



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

e-newsletter

2009 / VOLUME 51

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9TH MAY, 2009

INTERACTION WITH ENGR. DR. MRS. GLORIA CHUKWUDEBE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

E-Newsletter: Good afternoon madam. Please tell us about yourself and your contributions to engineering profession.

Dr Chukwudebe: I am Engr. Dr. Mrs Gloria Chukwudebe. A Reader/Associate Professor of Electronic and Computer Engineering at the FUTO. I was the Head of the Department of Electrical/Electronic, 1999- 2005. Fellow and Life member of NSE, also registered with COREN. Currently, I am the Vice-Chair for Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Nigeria Section. My contribution to Engineering are;



Engr. Dr. Mrs. G. Chukwudebe

Primary contribution-

Growing future engineers in the classroom, as you know human resource is the key to development.

Secondary contribution is in engineering practice –

1. Mentoring/coaching young engineers to ensure professional growth.
2. While I was Vice-Chair of NSE Owerri Branch, 1997 –1999, I organized professional seminars that brought together practicing engineers & students.
3. I am presently an active member of Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria.
4. Consultant for Nigerian Government Telecommunication Reform Implementation, 2000 - 2002. Major contribution of my committee was revision of the Telecoms Policy and framework for privatization of the Telecom sector. Since 2006, I have taken my Gown to Town. By this I mean that I have taken a leave of absence from the university to have a good feel of how it works in the industry. As an IT Consultant at SPDC PH, I am involved in Application Delivery and Quality Assurance and also a bit of Competence Assurance.

E-Newsletter: What do you mean by IT?

Dr Chukwudebe: Information Technology, as you know; Information is the fourth resource after land, labour and capital. *When you add Technology - It means getting information at the click of a button.*

E-Newsletter: What is your view on IT and national development?

Dr Chukwudebe: Information Technology has become and will continue to be a powerful tool for development and advancement of national objectives in areas like;

- Better housing,
- Power and energy
- Health
- Transportation
- Good food
- Telecommunication

E-Newsletter: In Nigeria what is your rating on the application of IT in all spheres of endeavour?

Dr Chukwudebe: I will rate Nigeria 10% except for the banks, airlines and multinational oil/gas companies who are putting Information Technology to use, the rest of Nigeria, schools, private businesses, government offices, and the Power company are yet to computerize. Government has just recently deployed e-payment, this is a good beginning When you bring in

telecommunications (ICT) because of GSM roll out, I will rate Nigeria 40%, though GSM is still very expensive.

E-Newsletter: What impact has IT played on Research & Development in our educational system?

Dr Chukwudebe: Using IT for R & D has since become global standard. For us, the impact is insignificant; the IT infrastructure is not just there in the schools. Not up to 30% of our public schools (Tertiary institutions) have Local Area Network (LAN) with Internet access. Lecturers depend on expensive private cybercafe or individual Internet subscription at their homes. Some R & D require software with licenses (MathLab, Electronic Workbench, Autocad etc) and these are not available to staff and students. Consequently, R & D in our schools are at very low ebb. The standard in other countries is that these things should be available to students in higher institutions 24X7, especially now that many journals are available online.

E-Newsletter: For lecturers and teachers what is your view on their knowledge of IT and effect on the training of manpower development?

Dr Chukwudebe: Lecturers and teachers need to be trained on IT for increased productivity. With the large classes they presently handle, they cannot do it on their own.

E-Newsletter: Effect on national economy, how can this be improved?

Dr Chukwudebe: Information Technology is a powerful *super-game changer*, productivity can be increased several folds, it depends on solutions and how they are used.

E-Newsletter: What advice do you have for the nation, entrepreneurs, process industries, oil/gas sector and the general public on the application of IT?

Dr Chukwudebe: My advice for process industries and oil/gas sector:- These sectors know already it is something they cannot do without. For the oil/gas, paperless office and e-business are already a standard. They should keep it up and also invest in their environment such as schools because they use their graduates. Advice for the nation:- firstly, I commend the effort of FGN so far, but they need to do more especially for the educational sector. Because it will give them many years of prosperity according to the Chinese proverb-*If you want one year of prosperity grow grains. If you want ten years of prosperity grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people.* I commend the government because the previous administration gave full support to privatization of the Telecom sector. That regime also approved the ICT Policy and set up National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to implement the ICT Policy. NITDA has several initiatives, e-govt, mobile Internet, and the recent NICEP (National Information, Communication and Education Program). My Advice to the Nation is that, NITDA, NUC, NBTE, NCCE and NCC should synergize and ensure that the basic infrastructure for ICT is provided at all our polytechnics, universities and colleges of education. The provision of LAN with Internet access should be a minimum for all tertiary institutions. The individual efforts by these tertiary institutions are haphazard and not sustainable.

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It is only after the provision of this minimum IT infrastructure that staff training will make sense. It is only after that, that revising curriculum with appropriate ICT content will make sense. It is only after that, that centre of excellence in IT or IT pack will make sense and yield fruits. It is only after that, that a joint academic network for Nigeria will make sense. Educational sector is operating in silos for now, an Educational Network for Nigerian tertiary institutions may make Internet bandwidth provision to become cheaper.



Appropriate use of ICT will enhance productivity as follows:

1. eliminate waste and increase productivity (faster and cheaper delivery of services).
2. empower Nigerians to participate in software and IT development
3. enhance national security and law enforcement.

Finally, I wish to thank you and commend your team's effort in the regular publication of this NSE Bulletin.

E-Newsletter: Thank you madam. We do hope when next we call, you will give us audience. God bless you.

Engr. Anizoba Advocates FG Review of Fiscal Policy on Contracts with Niger Delta Peculiarities

The Federal Controller of Works and the Federal Government Representative Engineer of the Bodo-Bonny Road Project, Engr. E. I. Anizoba, MNSE, has advocated the review of the federal government policy on the mopping up of fiscal policy with particular consideration of the peculiar climatic condition of the Niger Delta region. This was contained in a technical presentation at the technical evening organized by the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch on Wednesday, April 22nd 2009 at the branch secretariat, with the theme "Problems of Infrastructural Development in the Niger Delta- Roads as case Study". According to him, the long duration of rainy season and short dry season period of active constructional work in the Niger Delta region has been affecting projects execution adversely. He noted this as among numerous drawbacks in the construction of roads and engineering infrastructural development in the Niger Delta region. In the technical paper, Engr. Anizoba explained that while many other states, especially in the Northern region of the country have long period of dry season for meaningful construction works, the Niger Delta region does not experience up to three months of dry season for a meaningful construction work to be carried out. He averred the review of this policy with peculiar consideration of the Niger Delta region.

OTC 2009 Houston, Texas

Major players in the Nigerian oil and gas sector at the Offshore Technology Conference, OTC 2009, expressed concern over the successful implementation of the oil sector reform policy, asserting that key issues, which would affect the industry operation, must be addressed for the restructuring exercise to work. Some of the grey areas identified and which needed to be resolved, according to the players, include issues relating to contractual agreement, Production Sharing Contract (PSC), funding of the Joint venture projects and security issues. The International Oil Companies (IOCs) were said to have insisted that these issues must be resolved and backed by law. E-newsletter reliably learnt that the companies are currently meeting with the Federal Government to come out with a win-win solution to the problems identified by the IOCs. The Federal Government's oil and gas reform agenda received knocks from industry players at the Luncheon. Responding to a paper, 'The Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, Preferences, Challenges, and Enduring Opportunities' presented by Presidential Adviser on Petroleum Matters, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, at a luncheon meeting organised by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) at the on-going Offshore Technology Conference holding in Houston, Texas, the players identified several grey areas that would affect the full implementation of the reform process. Former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Chamberlain Oyibo, who was among the speakers, faulted the establishment of too many regulatory bodies in the post reform era. He argued that if the proposal as "it is today is allowed to sail through", the result will be the emergence of three new regulatory bodies that will be seen to be working against each other. In his response, NNPC's Group Executive Director, Engineering Engr. Chief. F.A. Abbiye Suku who represented the Group Managing Director, Mr. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo said the reform process is a welcomed development, which will come with pains and gains. He however noted that if properly implemented the gains "will be greater than the pains". Earlier in his paper, the Presidential Adviser had stated that the decision to reform the sector was because the relevant structures in the oil and gas were no longer relevant to Nigeria in view of the technology dynamic of the global petroleum industry. He said the idea was to make the oil and gas industry more robust, efficient and competitive to every player whether private or public. According to him, to achieve the set objectives, a new institutional structure has been developed and shall comprise of the followings three regulatory agencies: one commercial center, one research and training centre, one manpower training centre, two fund organizations and one frontier exploration service.

NSE PH QUARTERLY DINNER 2009 & INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS ON SATURDAY 9th MAY 2009 @ THE BOUNQUET HALL OF HOTEL PRESIDENTIAL PORT HARCOURT**ENGR. OJUM DONATES AC WORTH OVER 1.2M TO NSE PH**

Engr. Beniah Elemchukwu Ojum, FNSE, immediate past NDDC Executive Director of Projects and the immediate past National Chairman of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (NICE) on Friday 24th of April 2009, announced a donation of units of 3 units of 5 horse power packaged unit air conditioners worth over N1.2 million to the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch. He made this donation on the occasion of the NICE Investiture Ceremony held on at the Branch secretariat. Engr. Ojum while making this donation commended the Nigeria Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch for its vibrancy but was particularly perturbed by the poor state of ventilation system at the secretariat. He commended the Nigerian institute of Civil Engineers (NICE) Port Harcourt Branch for the wonderful organisation of the investiture ceremony and for sustaining the tempo of the its fore bears in NICE activities.

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE PH should pay their annual branch dues of N4000 and compulsory levy of N5000 towards the Engineer Resource Center to UBA ACC. NO: 0802080000194 (Port Harcourt main Branch). Also pay National Annual Subscription of N5,500.00 directly to AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank