



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

2011 / VOLUME 122

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NOVEMBER, 19TH 2011

## Interview with Prof. Cleopas Angaye, Director General of NITDA

*Prof. Cleopas Angaye is the current Director General/CEO of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Abuja.*

**E-Newsletter:** *What can you tell us about NITDA?*

**Prof. Angaye:** NITDA is mandated to be the clearing house for information technology in the country. We provide standards, guidelines and regulatory framework for information technology in the country, we provide capacity building, we provide infrastructural building for the country and we also provide institutional building as part of our mandate for the country. In the past year and the half we have been concentrating on how we can provide internet facilities in the rural areas. We have provided internet facilities in rural areas which we called "Rural Information Technology Centres" and these centres are powered solar energy. We have also provided IT centres in the tertiary institutions. We have also set up a scholarship scheme; last year we gave out scholar-



Prof. Cleopas Angaye

ships for IT oriented areas in Masters and Ph.D. This year we gave out 74 scholarships for masters and 6 for PhD; more or less what am trying to say is we provide infrastructure capacity building, we also have a loan scheme for research. We see that we actually provide some sort of enabling environment for areas in IT research for both hardware and software. We are also trying to provide enabling environment for job creation in the country. We plan to provide two IT parts for the country and two software development centres.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much sir, talking about the rural internet facility how will it be sustained?*

**Prof. Cleopas Angaye:** Sustainability; currently we are trying to partner with the postal services. This year we are actually going into that initiative; but for sustainability, we have, for the first year NITDA will provide bandwidth, technical services and facilities. After the first year we expect the communities or the local government or the institutions to take over. However in terms of technical facilities we will step in as the need arises, where we can provide technical services we will do that forever; but for the day-to-day running of the centre we expect the communities to take over.

## The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Year 2011 Engineering Week Theme: Effective Transportation System in Nigeria: The Way Forward (Niger Delta Case Study) Date: Monday 7th November 2011—Sunday 13th November 2011



**Clockwise form top left:**

1. NSE PH Branch Year 2011 Engineering Week Opening Ceremony
2. NSE PH Branch Engineering Resource Center fund launch at Hotel Presidential.
3. Lecture evening at the Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat.
4. NSE PH Branch Engineering Resource Center fund launch at Hotel Presidential.

**Interview with Prof. Cleopas Angaye, Director General of NITDA**

**E-Newsletter:** *Talking about bandwidth, you know bandwidth is very expensive in this country, what is NITDA doing or what can be done to make bandwidth available to people at a cheap rate?*

**Prof. Cleopas Angaye:** In the country today we have three Internet Exchange Points (IXP); in Lagos, Abuja and in the north. This will help to bring down the cost of bandwidth. We are partnering and trying to provide an enabling environment; I am using the word enabling environment because government cannot do it alone we need to collaborate with institutions, library and information technology centres, internet exchange points, private entrepreneurs on software development and other companies that will promote IT packs.

**E-Newsletter:** *You talked about internet exchange point which is a very interesting one. How have you made this thing known to Nigerians that such facility is available?*

**Prof. Cleopas Angaye:** Well we have done some awareness. The awareness we are doing is probably not enough but we are still doing it as we are taking to you. I guess your E- Newsletter you can actually publicise it. We have also gone out for other training scheme initiatives. We now talk to the

public; in fact in 2009 we trained 6000 unemployed graduates; we trained them on basic internet facilities, how to use internet for research and other activities. Last year we trained 750 lecturers in the universities because we believe most



Prof. Cleopas Angaye & Engr. Otunte Otuneh

of them need more formal training. So we are carrying awareness and to actually provide more penetration of internet usage and information technology and we will continue to do it. In doing such activities people will be aware and we are still doing programmes on television; so we are doing a few things to provide awareness.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much sir. We are very grateful for the audience you granted us.*

**The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Year 2011 Engineering Week**



**Clockwise from top left position:**

1. Fellowship celebration of Engr. Erefaa Emine Tom-Jack *FNSE* during the dinner.
2. Engr. Richard Azubuike John *MNSE* and his spouse during his induction.
3. NSE Port Harcourt Branch Chairman Engr. H. A. Igoni *MNSE* (right) inducting the new members.
4. NSE Port Harcourt Branch rounding up the Year 2011 Engineering Week with a thanksgiving service on 13th November 2011 at St. Cyprian Anglican Church Hospital Road, Port Harcourt.



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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