



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

2014 / VOLUME 204

website: [www.nseph.org](http://www.nseph.org)

e-mail: [info@nseph.org](mailto:info@nseph.org)

APRIL 5, 2014

### Interview with Engr. Dr. Temilola Kehinde FNSE, President of ACEN

*Engr. Dr. Temilola Kehinde FNSE, is a Mechanical Engineer and the President of Association for Consulting Engineering in Nigeria (ACEN). He is also a Lawyer.*

**E-Newsletter:** *Sir, is ACEN satisfied with engineering consulting in the country?*

**Engr. Kehinde:** There is always room for improvement. We will keep on making progress. The main challenges that we have are two, which are largely out of our control. One is patronage by government agencies and even non-government agencies. We think in Nigeria the number one point of call for consulting engineering services should be ACEN or firms that are registered with ACEN and with COREN. If you ask me, perhaps, those who have no affiliation at all with ACEN and non with COREN and practice engineering consulting at all levels in Nigeria will be perhaps 70% or more of those who are doing consulting engineering and what those that show? Lack of regulation, lack of monitoring and lack of focus by the Nigerian governmental authorities. As I said earlier we are making progress.



Engr. Temilola Kehinde

The number two challenge is, people do not see the urgency in paying for services rendered as far as consulting engineering is concerned. We have members who are owed for 3 years, 4 years, 5 years for services they rendered. Sometimes the payments are never gotten at all and that is a reflection of our level of services. People do not respect contracts. When consultants render services, the least they expect from the clients who they offered services is that they are paid for the services they rendered. Consultants run businesses, they pay staff, they pay for offices and even pay for the drawings and the documentation they provide for clients. That is the second major challenge and the bigger culprit in that area is government. Government does not see any urgency to pay for services rendered. Well there is room for improvement.

**E-Newsletter:** *What advice do you have for people who patronize non registered engineering consultants to handle their projects?*

**Engr. Kehinde:** Well, two things I'm going to say before a word of advice. I will say that they don't know it but they lose a lot. In terms of the quality of services that they get and even in terms of the cost of their projects. Depending on the size of the projects, the cost of consultancy generally varies.



**L-R:** Engr. Michael Ironkwe FNSE, Mrs. Ironke, Engr. Gracious Omatseye FNSE, Mrs. Omatseye, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor (President of CAN), Engr. Mohammed Babagana FNSE (rep. NSE President), Engr. Sunday Makinde FNSE (immediate past NIEEE National Chairman), Engr. Denis Dania FNSE, Engr. Uzebu Osasogie FNSE & Engr. Gbesimi Akperi FNSE during the investiture of Engr. Gracious Omatseye FNSE, as the



**World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure,**  
2nd - 7th November 2014, Abuja-Nigeria.  
**Theme:** *Development of Sustainable Infrastructure in Africa*  
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**Interview with Engr. Temilola Kehinde FNSE ...**

If you retain the services of good quality professional, the services that you will get would be more. You do not run the risk of collapse buildings; you do not run the risk of non functional buildings.

So, if you want to spend your money wisely, you want to have quality and you want to have professionals behind whatever you do, my advice is this, engage and retain consultants. Better still, retain consultants who are accredited.

Accredited means that they are registered with COREN and they are also engaged and enrolled with ACEN because these set of people pay premium attention to quality to be sure that for every kobo you spend; you get so many nairas in the value. Let me ask this question and answer it quickly. What services do we render to society and our members?

We are part and parcel of the program for the development of the Nigerian economy. We make regular contributions in that area. ACEN is a member of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).

FIDIC focuses on how to run sustainable Businesses and Quality. You cannot be a member of FIDIC if you do not pay attention to those two major attractions. So what do we do? We pay attention to three things. One, membership quality. There are about one thousand consulting firms in Nigeria. We have perhaps about two hundred of them as our members. We have the skill and we have the tools to get most of them as our members but that is not our objective. Our objective is that you become our member if you are ready to meet our criteria and you are ready to render that quality services. Number two is membership development services. In particular, training, our members are always trained. Number three is advocacy outreach. We want to reach all stakeholders in Nigerian environment to let them know that ACEN is there and this is what ACEN does for you as an individual and for you as a corporate organization and for the Nigerian government. So we have an outreach and if you belong to us you benefit from that outreach and that advocacy platform.

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



Immediate Past National Chairman of NIEEE Engr. Sunday Makinde FNSE (right) decorating Engr. Gracious Omatseye FNSE with the medallion of the National Chairman of the Nigerian Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers during the investiture ceremony



Chairman of the Nigerian Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Port Harcourt Chapter Engr. Bentley T. D. George FNSE (2nd right in white shirt) and his spouse Mrs. George (right) during the investiture ceremony of Engr. Gracious Omatseye FNSE.

The Nigerian Society of Engineers  
Port Harcourt Branch  
General Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 24th April 2014

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Venue:** Engr. Ishmael A, Banigo secretariat, Water Works Yard, #3 Bernard Carr Street, Port Harcourt.

**Highlight:** Discussion on the Bye Laws for Branches of the Nigerian Society of Engineers by Engr. Denis Dania, FNSE

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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