



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

e-newsletter

2008 / VOLUME 27

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5TH JULY, 2008

NSE PH BRANCH E-NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On 5 July 2007 the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch published the first edition of her e-newsletter. The aims and objectives of the e-newsletter are not only to keep our members abreast of NSE activities but also to enhance the members' career development among others. The support and comments received so far from the reading audience and our National headquarters have challenged us to be regular in all our productions over the one year period.

Our reading audience could testify that issues presented in most of our editions centred on problems that engineering applications should have solved if given the opportunity. The engineering profession has come to the limelight of not only solving technical issues but also social and economic problems for the populace. E-newsletter had interactive sessions with senior engineers and managing directors of well established organizations where engineering services are utilized. Topical issues in the following areas were considered by way of interviews: Assessment on the quality of engineering education and practice; application of the engineering profession to develop small scale and medium scale industries in Nigeria; safety requirements on incessant fire incidences and attitudinal behaviour of our people towards use of fuel (kerosene & premium motor spirit); problems of power supply and associated management/planning inadequacies; potable water supply problems; information communications technology (ICT) issues and engineers; contributions of engineering profession to the society.

The following resource persons were interviewed on the above topics: Engr. (Chief) O.O. Oruye, Engr. Prof. E. N.Wami, Engr. Engr. L. A. C. Dangana, Prof. D. P. S. Abam, Chief D. O. Nwachukwu (Managing Director Groundwater, Ltd), Engr Chief G. Massari, Engr G. Okoyo (Managing Director, Point Engineering), Engr. B M Ogariawo.

The questions and opinions generated from the interviews are thought provoking that could be considered to solving most of the prevailing societal problems. Some industrial visits, seminars/workshop activities, national and international conferences where our members participated were presented along with some social events in editions of the e-newsletter. Perhaps the subsequent editions may begin to consider solution methodologies to most of the existing social problems in the society. We welcome new ideas from our reading audience on ways of improving the quality/application of engineering education in Nigeria. We also look forward to those who will support us in the areas of career developments of our practicing engineers especially in the areas of research and access to e-library. Membership to other engineering bodies in other countries gives the member access to e-library and sometimes software. Our engineers in industries and academia should avail themselves the opportunity for professional development.

We wish you all, fruitful reading in the years ahead.

Engr. Dr. Awajogak A. Ujile
(Branch Publicity Secretary)



NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS (NSChE) RIVBAY CHAPTER VISIT TO PABOD BREWERIES

On 3 July 2008 members of NSChE RIVBAY chapter made industrial visit to PABOD BREWERIES LTD.in Port Harcourt. The General Manager of the company, Mr. Franz-Josef Brune gave the brief of the company operations and future plans of expansion. He later handed over the engineers to the technical manager at the production floor. All the production facilities were visited. Other areas of interest covered during the visits included: quality control laboratory, process control/instrumentation units, control room, water treatment units, storage units (silos), power generation plant, packaging/labeling section of the company. It was observed that the plant is applying state-of-the-art facilities for all operations. Modern equipment are in use. We pray that the directors of the company will give maximum cooperation to the German partners to manage the plant properly.

Members of NSChE on the industrial visit included: Engr Prof. E N Wami (Branch Chairman), Engr. Dr. A. A. Ujile (Branch Secretary), Engr. B. N. Ahorka, Engr. E. Amadi, Engr B. Ikpekri and other graduate and student members. It was observed that the company is producing high quality Grand Malt and Grand larger. Photos show interactive session with the management in the conference room and group photograph at the end of the plant tour.



Engineering Education in Nigeria Technical Presentation by Prof. Musa Alabe, VC, Yobe State University at RSUST, Port Harcourt during IEEE Seminar on 14th June, 2008 (reviewed)

...continued from last edition

Academic Content: The academic content of most of our Engineering courses conforms to the minimum academic standards prescribed by the National Universities Commission (NUC). The approved minimum academic standards in Engineering for all Universities by the NUC, is quite relevant. As the name implies, it is the minimum that is expected from any program. The curriculum is not static but dynamic i.e. changing with time and relevance. The contents should be also compatible with expectations of the industry.

PROSPECTS: The Engineering profession is not static but a dynamic one. It is adapting to the needs and aspirations of the society at any given time likewise the engineering education. Despite many constraints, the teaching of engineering in our Universities can be improved and sustained if the following points can be considered.

“Catch Them Young”. There is the need to encourage the study of Science subjects at the Secondary School levels; specifically, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geography. Stakeholders; Parents/Teachers Association, NGO’s, Government and private Sectors, should seek for additional and novel ways of encouraging the study and teaching of Science subjects.

Funding: The Direct Teaching and Laboratory Cost (DTLC), which is used to funding the maintenance of equipment in laboratories and workshops is a step in the right direction. But it is not enough. There is the need to augment the funding of all laboratories and workshops, through a special provision in the Education Trust Fund (ETF). The fund would take care of updating as well as maintenance of current facilities. The COREN, NUC, and Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, are expected to work out modalities and proposals on this to increase fund allocation to DTLC of engineering programs.

Improving the Morale of Teaching Staff: 1)The NSE is currently finalizing an agreement with the government to increase the salaries of all engineers. This is a step in the right direction.(2) Special allowances, such as call-duty allowance for medical doctors, needs to be introduced for engineers but especially the academic staff in the engineering profession.(3) The authorities of all Universities should provide scholarships for graduate lecturers to pursue Masters and Ph.D. degrees. (4) Attending/Participating in National and International Conferences and Workshops should be encouraged. This would keep staff abreast with recent works and researches in their various fields. Apart from boosting the morale of the staff, it would further provide avenues for institutional linkages and cross-fertilization of ideas. (5) Through our various alumni, and other donor agencies, Research and Development (R & D) can be pushed further by creation of “Research Foundation Fund” in each University. Any academic staff that has a research proposal worthy of funding can easily and readily access it through the “Research Foundation Fund”.

Industrial Training: Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) should be critically assessed with the view to making it more effective and dynamic. It requires periodic review if it has to serve the purpose for which it was created. Secondly, industrial attachment for engineering staff should also be encouraged. Staff members are expected to use their semester breaks and leave periods to acquire some industrial experience.

Contnext edition



Prof. Musa Alabe

COREN 17TH ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY:

THEME : *VALUE FOR MONEY IN ENGINEERING PROJECTS: THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING REGULATION.*

VENUE: *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE. ABUJA.*

DATE: *23RD-24TH SEPT, 2008.*

REGISTRATION FEE: *#12,000. PRE-REGISTRATION: #15,000. AFTER 22ND AUGUST, 2008. TECH & CRAFT-MEN: #6,000 FLAT.*

PROGRAMME OUTLINE:

DAY 1: *9:00AM-OPENING CEREMONY, 12:00PM: TEA BREAK, 1:00PM: TECH SESSIONS, 7:00PM: DINNER.*

DAY 2: *9:00AM TECH SESSION, 12:00PM: TEA BREAK, 12:30PM: TECH SESSION, 2:00PM CLOSING*

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE PH should pay their **annual branch dues** of N4000 and **compulsory levy** of N5000 towards the Engineer Resource Center to **UBA ACC. NO: 0820280000194 (Port Harcourt main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N5,500.00 directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 142022215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation.

All payments should be made at the Bank