



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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website: www.nseph.org

e-mail: info@nseph.org

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Interview with Engr. Asa Pokima FNSE on Prevention, Investigation and Failure Analysis (PIFA)

Engr. Asa Pokima FNSE is a Chemical Engineer who has acquired in dept knowledge in other facets of Engineering during his over 25 years sojourn of the Petroleum Industry. He started his career in Process Engineering with the NNPC and then veered into Rotating Equipment Engineering when he joined Shell. He has also been actively involved in Oil & Gas facilities management in the form of acquisition, maintenance and technical integrity assurance. He is also a fellow of the NSChE and currently the Chairman of the Prevention, Investigation and Failure Analysis Committee (PIFAC) of the NSE.



Engr. Asa Pokima, FNSE

E-Newsletter: *Sir, briefly, can you tell us what Prevention, Investigation and Failure Analysis (PIFA) is all about, as the Chairman of the committee.*

Engr. Pokima: Yes indeed Otunte, but first I would like to clarify that my discussion on failures here will be in the context of failures to Engineering Facilities and Processes. I would like to emphasize Engineering Processes because in many failure cases, deficiencies in the engineering processes appear to be overlooked even when facilities failures usually progress from defective processes either in their formulation or implementation. The impacted engineering facility could be buildings, roads, bridges, pipelines, telecommunication infrastructure, etc. Prevention, Investigation and Failure Analysis, as it applies to PIFAC, is to first proactively identify weaknesses or deficiencies in our Engineering facilities and processes via exercises like audits, reviews, surveys, etc with the aim of preventing the failure or reducing its impact. And if the failure does occur, to find out why it did with the objective of averting a re-occurrence. This means that the findings of the investigation exercise need to be widely disseminated to all practitioners of the profession. The Analysis of Failures is important to identify Systemic Failures which may call for the formulation of new codes and standards or the modification of existing ones.

E-Newsletter: *What advice do you have for Nigerians and the engineering family as regards PIFAC?*

Engr. Pokima: Very well and let me first direct my attention to the generality of Nigerians; Again as PIFAC is concerned with the failure to Engineering Facilities and Processes which could occur due to compromise in the design, specification, construction, operation and maintenance of the facility, it is important that competent persons are engaged in such assignments.

Nigerians should, therefore, desist from the use of quacks in the acquisition and management of engineering facilities. Registered engineers, whose behaviors are moderated by the Engineering Act and the Engineering Code of Practice, should be engaged at all times. Policy makers in Engineering and Allied Government functionary should also be persons well grounded in the engineering profession. The practice of appointing non-engineers as ministers and commissioners of engineering laden arms of government should be discontinued. Also, it is to be understood that the technical integrity infused at the acquisition phase of engineering facilities deteriorates with time and usage of the facilities. Technical integrity is, however, usually restored during maintenance activities. Nigerians should therefore take the maintenance of facilities very seriously. We need to improve on our maintenance culture. Generous budget allocation should be made for the maintenance of our engineering infrastructure to ensure their optimum performance. It is to be highlighted that failures of these facilities not only impact adversely on the national economy but also result in the loss of innocent and precious lives. Finally, we should also have a more positive attitude towards the assessment of the various aspects of our facilities acquisition and management effort; Exercises like reviews, surveys, and audits are used to identify incipient failures and for which mitigation actions are usually advised. For it is said, "a stitch in time saves nine". Also, the assessment exercise should not be used in witch-hunting. The exercise should be directed at finding "what was wrong" and not "who was wrong". And for the engineering family, one would advise that the relevant and applicable codes and standards be strictly adhered to in the course of performing our professional duties. That would reduce if not completely eliminate failure incidence. Failures under this circumstance would also not be viewed as professional negligence with the attendant sanctions.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much sir, we are very grateful for the time you gave to us to have this interview with you.*

Engr. Pokima: You are most welcome.



Engr. Pokima and Engr. Otuneh



The chief examiner of PH Branch Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE, conducting the September 2010 examination.

NSE PH Branch AGM/Election of Executive Committee

The Annual General Meeting /Election of Executive Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch will hold on Thursday September 30 2010 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo Secretariat, Water Works Yard, #3 Bernard Carr Street, Port Harcourt by 5.00pm. There will be Technical Presentation by the Managing Director of Income Electrix Limited.



Engr. A. H. Igoni, MNSE
Chairman, PH Branch

Felicitation: Four NSE PH Branch Members Now Justice of Peace (JP)



Engr. Chf. G. Massari JP
FNSE



Engr. Chf. Larry Nyeche JP
MNSE



Engr. B.T.D. George JP
FNSE



Engr. Chf. Gibson Belief JP
MNSE

On Tuesday September 14th 2010, four members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch were honoured as Justice of Peace (JP). The members are Engr. Chief Larry Nyeche JP, MNSE, Engr. Bentley T. D. George JP, FNSE, Engr. Chief Gibson Belief JP, MNSE and Engr. Chief Giandomenico Massari JP, FNSE. The E-Newsletter team felicitate with you on this honour that is giving to you.

Photo News

The MD of NDDC Chief Godwin Uguoha, with NSE PH EXCO Members and the Top Executive Staff of the NDDC in a group photograph during NSE PH EXCO visit to NDDC on 16th September 2010

NSE PH Branch Chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, MNSE, making a speech during the EXCO visit to NDDC.

NSE PH EXCO with the management staff of NLNG in Bonny during the Branch industrial visit meeting to NLNG.

A cross Section of NLNG engineering staff during the industrial visits meeting.



For more details please contact:

Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri
Secretary Local Organizing Committee
08032856649
goodluckikenyiri@yahoo.com

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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