



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Merry Christmas

Interview with Mrs. María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue, President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

Mrs. María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue is the President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). She is the Former Executive Vice-president of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and Past President of the Institute of Engineering of Spain. María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue is a prominent figure in the international arena of communications technology and international business.

E-Newsletter: *We would like to know more about the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.*

María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue: The World Federation of Engineering Organization represents the engineering profession worldwide. Some group of federation organized the World Federation that brings together the engineering society from Europe, America, Asia, Africa, the Common Wealth, the Arab country federation, the entire continents. We plan to draw in all the countries but so far we have a total number of ninety-eight countries which represent about eighteen million engineers. So we represent the engineering profession. We try to bring benefit to our members, serve them knowledge. Now is the time we need to, because we are adapting to global change. Look at some countries that are suffering from national disaster, which is not happening in other countries. We can interchange experience; we can interface the engineering profession. We are the interface of the engineering profession with the United Nation system, the UNESCO, the World Bank, Oil sector. We try to make more relevant the engineering profession which is the profession that is providing us with the conversion of knowledge into solving social problems and economic progress. It is not a matter of politicians and poli-



María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue
yet to key into the WFEO?

María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue: Today the engineering profession is a global activity. People can go into it. Any mega project requires the collaboration among all disciplines of engineering. Today it does make sense to talk about civil engineers, telecommunication engineers, computer engineers, etc because most of the project needs collaboration amongst the different engineering disciplines and not only by all the engineering disciplines but also engineers from different cultural and social backgrounds. So the WFEO is a mechanism to transfer to the engineers multi-discipline vision or international vision. One same technology is not used in the same way and not applied in the same way in the different countries and how to produce innovative engineering application taking into account the social and economic factors of the place where the project is going to be operated and we try to do so. So I think it is the right thing for engineers to be able to adapt in this complex society and globalized society.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much madam, how do you see the Nigerian engineer and the African*

engineers as well.

tics. It is a matter of engineers because it has a lot to do with science and technology; it is what the world needs to apply to solve countries' needs.

E-Newsletter: *What word do you have for the engineering organizations that are*

María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue: I talked about that yesterday. Africa is an impressive continent. It makes no sense to talk about Africa as a mono-individual. Africa lacks a lot of infrastructures, innovations, connectivity because only 10 or 12% of the trade of Africa is within Africa, so this is the reason for that. The continent lacks infrastructures; the railways, the roads are not joining the different nations. They have very well qualified people, they have raw materials, they have minerals, oil, everything. So Africa must stop to blame others for its miseries. The future looks bright. So they need a lot of infrastructures, water, energy. The time is ripe to start using the engineers' skills and knowledge to advice the government. The problem is that sometimes they have to know that engineers are the main actors of the development of the country or nation.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you for the audience you granted us.*



María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue & Engr. Otuneh



NSE Port Harcourt Branch Won 2nd Position in Group Dynamics

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch won the second position in the Nigerian Society of Engineers Branch Group Dynamics during the International Conference "Abuja 2010" held recently at the International Conference Center, Abuja. Photo left is a group photograph of PH Branch members after receiving the award. In the photo, the award is being held by the branch chairman Engr. A. H. Igoni MNSE (5th from right) while Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE, is 6th from right.

Engr. Akin Akinsipe Celebrates 25th Wedding Anniversary



Elder (Engr.) & Deacons (Pharm) Akin Akinsipe

Saturday 18th December 2010 is a remarkable day for Engr. Akin Akinsipe and his wife as they celebrate their silver jubilee in marriage. Church service was held at Logos Ministries after which guests were treated to a magnificent reception.

NSE PH Branch 2010 EXCO XMAS Party

On Saturday 11th December 2010, the Port Harcourt Branch EXCO XMAS Party was held at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo Secretariat, Water Works Yard, # 3 Bernard Carr Street, Behind Rivers State Library, Port Harcourt. The party was well attended as EXCO members and their spouses were in their colours. Some members of the branch were given awards by the Branch Chairman Engr. H. A. Igoni MNSE, for their outstanding contributions towards the development of Port Harcourt Branch.



NSE PH Branch Members Conferred Fellowship

On Friday December 3, 2010 at the NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, four members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch were conferred Fellowship of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. The eminent engineers that were elevated to the status of Fellows are; Engr. Bateim Ogariawo FNSE (immediate past chairman of Port Harcourt Branch), Engr. George Okoyo FNSE (CEO Point Engineering), Engr. George Okoroma FNSE (CEO Gambetta Group), Engr. Obinna Nwaadiuto FNSE (SPDC) and Engr. Abiye Suku FNSE (NNPC) The PH Branch heartily felicitate with these noble engineers.



L-R: Engr. George Okoroma FNSE, Engr. Bateim Ogariawo FNSE, Engr. Obinna Nwaadiuto FNSE and Engr. George Okoyo FNSE

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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