The Nigerian Society of Engineers
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Interview with Engr. Reuben Onwuegbuna Okeke, FNSE

Engr. Reuben Onwuegbuna Okeke, FNSE, *is the Director General of the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN).*

E-Newsletter: *Sir, please tell us how the institute planned to develop the power sector in Nigeria.*


Engr. Rueben Okeke

Engr. Rueben: In 2009 I was pulled out from the field as the Managing Director/CEO of Enugu Electricity Distribution Company to come to the corporate headquarters in Abuja and midwife the establishment of National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN). NAPTIN was not in existence before then and the training arm of NEPA/PHCN which most of us past through was no longer in operation. 1989 was the last time the last batch of engineers were given structured training through this arm. So by 2009 the Federal Government decide to bring back core structured training in the power sector. When NAPTIN was established we started intervention courses, training people because training was left for over 22 years. We trained people first of all to militate against frequent collapses of equipment in the network, burning of transformers, snapping of wires, collapse of towers, etc. Those were the very first things we did immediately we were established in 2009. Since then we have trained about 5744 engineers, technician and some non technical staff of NAPTIN.

Our target was to make sure we save equipment from collapsing because many of them get burnt due to lack of knowledge. The experienced engineers in the sector were no longer there. The ones that were employed later were not trained which resulted to mishaps. Some time you hear that a line got cut and fell, these were the kind of stories that inundate the public place until we started. From 2009 to 2012 with the training, this reduced. We have brought onboard what was not there even during our own time before NAPTIN. Remember facilities were as well old and outdated so what we tried to do first was to renovate training centres, discard old training equipment and bring new ones. Now we have two robust electrical engineering training laboratories. One in Kainji and another in Ijora. Again apart from having good training equipment we have to do faculty profiling for those who are teaching.

NAPTIN training is vocational. It is on the job training. We have classrooms where we bring in people for training and after giving those hands on training in the classroom we move them to the field; that is where we really do the actual hands on training with life equipment. In 2012, we introduced what we call NAPTIN Graduate Skill Development Program (NGSDP) where graduates of electrical and electronics engineering or mechanical engineering with either HND or B.Sc are brought into our institute and we train them and allow them to acquire skills that will enable them pursue careers in the power sector. In 2013, we graduated 147 of such engineers. In 2014, we graduated 237 and by April 2015 we will be graduating about 187. We are preparing them for their career in the power sector. They will operate and maintain the system in generation, transmission and distribution. We are about to start training technicians as well. That's what NAPTIN does. It's a huge market and it's a big challenge but the federal government is giving us all the support to ensure that we are be able to provide the much needed human capital to sustain the physical expansion in the electricity infrastructure.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much.*

World Federation of Engineering Organizations

Designing for Climate Change ***- Engineering for Change: Structures - Water***

Generations of farmers in the high desert of Ladakh have planted in the spring when glacial melt water begins to flow from the Himalayan foothills above them. In recent years, however, the weather has gradually warmed and the glaciers are shrinking, leaving the soil dry.

"Shrinking glaciers are a known phenomenon here. In the people's lifetime they have shrunk by up to a kilometer. So a decrease in melt water is only natural. There are some villages that are being abandoned, even. Perhaps [they are] the first climate-change refugees" Sonam Wangchuk, a mechanical engineer and instructor at the SECMOL school in Ladakh told E4C.

Engineers had tried to artificially build up the glaciers above the farming villages. They diverted waterways to create high-altitude ice fields on north-facing slopes in the shade of peaks. But the work was strenuous and required steep climbs to maintain the water diversions. Wangchuk had a simpler plan. He piped water through a gravity-fed tube from winter streams to a patch of land right in a farming village. The water froze in an icy cone that grew to contain 150,000 liters. Its shape resembled a "stupa" a religious shrine made of stacked rock and that is what Wangchuk calls it, an "ice stupa". The conical shape left little area exposed to the sun, so it melted slowly during the spring to irrigate the surrounding fields.

For the complete article visit:
http://www.wfeo.net/designing-climate-change/

The Website Editorial Board/Library & Information Technology Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at the National Engineering Center (Nigerian Society of Engineers Headquarters), Abuja. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Committee Engr. Brig. Gen. M. O. Agu, (Rtd) FNSE (middle).

21-24 JULY 2015 | SUNTEC SINGAPORE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

WORLD ENGINEERS SUMMIT

CLIMATE CHANGE

WES2015

Years of observation, research and monitoring have demonstrated beyond doubt that the Earth's climate is changing. Climate crisis is no longer a distant or future challenge. It is affecting millions around the world right now.
The Singapore Engineers Photography Club is inviting amateur and professional photographers as well as the general public to submit photos "About Climate Change" by 1 June 2015. Besides promoting photography as a fine art, the competition also hopes to heighten the awareness on the reality and risks which climate change brings to our global society.
Your photos shall capture elements of any nature, cultural or man-made activities as source and/or effects of climate change. Terms and Conditions apply*.

Two Categories:

- Youth (16-21 years old)
- Open

Take Part in One or More Sections:
·Digital Colour (PC)
·Digital Monochrome (BW)
·Digital Experimental (DE)

Visit: http://wes-ies.org/competitions/photography-competition/

WFEO Executive Director reports on the December 2014 Executive Council

The Executive Council of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations met at UNESCO in Paris on 8 December 2014 ending a week devoted to engineering and engineers.
Several events prepared for the Executive Council took place during the first days of the week:

The WFEO ten Standing Technical Committees reviewed their activities during the current year and discussed their programmes to be launched next year.
Several Task Groups discussed matters relating to the Federation and STCs activities
The Executive Council received these reports on 8 December 2014 and prepared the recommendations for the General Assembly.

In particular, it:
approved the draft minutes of the 2013 executive council meetings.
approved the audited 2013 accounts.
endorsed the activity report of the President.
endorsed the reports of the **Standing** Technical Committees and the WFEO international members.
endorsed the reports of the Marketing Task Group, the Strategic Planning Task Group.
endorsed the report of the nominations committee report and the STCs Review and Support Groups.
endorsed the reports on WECC 2015 and WEC 2019.
recommended the transformation of the WFEO/UN Relations committee to a Standing Technical Committee to the general assembly for approval,
received the report on the Engineering Associations of the Mediterranean Countries (EAMC).
approved establishment of the working group to draft an agreement with IEA and work on other aspects of the MoU signed between WFEO and IEA.

For more details visit:
http://www.wfeo.net/wfeo-executive-director-reports-december-2014-executive-council/

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of **NSE Port Harcourt Branch** should pay their **Annual Branch Dues** of **N5000** for **Corporate Members** and **N7,500** for **Fellows** to **UBA Account No. 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch).** Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of **N9,000.00** for **Corporate Members** & **N11,500** for **Fellows** directly to **First Bank Account No. 2020502052** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made into the bank accounts.