



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

### e-newsletter

2008 / VOLUME 21

website: www.nseph.org

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12TH APRIL, 2008

#### UP COMING EVENT:

The Institute of Appraisers & Cost Engineers:- International Annual Conference & Exhibition. Date: 25th & 26th June, 2008. Venue: Abuja, Nigeria. For more details visit [www.iacenig.org](http://www.iacenig.org)

#### NSE PROFESSIONAL EXAM TIME TABLE

- 1) Submission of report by candidates to centers - 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.
- 2) Oral interview @ UST (center) for Port Harcourt candidates - 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.
- 3) Written Examinations @ UST (center) for Port Harcourt candidates - 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

All candidates are advised to adhere strictly to this time table

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH ENGR. CHIEF G. MASSARI, FNSE, ON INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT).

*E-Newsletter: Good afternoon Sir. The team from Danelec has been helping NSE PH Branch to produce our e-newsletter. We express our appreciation to you for this gesture. Today we want to discuss the issue of information technology with you sir. However, we want to know your profile and your contributions to the engineering profession in this country.*



Engr. Chf. G. Massari, FNSE

**Engr. Chief G. Massari:** Okay. Thank you. I don't want to take a lot of time. My name is Giandomenico Massari and I am an engineer. I have been in Nigeria since 1982 although I have been a chartered engineer before then. Since I have been here I started participating in professional activities because I believe in integration and participation with the local professional body so I registered with NSE and became a corporate member and eventually also with COREN because to practise in Nigeria you have to be registered with COREN. Later NSE elected me to be a fellow of the society and also internationally I am a member of IEEE. I try even to promote IEEE in Nigeria to boost the Nigerian section. That is why even with the Internet Society, we founded the Nigerian Chapter in 1997 with other colleagues to promote information technology in this country. Alright, my first aim is just to try to transmit what I have acquired in my profession to others and that is even a mission that I believe every engineer should do first and foremost. Not only to acquire knowledge but also try to transmit this knowledge to others and that is the best way you can accomplish your profession. For that reason this transmission can be done in many ways like to formally participate and even be a resource person in your workplace and in your professional body and even beyond like in universities and other higher institutions to make this transmission of knowledge possible. It is only then that I strongly believe that you will be a very strong and good engineer because you have completed your mission and that is the way forward. Apart from this I believe that we have a duty to carry out to enlighten the people, to make sure that people that want to come to your profession must be very enlightened because many times I say that I believe we have the highest responsibility among all the professionals because as I say, a doctor has a very high responsibility and when he is carrying out surgery, he has to be very knowledgeable and conscious of what he is doing because if he is not, the patient can die. But if we make a mistake in the execution of our profession, not just one life but many will be lost and the property, the financial loss will as well be so big and dramatic so for that reason, our responsibility is higher and for that reason an engineer has to be very conscious of himself and his profession. That is what I do.

*continued on page 2.*



Engr. Dr. A. A. Ujile, during his presentation

The economic benefits from the techniques if adopted are enormous. The attainment and sustainability of clean environment is achievable from the techniques. Dr. Ujile also chaired a session of the conference. Congratulations.

#### COURTESY CALL ON THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RIVERS STATE, ENGR. TELE IKURU ON 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 BY NEW EXCO OF NSE PH BRANCH.



Engr. Ogariawo reading his address

Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch new executive committee paid a courtesy call to the deputy governor of Rivers State, Engr Tele Ikuru at the Rivers State Government House in Port Harcourt on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. The team was led by the Branch chairman, Engr. B. M. H. Ogariawo. Other members include Engr. Denis A A Dania, Engr Prof. H. I. Hart (FNSE), Engr Chief O. O. Oruye (FNSE), Engr Dr. A. A. Ujile, Engr. Chief G. Massari (FNSE), Engr

B. N. Ahorka, Engr. B. T. D. George (MD, NSE-PH), Engr.(Mrs) C. A. Ohagira, Engr R. Ogonu, Engr. E Amatemeso and Mr. O. Otuenoh.

Highlights on the branch chairman's address to the deputy governor include: support from government and organizations on the following issues-

1. Construction of the Engineering Resource Centre (ERC) IN Port Harcourt on the 30 plots of land already acquired.
2. Golden jubilee celebration of NSE that would come up in Port Harcourt in May 2008. It was reported that other zones of the country are observing parts of this event.
3. Consideration of NSE's quota for state pilgrims to the Holy Land.
4. Sustenance and improvement of sponsorship for engineers in government ministries to attend conferences (especially International conferences)

In his response, the deputy governor, Engr Tele Ikuru expressed his appreciation

for the courtesy call and thanked the NSE PH branch for the quality and integrity of engineers sent to the Greater Port Harcourt Development Committee. He attested that the quality of contributions received from the professional body showed that Nigerian engineers can solve our own problems. He re-iterated that if our engineers are given the opportunity our society can change for better. Engr Ikuru also made it clear during the visit that the government of Rivers



Engr. Tele Ikuru (8 from left), some commissioners & NSEPH EXCO

State now is to use government fund on projects that would benefit all citizens in the state. He promised to support the highlighted projects on individual basis.

#### CONGRATULATION TO OUR PUBLICITY SECRETARY ENGR. DR. A. A. UJILE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL PAPER AT THE 23<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

**E- Newsletter** congratulates our Publicity Secretary, Engr Dr Awajogak A Ujile for presenting a paper titled "Techniques of Municipal waste management in Port Harcourt, Rivers State" at the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Management and Technology which took place from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008 - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 at Radisson Warwick Plaza, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The conference was organized by Civil engineering department of Widener University in conjunction with Journal of Solid Waste and Management Technology. E-newsletter is appealing to the Rivers State Government to adopt the techniques which involve mechanical composting (which converts the solid waste to other useful/economic products) and minimize the volume of what is sent to the engineered landfill. The paper presented the concept of engineered landfill to be utilized for Port Harcourt metropolis. Representatives from over thirty five countries attended the conference.

**INTERVIEW WITH ENGR. CHF G. MASSARI, FNSE, ON ICT, Cont. from page 1.**

*E-Newsletter: Now we are to discuss on ICT. So many people do not understand what this information and communication technology is all about. What is ICT all about?*

**Engr. Chief G. Massari:** Let me tell you one thing that is very important, you know in Nigeria, the ICT is the youngest among all the technology but incidentally it has even leapfrogged development compared to other technology and that type of technology encompasses not one sector but all the various sectors and fields of technology. For that reason you can understand its importance because basically it is the least required knowledge. When you are talking about information and communication technology or when you are specifically talking about what the layman understands as email and internet, we understand it as what has put this development to people and even this growing of knowledge of information. We believe that it was



Engr. Chf. Massari & Engr. Ujile

very important from the first time because we are trying to work towards the development of many people as much as is possible. You know, ICT is more important in the developing countries than in the developed ones because it is very easy for any citizen in a developed country to go into say a library or university, education sector or even the work sector to acquire information and knowledge because they have updated books and updated instruments and so new information is very easy to get and also very easy to digest. But in developing countries, unfortunately the situation is very different, this is because even when you are lucky to have some books, most of the books are outdated and obsolete and then even the type of knowledge with regards to technology, medicine or even law or any other type of topic or field, it would be very far from what the trend today is so it tends to bring you backward instead of moving forward, because what you acquire are some things that are very old that will not help you to develop your place. For that reason it is important that we learn to use ICT as much as possible in all the possible locations not necessary only in the institutions, in education but even in the work place, communities and in any place, and in that way we are doing several courses and enlightenment and anything possible to make sure that people will be acquainted with ICT and understand first of all the importance because as I once said and I still say most of the time, knowledge is the new currency, because the more you know, the more you are valued and the way to acquire good and updated knowledge is through the internet. So for that reason it is important to boost and to press in that direction to acquire this ICT knowledge, enlighten people and let them understand and then let all the stake holders (government, private institutions, public institution, academia) be in synergy to acquire this but then we have to get all the people involved to be aware of the importance of this and only then can this work.

*E-Newsletter: Thank you very much. Now the question is how can we achieve this? In other parts of the world, people trade in the market using credit cards, Master cards, nobody carries money; they just use their cards with their machines. Even in trade, in business, in education for example students' relationship with lecturers where they submit their assignments via email. We don't do all that in this country, what is your opinion on this matter and on the attitude of our Nigerians towards this development because some people have known about this but their attitude is still complacent? How can this problem be solved?*

**Engr. Chief G. Massari:** Let me tell you briefly what I am thinking about it. One, what you said is pretty true. But if we want changes for better in the society and our environment, we should expect changes in our present orientation. If the changes of our attitudes will bring positive changes so be it. You know the awareness sometime is there often the willingness to develop because you know there are stages of the things to do, planning, thinking, plan the action and implement the action, it is the implementation stage that is part of the barrier that we have, when we are talking e-business (when you are talking about trading), e-learning (when you are talking about education), e-banking (when you are talking about banking). Here it is at the baby stage, not even the baby stage that is climbing but the stage of a new born, sometimes it can be a still born. And why this, let me tell you this, my experience is that we are trying to change this trend to strongly move in a different direction and fortunately we see that the trend is different even in this country. Let us analyze Nigeria as one, we have the experience and even with my other colleagues, we have seen that if you go to the north, there are facilities and commitment, even in the west but when we come to the south south, which is our place, we see a different trend. A situation where you see facilities dilapidating and deteriorating, these were even given to them but either they are not in use or they are being misused and this is a very terrible situation. There is one thing I strongly believe. The efficient and effective utilization of facilities because if you want to develop the people, the people have to be enlightened and literate and in that way ICT is the quickest and best way to acquire effective and efficient utilization of resources.

*E-Newsletter: So does it mean that it is the way of empowering the people, training the people because when you talk of training people if in our educational system we do not apply ICT it means that we cannot improve? There is no empowerment without ICT that will be effective and efficient. Is that what you are talking about?*

**Engr. Chief G. Massari:** In fact, I strongly agree with what you say, there is no empowerment without ICT and ICT I say is acquisition of knowledge so you have to get the equipment, get the people to be willing and have commitment. I have to say commitment is one of the most important things. Sometimes you see that in a system you have the equipment, even the tool but the commitment is not there. So in fact there is a need for reorientation or let me say as an engineer that a reengineering of the people of the system especially in this area because that is very important. Sorry let me add a lot of things in this regard; I believe strongly that through this way is the way to even make the people enlightened, even government accountability, transparency and all these things that we talk about, because when people are enlightened and educated they cannot just do anything they like. That is the point.

...TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT EDITION

**TECHNICAL VISIT TO ALSCON BY NSE PH BRANCH**

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch carried out a Technical Visit to UC RUSAL-ALSICON (Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria) at IKOT ABASI in AKWA-IBOM STATE on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. The Team of Engineers was received by the NSE members of IKOT ABASI Branch working in the company. They welcomed the team and briefed us on the operations of the company, thereafter; we took a tour around the facilities in the complex.

BELOW ARE THE UC RUSAL-ALSICON OUTLINE PRODUCTION FACILITIES



Aluminium production process of the ALSICON plant.

**BRIEF HISTORY OF ALSCON**

The company was conceived in the 1980s and partly completed in 1999; the plant was only operational for 18 months before production was suspended. During operation, the plant imports alumina from the bauxite mines of Guinea, West Africa and produces aluminium through a process of electrolysis using natural gas produced here in Nigeria. The company was shut down for about 8 years. In February 2007 UC RUSAL the world largest producer of aluminium and alumina bought 77.5% equity share of the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria Limited ALSICON, the Federal Government of Nigeria is retaining 15% share in the company and Ferrosteel AG owns 7.5% share. With an investment of \$150 million, UC RUSAL-ALSICON is turning the redundant smelter into an industrial giant that will produce 193, 000 tones of aluminium per annum for the domestic and international market. Thus, UC RUSAL-ALSICON has been able to exploit an energy resource facility which has been redundant for a long period, and also created employment opportunity for the people. We do hope this feat should be sustained. All the stakeholders should ensure that the plant operates at its maximum design capacity and life.



Left is the picture of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch members and some ALSICON workers during the technical visit to ALSICON.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch held a seminar for prospective corporate members of the society on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. The chairman ERM/NSE Examination Committee, Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart, FNSE, (standing) addressing participants at the seminar on the requirements for the qualifications for the professional examinations.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch held a seminar for prospective corporate members of the society on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. Engr. O. O. Oruye FNSE, lecturing the participants during the seminar on how they would be graded and qualified as members of the society.