



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



2010 / VOLUME 100

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JANUARY, 15TH 2011

Happy New Year

Interview with Engr. Dili Nwabueze, P. E. on Safety in Engineering Practice

Engr. Dili Nwabueze, P. E. is a mechanical engineer and a Health Safety & Environment (HSE) expert. He works for ENI.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, can you tell us about safety in engineering in practice in Nigeria. Do we really have good safety systems in Nigeria or what can we do to boost up our safety practice in Nigeria?*

Engr Dili Nwabueze: This is a very good question and I have to approach it in a way that it might be rational in my response because it's quite a wide question. Let me start by saying that we have the traditional factor's act that has been there for years and has been catering for the safety management requirement in the industries; but having said that, the factory's act does not really cover the entire challenges in occupational safety. By and large, what is it when we are discussing the safety related to the occupation that people are engaged with. If you come to petroleum industry where I am involved, you have DPR; probably the government saw the need in those days to set up a DPR with the Oil Mineral Safety Regulation, I don't if you know about this, just to ensure that operations in the oil and gas industries are done in a safe way so to say. But nevertheless,



Engr. Dili Nwabueze

the state of safety practice or safety management in Nigeria cannot be said to be adequate. It is not adequate. What I mean by this 'is not adequate' is that ministry of labour is there supervising the factory's act, but we are not getting enough control in terms of holding people accountable for safety of their people at work or their personnel at work. In very many countries in Canada, in Australia, in Hong Kong, just name it, they have safety administration. I have canvassed for this, because as a practitioner, I have found difficulties in the ability to manage operational safety with enough regulatory oversight through the factory's act. Now we don't have safety administration in Nigeria. If we have safety administration in Nigeria, things will even be better. It is difficult, but this has to be done by the National Assembly; I understand that there are people that need to push.

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100th Edition Editorial

Welcome to the 100th Edition of the bi-weekly uninterrupted E-Newsletter of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch. The E-Newsletter was first published on July 5th 2007 and since then it has been published consistently.

Several interviews on various topics with different personalities and various events covering Port Harcourt Branch activities, Nigerian Society of Engineers Conferences, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) Engineering Assemblies, members achievements, etc, have been published in the past editions. The COREN Assemblies and NSE Conferences **SPECIAL EDITIONS** have been published while the events were ongoing in order to keep members, who could not attend, abreast with the activities.

We thank all our readers for their useful comments and contributions which has helped us to improve our works.

Thank you and Happy New Year.



NSE PH Branch EXCO members during the first EXCO meeting of the branch for the year 2011 on Thursday 13th January 2011.

Interview with Engr. Dili Nwabueze, P. E. on Safety in Engineering Practice

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We have been speaking among a few of us that are safety professionals that are also engineers. If we are able to get the National Assembly to understand that they need to make an act that will establish safety administration authority or commission or whatever name we may call it, that will be a good starting point; and it is at that time that people will begin to be accountable; managers or employers will begin to be accountable and be responsible as well for the people that work for them. Many people are killed while at work, and there are no consequences for this; having or getting insurance schemes are not just sufficient. Managers must be taken to task; employers must be taken to task to understand that going to jail is a possibility for managers in safety, because you cannot put people to work when you have not done what is reasonable and adequate to protect them from being killed or getting ill at work. In most areas where you have the safety administrations working properly, the organizations have been fined heavily, and some of the managers who were found to be negligent in terms of their responsibilities by law in safety, have paid the ultimate price by going to jail. I mean there is no other way. In Nigeria, it is worthless, it doesn't have any force, it doesn't exist, we have safety bridges and people are not held accountable.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much. What advice can you give or what recommendations can you give in terms of boosting safety in our society, for people to be more safety conscious?

Engr. Dili Nwabueze: There have been quite some effort in safety, but we need to do more. As I said a good starting point will be to have a commission and authority established by law to regulate and administer safety throughout the country. Most of the laws or the courses in the faactory's act has been overtaken by events in so

many aspects. We need something that is comprehensive to deal with safety and also deal with environmental issues as well. Just to be a good starting point, we need to have a strong commission to deal with safety bridges and that is of course, we have to work on standards internally, or adopt standards that are already in operation internationally. Whatever we can do, we have to try and organize ourselves. We are not organized. As I said, everything is left to the Ministry of Labour and to the Factory's act. It is not adequate at all.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much sir.

Engr. Dili Nwabueze: Thank you very much and keep up the good work that you are doing.



Engr. Dili Nwabueze & Engr Otunte Otuenh

Welfare Committee Visits Engr. Igoniwari Green's Family



Welfare Secretary Engr. Edward Orupabo (left) and Engr. & Mrs. Igoniwari Green during the Welfare Committee visit to Engr. Green's family on the gift of another baby to the family.

Past Chairman of NSE PH Branch Buries His Father



L-R: Engr. B. T. D. George, Engr. Sam Nwankwo, Engr. (Chief) Dr. M. E. Ephraim, Engr. I. Z. S. Akobo (bereaved), Engr. Chief Larry Nyeche & Engr. G. C. Egbunefu during the burial of the father of Engr. I. Z. S. Akobo on December 18th 2010 in Tombia.



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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