



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



2009 / VOLUME 61

website: www.nseph.org

e-mail: info@nseph.org

12TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NSE, ENGR. A. K. AMSHI, ON "ENGINEERING EDUCATION- KEY TO INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT"- NSE PERSPECTIVES

E-Newsletter: *It is a great opportunity to have you interviewed. Today we will be looking at the structure of Nigerian Society Engineers toward achieving this year's COREN theme- "Engineering Education-Key to Infrastructural development". We would appreciate if you could briefly tell our reading audience your experience in the profession and perhaps your contributions to Nigerian Society of Engineers before we go into our discussion for the day.*

NSE Executive Secretary: My name is Engr. A. K. Amshi. I worked with the Civil Service. I rose to the position of a Permanent Secretary in Yobe State Civil Service until I reached my retirement age. When I noticed that the position of the Executive Secretary of NSE would be vacant I decided to come in to share my experience in the Civil Service. The secretariat is the implementing agency of policy making in NSE. It is the interface between the Nigerian society of engineers and its members. A good and effective secretariat will tell much on the society. When I came I found a lot of lapses especially in the record keeping. It was not quite perfect. You could not link what happened in the previous year with what is currently happening. We have to establish both mechanical and electronic system of record keeping. We also found out that staffs were not properly placed. So we are now embarking on restructuring exercise. I thank God we are improving.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much. We now come to the theme of this year's COREN Assembly, Engineering Education-key to infrastructural Development. As the National Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Engineers what Structure do you intend to put in place to facilitate this training and development?*

NSE Executive Secretary: That is a very good question. Within the restructuring exercises we give great importance to professional Development. In that direction we have employed a PhD holder. We actually requested for a professor to take charge of the professional development department at the secretariat. Even though the one we have gotten is not a professor, but he has an excellent academic background with developed curriculum very much a skilled to the development of senior and junior engineers. We plan to upgrade the current engineers' scope of practice. We want to bring it to life and undertake as many as possible professional development training. We are even thinking of having a

liaison office of that school here in Abuja. The Director of the professional Development has already started work on that. He has already started bringing out his blue print along with the Vice President who is also in charge of professional Development and I assure you that between now and next year, you will see quite a number of professional development courses coming in. The current refresher program that is being undertaken for the incoming corporate members will be expanded and other practicing engineers will benefit from this. All these are in the pipeline and in the next two to three months we will have everything in place. For junior engineers who are graduating, you heard it from the president of the federal government himself at the opening ceremony concerning the SITSIE program. This is what the Nigerian Society of engineers has been pushing for the past five years. We are doing everything possible to make sure that this is achieved.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much. Despite all the drawbacks on the part of the previous governments towards SITSIE, NSE still have structure on ground in this direction of SITSIE, but with the increasing number of graduates in our high institutions, is there provision for this young graduates considering their number?*

NSE Executive Secretary: Even though our industries are crumbling, there are still some that stand and more are springing up. These ones should be able to absorb all the engineers that are coming out from our higher institutions. The graduates are not that large that these companies can not absorb.

E-Newsletter: *Recently in Rivers State to be specific, the government said NYSC members should not be posted to the industry. In fact every youth corper should go to the class room to teach and this program is coming up. What is NSE doing to convince the government, to let them know why it is important to place engineering Youth Corp personnel to carry out primary assignment in industries?*

NSE Executive Secretary: I think it has been adequately addressed. We received your letter



Engr. A. K. Amshi

(from Port Harcourt Branch to that effect) and we have given you our word. We will do something about it. Once it becomes a law, nobody will joke with it. We will fight it to the end. Our only problem now is the implementation. I am sorry to say that most of these are being handled by non-engineers and there is this element of envy in what they do. They try to block any thing pertaining to engineering. They sit on it and play with it the way they want but if we have engineers in those engineering related areas, they would understand how important our issues to the development of this country and they will be ready and glad to take all necessary steps to ensure it is implemented. We have pushed the issue of pulling the engineers in the federal civil service which we think will bring sanity in this type of situation. I'm happy that right now the federal head of service of the federation has approved the pulling out of all engineers in the civil service of the federal civil service. I think this is a very good beginning for us especially in the civil service. Engineers can now be appropriately posted. We are gradually making a head way.

E-Newsletter: *The last thing I want us to look into is the issue of graduateship examination. It has been discovered that over the years that most people that sat for this examination have poor performance. Is it because of non-functional preparatory program that brought about this scenario? What is NSE doing about this? Is there any preparation like the normal interview for professional exam, workshop, and seminars conducted for them before the exam to brush them up?*

NSE Executive Secretary: Thank God you are part of the committee. You know the full history of the graduate examination. We have agreed with COREN that these things have to be phased out but the dilemma we have is that we have some people who are in the process. They have finished the first phase of the course, about going for the second phase when this suddenly happened. We have not been fair to them. We should have allowed them to continue, reach the end before we terminate the exam. I thank God that finally we have come to the agreement that only those that are in the process would be allowed to finish.

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The Nigerian Society of Engineers

Port Harcourt Branch

4th Annual Lecture & Awards 2009

On Thursday 10th September, 2009

@ Royal Banquet Hall, Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt



Engr. Shehu (VP Membership) represented the NSE President



The Eminent Lecturer Engr. Chf. Ephraim presenting his lecture



The awardees in a group photograph.



Chf. F. Alabraba Special Guest of Honour.

Presidential Interview for Corporate Membership conducted in PH on 11th September 2009. 25 candidates registered for the interview but 18th of them attended. We wish them success.



Our aim and target now is just to finish up

INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NSE, ENGR. A. K. AMSHI

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government and private sector. We

with this set we have on hand after which the program would be completely terminated. Let me use this medium to call on all those who started but were affected by the termination of this program, to come up and finish up their examination. It will not be fair that after spending much money and time, at the end of the day they go home with nothing. I also want to thank COREN for giving us this consideration. So let them come forward. Let's round up the program peacefully.

NSE Executive Secretary: What most of our engineers tend to forget is that first and foremost they are engineers before anything else. Even if you leave engineering for other discipline, your certificates still identify you as engineer. So why run away from your family. It is very funny because these people go as far as training themselves more as engineers but when it comes to activities of their own profession they run away. They claim to be too busy. This is a body that brings engineers together, to see how best we can help each other, support each other but you see their nonchalant atti-

tude. It baffles my mind. if people will start behaving in that direction, then we will not only be able to move forward as one, but also not be able to achieve our goal. We are here to make sure that we improve engineering. NSE is a respected professional body. People may not know the level of respect we get both from

talk to the government, we don't fight. We talk when necessary, we advice when necessary. All these are just to see that the country is developed. We don't have any personal or self ambition. The entire vision and mission is to make engineering a proud profession. We contribute to the development of this nation. Therefore it is open to all engineers, both old and young, let's come together and see to it that our profession is given its rightful place in the society. Thank you

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much. Before we draw the curtain, what advice do you have for engineers in the industries who don't have any concern for the profession?



Engr. Dr. Ujile & Engr. Amshi

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much for giving us this audience and we do hope when next we call on you, we will be granted the same opportunity. Once again we say thank you.

NSE PH Annual General Meeting/Election of new EXCO will come up on September 24, 2009 by 5:00pm at the NSE PH Secretariat.

NSE Professional Interview/Exam will come up on the 24th-26th September, 2009.

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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 N7,500.00 for Members & N9,500 for Fellows directly to AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank