



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



2013 / VOLUME 166

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JUNE 1, 2013

## Interview with Engr. Reginald Ike Odiah on the Challenges of Engineering in Industries.

*Engr. Reginald Ike Odiah is the Managing Director of Benet Industries Limited. He is also the Chairman of the Electrical/Electronic Sectorial Group of the Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN). He is a member of council of MAN, the chairman of the standing committee and infrastructure committee of MAN.*



Engr. Reginald Ike Odiah

**E-Newsletter:** *As an engineer who has practiced in the industry and who is working as an entrepreneur, what can you say are the challenges of engineering in the industry at large?*

**Engr. Reginald:** Thank you very much. Benet Industries was established in Nigeria in 1982 and we actually started manufacturing in 1984. As an electrical engineer, I found manufacturing in Nigeria interesting and I thought it is the right way to go. But the challenges of manufacturing in Nigeria is the issue of infrastructure. Infrastructure deficiency in Nigeria is making manufacturing most difficult. The number one problem is electrical power, because in manufacturing electricity is the key issue that turns your machine and equipment. The other one of cause is road, you have water, security and all these put together and of cause government attitude to the private sector (to manufactures). It is only recently that government is showing some level of interest in encouraging local manufactur-

ing and local entrepreneurs. In the past it was a situation of everybody on his own, bearing the cost of all the infrastructures. I will think that as an engineer, manufacturing is something especially an engineer should be part of. That is where I am today.

**E-Newsletter:** *What do you think is are the prospects and challenges a young engineer many face in the course of entering manufacturing?*

**Engr. Reginald:** Thank you very much. At the moment we have some level of disconnect between industries and the academics. That is why you find out that many of our young engineering graduates when they come out of school, they find it difficult to get jobs but this development now is showing that, young engineers coming out of school can have opportunity to even start up their businesses if they want in a small form. What is the right thing to do is that engineering students, even before they graduate should be able to work with a couple of engineering manufacturing companies in the country to acquire experience and be able to pick up from there. That is the opportunity they do not get because we do not have enough engineering manufacturing companies in Nigeria. The ones we have are all distressed. Our young graduates and students have challenges in getting proper training, in getting employed and finally even in starting their own engineering businesses because of high cost of setting up the business. So those are the challenges that our young engineers are facing.

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

NSE PH Branch Technical Evening held on Thursday 30th May 2013 at the branch secretariat.

Theme: Renewable Energy for Power Generation in Rivers State: Prospects & Challenges, was presented by Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Port Harcourt)



L-R: Engr. Dr. Awajjogak Ujile FNSE, Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE, Engr. F. C. Ogolo FNSE, Engr. M. D. Derefaka FNSE & other members of the branch during the technical evening.



L-R: Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE, Engr. Denis Dania MNSE & Mr. Augustine Nwokocha, Honourable Commissioner for Power Rivers State, who was the Guest of Honour at the event.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch organized a 5-Day Workshop on **Simplified Approach to Civil Engineering Design** which was held on Monday 13th—Friday 17th May 2013 at the branch secretariat. The picture above is a cross-section of some of the participants.



## INSTITUTE OF APPRAISERS & COST ENGINEERS

A DIVISION OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS  
Member, International Cost Engineering Council

Announces Her

# 2013 NATIONAL TECHNICAL Conference

**Theme:** Cost engineering, engineering valuation and engineering economy as strategies for transforming Agriculture and water resources of the Nigerian economy.

**Distinguished Chairman:** Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE (President, NSE)

**Special Guest of Honour:** Arch. Darius Ishaku (Min of State Niger Delta)

**Guest Speaker:** Engr. Kashim Ali FNSE MNI (President, COREN)

**Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 **Time:** 10:00am

**Venue:** Auditorium, Raw Material Research and Development Council  
17 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.

**Conference Fee:** N20,000.00 per participant

**RSVP:** Engr. Ike Iwenofu MNSE, FNSCHE (08033145448)

## Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF-2013)

**Theme:** "Internet Governance for Empowerment, National Integration & Security through Multi-stakeholders' Engagement"

The **Local Multi-stakeholders Advisory Group (LMAG)** of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum, comprising of the Ministry of Communication Technology (MCT), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), and Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA) in collaboration with other local stakeholders is kick starting the preparatory process for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Nigeria Internet Governance Forum 2013 (NIGF 2013)

### NIGF 2013 Highlight

**The Goal of NIGF 2013:** Harmonization of National Multi-Stakeholders Positions based on the Global IGF framework covering; *Digital Inclusion and Integration, Building Trust, Confidence, & Assurance on the Internet, Policy and Regulatory Model for the Internet, Encouraging Local Research on Internet Development in Nigeria, Addressing Infrastructural Challenges in the Cashless Society, Emerging Issues and Way Forward,*

**Special Feature;** Exclusive Business Opportunities in the Internet Industry for the Youths (Special Workshop for the Nigerian Youths)

### Special Guest of Honour:

Mrs. Omobola Johnson,

Hon. Minister of Communication Technology

### Forum Distinguished Chairman:

Dr Ernest Ndukwe (O.F.R)

Chairman, Openmedia Communications Ltd.

**Date:** June 18, 2013

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Venue:** Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre, Abuja

### The Objective of NIGF 2013

- To take full advantage of the multi-stakeholder's nature of the Forum to share productive ideas, best practices and experiences that can be harnessed to addressing critical national challenges.
- To provide common platform for local stakeholder's input towards Global IGF 2013.
- To engage the opportunity of NIGF multi-stakeholder platform for the empowerment of Nigeria youth.

### The Outcome of NIGF 2013

The outcome of NIGF 2013 is expected to facilitate emergence of viable alternative opportunities that best address the nation's most critical national and Internet issues, while simultaneously promoting the nation's position at the Global IGF Forum taking place on the 22 to 25 October 2013 in Bali, Indonesia.

To register visit [www.nigf.org.ng](http://www.nigf.org.ng)

For further enquiry, please send your email to [contact@nigf.org.ng](mailto:contact@nigf.org.ng)  
Or Call 07060654183 08181806044, 08033476573, 08036333611.

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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