



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

e-newsletter

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## Interview with Engr. I. K. Inuwa, FNSE, on the Challenges of Mechanical Engineering in Nigeria.

Engr. I. K. Inuwa was born in Kano. He went to Ahmadu Bello University Zaria where he studied Mechanical Engineering. He graduated in 1973 and did his NYSC in Port Harcourt. After his NYSC, he went back to Kano where he worked for one year after which he travelled to the UK to do his Masters Degree in Automobile Engineering, in University of Bradford. He was a commissioner in Kano State Government when he was elected NSE President in December 1988. He resigned as commissioner in Kano State to serve as President of NSE from 1989 -1990. When his tenure as NSE President ended, he went ahead to serve as President of COREN in 1992, 1993 and 1994. After then, he has been practicing as a consulting engineer in 'Techno Consult', which he is the principal partner; with offices in Kano and Abuja. He is married with 8 children out of whom 3 are engineers. Below is an interview with this Icon; happy reading.

**E-Newsletter:** In the area of mechanical engineering, what are the challenges mechanical engineers are facing in Nigeria?

**Engr. I. K. Inuwa:** Well I think it's basically the same challenge any other engineer in this country is facing. Initially, you see the powers-that-be don't seem to appreciate our role in this country and therefore what is due to us is not given to us. But of course, over the years NSE has been forging ahead in my view and we are gradually getting a cut of it; but not all. Because as a mechanical engineer, we are supposed to be in the oil and gas industry, manufacturing, maintenance, you know, name it. But we are not there. Not all of us are there. Some of us are there and like I said over the 30years that I have been practicing engineering, there has been tremendous improvement. In the sense that there are a lot of universities, there were only about 4 universities offering engineering then, Lagos, A.B.U, Ife and Nsukka that was all. But of course now there are over 30 universities offering engineering. There is no university that offers engineering that does not do mechanical, because it is the basis, everything you see is mechanical engineering, and you have to manufacture, manufacturing is purely mechanical. Maintenance of machines, transportation, vehicles, aircrafts, railways, motorcycles that is mechanical engineering. So I mean we are there. Even if structural engineers design structures, this scaffold structures are structures made from steel and that is mechanical engineering. The big projects like Ajaokuta Steel Company, Delta Steel Company, the Rolling Mills of the country they are all mechanical engineering. So the challenges, like I said initially, Nigerian engineers are not used, they are being used now but we are still not satisfied; it is not enough. For example,



Engr. I. K. Inuwa, FNSE

Ajaokuta Steel Company has been lying comatose now for the last 20 years. In fact I happened to be in the internal management committee, when the Indians were sacked. They selected some engineers and we were there, we were not given free hand to operate it up till now. These are some of the problems. So government, for whatever reason, doesn't seem to appreciate. We are putting pressure; am sure one of these days they will give in to it because the meltdown in the economy is making it almost impossible to continue to import materials, machinery and human resources. So you must use what is available if you are wise at all. If the 2020 vision is going to be a reality, then you have to use Nigerian engineers. Like you heard at the opening (January 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, NSE President Investiture) by the Minister of National Planning, you can't achieve self reliance without using your own engineers; and that is what we have been advocating. You cannot tell me the system fails because you use Nigerian engineers. Because after all when we got independence in 1960 the Military came and we did not go to invite the British to come back. The military themselves were not doing well; they killed themselves and came again. The politicians came. If there is any problem we sack those ones and try another Nigerians, we can't go to bring a British or Chinese. We should still continue to try Nigerian engineers and unless and until you do that, we are nowhere.

**E-Newsletter:** Sir, what advise do you have for the upcoming engineers? Now we see engineering graduates going to banks to work rather than doing the core engineering practice.

**Engr. I. K. Inuwa:** Very wrong. It is true that banks may be more lucrative, they may pay more but that can only be temporary. If you are an engineer, you don't get satisfaction unless you go into engineering because satisfaction is not money alone. You see your vision, for example, I want to see Nigeria on the moon, and unless I get there, I don't get satisfied. You can't eat money; money is only to be used as a medium for which to get something. So if you go to the bank, you know you are in the wrong place; you should be in the engineering sector that is where action is. That is why China is where it is today. If you go to China, there are 15 members of Public Bureau; nine of them are engineers, including the President. So why should engineers do otherwise in Nigeria. We are what we

are in this country today because engineering is not given the rightful place. If we get it right in Nigeria, that's it. If you go to China for example, everything is Chinese made. The Wrist watches on the hands, the pen, the camera is made in China. It is because they have given the engineers the rightful place. That is the only way it can be done in Nigeria. Oil is going to finish one day. Manufacturing, self reliance is what will take us where we will be. So, young men and women must not abandon engineering. They should be steady, they should invest more and more to teach science and technology and when people come back to Nigeria, we should allow them to practice engineering, make the atmosphere conducive for them. You may not work in the government, there are so many other places they can work as an engineer, and we will be there, God willing.

**E-Newsletter:** Thank you very much sir. We are very grateful for the time you have shared with us.

**Engr. I. K. Inuwa:** It's my pleasure.



Engr. I. K. Inuwa, FNSE & Engr. Otueneh, O. J.

The new President of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria is Engr. Mustapha Buluama. He became the COREN President in April 2010. He was the 24th President of NSE and he served from 2004 to 2005.



Engr. Mustapha Buluama, FNSE  
President of COREN

## NSE PH EXCO VISITS ENGR. MAYNE DAVID-WEST, FNSE OF ETTE ARO & PARTNERS

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Executive Committee Members, led by the Chairman, Engr. Dr. Asinyetogha H. Igoni, MNSE paid a courtesy visit to Engr. Mayne David-West, FNSE, FNIStructE, the Managing Partner of ETTE ARO & Partners Port Harcourt on Friday 7th May, 2010 in his beautifully laid out office at the UAC building along Port Harcourt- Aba Expressway Port Harcourt. As is characteristic of him Engr. David-West hilariously welcomed everyone to his office. It was a roll call of virtues of Engr. Mayne David-West as EXCO Members took their turn to extol the fundamental professional contributions, his philanthropy, sense of humour and his remarkable donation of the Structural Design of the Branch Engineering Resource Center to the Branch. On courtesy visit with the Branch chairman were Engr. Prof. H.I. Hart, FNSE, Engr. Chf. O. O. Oruye, FNSE, Engr. B.T.D. George, FNSE, Engr. Sam Nwakwo, FNSE, Engr. Denis Dania, MNSE, Vice Chairman, Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri, MNSE, General Secretary, Engr. Gibson Belief, MNSE, Internal Auditor.



## Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers flag off Conference/AGM campaign in Port Harcourt

The Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers was led by the National Chairman, Engr. B. O. Oyedepo, FNSE, FNIMechE, on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2010 on a courtesy visit to Engr. A.J. I Arumemhi-Johnson Ikhide, FNSE, Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of Rockson Engineering Ltd and ARIK Airline, in a flag off campaign for the National Conference/ Annual General Meeting of the Institution, scheduled to hold from 20 to 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2010 in Port Harcourt Rivers State. While Intimating Engr. Arumemhi-Johnson of the up coming conference he informed him of the Institution's Annual Distinguished Lecture Series and formerly invited to deliver one, on his choice topic, as mark of honour. Engr. Arumemhi-Johnson, while responding promised to support the preparation for the Conference and also obliged gladly to deliver the Distinguished Lecture. On the courtesy visit with the Chairman were Engr. Denis Dania, Vice Chairman NIMechE Port Harcourt Chapter, Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri, General Secretary NIMechE Port Harcourt Chapter, Engr. R. Ogona, and Tech. Sec. NIMechE PH Chapter, Mr. Peter Ukwa NIMechE Sect. Lagos, Mr. Tayo and Mr. Nimi both NIMechE Sec Lagos etc. Engr. Arumemhi-Johnson was flanked by Engr. Paul Nwokobia, the Deputy Managing Director, of Rockson Engineering Ltd, & Engr. Akinseyi



**The Institute of Appraisers & Cost Engineers (IACE)** would be hosting its annual conference on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2010 and the theme is **"The Nigerian Engineer In Valuation and Cost Engineering Practice"**

**Venue:** Raw Materials Research & Development Council Auditorium, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.

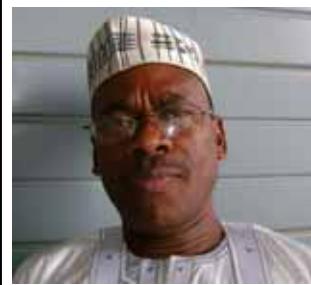
**Time:** 9.00am - 5.00pm

### **Conference Fees:**

<b>Members</b>	-	N25,000.00
<b>Non-members</b>	-	N30,000.00
<b>Students/Spouses</b>	-	N5,000.00

Members would be inducted and certificates issued to deserving members during the conference. Endeavour to register early by paying.

For further enquiries contact **Robert** 08033002156 Or **Joe** 08022238729



Engr. Titi Omo-Etutu is the new President of Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON). Engr. Omo-Etutu was the Vice President of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria.

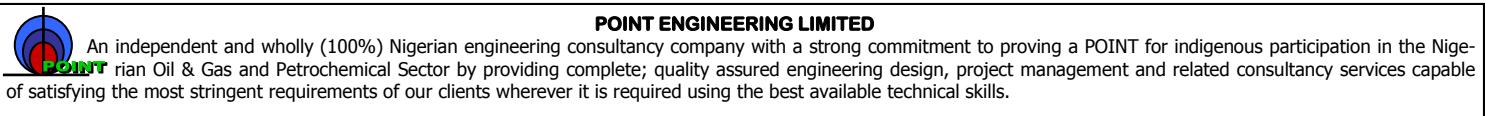
Engr. Titi Omo-Etutu, FNSE



IEEE Nigeria Section invites you to participate in the upcoming IEEE NIGERCON 2010 International Conference on **Emerging & Sustainable Technologies For Power & ICT In A Developing Society** by presenting a technical paper. Participation is open to members & non-members.

**Venue:** Rockview Hotel Royale, Plot 196, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja. **Date:** 17th –19th June, 2010.

Visit <http://nigercon.info> for more details. You can also call or e-mail; Tunde Salihu: 08033246068, tunde.s@ieee.org & Gloria Chukwudebe: 08033279081, gloria.chukwudebe@yahoo.com for more details.



### 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: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch). Also pay National Annual Subscription of N7,500.00 for Corporate 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