



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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NOVEMBER 16, 2013

### Interview with Engr (Dr) Marlene Kanga, National President of Engineers Australia

*Engr. (Dr) Marlene Kanga, is the National President of Engineers Australia. She is a chemical engineer with experience in the oil, gas and chemical industries with respect to risk and safety engineering.*



Engr (Dr) Marlene Kanga

**E-Newsletter:** *What challenges are the Australian Engineers facing and what is the body doing to overcome the challenges?*

**Dr Marlene:** Engineers Australia is the largest professional organization for engineers. In Australia, we have one hundred and ten thousand members and we represent all the disciplines of engineering. We have 8 Boards of Engineering and 32 Technical Societies. We play the key role in setting standards for engineering education and professional development. Though there are many challenges in engineering but I think the key one for us is the shortage of engineers. Our demand has been around 22,000 engineers per year but we graduate only about 9,000 engineers per year of which 3,000 are international

students. So, the balance of 16,000 is the gap which we make up with permanent migration or temporary work resource. This is a big problem for us and for the engineering industries especially the Liquefied Natural Gas which we are constructing at the moment in Queensland and Western Australia. We have a large number of engineers from around the world coming to work in Australia because of the lack of domestic engineers.

**E-Newsletter:** *How does the Board intend to get young Australians to study engineering?*

**Dr Marlene:** Actually, there is a very big demand for engineers. So engineers who graduate from Australia get jobs. Yes, there are pockets of unemployment here and there but generally in the boom states of Queensland and Western Australia, there is a big demand for engineers and as such salary or pay rate is going up as a result of that. Our big issue is really to encourage young people to study science and mathematics to become engineers.

### NSE Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2013 at the NSE Headquarters Auditorium



NSE President, Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE (middle), NSE Deputy President, Engr. I. A. Olorunfemi FNSE (left) & NSE Executive Secretary, Engr. A. K. Amshi FNSE (right).



R-L (Executive Committee): Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE (VP), Engr. Adekunle Mokuolu FNSE (VP), Engr. Mrs. Valerie Agberagba FNSE (VP), Engr. Mrs Margret Oguntala FNSE, Engr. Mrs. Umar, Engr. Charles Akintola FNSE



**World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure,**  
2nd - 7th November 2014, Abuja-Nigeria.  
**Theme:** *Development of Sustainable Infrastructure in Africa*  
<http://www.wecsi2014.org>



**NSE Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013**



Some Past Presidents of NSE at the Council Meeting



NSE Port Harcourt Branch Chairman Engr. Denis Dania making a presentation to the President of NSE Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE



Council members at the meeting

**Interview with Engr (Dr) Marlene Kanga ...contd.**

So this is a key issue for us, to produce more young engineers in our country.

**E-Newsletter:** *As a woman engineer, what is the participation of women in engineering in Australia?*

**Dr Marlene:** We do not have enough women engineers. Let's say about 20% of engineering students are women. After graduation we have a problem; a lot of women find the work very tough and the work culture very difficult and they leave the profession. So, women comprise less than 10% of the profession which is a very small proportion. Unfortunately, most of these women are very young and as they grow older, when they start families, they leave. So the number of women in engineering who are in senior positions that have families and have balance work life are very small in number. So we need to work very hard to change that culture.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you madam.*



In preparation for Young Engineers programme that is part of Nigerian Society of Engineers 2013 Conference, the Young Engineers Development Committee held a planning meeting on Saturday 16 November 2013 at the National Engineering Center, Abuja



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**NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE Port Harcourt Branch should pay their Annual Branch Dues of N4,500 for Corporate Members and N6,500 for Fellows to UBA ACC. NO: 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch). Also pay National Annual Subscription of N9,000.00 for Corporate Members & N11,500 for Fellows directly to Main Street Bank ACC No. 6500374224 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank