Harcourt. The meeting was chaired by the branch chairman Engr. Denis Dania MNSE.

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch led by the branch chairman Engr. Denis Dania MNSE, went on a technical visit to Laser Engineering Limited, Port Harcourt, on Tuesday 10th April 2012. Also in the NSE PH Branch team was Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE.



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**NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE PH should pay their **Annual Branch Dues of N4,500 for Corporate Members and N6,500 for Fellows to UBA ACC. NO: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription of N7,500.00 for Corporate Members & N9,500 for Fellows** directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank