



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Interview with Engr. Ademola Olurufemi on corruption in Engineering Education in Nigeria.

E-Newsletter: *It is a privilege to have you interviewed. Today we will be discussing on corruption as one of the obstacles to achieving success in engineering education. Before we proceed, can you give our reading audience a brief history of yourself?*

Engr. Femi: Thank you very much the editorial team of NSEPH E-Newsletter. I'm quite honored to be picked out of more than two thousand engineers to discuss this issue. I was born on the 23rd of November, 1960. I am from Oyo State, Nigeria. I had my primary education in Ibadan, secondary school in Ondo and my university education in Ife where I obtained my B. Sc in Agricultural engineering. I obtained my Master's degree from the University of Ibadan in Agricultural engineering as well. I served in the then Bauchi state now Gombe. After service I joined the Federal Polytechnic, Lagos on the 3rd of December, 1985. I rose to the position of chief lecturer that is where I have been till date.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much. We have been talking about engineering training and education. People have been complaining of poor funding and inadequate facilities. Every year there is always budget allocation for education at the state and federal levels. How do you rate the attitude of those appropriating the budget and corruption in our society? You have been in the education sector for years, what is your perspective in this direction?*

Engr. Femi: Thank you very much. I will take us back to the introduction because it is in line with what you just asked. Yes I have spent about twenty-four years in the polytechnic. Talking about corruption, before corruption set in, the UNESCO standard says that 26% of our GDP should go towards education. In 2003 only 1.83% of GDP contribution was given to education. In 2004, 3.41 or so, it is still less than 10% in 2009 and that has brought in the ongoing crises today. I thank God we all schooled here. In 1984, I had the opportunity of still taking three square meals up to the last day, in the university as a student thereafter there was no meal. I also have the privilege of serving on the discussion panel at the Federal Polytechnic, Ondo State. We have just submitted our report to the government a week ago. What we saw was so appalling, where students live is worst than a piggery. So you see funding is a big problem. If a body that knows; says that 26% should be dedicated to

education and we cannot afford 26%, why don't we offer something close to that, at least 20% the gap isn't much but we offer far below 10%. So in terms of funding we are not there and teaching engineering and other discipline requires funding, especially disciplines that involve practical activities like engineering. Until we find a way to fund education, probably we are just deceiving ourselves. We will continue to remain among the least devel-

oped. Look at Ghana, South Africa, Malawi and other African countries. They put more than 15% of their GDP into engineering education alone. At the rate we are going I don't think we can be among the 20 countries in the year 2020. People just don't care; the little that is put into it is not well spent. Corruption can only be removed if all checks and balances are put in place. Honestly speaking, it is not going to be easy because it comes from the federal sector. The political system that operates in Nigeria is not in the good interest of engineering education and training. There is nothing that would convince a young graduate to go to the class room to lecture or go into research when counselors or members in the House of Representative are out there making money. All you need do is to snatch ballot boxes, get elected or selected and earn millions of Naira apart from the ones you will steal. We need to reorder our value system so we could enumerate people accordingly.

E-Newsletter: *You have hit the nail on the head. The federal government over the years has setup some agencies like the EFCC and ICPC to oversee this issue. Is there any hope that these agencies would bring a positive change in this country?*

Engr. Femi: There is hope. We shouldn't give up. What we just need is the right leadership. We should speak out loud the evils in the society. There are some past governors that shouldn't be walking freely on the street. There are repercussions for such people by law. Why don't they face it? Perhaps, EFCC and ICPC are still being guided. We need somebody with the right political will. There are so many people out there that

we all know should be in jail. These agencies should be allowed to implement what the law says; they should be allowed to do their jobs. We need to change the minister of justice because he is the one that oversees these agencies. We were told that he was counsel to most of these past governors, yet he was still made minister. So what do you expect?

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much. The last issue we want to talk about is still on corruption. What advice do you have for student, teacher, parents, and citizens in general concerning this situation?*

Engr. Femi: Let me start with the government because it is very important. You and I know how it is in the developed countries. They are corrupt too. They like to cut corners like every other human being but the difference between us and them is the simple fact that the Law stands. Nobody is above the law. As you and I know in Nigeria with all the agencies here and there, even if you are cut right handed, you can get away with it, but in developed countries the case is not the same. In fact, the higher your rank the greater the repercussion you stand to face. For this single reason everybody is very mindful. So there must be sanction as stated in our rules we should not change the rule. There is no teaching in schools that would make a difference. Because these children will grow up learning that this particular person did this and nothing was done to the person. To make it worse they are even celebrated. Do you think these children wouldn't want to give it a trial? After all government did nothing. But if they are properly trailed and found guilty and they are punished, you don't need to tell them not to follow that part.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much. We want to express our appreciation for the short time we have with you.*



Engr. Ademola Olurufemi



Engr. Dr. Ujile & Engr. Olurufemi

4th Annual Corrosion Management Summit
Optimizing Corrosion Management techniques to prevent spills, plant shutdown, loss of income and production
October 11 – 14, 2009 · Hilton Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The above conference was attended by our Publicity Secretary, Engr. Dr. A. A. Ujile where he delivered a paper on, “**EVALUATING A TECHNIQUE FOR SOLVING CORROSION PROCESS MODELS ON OIL AND GAS FACILITIES**”. The 92 delegates for the conference came from Africa, Europe, India, USA, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia etc. The Vice President of NACE International Dr. Chris Fowler chaired all the sessions. One of the workshop sessions was handled by Dr Fowler on: NACE updates on sour service standards- 2nd Edition ISO 15156/NACE MR0175. This particular section of the workshop covered the industry standards and test methods for selecting and qualifying metallic materials for sour service. The highlights of the conference include:

- ◆ Corrosion engineers should be involved in all projects from design to commissioning, including bridges, superstructures, oil and gas facilities
- ◆ 24th April every year, effective 2010 will be celebrated as WORLD CORROSION DAY. This would be passed on to The United Nations and member countries will implement.
- ◆ Sensitization on the effect of corrosion to properties and materials is the responsibility of all stakeholders.
- ◆ Design engineers, administrators and managers of projects should take corrosion seriously and involve corrosion experts in projects.
- ◆ Government should engage personnel knowledgeable in corrosion for projects from design stage to supervision and commissioning.

Visit: www.corrosionmanagementme.com for details of the conference.



Some speakers & participants at the event



Engr. Dr. Ujile delivering his lecture



WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch is organizing a- 3 day Refresher Course on:
 Pump Operations, Pump Maintenance, Safe Operations, Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)

Resource Persons:

Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart; (FNSE)
 DVC. Rivers State University of Science and Technology,
 Port Harcourt.

Engr. R. O. Ogoni; (MNSE)
 Managing Director,
 RICH- MOG SERVICES NIGERIA LIMITED.

For further enquiries/contact, please call:
 Technical Secretary — 08037080691

Venue: NSE PH. Secretariat,
 3 Barnard Carr Street,
 Water Works Yard, Port Harcourt.

Date: 18th – 20th November, 2009

Time: 9am-4pm daily

Registration is at the NSE Secretariat.



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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: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N7,500.00 for **Members** & N9,500 for **Fellows** directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank