



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch EXCO meeting for the month of February 2010 was held on February 4th at the branch secretariat. The meeting was chaired by the branch chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni .

An interview with Ing. Andrew T. Barfour (President, Ghana Institution of Engineers) On Collaboration among Engineers in Africa

E-Newsletter: Sir, we are the E-newsletter of The Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt branch. We will like to have a brief discussion with you; but before we go into details, we will like you to give us a brief history of yourself.

Ing. Barfour: I am Eng. A. T. Barfour, Fellow of Ghana Institution of Engineers. I am also a Fellow of the Institution of Directives. Basically I'm an Electrical Engineer. I worked with the Electricity Company of Ghana for some few years. Later I was moved to the Ministry of Energy as the Project Coordinator for World Bank electrification program in Ghana.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much Sir. Please what can you tell us about the collaboration among Engineers in Africa?

Ing. Barfour: Well, to some extent in Africa, I think it is a bit loose. Way back in 2005, there was a meeting in Egypt and they came out with some structure but unfortunately since then President couldn't work as it should, he came from Kenya.

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Engr. & Mrs. Kombo Johnson dedicated baby Laura Odieve

On Sunday February 7th 2010, Engr. & Mrs. Kombo T. Johnson dedicated their baby Miss Laura Odieve at the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Rumueme, Port Harcourt. After the church service a reception was held at his Eagle Island home where guests were entertained with plenty of food and drinks. Some of the guests that were present are the NSE PH Branch Chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni and his wife. Others are Engr. Denis Dania and Engr. Idoniboye and his wife. Engr. Kombo Johnson served in the NSE PH Executive Committee as Publicity Secretary and Welfare Secretary. The Nigerian Society of Engineers PH Branch heartily congratulates the Kombo family & wish the baby long life & God's divine blessings.

The Infotech/Library Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers PH Branch and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Rivers State, have been in partnership in a programme tagged "ICT4ALL". In this programme they are working towards evangelizing ICT and using ICT to boost agriculture. On February 8th—13th 2010, the team travelled to South Africa to visit an agricultural project and the NEPAD African Secretariat in Midrand, South Africa where they met with the CEO of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, who is a former Prime Minister of Niger Republic.



L-R: Engr. (Chf) G. Massari (NSE PH), Dr. Tex Wariboko (SA to R/S Gov & coordinator NEPAD Rivers State), Ashford Etela (NEPAD R/S), Christy Bobo-Jama (NEPAD R/S), Engr. Otuenh Otunte John (NSE PH) & Jonathan Norton in an agric farm in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa on February 11th 2010



3rd from right, Dr. Tex Wariboko (Special Assistant to the Rivers State Governor & Rivers State Coordinator on NEPAD) and 4th from right, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, (CEO of NEPAD) in the NEPAD CEO's office in Midrand South Africa on February 12th 2010

An interview with Ing. Andrew T. Barfour (President, Ghana Institution of Engineers) On the Collaboration among Engineers in Africa ... contd from page 1

The secretariat which is handled by Nigeria has tried their best to do whatever they can to bring us together, especially we in West Africa. Unfortunately, the English speaking West African group seems to be working; Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria but the French speaking group have been a little bit better. It's difficult to beat them. Recently, there was this World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) in Kuwait. There was an attempt to bring us together. There we had Cameroon, Senegal, we had Zimbabwe, and we had Zambia and South Africa. So we met but there is some small, let me put it, rivalry between the South African group and the West African group. Because of that, the South African group thinks they have much substance to whatever organization we have because they set up a rival group called African Engineers Society. So that has been the cause. Fortunately, the new president elect of WFEO has intimated that he wants to bring us together, so there is going to be a conference or workshop in Egypt next week. They invited eventually all engineering organizations. If that meeting is successful, which we hope it will be, then that would be the beginning. But at least there was that NSE-Ghana Institution of Engineers- Sierra Leon Engineers-Cameroon Engineers which is linking. At the last conference of NSE in December last year in Owerri, Zimbabwe came, Gambia came, Benin came, and Ghana and Sierra Leon also came. At least five countries came during that conference. We hope this would be the beginning.

E-Newsletter: What do you think could be the cause of the loose end among the African engineers?

Ing. Barfour: The basic problem is that some of these countries don't even have their institutions. They don't have the group there. So you now have to set up and help them to do it. Another



Ing. Andrew Barfour

problem is finance; most people are finding it difficult to pay their dues to WFEO so to bring in an FAOE (Federation of African Organisations of Engineers) as additional bedding, some are finding it very difficult. So basically it centers around no organization and then finances becomes a problem. You know in NSE, by numbers you are strong, even by ranges of some divisions, you are quite strong; but when it comes to places like Sierra Leone, they are very few, it centers on a few consultants. So those things are in the loose end; but once the structures are set up and the meeting in Egypt, then we will use those structures to bring people together and where they don't have institutions, we see how best we can link with their government to bring it into existence.

E-Newsletter: How best do you think the Africa engineers can synergize to have a common goal?



Ing. Andrew Barfour & Engr. Otuneh, Otunte John

Ing. Barfour: Well, the advantage of having these organizations is to have a common platform for the exchange of ideas. Engineering is about knowledge, engineering is about sharing. If you are a good practicing engineer and you can't share your knowledge, you can't mentor people, you can't let people know what you are and the society benefit from you; you are nothing. So what may be happening in Nigeria could be similar in Ghana. So if we share knowledge, we attend conferences and share knowledge we will be able to ask you questions, and then we will know the sort of problems so to say. If I have an idea about the sort of problems you have gone through in say putting our power system right, we can suggest it and Nigeria could adopt it and modify it to suit their own national constrain. So it is a way of sharing our knowledge, trying to bring common problems to the platform so that we have a solution to it. The welfare aspect is there. Every institution, once you are there, should be able to help each other. For instance, we have been holding a conference here, it is so topical that we must be able to say that, look this will affect Zimbabwe; we should be able to pay for one or two candidates from Zimbabwe to come from there. As for bringing us together, it is quite important, first to share our knowledge. It will be a common platform for us to be able to speak even at the world standard, because when you go to WFEO, African voice is not heard. We can use our numbers to fight for certain things to come to Africa either through United Nations or UNESCO or whatsoever it is. If we are not one, if we are fragmented, we will get something small; but if we go as a group, we are fighting for a course, we will be able to get it.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much Sir, we appreciate the little time you spent with us. Thank you very much.

Ing. Barfour: Thank you.

NSE PH Branch 2010 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

QTR	MONTH	ACTIVITY	DAY/DATE	TIME	VENUE
SECOND QUARTER	APRIL	Technical Evening: Engineering solutions to the perennial flooding of Port Harcourt and environs	Thursday 8 th	5.00pm	Branch Secretariat
		Industrial Visit Meeting at RSUST, Nkpolu - Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt	Thursday 15 th	2.00pm	Port Harcourt
		Launching of the Engineering Resource Centre	Saturday 24 th	10.00 am	Hotel Presidential
		General Meeting	Thursday 29 th	5pm	Branch Secretariat
	MAY	Quarterly Dinner/Induction of New Members/ General Lecture	Saturday 8 th	5.00pm	Hotel Presidential
		Workshop on: CAESAR II Pipe Stress Analysis II	Monday 17 th – Saturday 22 nd	9am – 5pm	Branch Secretariat
	JUNE	Workshop on: Plant Design Management System (PDMS)	Monday 7 th – Saturday 12 th	9am – 5pm	Branch 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