



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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website: [www.nseph.org](http://www.nseph.org)

e-mail: [info@nseph.org](mailto:info@nseph.org)

AUGUST, 25TH 2012

## Interview with Engr. Prof. Josiah Ayotamuno on Industry-Academia Collaboration.

**Engr. Prof. Josiah Miebaka Ayotamuno**, is the Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt. He was the Head of Electrical/Electronic Engineering Department before he became the Dean of the Engineering Faculty.



Engr. Prof. Ayotamuno

**E-Newsletter:** *Sir what can you tell us about research and development in relation to the academia and the industry using Niger Delta as a case study?*

**Prof. Ayotamuno:** I think there is virtually no collaboration between the industry and academia in the Niger Delta. Also, there is no corporation in the researches that are being done in the Niger Delta universities; be it Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), University of Port Harcourt (Uniport), Niger Delta University (NDU) and all that. What happens in other countries is; where the industries have problems they go to the universities for solutions to those problems. The industries give

universities grants by funding researches to find solutions to those problems but you hardly find such in the industries that you have in the Niger Delta which is actually the hob of development. There has to be synergy between the industries in the Niger Delta and the universities; we expect that to happen but that is not happening. What you find is most of the problems in the industries are carried out to research bodies and universities abroad and huge sums of money are been taken out; capital flight out of the Niger Delta. In other places you find out that virtually all the researches are done at the level of post graduate studies; that is, Masters and PhD which are sponsored by industries. You see post graduate students especially PhD students are working under professors who have been given grants and they in turn give scholarship to these PhD students to carry out research on the problems encountered by industries. Sometimes, say once a week or twice a month you see students and the professors go to these industries and have meetings and see how far the solution(s) has helped and by so doing there is that relationship and at the end of the day the country have growth within that area but you hardly find this in our region. Most of our researches are just within the universities, nothing more. We just do research and that is all. Some of us publish in international journals and most of our findings are just within the books.

.... continued in page 2

## The Nigerian Society of Engineers 3 Days Refreshers for Prospective Members Held in Port Harcourt on Wednesday 15th— Friday 17th August 2012.



**Interview with Engr. Prof. Ayotamuno ...continued**

**E-Newsletter:** *Ok sir. What do you think could be the cause of the gap between the academia and the industries?*

**Prof. Ayotamuno:** The gap may be because there have not been any concerted efforts or policies by the government to compel or speak especially to the multinational industries to carry out or find solutions to their problems within the universities. The government should develop a policy that will compel these industries to find solutions to their problems in the universities in the Niger Delta. I think they will do everything possible to please the government of the day and by so doing, we will find ourselves solving some of their problems and if that is also done you will realize that the industries will now sit up and also invest in universities. They will be very interested and will want to establish proper laboratories in various universities around and ensure that we have the best of teaching facilities. We may even have exchange programmes like collaboration between those professors from abroad and the ones here. You will realize that there will be lots of exchange of knowledge but as long as there is no such policy that will compel the industries to look at the direction of the universities, they will continue to depend on universities outside the country to give them solutions and some monies that would have helped to develop our universities is been spent to develop other universities.

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

**3 Story Building Collapsed in Port Harcourt.**

A 3 story building under construction collapsed on Saturday 4th August 2012 at No. 3 Ekere Street, Rumubiakani, near Shell Industrial Area (IA), Port Harcourt. A team of engineers have been dispatched to the site to investigate what caused the building to collapse.



**COREN**  
 COUNCIL FOR THE REGULATION OF  
 ENGINEERING IN NIGERIA  
 Announces the  
**21st COREN  
 ENGINEERING  
 ASSEMBLY.**  
**Theme:**  
**ENGINEERING CAPACITY, INTEGRITY AND  
 NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**  
**Venue:** International Conference Center, Abuja  
**Date:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.  
**Time:** 9.00 am  
**Registration:**  
**Engineers & Technologists:** N15,000 Pre-Registration on or before 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2012 and N20,000 after 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012  
**Technicians & Craftsmen:** N7,500 Flat

**The Nigerian Society of Engineers**  
 announces its  
**NATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION  
 AND  
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**"HARMONY 2012"**  
**Theme:**  
**Strategies**  
 for Promotion of  
 Sustainable **Technology-Based**  
 and **Production-Driven** Economy  
 in Nigeria

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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: 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription of N9,000.00 for Corporate Members & N11,000 for Fellows** directly to **Main Street Bank ACC No. 6500374224** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank