An Interview with Engr. George Okoyo, Managing Director Point Engineering Ltd on Challenges of Engineering Design Practice.

E-newsletter: Good day sir, we want to have a dialogue with you today on behalf of NSE PH E-newsletter. We want to look at the challenges of Engineering Design practice. Before we go on, can you tell us about your life?

Engr. G. Okoyo: I was born some 48 years ago in Edo State, Benin City. I had my primary school education in my village then I went to Lagos to start my secondary school. After my secondary school, I came back to Benin to read mechanical engineering in the University of Benin. I have always been excited by technological feat. I read about technology, science and I was a very good student. So it was natural I chose mechanical engineering.

E-newsletter: Ok. Thank you very much. Can you tell us how Point Engineering came into being and what you are doing?

Engr. G. Okoyo: We want to make 'point' especially in Oil and Gas industries. Of course that was where the name "Point Engineering" originated. We believe Nigerian Society of Engineers can produce design engineers in the Oil and Gas Sector not just in road construction, teaching, architecture and all that. We just want to prove that Nigerian Engineers can compete in the Oil and Gas Sector with other engineers in other parts of the world. So we formed Point engineering. Today we have about fifty-five Nigerian Engineers, about seventeen AUTOCAD operators and total staff strength of about one hundred and eighteen. We also have ten expatriate who are advisers to Nigerian staff in the area of training. In terms of what we have achieved over the past eight years, I make bold to say that we have increased our capacity base and this strengthened our staff numerically. Point Engineering is hundred percent (100%) Nigerian Company. All the management staffs we have presently are all Nigerians. We have of recent received an award as one of the best local content friendly organizations in Nigeria.

E-Newsletter: In this organization, how many engineering fields have you been incorporated into your team? And how many engineers and other professional do you manage?

Engr. G. Okoyo: Well we have all the disciplines here. We have of course the piping/pipe line mechanical engineering, the process engineering, the Electrical and Instrumentation, Civil Structural and so on. You can see that we are not just process and Mechanical Engineering Company. It is a core engineering Discipline Company.

E-newsletter: Tell us about the training aspect of Point Engineering. How do you bring the engineers up, in terms of knowledge and use of engineering tools, software, design codes, etc?

Engr. Okoyo: I want to say that we have one of the best staff training programs for our engineers. That's why when they go for either project defense or presentation, people marvel at the level of their competence in engineering. We have an in-house training program, where young engineers from National Youth Service (NYSC) are trained from pupilage to lead engineering positions. Then we have the **Mentor** program where we have experts as advisers in each of the departments. During the process, for a young engineer for example he or she must have taken some in-house engineering examinations which are marked by the advisers and if one fails twice, of course he/she remains in that position but if he/she fails the third time, he/she will be advised to go so that others can come in. So we have a robust in-house raining program. We have all the major software for design: for process we have HYSYS, for mechanical and piping, we have Ceaser II; for structural and civil, we have SACS, and others for foundation designing, for instrumentation. So we have all the software required by engineers.

E-newsletter- You are aware of the Nigerian Content Initiatives which have been established by Federal Government, have you benefited from this concept?

UP COMING EVENT:
The Institute of Appraisers & Cost Engineers:
International Annual Conference & Exhibition. Date will be communicated later. Venue: Abuja, Nigeria. *For more details please visit www.iacenig.org*

EXCO VISIT TO ENGR. OLUBUMI OBEMBE FNSE ON 29TH MAY, 2008

It was a session on interaction between EXCO and Engr. Obembe. Nigerian Engineers should understand that the country is in the learning process. We are just starting to live, according to Engr. Obembe, "this is our morning" period. On the local content, he assured the EXCO that government is serious about it and Totalfina Elf is also in support. The Chairman of the branch, Engr. Ogariawo thanked the senior colleague for all his contribution to the branch and also made a request through a letter presented to him.

E-newsletter- You are aware of the Nigerian Content Initiatives which have been established by Federal Government, have you benefited from this concept?

Engr.Okoyo – Yes in a way we can say we have benefited from Nigeria content initiatives. Today we are involved in sub- sea engineering design in Nigeria. We are part of the Total Fina Elf project presently going on in Lagos. This is as a result of the support we got from the Nigeria content initiatives. There was a time when it was impossible for us to move forward on this project. It took about 8 months for NCD to sort out this problem. So we can say we have benefited greatly from Nigeria content division of NNPC.

people like us will always give the right advice. There are lots to gain in engineering in Nigeria. Also we can not get all we need from government. Government have there own problems. They can not create job opportunity for all those who are not opportune to work in private sector. They should pick up as little as they may have and start on a small scale. I also want to appreciate NSE PH E-newsletter. Now no one can give an excuse of not knowing what is going on in the branch, national chapter and other related engineering association. Thank you.

E-newsletter- From your humble beginning till now, what advice do you intend to give to engineers out there? So many engineers are frustrated, all hope is lost, no jobs, what can you say to them?

Engr. Okoyo – My advice to them is that if you are an engineer and you do not have a job, I do not see any reason why an engineer should not be able to take care of himself and his immediate family. You do not necessary have to work in NNPC, Shell or other big companies, because as an engineer, you are trained to succeed where others failed. You have been given a tool to start something, I know that today am running Point engineering. I have never looked for work but I always got work when I wanted. Before I setup Point Engineering, there were so many things that I could have become, a furniture maker, or welder which we were taught in workshop practice. I remember that there was a time I was teaching in about 5 places just to make ends meet. So as an engineer, if you don't have a job and you cannot take care of yourself, I think you are properly responsible for that. I always believe that we were taught to solve problem. So I will advise our young ones that there is no profession that is as lucrative as engineering in Nigeria. I will advise the young engineers not to loose hope, come to me.

JUNE EXCO MEETING- Centered on: the appraisal of the first quarter annual dinner, 50th anniversary of NSE South zone, National President & his entourage visit to the branch and governor of the state.

Child Dedication of Our Secretary, Engr & Mrs Dennis

AFNOG/AFRINIC8 2008 WORKSHOP, TUTORIALS & MEETINGS I N RABAT MOROCCO. May 24 – June 6 2008

The African Network Operators Group (AFNOG) in partnership with the African Network Information Center (AFRINIC) organized a 5-day workshop on Network Technology (offering advanced training in a week-long hands-on workshop), several full-day Advanced Tutorials, a one-day AfNOG Meeting, and a two-day AfriNIC Meeting) which was open to all African countries. Practical trainings were carried out during the workshop session which covers: SA-E - UNIX SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION, SS-E - SCALABLE INTERNET SERVICES, SI-E - SCALABLE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE and SI-F - INFRASTRUCTURE RESEAUX (French Track - equivalent to SI-E). After the workshops a 2-day practical tutorials was organized for participants

Participants & instructors duri ng the event

In addition, several side meetings and workshops were hosted in collaboration with other organizations such as the Association of African Universities (AAU) and Internet Society (ISOC) on bandwidth and the Internet. The high point of the event was the critical discussion on Internet Protocol version 6 known as **IPv6.** This has been a critical issue since the present IP addresses been used (IPv4) soon become unavailable and there is the need to introduce the IPv6 so the computer networking around the world will be at a stand still. It was an international event as there were instructors from America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. The next AFNOG/AFRINIC workshop and tutorials will take place in Cairo, Egypt in 2009. For more information about the event please visit www.afnog.org and www.afrinic.net. Interesting materials that were used during the workshop can be found at www.ws.afnog.org. Consequent to this the Nigerian version of the event will come up in November 2008 which will be organized by the Nigerian Network Operators Group known as "ngNOG" (www.forum.org.ng) and it will be hosted by the University of Lagos in Lagos.

Tutorial on wireless networking