



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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An Interview with Engr. Felix Nwankwo, FNSE, (Vice President, Membership) on the Challenges on Structural Engineering in Nigeria.

Engr. Felix Obiora Nwankwo has a first degree in Civil Engineering in 1985 and Masters Degree in Civil Structure in 1988. He is a staff of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Abuja. He has held various posts in the Nigerian Society of Engineers. He has been Chairman and Vice Chairman of Abuja Branch. He has also been involved in COREN organizations. Engr. Nwankwo was elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the Nigerian Society of Engineers in December last year in Owerri. He is the Vice President in charge of Membership.

E-Newsletter: Sir, being a Structural/Civil Engineer, what are the challenges Nigeria is facing in terms of structural engineering?

Engr. Nwankwo: You see Nigeria is a developing country. The problems we are having is that professionals are not allowed or are not given the opportunity to actually perform because most of the money is spent on infrastructures and so, a lot of quacks are already inside engineering profession, practicing engineering which is not supposed to be. The other challenge is, we have not actually policed engineering the way it supposed to be. We've started ERM, and it has not had the impact we expected it to have. We will get to those bases when we actually solve our problems by eliminating the fact that incidents of structural failures will be seriously minimized.

E-Newsletter: Could you please, sir, proffer a way forward to these structural engineering challenges?

Engr. Nwankwo: One of the ways forward as I said is, ERM has taken off. Let us actually push ERM to every corner. And let us actually have an enabling act that sends any man who uses non engineering personnel to execute engineering jobs to jail; or a fine that makes it better for you to look for engineering person-

nel to carry out an engineering job so that if there is a problem, that personnel would be dealt with by COREN.

E-Newsletter: Thank you sir. Looking at some structures; like the high ways, roads that have been constructed like six months or one year ago, we still go back to square one by repairing the roads. How can that be tackled? Because some of these roads were given to known engineering firms, yet after a couple of months, the roads still go bad.

Engr. Nwankwo: You see in road construction there are things we have to do. First the design, second the supervision aspect, third the contractor, fourth the soil parameter. What is the standard of the road being constructed? What is the pavement structure? You see in Nigeria we have a problem because most of these roads are not designed for the kind of load we are carrying on them. In most advanced countries, most of the roads are only used to transport personnel. Goods are usually carried on railways which are much stronger. So what we have to do now is to improve on our pavement structures so that we can start having it right. Though, it's going to be expensive. Look at Abuja, why Abuja roads are sure to last, it's because we have a stronger pavement design, a bigger pavement design. Yes things are flexible but it has so many apparatus that makes it to last; to withstand the loads that are carried on it. It goes down to the federal roads.



Engr. Felix Nwankwo, FNSE

Most of the pavement structures are not actually designed to carry the load that is carried; because we are conveying virtually everything in this country on the highways. So we have to improve on our pavement design, that is one of the things because I have actually practiced highway for the past twenty something years.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much sir. We are very grateful for giving us time to have this interview with you.

Engr. Nwankwo: Thank you for what you have been doing and I have read some of your e-newsletters and I promise you that if I am called upon for another interview, I will be available, because I am a member of NSE, I'm a stakeholder in NSE and I believe that we should be able to let the Nigerian public know what we are saying. If you don't campaign, spend the money now in construction to have quality roads, we will definitely spend it on maintenance and the other problem we are also having is that we don't budget enough money in maintenance. Nigeria should change.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much Sir.



Engr. Nwankwo & Engr. Otuenh

Honouring of NSE PH Branch Past Chairmen

The Executive Committee has established modes of honouring some of the past Chairmen of the Branch, who have been consistent in rendering service to the Branch, and playing vital roles in guiding younger Engineers to fit into to their very big shoes of handling the business of Engineers and Engineering. Accordingly, the Executive Committee have adopted the naming of our Mini-secretariat and its components after some of these past Chairmen as follows:

Mini-Secretariat is named after **Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo**, Main Hall is named after **Engr. Prof. Youpele O. Beredugo**,

Chairman's office is named after **Engr. Prof. Howells I. Hart**, Secretary's office is named after **Engr. Dr. Maurice E. Ephraim**, Administrative office is named after **Engr. Fyne C. Ogolo**, NSEPH office is named after **Engr. Chief Odeari O. Oruye**



Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat

5-Day Workshop on Engineering Design Software Application



Participants in the just concluded 5-Day Workshop on Engineering Design Software Application which was organised by NSE PH Branch. 7th from left is Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni (Branch Chairman) while 8th from left is Engr. Reuben Okparanma (Technical Secretary).

NSE PH Branch EXCO Visit to TOTAL E & P



NSE PH EXCO in a group photograph with staff of TOTAL E & P.



Staff of TOTAL E & P

NSE PH EXCO (L-R) Engr. Dr. Igoni (Chairman), Engr. Dania (Vice Chairman), Engr. George, & Engr. Ikenyiri (Secretary)

NSE PH Branch 3rd Quarter General Meeting



The 3rd Quarter General Meeting of the NSE PH Branch took place on Thursday

Engr. A. C. Adimelechi
Committee Chairperson

International Power Roundtable 2010

The Rivers State House of Assembly Committee on Power in collaboration with the Rivers State Ministry of Power organised a 2-day International Power Roundtable at the Assembly's Main Auditorium on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th July 2010. The Chairman of the event was Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart, FNSE. The President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Engr. Chief Alade Ajibola FNSE, was represented by the Port Harcourt Branch Chairman, Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, MNSE.



R-L: Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, MNSE, Hon. Augustine Nwokocha, (Commissioner of Power, Rivers State), Barr. Ekpo & Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart, FNSE

Landscaping of NSE PH Branch Secretariat

The landscaping of Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch was done recently to give the secretariat a face lift. The picture shows the landscaping of the secretariat.



29th July, 2010 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat. The meeting was well attended by the PH branch members. The hall was full to its capacity up to an overflow. Before the meeting started, a technical presentation was delivered by Engr. Dr. Lebelles Alawa, MNSE, of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology Port Harcourt on "Performance Effects on Compressor-Blade Deterioration on Gas-Turbines".

NSE PH Branch Career Development Committee 2010 Programme of Activities

MONTH	LECTURE TITLE	DATE/ TIME	SCHOOL / VENUE
August	(a) Workshop on anti corruption	12 th / 3:00 – 6:00pm	NSE Secretariat
	(b) Career Development (Entrepreneurship / Inter)	29 th August	Rivers State University of Science & Technology
September	Importance of Engineering	23 rd September	Federal Government College Rumuokoro
October	Importance of Engineering	22 nd October	Rivers State Craft Center
November	Career Development (Entrepreneurship & Inter)	11 th November & 26 th November	Rivers State Polytechnique, Bori Uniport.

Seminar/Refresher Course for Prospective candidates in August 2010

The seminar for prospective members of NSE in PH Branch will come up on Tuesday 10th August 2010 while the 3 days Refresher Course will take place on the 11th—13th August 2010 at the Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat.

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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: 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