



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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### Interview with Engr. Mrs. Bashayer I. Al-Awwad, Chairwoman, WIE of WFEO

*Engr. (Mrs) Bashayer I. Al Awwad, is the Chairwoman, Women in Engineering (WIE) Standing Committee of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). She is a Computer Engineer and she is from Kuwait.*

**E-Newsletter:** *How did this organization (WIE) come to be?*

**Engr. Bashayer:** I have been in this organization since 2007. It was during the conference which was held in 2007 in Tunisia that we had a declaration that we have to establish a committee for Women in Engineering in WFEO. The approval was granted and we establish the committee in 2008. The committee was hosted by France for some years since the WFEO office is in Paris. I was on stage in Tunisia in 2007, where I read a declaration that says that "we want to establish women in engineering" and I represented other engineers at that time. That was how we came about the election. Myself from Kuwait and my colleague from France contested for the Chair. I won the election by 37 votes against 24 to France. There has been positive increase in membership and we have international relations with the UNESCO, IEEE, ITU and others.

**E-Newsletter:** *What is the mission of the organization?*



Bashayer Al-Awwad

**Engr. Bashayer:** Our mission is to take care of women before, during and after engineering. Before, is to encourage young women to get into engineering field. During, is to focus on the challenges they face and try to solve such challenges while they are in school. After, is to make sure that they proceeds with the engineering career when they graduate because most women engineers work outside the engineering field after graduation. So we encourage them to continue in the engineering field.

**E-Newsletter:** *Looking at the mission of Women in Engineering, how do you plan to make impact in Africa?*

**Engr. Bashayer:** This is what we are doing. We hold conferences, workshops and discussion forum. In Singapore, we had discussions and women forum. We had speakers from different parts of the world. We had women engineers who had worked in different regions who talked on what they did as projects or programs to promote engineering for young girls and also on the challenges faced in those different regions. In networking, we can help each other. If we are doing well in our own countries we have to share our experience with other countries that have challenges. We have to make other countries benefit from our experiences and make them to reach our present level or may be better.

### 11th National Civil Engineering Conference & Annual General Meeting "Garden City 2013" 6-8 November 2013



The 11th National Civil Engineering Conference and Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 6th—Friday 8th November 2013 in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

An election was conducted to elect the new Executive Committee members of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (NICE).

The conference was rounded up with a dinner on Friday 8th November 2013 at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

Photo: Members of the high table during the opening ceremony of NICE conference.



World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure,  
2nd - 7th November 2014, Abuja-Nigeria.

**Theme:** *Development of Sustainable Infrastructure in Africa*  
<http://www.wecsi2014.org>



**Engr. Mrs. Bashayer I. Al-Awwad, WIE of WFEO ...cont.**

**E-Newsletter:** *In 2014, the World Engineering Conference will be held in Nigeria. What are your plans for Nigerian female engineers?*

**Engr. Bashayer:** For Nigeria, we are coming soon. I had a meeting with the Women in Engineering Local Committee of Nigeria. Engr. Mrs. Valerie Agberagba is our member. We included all African members; Zimbabwe, Cameroon and Ghana to join us in the preparation for the women forum in Nigeria and we have promised to make it special. We will try to avoid the parallel session so that we can make everybody (not only women); men, VIPs, WFEO Executives and WFEO Board to attend our activities so that they can listen to us. We do not want to talk to ourselves only because there is no benefit if we keep listening to ourselves. Sometimes we have to focus on the challenges we have because in some countries in Africa, some of the women there cannot study engineering. This is why we have the Women in Engineering Committee. We are not just to talk and talk and feel comfortable that we have talked. No, it is not that way. It is because we are success in our fields and projects and we want to share with other women so that they can take the opportunity as we took it. I believe that all women have the right to take this opportunity in all regions of the world. This is our mission. We are trying to help countries where women are facing challenges in engineering career or even in studying engineering. I hope and wish that we will do great.

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



**The Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers  
Annual General Meeting/Annual Conference**

**Date:** 14th—16th November 2013

**Venue:** Le' Meridian Ibom Hotels & Golf Resort,  
Uyo

**Theme:** Oil & Gas as a Springboard for Industrial  
Development.

**Association for Consulting Engineers in Nigeria****2013 Annual Conference /AGM/Dinner & Awards**

Association for Consulting Engineers in Nigeria (ACEN) 2013 Annual Conference will hold at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Ikeja, Lagos.

**Date:** Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st November, 2013

**Time:** 9:00a.m daily.

The theme of the Conference is:

**ADVOCACY AS A TOOL FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILT INDUSTRY.**

Visit [www.acen.org.ng](http://www.acen.org.ng) for more information.

**NSE PH Branch 2013 Engineering Week**

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch 2013 Engineering Week holds as follows:

**Date:** Monday 25 November-Sunday 1 December 2013

**Venue:** Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat, Water Works Yard, #3 Bernard Carr Street, Port Harcourt.

**Theme:** Strategies for Transforming Agriculture and Water Resources Sectors of the Niger Delta for Improved Economy.

**Sub Themes:**

“Strategies for Transforming Agriculture in the Niger Delta for Job Creation” .

“Effective Solid Waste Management and Ground Water Resources Development in the Niger Delta”.

“Mechanized Agriculture for the Development of the Niger Delta Economy”.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Executive Committee meeting was held on Thursday 7th November 2013 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat. The meeting was chaired by the Branch Chairman Engr. Denis A. A. Dania (left).

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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