



PtiNews

A Quarterly Magazine of The Petroleum Training Institute

Vision: To Become the leading Oil & Gas Technological Institute in Africa.

Mission: To Provide Competent Technological Manpower through Quality Training Consultancy and Research for the Petroleum and Allied Industries.

FG Gives Nod for Nigerian Diving School at PTI

► Adimula Reels out five year Strategic Road Map

► PTI Holds International Conference on Hydrocarbon - Oil and Beyond Oil





PtiNews

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From the

Editor's Desk



Mr. Brown A. Ukanefimoni, MNPR
Editor-in-chief

The year 2020 has been an overwhelming year shrouded in a global corona virus tagged 'COVID-19' pandemic. Its effects were so devastating. There was widespread disruption of social and economic activities in all countries, and mortality was extensive. Budgets of most countries were badly hit by COVID costs, as there was crash in oil prices which led to global recession.

Many organizations were also caught in the web of COVID-19 as they were shut for the better part of the year. Though staff worked from home, business activities were at a low ebb. While thanking God for being alive to this day, our heartfelt sympathies and

condolences go to the families of all that fell to COVID-19.

As the dust settles on the pandemic, 2021 will be a year of vaccines. The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved some vaccines for use against COVID-19; and some of the vaccines have arrived Nigeria.

Now that business activities are picking up, the Management of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) is launching a new social contact on rejigging the Institute for a better performance in manpower development for the oil and gas sector.

To stay afloat in the post COVID era, the Institute has resolved to strengthen its vision to meet the 21st century technological development and e-learning platform for e-solutions. To this end, PTI will redefine its relations with the International Oil Companies (IOCs) and agencies and stakeholders for investment in technical education thus, boosting access to technology. The Institute is prepared to collaborate with any reputable and reliable organization to achieve its core mandate of providing competent technical manpower through quality training, research, and consultancy for the oil/gas sector and allied companies.

In this edition, we highlight major events in the last four quarters. Our cover story is the setting up of the Nigerian Diving School to address in-country dearth of divers and to save

foreign exchange.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari gave the nod for the Nigerian Diving School as the PTI has the potentials to play host to the diving school.

The Institute organizes an international conference on Hydrocarbon science and technology entitled, 'oil beyond oil'. The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva enthused that the theme of the conference aligned with the Federal Government's agenda to diversify the economy beyond oil so as to accelerate economic development in the country.

Many externals are now developing interest in the Institute, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) are being signed in the areas of Hi-tech development. The Chairman of PTI Governing Council, Engr. Sarki Auwalu has promised to transform the PTI to fulfill its mandate, as the Institute is a brand in the oil and gas sector.

The new Acting Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula has reeled out a five year strategic roadmap to diversify the streams of the Institute's resources to squarely face the daunting global economic crisis, as well as reposition the Institute to meet its core mandate.

Let us join hands with him to take PTI to the next level. ■

APPOINTMENTS

New PTI Council Chairman Tasks Mgt on Human Capital Dev't

Brown A. Ukanefimoni

The newly appointed Director, Department of Petroleum Resources, and by extension, Chairman of the Governing Council of Petroleum Training Institute, Engr. Sarki Auwalu, has tasked the Institute's Management on the development of competent and critical human capital as sine qua non to keep the Institute afloat.

Speaking during his maiden meeting with Management and the in-house unions at the lecture theatre recently, he commended the Management for keeping the Institute above waters.

Drawing from his experience, Engr. Auwalu said, "All members of Management are people with sharp mind, intelligent and naturally inclined to work as a team to fast track human capital development, and to add value to the oil and gas industry.

Stressing the importance of the PTI, he posited, "PTI is the only Institute attached to the oil and gas sector that does not have a replica. PTI is a brand name in the oil and gas sector".

While promising to do his best to transform PTI to fulfill its mandate, the Chairman egged on staff members to sustain the peace on campus and concentrate on developing competent

manpower for the oil/gas sector and allied companies.

Engr. Sarki Auwalu was appointed as Director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) by President Muhammadu Buhari on 17th

December, 2019.

He joined the services of the DPR in 1988, as a Principal Chemical Engineer. The Director who is a Chemical Engineer graduated from the Ahmadu Bello

“PTI is the only Institute attached to the oil and gas sector that does not have a replica. PTI is a brand name in the oil and gas sector”



Engr. Sarki Auwalu, MNSE
Chairman, PTI Governing Council

University, Zaria, Kaduna State. He had his post graduate studies at Bayero University, Kano State in 1993. He also attended PETRAD, Norway in 2000, and Petroskill, USA in 2007.

Auwalu is an Associate member, Institute of Chemical Engineers, United Kingdom, member, Society of Petroleum Engineers, member, Nigerian Society of Engineers, and member, Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN). ■



Dr. Henry A. Adimula

Dr. Adimula Becomes Acting Principal & CE of PTI

Brown A. Ukanefimoni

The Governing Council of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) has appointed Dr. Henry A. Adimula as Acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute with effect from July 4, 2020.

Adimula's appointment was sequel to the expiration of four-year term of Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke.

Until this new development, Dr. Henry Adimula was the Vice Principal of the Institute. He holds a B.Sc. and Masters degrees in Chemistry from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State. He also holds a Ph.D. from the University of Benin.

► Dr. Adimula Becomes Acting ...

Dr. Adimula who joined the employ of the Institute on December 14, 1992, as then lecturer II, is a masterly Chemist who has contributed tremendously to the advancement of chemistry applications.

The sedulous researcher is a two-time joint winner of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) research grant competition in a research entitled, "Immobilization of Oil Degrading

Microorganisms in Local Cellulosic Materials for the Rapid Development in Bioremediation of Polluted Sites", in 2008 and 2012.

Dr. Adimula has several publications and journals to his credit which include, Basic Technologies in Chemistry and PTI Research Abstract Index. He is a proud member of Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria; Chemistry Society of Nigeria, Nigeria Environmental Society; Polymer Institute of Nigeria and National Association of Corrosion Engineers (USA). ■

We Are Rejuvenating PTI For Optimal Output - Dr. Adimula

Onyinyechi Udemezue & Victor Abigor

...To Generate 1bn

With renewed determination and commitment, the Acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Dr. Henry A. Adimula has outlined efforts put in place to rejuvenate the foremost oil and gas Institute in for optimal output.

Reeling out the steps at a recently concluded 2-day retreat for the Institute's Management, Dr. Adimula stated that the

Institute is poised to training its staff to fit into the emerging technologies in the sector, develop and increase the number of world class certification programs for key competencies in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, among others.

He said the retreat was organized to fine-tune Institute activities, review proactive measures on creativity, innovations and re-ordering of priorities for the Institute's sustainability in the next five

years.

According to him, the retreat will produce a 5-year developmental plan on how to reposition and better manage the Institute; achieve the goals of the founding fathers which was to service the oil and gas industry. "Our goal is that PTI will be the preferred trainer in the oil and gas industry. When you think of where to train personnel in the oil and gas industry, PTI should be the only option. What we are

...cont'd on pg. 6

PTI Boss Joins Calls for Return of Oil Coys To Warri

Onyinyechi Udemezue

Acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun, Dr. Henry A. Adimula has joined the calls for the return of oil companies back to Warri, the oil city.

Dr. Adimula who made the call recently at the Institute, while playing host to the Local Government Security Chief

(LGSC), State Security Services, Uvwie Local Government Area, Mr. Chinedu Nwabineli, bemoaned the economic hardship Warri and its environs had suffered since all the International Oil Companies (IOCs) left the city.

"The relocation of oil and allied companies out of Warri also led to mass movement of thousands of staff of these companies, the

servicing companies and hundreds of allied companies to Lagos and Port Harcourt. This, as expected, led to massive job losses and economic recession in the oil city of Warri and its environs and by extension, Delta State. PTI is not left out of this, because, as a training institution, we equally lost so many training opportunities", he said.

...cont'd on pg. 16

► ...cont'd from pg. 5

We Are Rejuvenating PTI For Optimal Output - Dr. Adimula

doing today is to set the tune and agenda for the year; pursue it so that we can better align with the petroleum industry to deliver services”.

Speaking on the target audience for the retreat, the Institute's Chief Executive said, “We carefully selected the Managers, Heads of Departments, Directors and people that are critical to the achievement of the goals of the Institute, we also invited the Union leaders so that they can cascade the resolution to their members. This will be a yearly retinue and the essence is to check our progress and strategize where necessary”.

Dr. Adimula stated that the Institute's Management has resolved to be creative in raising revenue, improve on her Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), adding that PTI can boost of a lot of resources and facilities that can fetch revenues that would aid in ameliorating the dwindling finances of the Institute.

According to him, “The scope of our IGR is wide, all we need to do is to be more creative on ways

of creating IGR, better apply ourselves to achieving our objectives which is to raise our revenue profile, and all our efforts will be geared towards doing that. We will also be more creative on the way we deliver our services; we want to deliver services that our clients shall be proud of. We wish to improve our customer relationship so as to retain our clients and be able to attract more clients; this is one of our plans”.

“To this end, the Institute through its consultancy services would generate one billion naira within the next five years”, he stated.

He said the Institute's Management is working assiduously to eliminate bureaucracies associated with government business by imbining attitudinal change towards service deliveries. In his words, “We will follow all the extant rules of government in doing whatever we are going to do. What people call bureaucracy is actually when



PTI Acting Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry Adimula making a presentation during the Institute's Management Retreat held at the PTI Conference Centre Complex recently.

some person's deliberately delay processes and waste productive time. Attitudinal change was one of the topics we treated during the retreat and we have resolved to ensure that bureaucracy is eliminated in the Institute by imbining the right attitude to work”.

Continuing, he said, “Management staff and indeed the entire staff are called on for more dedication, team work, and building confidence in each other. What I should do is to provide visionary leadership and part of that is what we are experiencing now, to share my visions and thoughts with the staff which, if we are able to do and communicate it very well, we will definitely achieve our set goals. I am happy as the staff felt good that they are being carried along, so whatever we are going to do will work since everybody is part of the planning stage. It will be easy to sell the ideas and achieve success”. ■



The Acting Principal & Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula (5th right), Mr. Onobrorhie Siakpere, Registrar (4th right); Mr. Richard T. Obashe, Director Information Technology (3rd right); Dr. (Mrs.) Oriri Omorodion, Chief Coordinator, Consult Services (6th left); Dr. Bamidele Oyetunde, Director R&D (5th left); Engr. John Ewodere, Head PNGPD (3rd left), flanked by other PTI Top Management and Union members at the recently concluded retreat.

Convocation

Petroleum Minister Charges PTI on Synergy with IOCs

...As PTI graduates 1,122 Technologists & Technicians

Akaighe Lucky

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva has charged the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), to synergize with sister agencies in the Petroleum Ministry as well as other International Oil Companies (IOCs), in research and training so as to make lasting impact in the nation's oil and gas sector.

Chief Timipre Sylva while giving this charge during the 2019 Institute's combined graduation ceremony held recently also urged the Institute's Management to maintain its status as the hub for development of technology and solution based consultancy services in the Petroleum and Allied companies.

The Minister who spoke through the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Engr. Kamoru Busari reinstated the need for the PTI to collaborate with Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF); the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and other IOCs in areas of research and training for the teaming Nigerian youths aimed at preserving the local content policy development of the federal government.

Chief Timipre charged the Institute to come up with strategies that would assist the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration agenda of zero loss on crude oil output, reduction in cost of crude oil production, eradication of gas flare and the development of the nation's enormous gas reserves.

In his address, the Delta State Governor, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi A. Okowa commended the role the Institute has been playing in developing technical and

technological manpower for the upstream and downstream operations of the nation's oil and gas sector.

Congratulating the graduands, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa who spoke through the Honourable Commissioner for oil & gas, Prince Emmanuel Amgbaduba, urged them not to rest on their oars but rather come up with creative and



Chief Timipre Sylva, MSPR

innovative ideas in solving problems associated with the nation's oil and allied industry and other critical sector of the economy that requires intervention.

The Governor also appealed to oil companies within and outside the state to look inward to graduates from PTI during employment, noting that the Institute was renowned for churning-out competent manpower for the oil and gas sector over four decades, thereby reducing the dependence of foreign experts.

Also, the then acting Chairman PTI Governing Council, Mr. Ahmad R. Shakur, while congratulating the graduands, said the nation need the skills that the graduands had harnessed during their training in the Institute so as to drive the industry forward.

Mr. Shakur disclosed that plans are ongoing for the construction of the Institute's Modular Refinery, which he noted

when completed, would process 1500 barrels of crude oil per day and it is also expected to generate electricity that would aid teaching and learning as well as serve as Centre for research and development.

On his part, the then Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke disclosed that the Institute graduated a total of one thousand, one hundred and twenty two (1,122) technicians and technologists for the upstream and downstream operations of the oil and gas industry.

Speaking further, he said the Institute's concept of quality management, competences and standardization has consistently distinguished her as the Centre of Excellence for human capital development hence today marked an important day in the lives of the graduands, yet the beginning of a journey and arriving at this point was an important feat that deserves commendation based on the passion, commitment, tenacity and open mind the graduands showed during their academic pursuit.

The Principal charged the graduands to nurture and put these traits to use in their various endeavours of life and to be of good behavior now that they have being incorporated as Alumnus of the Institute. ■



Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa
Governor, Delta State

CONVOCATION IN *Photo Splash*



(1) Mr. C. Y. Kachikwu delivering a paper, "The PTI Alumni and the Journey so Far" (2) Dr. Solomon I. Edebiri delivering his lecture entitled, "The Alumni: Partnering with PTI for the fulfillment of its Mandate. (3) Cross section of dignitaries at the event. (4) Academic members during the National Anthem. (5) Cross section of Chiefs (6) Presenting Diplomas. (7) Graduands. (8) Then Council Chairman, Mr. A.R. Shakur declaring the congregation closed.

FG Gives Nod For Nigeria Diving School at PTI

Brown A. Ukanefimoni/Onyinyechi Udemezue

In a bid to meet the increasing demand in offshore oil and gas production and its maritime security, the Federal Government has approved the establishment of Nigeria Diving School at the Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State.

Throwing his weight behind the setting up of the Nigeria Diving School, the Chairman of the PTI Governing Council, Mr. Sarki Auwalu noted that it would offer training, certification and re-certification of divers in the country, Sub-Saharan Africa and the world at large.

When the school of Diving becomes operational, it would address the dearth of internationally recognized certified in-country divers, which has been the bane of development of local capacity, he stated.

Stressing the importance of the school of diving, Auwalu said that commercial diving was required for the execution of underwater operations in the oil and gas industry. Justifying the necessity for the establishment of the Diving school, the Chairman noted, "These operations are executed by the diving contractors engaged by operators. The contractors are members of the International Maritime Contractors Association (IMCA) who operate strict guidelines which include recognition of divers training and accreditation.

The absence of IMCA recognized divers training

establishment in Nigeria leads to an over-reliance on expensive expert divers; and in a bid to boost employability and competitiveness, local divers seek training and certification abroad (South Africa, Europe and North America) with its consequences on scarce foreign exchange".

Mr. Auwalu was optimistic that the diving school would be brought to fruition as it would be funded by the consortium of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC); Shell Nigeria Exportation and Production Company (SNEPCO), Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR); Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), and the host, Petroleum Training Institute (PTI).

Meanwhile, the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) was in collaborative discussion with James Fishers and Sons PLC (JFD), a leading world underwater capability company in Aberdeen, Scotland,

United Kingdom on the establishment of an internationally recognized diving school.

You may recall the present PTI school of diving was established in 1988, and commissioned in 1989, by Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, the then Minister of Petroleum Resources.

At a two day Stakeholders Workshop on Diving School held recently at the PTI Conference Centre Complex, Effurun, the then Institute's Principal and Chief Executive, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke said the workshop was expected to present requirements to upgrade the PTI Diving school to an international standard as proposed by the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

Speaking on the capacity of the ►



Mrs. Hadiza T.S. Momoh, Director of Science, PTI (4th left), Engr. Emeka Obiwulu of SNEPCO (2nd left), Mr. Idi Stanley of PTI (1st left) flanked by other counterparts, at Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom.

► Institute's Diving School, the Principal said PTI Diving School has an initial capacity to train up to class two commercial divers, 50 metres depth; but the school, overtime lost the installed capacity due to poor funding and non-availability of relevant equipment, infrastructural decay and aberration of international and local diving bodies.

The Principal disclosed that the outcome of the workshop would comprise the current status of the PTI Diving School, analysis of the diving school and Jetty facilities in Aladja, total cost for upgrade, return on investment and business model.

According to the Principal, "When the report of the workshop is implemented and the diving school become internationally accredited, it will drastically reduce the capital flight in training divers overseas, it will increase local content rate and generate revenue to the government and our beloved country as a whole".

Furthermore, he said, "The objective of this workshop is to implement a roadmap to seek alignment with IMCA and stakeholders in the oil & gas industry. Stakeholders here are NNPC, Shell through SNEPCo, DPR; NCDMB & PTI who is hosting the project on behalf of the federal government".

Also speaking, the Manager, Public Affairs Division of National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS),



Hon. Minister of State, Labour and Employment, Mr. Festus Keyamo, SAN (right) presenting certificate of membership to Mr. Forcados Agadabri, Chief Officer (Diving) PTI, during the inauguration of the Diving Board in Abuja.

Mrs. Clementina Arubi lamented that despite the industry requirements and the volume of trade in the country, Nigeria still cannot boast of a standard diving school, hence the need for this workshop.

**“
In this workshop, we
will look at the
possibilities of
upgrading the facilities
in PTI to meet world
standard requirements
and we will require
everybody's support to
actualize this and if
we are able to upgrade
the diving school to
international
standard, we will be
generating revenue for
PTI and the Federal
Government
”**

Strategic Business Development of Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Maurice Iwhiwhu pointed out that the establishment of the

diving school would contribute to the capacity building of Nigeria diving professionals in line with industry needs and global best practices.

He noted that the NCDMB has been concerned about the in-country gaps in diving professional and certifications.

In his words, "The establishment of the Nigeria Diving School is expected to close the prevailing gaps and increase value addition and reduction of industry spending in the diving value chain of the oil and gas industry".

Speaking from the private sector perspective, Mr. Bolarinwa Onaolapo of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO) said that the Nigeria Diving School project is a laudable project which if properly harnessed would create significant value addition in the Nigeria oil and gas sector.

In a related development, the Federal Government has inaugurated the Nigerian Diving Board in Abuja recently by the Honourable Minister of State, Labour and Employment, Mr. Festus Keyamo, SAN.

The Board comprised 11-members which include Mr. Forcados Agadabri, Chief Officer (Diving), Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun. ■

NCDMB Executive Secretary Promises Support for Facility Upgrade

Brown A. Ukanefimoni & Lucky Akaighe

The Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) Engr. Simbi K. Wabote has promised to support facility upgrade at the Petroleum Training Institute.

Wabote gave this promise when he visited the Institute recently to appraise the state of facilities in the Institute and to ascertain areas the NCDMB could assist to upscale its operations for the development of competent technical manpower for the oil and gas sector.

Speaking further, the Executive Secretary stated that the visit was in furtherance of the directives of the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timpre Sylva during the recent Ministerial Retreat for active collaboration between the agencies in the Ministry.

He promised that NCDMB would collaborate closely with PTI and add value with a view to bringing PTI back to its glorious days.

He recalled that PTI was set up to develop middle level manpower for the oil and gas sector, adding that the Institute provided most of the production technicians, Technologist and other skilled personnel in the industry before it began to decline.

Responding to the requests made by the then PTI Principal, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke, the Executive Secretary confirmed that the demands cut across some interventions of the NCDMB and promised to look into the requests.

He however charged the Management of PTI to articulate



Engr. Edicha Abubakar, Chief Officer (T) explaining the uses of one of the machines to the NCDMB ES, Engr. Simbi Wabote during the facilities tour of the Electrical Installation Laboratory, while then PCE, Prof. Sunny Iyuke and other pays rapt attention.

the demands properly and make them specific, with particular reference to the establishment of a centre of excellence within the Institute.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that NCDMB was already promoting Centre of Excellence on a number of areas, "It will be nice if PTI will articulate which area it wants to focus on so we can make it a foremost Centre of Excellence", he said.

Wabote also promised to support PTI's plan to establish a modular refinery which would serve as a teaching aid to students. He argued that if Nigeria had focused early on research and development with regards to refineries, the petroleum sector would have been able to keep its three refineries working optimally.

In his words, "Our refineries are suffering because we do not have perhaps the technical know-

how to fix them and the manpower to research and to keep them running".

In the areas of capacity building, Wabote said the state of the facilities in PTI would influence the Board's decision to continue to send personnel for training and re-training at PTI and to upgrade the facilities to the desired level.

Earlier, the then Principal and Chief Executive of PTI, Prof. Sunny Iyuke stated that the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources has charged NCDMB and PTI to collaborate in carrying out research and development on the use of local materials for production optimization and to produce locally formulated drilling fluids for enhanced recovery.

The Minister also egged on the two bodies to serve as a data bank and training centre for the Nigerian oil refining and human capacity building; to carry out



Engr. (Mrs.) Grace Erhimona, Head DWEOT, fielding questions from the ES of NCDMB, Engr. Wabote during a visit to the Welding Workshop, while the then PCE, Prof. Iyuke, Director of Science, Mrs. H.T.S. Momoh and others watch.

► research and development of technology to curb smuggling of petroleum products across the nation's borders. Also to develop enabling governance framework and regulatory environment on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Technology for Nigeria that would generate emission credits through projects in various sectors of the oil and gas industry with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emission and flaring, he said.

Other assignments given by

the Minister, the Principal said, included building and operating a 2500 barrels per day modular refinery integrated with Fluid Catalytic Cracker (FCC), to provide low level manpower certification and training for the focal areas of the oil industry and to be involved in basic skills development programmes.

Thereafter, the PTI's then Principal led the Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote on a guided tour of facilities. ■



Executive Secretary NCDMB, Engr. Simbi K. Wabote (Middle), Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke, then PTI PCE, (6th R); Mr. Clement Siakpere, Registrar (5th R), Mr. Akpan Isaac, NCDMB Zonal Coordinator, Delta/Edo (4th R), Dr. Clement K. Oghene, former Director OTEC (3rd R), Dr. Henry A. Adimula, new Ag. PCE (2nd R), Dr. (Mrs.) O. A. Omoriodion, Director/Chief Coordinator, PTI Consultancy Services, Mrs. Hadiza T.S. Momoh, Director of Science (6th L), Engr. Samuel I. Ukwuaba, then Director of Engineering (5th L); Barr. Naboth Onyesho, Manager CCD, NCDMB (4th L), Engr. Bamidele Abayomi, General Manager STP/STA to ES NCDMB (3rd L); Engr. Paul Zhumbem, General Manager PEAD, NCDMB (2nd L); and Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde, Director R&D (1st L).

PTI Holds International Conference on Hydrocarbon Science and Technology.

- oil & beyond oil

Akaighe Lucky

The Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), successfully held an International Conference on Hydrocarbon science and technology entitled "Oil and beyond Oil" recently. The conference was aimed at formulating strategic panacea beyond the dependence on oil for the technical advancement of Nigeria.

Declaring the conference open, the Honourable Minister of State, Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva stated that the Federal Government was aware of the need to plan beyond oil in order to avert the inevitable decline in oil and gas reserves demand.

Chief Timipre who was represented by his Technical Assistant on Niger Delta/Union matters, Mr. Felix Brisibe Bob-Nabena accentuated that the conference theme aligns with the Ministry's agenda and vision of the Federal Government to diversify the economy beyond oil so as to experience rapid economic development in the country.

Delivering the lead paper entitled "Petroleum and the Development of the Nigerian Economy" with a Sub theme; "What went wrong after", Prof. Christopher O. Orubu, of the Department of Economics, Delta State University, Abraka, asserted that without an iota of doubt, ►

PTI Holds International Conference on Hydrocarbon ...

► Nigeria was possessed with both human and material resources, but the institutional structure that carries the weight of public policy had been its weakest link.

The University Don posited that governmental apparatus seems to have lost the political will and purity of mind that were required to operate a true developmental state.

Prof Orubu, however postulated that with a strong political will, there was no developmental feat that cannot be achieved only when the nation eschew all forms of corruption from its system.

He noted that petroleum resources were exhaustible and there was need for sensible exploration so as to balance the development needs of the current

Science and Technology.

The former Chief Executive expressed the joy that the Institute has achieved one of its core mandates in organizing Conferences of this magnitude that would propel the nation's oil and gas sector beyond its current state.

He applauded the array of intellectuals, academia's, captains of industry as well as the panel of experts who did justice on the sub themes; Conventional and Unconventional (renewable energy), Health, Safety, Environment, Strategies and Government Policies in new energy sources, maritime and offshore technology, instrumentation, automation, artificial intelligence and big data.

He reaffirmed that the

represented by the Zonal Comptroller of DPR Warri, Mr. A.E. Antai, stressed that to secure the energy sector, was key to engender security to other sectors of the economy.

Other notable presenters of paper during the conference were; Prof Onibere, University of Benin; Prof. Kenneth Nandi of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri; Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development, NCDMB, Dr. Idris, Nigeria Nuclear and Regulatory Agency (NNRA) among others.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the 2-day conference, stakeholders noted that there was the need for PTI and Universities to collaborate and research on artificial intelligence (AI) and big

data in order to improve the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

The conference called on the government to invest in new energy sources so as to satisfy the growing energy demands; the need to encourage maritime and

offshore technology in order to create more job opportunities for indigenous shipping and for the federal government to develop policies and strategies on renewable energy and local content development.

The high point of the two day conference was the presentation of certificate to participants as well as a plaque to Mr. Ofojetu Hilary, a graduate from Industrial Safety and Environmental Technology Department (ISET) for his outstanding breakthrough research on the construction and application of a solar water distriller. ■



A cross section of dignitaries at the International conference on Hydrocarbon Science and Technology

period with that of the future.

The academic Don submitted that strategy must be put in place to make the petroleum sector contribute more meaningfully to sustainable development of the Nigerian economy.

Earlier in his welcome address, the then Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke, posited that the conference was timely as it would serve as a platform for exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences on Hydrocarbon

conference was part of the Institute's contribution to ensuring that research in hydrocarbon science and technology achieves great potential and provide resounding benefits for research scientists, industry specialists and decision makers in the course of action for the economy of nations beyond oil.

Also, the former acting Director of Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and then acting Chairman of the PTI Governing Council, Mr. Ahmed Rufai Shakur who was



PTI FLOW STATION

PTI Mgt Reels Out Five year Strategic Roadmap for the Institute

Onyinyechi Udemezue

With a renewed determination, the acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Dr. Henry A. Adimula has taken a step higher to diversify streams of the Institute's resources to squally face the current daunting global economic crisis, as well as reposition the Institute to meet up with its statutory mandate.

Reeling out a 'five year Strategic Roadmap' centered on "Training, Human Capital Development; Industrial Interface; Infrastructure & Technological Advancement and Research & Development" at a two-day retreat for PTI managers held recently, the Institute's Chief Executive said the aim was to reorder PTI's priorities by engaging in proactive programmes of creativity and innovation so as to fit in into the

emerging revolutions in the oil and gas sector and compete favourably with its counterparts.

The five year Strategic roadmap which would be implimented in batches will start with training. The Institute would develop standardized training in line with best practices for the oil and gas industry; identifying emerging training needs of the oil and gas industry and design corresponding training programs; develop and increase the number of world class certification programs for key competencies in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

Other training priorities would develop new courses in Engineering and Science relevant to the oil and gas industry, establish a National Vocational Qualification Centre for work - based learning in the oil and gas industry; Promote strong entrepreneurship culture, attract

and increase the number of trainees for professional and specialized training, certificate, diploma and degree courses, as well as improve the system of learning/training for continuous professional development for engineers, technologists and technicians for the industry

To achieve this training programmes, Dr. Adimula disclosed that the PTI would liaise with the stakeholders/ Alumni in the oil and gas industry to identify the needs, train staff on emerging technologies, develop curriculum for the training for both regular and e-platforms, organize a critique workshop for the curriculum, acquire necessary equipment and software where necessary and implementation.

The Institute, he said, would also develop and increase the number of world class certification programs for key

► competencies in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. “To achieve this, PTI will review existing certification programs, update existing certification programs, identify new certification program relevant to the industry”, he state.

Under the human capital development agenda, he said the Institute would ensure that staff were well trained and certified across various disciplines in the oil and gas industry.

This core responsibilities according to him falls under the Registry Directorate of the Institute which would ensure that the Institute improves on effective communication, increase in monitoring and evaluation of the performance of staff, grow leadership skills and encourage mentoring of staff; harmonize the continuous professional development plan of staff with PTI mission; improve on e-management services and equally build and grow employee profiles through certifications, recertification and training.

Speaking on Industrial interface, Dr. Adimula hinted that the Institute would build effective relationship with Oil and Gas Companies (local and International) and all the parastatals in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources; promote staff exchange program and staff industrial experience with the oil and gas industry; enhance graduate employability in the oil and gas industry; collaborate and partner with local and international organizations to foster training and research as well as establish stakeholders engagement forum

The Institute was also preparing grounds for stakeholders engagement forum.

The Chief Executive hinted that PTI would employ the utilization of modern technology in delivering solutions to the challenges in the Oil & Gas industry, improve the basic infrastructural facilities in the Institute; apply up to date technology in delivering solutions to the challenges in the oil and gas industry as well as deploy Digital PTI (DiPTI) to serve the needs of the oil and gas industries.

On Research & Development, which was one of the core mandates of the Institute, the academic Don said the Institute would be deliberate in providing solutions to technological problems in the oil and gas industry through research.

Some of the key areas attention would be paid to in Research and Development includes, to improve the research culture and foster knowledge sharing programs amongst staff and students of the Institute; develop cutting edge researches that address key challenges within the oil and gas sector and also create a research environment that nurtures career development and progression across every level.

Other areas of interest would be to develop strategic partnerships and collaborations in world-class research and innovation appropos to the oil and gas sector, seek and explore funding opportunities locally and internationally for research activities; develop science and technology parks/technology incubation and research centres, maximize research outputs via product development, commercialization and patenting and to also publish research works in high impact journals.

Speaking on how the Institute



Dr. Henry A. Adimula

would fund the outlined roadmaps, the Chief Executive stated that PTI would secure funds through federal government appropriation; training revenue, grants and donations from third parties; Research undertakings and training in consultancy services to sister organizations and multinationals.

The Institute, he said, would also leverage on government policies to advance the course of training and research in the oil and gas industry, ensuring that the mandate of the Institute was retained and sustained. It would also collaborate and partner with local and international organizations to promote technological advancement in training and research.

To ensure the viability of the roadmap, the Institute's Boss disclosed that there would be a mid-year review as there would be a strategic team whose responsibility would be to meet monthly to review the progress and adjust where necessary. “This will be a deliberate tradition and we will ensure its sustainability”, Adimula assured. ■

...cont'd from pg. 5

PTI Boss Joins Calls...

Still, Dr. Adimula opined that, returning the IOCs, and allied companies to Warri would reduce the youth restiveness in the city, and provide employment for the teaming youths. He urged the Federal Government to expedite action in this direction. In his words, "As the source of the nation's wealth, Warri should not be neglected".

On the academic prowess of the Institute, the Chief Executive said, "At PTI, we pride ourselves as the Centre of Excellence, our academic standard is second to none, our students are focused and engaged in what they do, our students do not have time for frivolities unlike what is obtainable in other institutions".

Dr. Adimula assured the SSS Officer of the Institute's willingness to work with him to ensure he succeeds in his assignment.

Earlier, Mr. Nwabineli appealed to the Institute's Management to assist him with all



PTI PCE, Dr. Henry Adimula (2nd R), Mr. Chinedu Nwabineli, Local Government Security Chief (LGSC) Uvwie, (M), Rep. Registrar, Mr. Isaac Fregene (2nd L); Mr. O.C.R. Ihunwosu of PTI Security Division, (1st R) and Mr. Edeth Messembe of DSS, Uvwie Area command (1st L).

the information he needs in carrying out his job.

"Access to information is very essential to our job. Please, I will need assistance of the Management in this regard. We

are here for each other, I will do my best to ensure crime free environment within my area of coverage. I can assure you that we are partners in progress", he pledged. ■

PTI Alumni Drums Up Support for Academic Excellence, Completion of Projects

...Students need more practicals – Association

Onyinyechi Udemezue

The National Alumni Association of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI Alumni), has promised continued support to the Institute's Management in the pursuit of academic excellence and for a better PTI.

The national President of the PTI Alumni Association, Sir Otokohwemu Uwedjojevwe who stated this recently when the Association paid a solidarity visit to the Acting Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula,

disclosed that the Association would give priority attention to ongoing as well as uncompleted projects that would make the Institute's students attain academic excellence, particularly the Digital PTI project.

According to him, "We must fashion out another way to run PTI so as to retain her status as Centre of Excellence. We need people with strong impetus to handle the affairs of the Institute



Ag. PCE, Dr. Henry Adimula (Middle), President of the PTI Alumni, Sir Otokohwemu Uwedjojevwe (3rd left), DD, HRD, Mr. Isaac Fregene (2nd left) and Director, Services, Dr. Samuel Onoji (2nd right) flanked by other Alumni Executive.

PTI Is A Brand Worthy of Partnership...NAPE

Victor T. Abigor

The President of Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE), Mr. Alex N. Tarka (FNAPE) has said that the foremost oil and gas institution in Africa, the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) is a brand name that every professional bodies including NAPE would desire to partner with in the growth of the oil and gas Industry.

The NAPE President who

made this assertion recently during a courtesy visit to the acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, Dr. Henry A. Adimula, acknowledged the mutual relationship between PTI and NAPE in the development of the oil and gas Industry

Speaking further, the President who was represented by Mr. Wilson Osung, NAPE Warri Chapter Coordinator said the Body was at the Institute to felicitate with the Principal on his

new appointment.

Mr. Tarka said that the 2019 NAPE min-conference jointly hosted by PTI and the Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE) Effurun was adjudged the best of all NAPE conferences.

Speaking on the strength of the Association, the President said NAPE has members across Geologists, Geophysicists, Managers, Consultants, Chief Executives, Students and Academicians all working in the

...cont'd on pg. 19

PTI Alumni Drums Up Support ...

► and fortunately, PTI has always had people who were vision driven. Innovations are coming up every day in the oil & gas sector, hence the need to step up our act. We believe the best is yet to come in the Institute, this is our home, we will continue to give our support".

Speaking on the need to go digital, Sir Uwedjojevwe opined that, "We need to digitize in order to help our students compete favourably with their counterparts the world over. PTI is a unique institution and we are singled out wherever we go, we are the pioneers of change and as a result, we have to do all it takes to standout. We need more practical, because that is the tonic in the industry now as only Degree is no longer in vogue".

Uwedjojevwe restated that the Institute needs to venture into certification of courses such as International Well Control Forum (IWCF) which he said was a

money spinner in the industry presently.

Responding, the Acting Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula reiterated that the Institute's Management is not relenting on its quest to better the fortunes of the Institute, adding that the Management has been interfacing with captains of industry for an improved Institute.

Speaking on the plans on

ground for the betterment of the Institute, academic activities and other trainings, Dr. Adimula regretted the outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown

which affected most of the plans and programmes, but assured that Management would not relent; adding that the Institute was considering e-learning in order to deliver lectures to the students.

On the challenges facing the Institute, the Principal said that financial constraints had been a recurring issue in PTI, lamenting that the Institute has not been able to execute most of its capital and internal projects due to paucity of funds. "The available resources are not enough. We are facing serious financial challenges", he bemoaned.

Speaking on achievements recorded in recent past, the Chief Executive hinted that the Institute is working towards going beyond HND programme, adding that with the support of the Alumni, "We will achieve the set targets". He thanked the president for the Alumni's ongoing project in the Institute, and prayed that the 12 classroom storey building would be completed soon.

He also commended the Alumni Executive for the show of solidarity and promised to always work with them to build a formidable relationship with all the Institute's Alumni. ■

PTI is a unique institution and we are singled out wherever we go, we are the pioneers of change and as a result, we have to do all it takes to standout. We need more practical, because that is the tonic in the industry now as only Degree is no longer in vogue

Nigerian Navy Seeks Collaboration on Research, Manpower and Curriculum Dev't

Victor Abigor/Lucky Akaighe

The Nigerian Navy has expressed preparedness to collaborate with Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), in research, manpower and curriculum development for the enhancement of its skills and operations.

Leading a 3-man delegation to the Institute recently, the head of the Vertically Integrated Logistics Approach (VILA), research team, Commodore A.A Ayinde (Retd), hinted that the Navy research programme was a bilateral programme between the United States Government and the Nigerian Defence Headquarters aimed at researching logistics issues and to monitor the effectiveness of the solutions.

Speaking further, he said, as part of effort to expanding its knowledge and training of its personnel in conducting Petroleum Oil and Lubrication (POL) effectively and efficiently, the research team deemed it imperative to tap the wealth of experience of the Petroleum Training Institute curriculum in order to develop and to enhance its management skills.



R-L Dr. (Mrs.) Sarah Nwinee, Chief Officer R&D; Dr. Samuel Agaja, Ag. Director of Science; Engr. John A. Ewodere, Head PNGPD, All PTI, Commodore E C Anakwe, Deputy Director, Procurement, Commodore A A Ayinde (Retd) All NNS, Dr. Balmidele S. Oyetunde, Director Research & Development, PTI; Commodore K A Suara, NNS, Mr. Lawrence O. Asuelimen, Deputy Director, Training PEG, PTI, Flanked by other Management Staff of PTI

The Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula, assured the Nigerian Navy of the Institute's readiness to design a curriculum that would be apropos to them as well as carryout research in their areas of need to include; Petroleum Oil and Lubrication (POL), Petroleum Analysis, Transfer of high value fluid, sources of oil contamination and how to deal with it, water separation as well as training its personnel on machine handling and storage of crude materials.

The Principal who was represented by Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde said a Committee would

be set-up to carefully design a curriculum and the stipulated period of time it would cover, as well as itemize the equipment required for the collaboration and certification that would be issued on completion of the programme.

Dr. Adimula thanked the team for the courtesy visit and their desire to collaborate with the Institute.

The Nigerian Navy delegations was conducted on a facility tour by the Principal and Chief Executive to the Petroleum Analysis Laboratory, the Rig and the Flow station and the PTI Conference Centre Complex. ■

PTI Trains 70 Senior Officers of NCS

Lucky O. Akaighe

The Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), recently trained 70 Senior Officers of the Nigeria Customs Services (NCS) on "Crude Oil Custody Transfer".

Declaring the training open, the then Principal and Chief Executive, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke who affirmed that the Institute is

renowned for churning out quality manpower required for the industry for over four decades, has designed a model that would meet the training needs of the Officers.

The Principal implored the Officers to pay rapt attention to their instructors as the purpose of the training was to expose the

Officers to the quality and quantity of crude oil custody transfer in the nation's terminals.

At the end of the training, the Principal praised the Officers for conducting themselves properly throughout the duration of the course. He recalled that the Institute also trained two batches ▶



Prof. Sunny Iyuke (M), then PCE (PTI), Deputy Chief Officer, Mrs. Shola Titilope Adeola (4th R) (NCS); Mr. Clement Siakpere, Registrar (3rd R), Alhaji Aliyu Mafindi, DFA (2nd R); Engr. John Ewodere, Head PNGPD (1st R) (All PTI), Mr. Usman Adamu (5th L) (NCS); Dr. Clement K. Oghene, former Director OTEC (4th L) (PTI), Mrs. Felicia Iyoha (3rd L) (NCS); Dr. Henry Adimula, Acting PCE (2nd L) and Dr. Samuel Onoji, Director Services (1st L) (Both of PTI) flanked by other Customs Officers and PTI Staff during the close-out ceremony held recently at the PTI Conference Centre.

► of technical staff that were recently employed by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) which suffices to

say that PTI was a front-runner in developing local content capacity required for the oil and allied companies.

The Principal also intimated the Nigeria Customs Officers that the Institute was in collaboration with NNPC, NCDMB; NAPIMS and other multinational oil companies to upgrade its diving school to international standards.

Responding on behalf of the Customs Officers, Deputy Chief Office (DCO) Mrs. Shola Titilope Adeola thanked the PTI Management for an eye catching and very impactful knowledge gained during the training in the Institute.

She assured that the knowledge acquired would be put to good use in the discharge of their duties to the Nigeria Customs Services. ■

...cont'd from pg. 17

PTI Is A Brand Worthy of Partnership...NAPE

development in the oil and gas sector.

In his response, the Institute's Chief Executive, Dr. Henry Adimula acknowledged the cordial relationship between PTI and NAPE adding that the Institute would continue to partner with them especially their conferences as PTI has a big role to play in the development of the oil and gas sector.

The Principal reiterated that the core function of the Institute was to train technical manpower for the oil and gas Industry, adding that some of the facilities in the Institute were unique, as they could not be located elsewhere in any training institution in the Country.

He pledged the Institute's willingness to collaborate with NAPE in the teaching and training of Petroleum Science in the Country. He assured that the Institute was ready to support Staff members in areas of research work and for that purpose; Management has created a research fund to assist researchers in the Institute in finding solutions to some of the many challenges facing the oil and gas industry.

Speaking further, Dr. Adimula hinted that PTI was moving into industry driven training by partnering with major oil firms on hands –on training for its personnel's. The Institute, he said has also moved into certification training and expressed the hope that it would become the hub for certification in

Nigeria by and by.

"PTI also has a well-developed vocational education programme for skills acquisition development that could reduce youth restiveness in most of the oil host communities in the Niger Delta region", Dr. Adimula said. ■



Front row: (R – L) Mr. Wilson Osung, Warri Chapter Coordinator representing NAPE President, Mr. Alex N. Tarka; Dr. Henry A. Adimula, Ag. Principal and Chief Executive; Dr. Juliet Emudianughe, Mr. Isaac Fregene, representing Registrar, Dr. F.B. Owoyemi and Dr. Babatunde S. Oyetunde. Back row: (R – L) Mr. Brown A. Ukanefimoni, Mr. Aliyu Adamu, Dr. Micheal A. Adegbite and Mr. Gordon Akpoduado

PTI, Ambong Energy Services, ASSP-NC Sign MoU On Personnel Training, Occupational Safety E - Library

Onyinyechi Udemezue

The Management of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), in its continuous effort to producing competent manpower for the sector, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ambong Energy Services on the training of professionals in the oil and gas sector.

The acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, Dr. Henry A. Adimula, reiterated that the Institute which was established to train and provide competent technological manpower through research and consultancy for the petroleum and allied industries in Nigeria, would continue to carry out its objective to the later.

He hinted that the partnership with Ambong Energy Services is to engage in the business of training professionals in the oil and gas sector that would build Nigerian capacity in the area of specialized skills and reduce huge capital flights associated with overseas training.

According to the PTI Boss, "I am very elated to sign this MoU with Ambong Energy Services which borders on training of youths and other personnel that can compete with their counterparts the world over. We may not provide all the jobs needed in the country, but our impact must be felt across the oil and gas sector".

The professional training which would kick start immediately and cover all African countries and beyond, would be in-form of booster courses and other

specialized areas. The Institute would provide the course content, training facilities as well as training personnel, while Ambong Management would provide the clients.

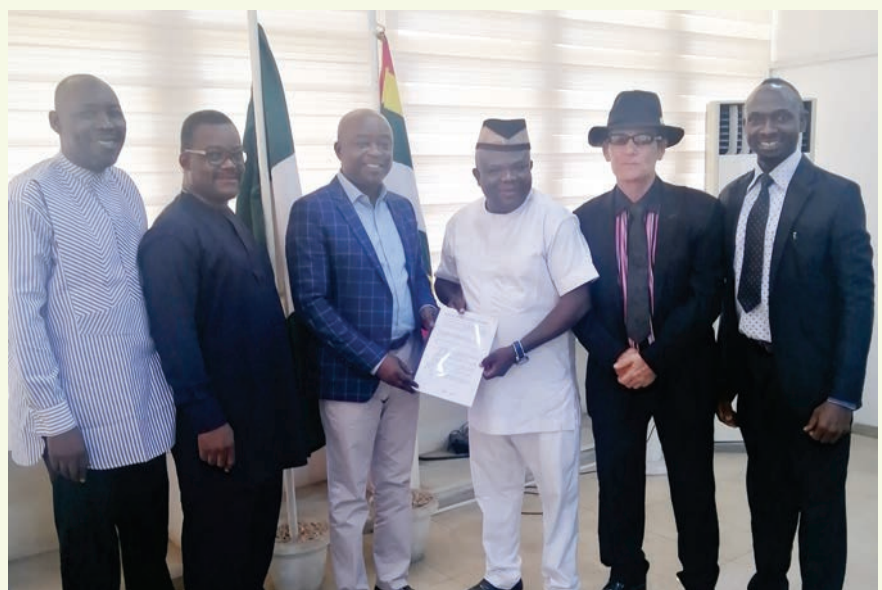
Earlier, the Managing Director of Ambong, Dr. John Nwosu thanked the Institute Management for providing the platform for the partnership. He pointed out that the Nigerian government and International Oil Companies (IOCs) spends a huge sum of money training their personnel overseas, adding that, this partnership would save the country a lot of foreign exchange.

Dr. Nwosu gave the inkling that the training would cover the whole of Africa countries as the

Institute has all it takes to carry out any training in the sector.

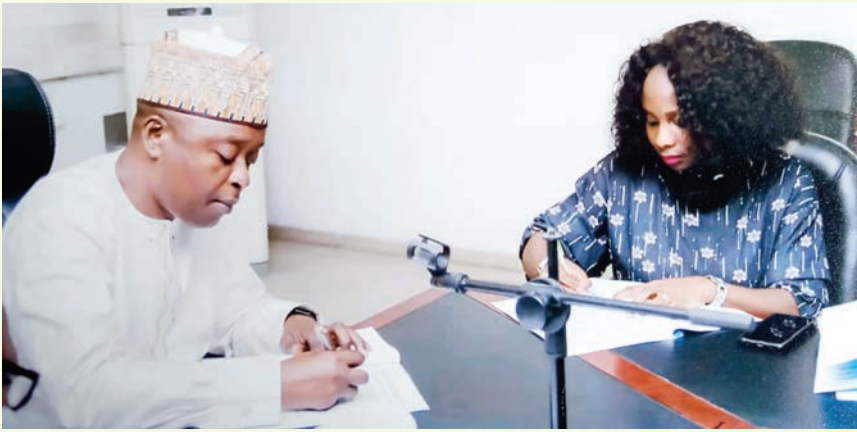
In a related development, the Institute's Management also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Society of Safety Professionals – Nigeria Council (ASSP-NC) on the establishment of the first occupational health and safety E-library in Nigeria which would be domiciled in the Institute.

Signing the MoU recently at the Institute's Council Chambers, the President of the ASSP-NC, Mrs. Mercy Omoifo-Irefo, said the partnership with the foremost oil and gas Institute would provide bases for the collation and dissemination of the ASSP teaching and learning materials worldwide, journals and easy access to publications and e-books, articles ►



PTI Chief Executive Dr. Henry Adimula, (3rd left), Managing Director of Ambong, Dr. John Nwosu, (3rd right), Dr. David Day, (2nd right); Training Coordinator, Ambong, Chief Anthony Obineme, (1st right), Partnership Manager, Ambong, Mr. Joel J. Ajima, (2nd left), Deputy Director, PTI Consultancy Services; and Mr. Aliyu Adamu, (1st left), Ag. Head, Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences Department.

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L - R: Dr. Henry Adimula, Ag. Principal and Chief Executive PTI, and Mr. Mercy O. Irefo, President, ASSP-NG; signing the MOU between PTI and ASSP-NG on the establishment of Occupational and Health Safety E – Library

Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula thanked ASSP-NC for the interest shown in the Institute. He noted that PTI was the pioneer institution that offered Safety Courses in Nigeria.

Dr. Adimula enthused that the first Occupational Health and Safety e-library suited the Institute's status, adding that the PTI Management was comfortable with the innovation and looked forward to a better working relationship with ASSP-NC.

The PTI Chief Executive also assured ASSP-NC President of a continuous synergy between the Institute and the ASSP-NC to ensure that the proposed e-library which is the first of its kind in Nigeria becomes fully operational within the next six months as planned by ASSP-NC President. ■

► and software that would serve as a research base for the advancement of Occupational Health and Safety Practice in various Organizations, workplaces, as well as promote health and safety practices nationwide.

She disclosed that the current

Executive of the Association has indicated interest to explore areas of public awareness campaigns on occupational health and safety through the inclusion of Safety as a subject in schools curriculum nationwide.

Responding, the Principal and

"FENOG A WORTHY PARTNER TO PTI" - PCE

Victor T. Abigor

In a bid to reposition the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), to occupy its strategic position in rendering competent services to the oil and gas industry, the Institute's Management embarked on a partnership drive aimed at revitalizing collaborations as well as initiating new ones.

To this end, the Acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, Dr. Henry A. Adimula, who led the Management of the Institute to FENOG Nigeria limited, recently said the visit was aimed to reinventing the Institute in the minds of its stakeholders.

In his words, "We acknowledge FENOG as our worthy partner who has patronized our services over the years. We do not want to take your patronage for granted; hence we came to thank you and to urge

you not to relent in doing business with the Institute as we value your patronage".

Dr. Adimula hinted that PTI, besides its regular Diploma programmes, also renders specialized services and Professional courses such as research works, certification in professional diving, petroleum and products analysis; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, offshore technology training and on-the-job training among others.

Adding, he posited that the Institute was poised to assist FENOG in areas of their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) for its host communities by providing skills acquisition training for the unskilled youths. This, he said, the Institute has done for multi-national companies, UNDPs/UNOPS,

Brass LNG, DESOPADEC among others.

Dr. Adimula also assured FENOG Management that the Institute has state-of-the-art facilities and competent personnel to carry out the training and services.

Responding on behalf of FENOG Management, Mr. Richard Esekhaigbe, an Alumnus of PTI, thanked the Institute's Management for the visit and acknowledged the good partnership between both organizations, especially in areas of Mechanical testing and Petroleum Analysis services.

He assured that FENOG would continue to partner with PTI in the other areas of the oil and gas sector. He promised to forward the Institute's request to the company's Management for consideration and appropriate action. ■

NBTC Reiterates need for Collaboration

...As PTI Collaborates with ASREA in Youth Capacity Dev't

Akaighe Lucky

The Niger Benue Transport Company (NBTC), a renowned vessel repair and chartering company established in 1959, one of the pioneer vessel owner's in oil, logistics and construction, has stressed the need for collaboration with the Petroleum Training Institute in the areas of skill acquisition and manpower development.

The Managing Director, Mrs. Seyi Oluyede expressed her determination to partner with PTI when she paid a follow-up visit to the Principal and Chief Executive recently.

Speaking, the Managing Director said the need to constantly exchange ideas with the Petroleum Training Institute to tackle the dearth of skills and youths development in the oil producing region and for sectorial linkage was imperative.

Continuing, she said that NBTC was reiterating the need to collaborate with the Institute in areas of skills acquisition, turnaround maintenance of its equipment as well as manpower

development of the youths in the oil producing region to boost government's resolve on the development of local content policy.

Mrs. Oluyede congratulated Dr. Adimula on his appointment as the Acting Principal and Chief Executive, while wishing both Organizations enjoy a robust collaborative relationship.

Responding, the Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula thanked the Management of NBTC for their determination to follow through on the collaboration.

The Principal said the need for collaboration with the NBTC cannot be over emphasized and called for the constitution of a technical committee made up of three persons each from both Organizations with given terms of reference on areas feasible and viable for the collaboration.

Also, he advanced that PTI would carry out turn around maintenance of their equipment and train its youths on skills acquisition in order to enrich local content policy of the federal government.

Meanwhile, the PTI Management team led by the Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry Adimula, who subsequently visited NBTC were conducted round by the Managing Director, Mrs. Oluyede to the Roro, Operations and Workshop Jetty. Other areas toured included: the Owhor Batch, Floating Dock, Shipyard and the Worksite.

In another development, the Institute has collaborated with Asteven Renewable Energy and Efficiency Academy (ASREA) on a two day free training workshop on Solar Panel Voltage Installation and Entrepreneurship at the Skills Development Academy (SDA) PTI, Osubi Campus recently.

Declaring the two day workshop open, the Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula posited that the aim of the training was to empower youths in the Institute's host Communities on skills acquisition as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Further, the Principal and Chief Executive said the two day workshop was designed to create awareness on Solar PV Installation and entrepreneurship for youths and the opportunities that abound in the solar energy space.

Continuing, He said the opportunity to collaborate with Asteven falls within the goals of the Institute and seized the medium to thank the Chief Executive Officer of Asteven for making the project realizable.

Dr. Adimula urged the participants to make the best use of the opportunity presented them to grasp all they could bearing in mind that there were readily available market for solar power ►



Principal & Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula (right), the MD of NBTC, Mrs. Seyi Oluyede.



Ag. Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula and the CEO Asteven Academy, Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo flanked by participants during the 2-day free training on PV Solar Installation and Entrepreneurship.

► assembling and entrepreneurship.

On his part, the Chief Executive officer, Asteven Renewable Energy Group, Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo and President of the Council of Renewable Energy in Nigeria, said the youths of the Niger Delta region require workable ideas in solving problems, hence, the training in renewable energy and PV Installation.

Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo, while stating his desire to contribute towards the Niger Delta region, recalled his humbled background as a way of spurring the participants that they could make a lasting mark the way he did in

solving problems in renewable energy.

Speaking further, He charged the participants drawn from the Institute host communities; to maintain focus through-out the training bearing in mind that energy poverty is a blessing to Nigerians that needs to be unlocked.

He enjoined the trainees, youth leaders, President' Generals of host communities to key into renewable energy and also cascade the message to their Royal Majesties that the gains of skills development were priceless.

Also, the representative of Uvwie Community, Mr. Christian

Eshenake, his Osubi counterpart Com Paul O. Erugbenor, Comrade Benjamin Agbude of Ugolo and the youth leader of Okirvirhe community, John Emaye all lauded the PTI Management and ASREA for putting up a once in a lifetime programme which they said has further boosted the reputation of the Institute in delivering competent manpower training.

They promised to reach out to other companies, Political and Public office holders as well as individuals to sponsor their subjects in capacity and entrepreneurial trainings with a view to reducing youth restiveness in their various communities.

Meanwhile, the high point of the training which covered areas of Solar Photovoltaic Installation, National Skills Qualification Awareness (NSQ), Leadership, Team Building, Principles of Assessment and Managing Safely was the presentation of certificates to 44 participants drawn from Institute's host communities by their Traditional Rulers and Heads of Communities.

Speaking at the close out ceremony, the President of Women in Renewable Energy, Delta State Chapter, Mrs. Onajite Efedede Shaba, admonished the recipients to put to practice the hands-on experience gained during the training.

She urged the trainees to appeal to their Traditional Rulers and Community Heads to further sponsor them for an in-depth three (3) months training to enable them to be fully certified and to also certify others on renewable energy.

Responding on behalf of the participants, the elated youth chairman of Uvwie United Development Movement, Comrade Egere E. Peter thanked the PTI Management and ASREA for the privilege afforded them to be trained and promised to put the experience to bear. ■



R—L: Mrs. Grace Erhimona, Head DWEOT, PTI, Dr. Silas Agaja, Head ISET, PTI, Dr. Bamidele Oyetunde, Director R&D, PTI; Engr. Samuel Ukwuaba, former Director of Engineering, PTI, Mr. Clement Siakpere, Registrar, PTI; Dr. Henry Adimula, Ag. Principal and Chief Executive, PTI; Mrs. Seyi Oluyede, Management Director, NBTC, Alhaji Aliyu Mafindi, DFA, PTI; Mr. Ernest Ode, Dry Plant Manager NBTC, Dr. Michael Adegbite, Director of Engineering, PTI, Engr. Uche Chigbo, NBTC; Mr. Brown A. Ukanefimoni, Deputy Director/Head Public Affairs and Mr. Lucky Akaighe, Officer 1, Public Affairs both of PTI.

MILESTONE

PTI In the Year 2020

The year 2020 can be described as a year of face mask and isolation as a result of the outbreak of the novel corona virus, tagged COVID-19. It disrupted economic and social activities all over the world. The Institute is not immune to it as key operations were brought to a halt for the better part of the year. The Institute was shut down. Academic activities were disrupted as students remained at home as a result of the lockdown imposed by the federal government. Skeletal services were rendered by Management and essential staff members.

However, despite the challenges of the year, the Institute recorded the following achievements.

i. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOL IN THE INSTITUTE:

As part of efforts to address the dearth of internationally certified divers in-country, the International Oil Companies (IOCs) led by Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO) entered into collaboration with the Institute for the establishment of an international diving school in the Institute. To this end, the Honourable Minister of State, Labour and Employment, Mr. Festus Keyamo, SAN, has on behalf of the Federal Government, inaugurated the Nigerian Diving Governing Board. A staff of the Institute is a member of the Board; the Diving school is planned to take off in the 2nd quarter of 2021.

ii. REACTIVATION OF FACILITIES:

The Institute facilitated the reactivation of the Crude Oil Pilot Distillation Plant as a preparation for the anticipatory training for takeoff staff for Dangote Refinery and the PTI proposed Modular Refinery.

iii COLLABORATION WITH OFFSHORE PETROLEUM TRAINING ORGANISATION (OPITO) FOR CERTIFICATION:

In a bid to reposition the Institute as a world class training and certification Centre, the Institute began the process of collaborating with the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization (OPITO) for the introduction of on-the-job Competency-Based-Training (CBT) on National Vocation Qualification (NVQ) for the Nigerian oil and gas sector.

iv. TRAINING OF NIGER DELTA YOUTHS ON SKILL ACQUISITION

PROGRAMME: As part of the Institute's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Institute in conjunction with Eclipse Oil and Gas International Link limited trained youths in its host Communities in Underwater Welding and Cutting; the Institute and Asteven Renewable Energy Group also trained youths from the host Communities on the Installation of Solar Panels and trade in Solar Energy Business; ►



Injection Moulding Machine

► **v. COLLABORATION WITH UNIPORT TO MOUNT POST HND ENGINEERING PROGRAMMES:** PTI and the University of Port Harcourt, (UNIPORT), Rivers State, are in collaboration to mount Post HND in Engineering programmes offered in the Institute. A total of 124 students are currently participating in the programme. Also, the Institute struck a deal with the Centre for Occupational Health Safety and Environmental (COHSE), UNIPORT for the award of Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Occupational Health, Industrial Safety and Environmental Technology.

vi. VIRTUAL CONDUCT OF HND CANDIDATES INTERVIEW AND ND CANDIDATES POST UTME EXAMINATION: The Institute virtually conducted interview for admission of Higher National Diploma (HND) candidates for the 2020/2021 academic session. Also, the Post UTME was conducted for National Diploma (ND) candidates virtually.

vii. SHIP-TO-SHIP TERMINAL OPERATION: The Institute carried out crude analysis for the Ship-to-Ship (STS) terminal operation at Britania – U Crude Oil Terminal at Ogulagha (Forcados), Delta State;

viii. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY E-LIBRARY: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PTI and the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Nigerian Chapter for the establishment of an E-Library at the Petroleum Training Institute.

ix. UTILISATION OF THE PTDF BUILT HOSTELS: One of the PTDF built hostel has been put to use.

x. KNOWLEDGE SHARING SERIES (KSS): Despite that the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted academic activities, the Institute held the sixth edition of its Knowledge Sharing Series presentation online via webinar with the theme; “Promoting Effective Academia-Oil & Gas Industry Research Collaboration in Nigeria”, “Leveraging on R&D to Drive Performance in the Oil and Gas Industry”, and “Subsurface Mapping of Nigeria Bitumen Deposits for National Development: A Case of Ode-Aye Southwest Nigeria”. Participants were from UK, USA, Ghana and Nigeria.

xi. INAUGURATION OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE: The Innovation solution challenge was inaugurated to generate solutions to some of the technical problems

facing the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

xii. RENOVATION OF THE GUEST CHALETS: The guest chalets at the Conference Centre Complex were renovated to enhance revenue generation;

xiii. STAFF QUARTERS: Renovation of 18 number blocks of staff quarters to improve staff welfare.

xiv. DELIVERY OF THE MINISTERIAL MANDATE OF THE INSTITUTE: These mandate includes: Increase in domestic refining capacity; increase in crude oil production; research on tracking technology to curb smuggling of petroleum products; gas flare commercialization; reduce cost of crude oil production and to increase jobs and reduce poverty.

The Institute is poised to continue to deliver on her mandates and to meet the training needs of the Nigerian petroleum industry. ■



Newly Renovated Staff Quarters

Natural rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis* Müell.-Arg.) production, processing, and rubber wastes utilization: Challenges and prospects for economic diversification and sustainable development of Nigeria



By Dr. Samuel E. Onoji
Director, Services,
Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) Effurun

INTRODUCTION This review paper discusses the impact of agriculture sector on the Nigerian economy in the 1960s, and the neglect of the sector as a result of the oil boom of 1970s. The natural rubber (NR) industry was a major contributor to the growth of Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) with robust foreign reserves in the pre-oil boom era. The challenges and prospects of rubber farmers in Nigeria, assessment of natural rubber production and processing in pre- and post-civil war era in Nigeria, and conversion of rubber wastes to wealth for increased revenue generation are reviewed and discussed.

Nigeria has total landmass coverage of 910,768 km² with about 38.97% arable, while 3.46% is available for the cultivation of permanent cash crops (Chevron

Nigeria Limited, 2015; Odetola and Etumnu, 2013) such as rubber, cocoa and palm trees. From 1960 until the oil boom of the 1970s, the main source of revenue in Nigeria was agriculture with surplus food produced for her entire population, such that over 70% of the total export came from natural rubber, cocoa, palm oil, and groundnuts (Oluwaseyi, 2017; Abolagha et al., 2016).

About 60% of Nigerians were directly or indirectly employed in the agriculture sector. The sector also produces millet, tomatoes, gum arabic, sesame seeds, cotton, cashew nuts, citrus fruits, maize, cassava, yam, and sugarcane on a smaller scale.

Infrastructural developments then, were quite visible with the prospects of a bigger bio-based economy in future. In the 1970s, the agriculture sector was neglected because of the oil boom and efforts by previous governments to revive this sector that produces natural rubber, cocoa, palm oil, and groundnuts, seen as the biggest foreign exchange earners for Nigeria failed as oil money was handy (Oluwaseyi, 2017). The agriculture sector at that time contributed about 64% to the total GDP, but this gradually declined to 8% in the 1970s, and 19% in 1985 (Izuchukwu, 2011).

In addition, a report by the World Bank indicated a declined percentage of employment (public and private) in the agriculture sector as against the total

employment in Nigeria between 1991 and 2019 at an average of 44.01% with a minimum of 36.38% in 2019 and maximum of 50.17% in 1992 (World Bank, 2019) compared to 60% prior to oil boom era. Revenue generation from the sales of about 2.1 million barrels of crude oil/day from the estimated oil reserves of 37.2 billion barrels, and sales of gas from the reserves of 187 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas deposits did not adequately impact positively on the GDP's growth in the later years (Ishola et al., 2013; Ohimain, 2013; Omo-Ikerodah et al., 2009). Recently, the government introduced the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP: 2017-2020) as a road map to diversify the economy, which depended on the sales of crude oil with emphasis on agriculture to create jobs, reduce food imports and support the growth of her GDP (Ejeh and Orokpo, 2019). *Hevea brasiliensis* Müell. - Arg tree (Figure Onoji et al. 9 1) (Willd. ex Adr. de Juss.) is purposely cultivated for the production of latex as a source of NR for the production of over 50,000 products (Takase et al., 2015; Ng et al., 2013; Atabani et al., 2013).

NR latex [(C₅H₈)_n] is a polymeric material of cis-1, 4 polyisoprene (2-methyl-1, 3-butadiene) with a molecular weight in the range ≥300,000. It contains 30-35% rubber, 2-3% proteins and lipids, 0.3% resins, 1.5-4% glycosides, and the remainder is water (>50%)

► (Kumar and Nijasure, 1997).

Due to the global shortage of NR for rubber-related products, the current rubber market is dominated by synthetic rubbers (SRs) sourced from fossil petroleum and vulcanized with sulphur atoms to produce chain of artificial polymers (e.g., styrene/1, 3-butadiene, and isobutylene/isoprene). For instance, styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), isobutylene-isoprene rubber (that is, butyl rubber, abbr. BR), and cis-polybutadiene rubber (CBR) are the three most common SRs used in tyre production (Kan et al., 2017).

A tyre may contain synthetic rubber, natural rubber, carbon black, steel wires, fabric, plasticizers, lubricants, antioxidants, and inorganic materials (e.g., calcium carbonate and silica). Synthetic rubbers from petrochemicals could be in short supply when the uses of fossil materials are reduced in the nearest possible future arising from the global Paris Agreement on climate change (UNFCCC, 2015).

It is therefore envisaged that NR may be seen as the „oil□ of the future especially with the current expansion of the automobile industry and the global drive to using rubber-modified products, industrially.

The Nigerian government introduced a 12-year (2006-2018) Rubber Initiative Plan for increased rubber production for local use and export through aggressive cultivation of new plantations and rehabilitation of old plantations to achieve a target of 360,000 ha (Umar et al., 2010), which outstandingly yielded 371,775 ha of harvested rubber plantations (FAO, 2017).

Thus, with the government's current expansion of rubber plantations, export earnings are projected to increase significantly

by end of the current decade considering the renewed drive by the government to diversify the economy through the agriculture sector. NR production by small-scale rubber farmers was generally as low as 500 kg dry NR/ha/year in recent years, which was attributed to over-aged rubber trees (≥ 30 years), poor maintenance culture, lack of credit facilities, and non-availability of certified rubber seedlings for planting as reported by a cross section of small-scale rubber

US\$37 million in 2017 (NEPC, 2018). Global sales from NR exports by producing countries in 2018 totalled US\$13.1 billion, and this reflected an average decline of 22.1% since 2014, when the world's shipment of NR was US\$16.8 billion (Workman, 2019).

In 2018, Nigeria's rubber export was US\$41.8 million (0.3% global sales), while Côte d'Ivoire (5.7% global sales-US\$752.6 million) and Liberia (1% global sales-US\$126.2 million) were the biggest exporters from Africa



Typical latex collection from tapped rubber tree.

farmers (Field surveys). The primary objective of the initiative is to increase the income of the rubber farmers through increased local production and utilization of NR, creation of employment, and export the excess to boost the economy. This is perceived to ultimately diversify the economy and enhance the income of small-scale rubber famers who account for about 85% of hectares of rubber plantations (Umar et al., 2011).

Recent survey shows that Nigeria produced 159,264 tons NR in 2017, second in Africa after Côte d'Ivoire (580,000 tons), and ranked 13th in global production (FAO, 2017). Nigeria's annual export of 127,000 metric tons NR brought in export earnings of

(Workman, 2019). Industrial applications of rubber tree products, apart from the products from NR and biofuels production, are numerous.

With encouragement from government at all levels, through the provision of credit facilities for plantation owners, Nigeria may closely approach the production levels of Southeast Asian countries that account for over 90% of global NR production (Umar et al., 2011). Globally, the production of NR was reported at a 5.2% growth rate, Africa at 2.2%, while Nigeria's growth rate estimated at 5.7% (Umar et al., 2011). Onoji et al. (2016) reported that 18 million ha of land is available in South-South geopolitical region of Nigeria with

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Make the Most of the Expertise on Hand, PCE Charges Diving Trainees

Akaighe Lucky



PCE, Dr. Henry A. Adimula addressing the Trainees while Mr. Forcados Agadabiri, Diving Supervisor and Board member, Nigeria Diving Board (NDB) watches on.



PCE, Dr. Henry A. Adimula (3rd right, front row) flanked by the Institute's Top Management, Staff and Trainees.

The Acting Principal & Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Dr. Henry A. Adimula has charged diving trainees on a one week specialized training on Welding and Underwater Operations Cutting to make the most of the expertise on hand to gain relevant technical skills required for deep sea operations in the oil and gas industry.

Dr. Adimula gave this admonition when he declared open a one week intensive training on Welding and Underwater Cutting sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The training was designed to equip youths of the Niger Delta Region with requisite skills and knowledge required for the Profession.

He cheerfully said that he was thankful to the Federal Government for finding the Institute worthy to carry out this training, knowing full well that the Institute is well stock out both in manpower and state-of-the-art-facilities to deliver in the area of training which would put the trainees in good stead to be employable both locally and internationally.

Responding on behalf of the trainees, an elated Zico T. Miesine thanked the Federal Government, the Petroleum Training Institute and the Consultants; Eclipse Oil and Gas International Resource Links Limited for providing all that was required for an in-depth training. ■

Oghene, Ukwuaba, 11 others Retire from Service

Brown A. Ukanefimoni

The dream of every public servant is to attain the hallmark of the service. Being that as it may, Dr. Clement K. Oghene, Director, Offshore Technology has gleefully retired from the services of the PTI on the attainment of 60 years of age on August 1, 2020.

Also, Engr. Samuel I. Ukwuaba, Director of Engineering have bowed out of the service after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 60 years on December 20, 2020.

Other staff members who retired in the third and fourth quarters of 2020, and first quarter of 2021 were: Engr. Alexander D. Okafor, Deputy Director (T) EEED,

Engr. Diamond Ebegba, Assistant Director (T), EEED; Dr. (Prince) Ademola O. Adebawale, Deputy Director/Head Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences Department, Dr. Isyaku S. Karaye, Deputy Director (Clinic); Engr. Isama L. Oyem, Deputy Director, (T) PNGPD; Mr. Otisi O. Osundu, Assistant Director, Admissions; Mr. Aliyu Y. Kawara, Assistant Director, Services; Engr. (Dr.) Sheidi H. Maiharkuri, Deputy Director (T) (Head), MED, and Mrs. Simbiat F. Adetona, Chief Officer (Medical).

The PTI News wish all of them blissful retirement life.

Meanwhile, Engr. Samuel I. Ukwuaba and Mr. Otisi O. Osundu are retired permanently to mother earth. Burial announcement will be announced by the families. ■

PTI Trains Auditors on ISO 9001:2015 Standard

Onyinyechi Udemezue

In a practical move to make the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) stand out among other institutions in the world, the Institute's Management has trained some of its personnel as Auditors on International Organization for Standardization (ISO 9001), 2015 Standard.

The objectives of the ISO Certification according to the then Principal and Chief Executive Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke, is to make PTI stand out, as well as make the rest

of the country learn from PTI, noting that the Institute would not remain the same after passing through ISO Certification.

"The concept is to make PTI stand out, perhaps the rest of the country could learn from PTI because for sure when you pass through ISO certification, you cannot remain the same", the PCE stated.

While speaking on measures to ensure continuity even after he left office, the then Institute Principal and Chief Executive, Prof. Sunny E.

Iyuke disclosed that the Institute choose younger personnel for the training. In his words, "The newly trained Internal Auditors still have about 25 to 30 years in the system, this is to ensure continuity.

Earlier, the DM Profectus Facilitator, Mr. Aselemi Uku who is an ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor, opined that training of internal auditors would not only help build competencies but to be able write audit report, also to be able to carry out if and necessary corrective action and to ensuring that they were closed out on time.

He stated that the training was of immense benefit to PTI as Auditing training for the ISO 9001:2015 was key towards ensuring that the system has been properly implemented and would be robust enough to pass any certification exercise.

On his part, the then Head, PTI Quality Management System (QMS), Dr. Michael I. Adegbite thanked the Institute's Management for taking the bull by the horn to ensuring that the process took place. He also commended the consultant, DM Profetus for a job well done. ■



3rd right, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke, then PCE, Mr. Clement Siakpere (middle), Registrar, 3rd left, DM Profectus Facilitator, Mr. Aselemi Uku, 2nd right, Dr. Michael A. Adegbite, PTI QMS Manager.



Training

PTI Quality Management System Department ISO 9001:2015 Training on Documentation and Implementation at PTI Conference Centre Complex, Wednesday 24 to Friday 26, February 2021. ■

PTI CMPCS Capital Base Hits An All Time Peak of N5.3B

...Esiti Emerges 11th President

Lucky Akaighe

The Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) Community Multi-purpose Co-operative Society (CMPCS) capital base has risen astronomically to the sum of five billion, three hundred and ninety four thousand, eight hundred and thirty-five naira, eighty-four kobo (N5, 394,835.84) for the year ended 31st December, 2019.

The President of the PTI Cooperative Society, Engr. Ephraim Ogunyemi who made this disclosure during the virtual 19th AGM, said this figure represents 27 percent increase in net surplus over expenditure in the past year, adding that he was glad to be leaving the cooperative society stronger, better and more prosperous than ever.

He recalled that two years ago when he took the oath of office, he promised to adhere strictly to the core business of loan credit facilities to Cooperators and to bring to an end the challenges faced by subscribers of the Unity Garden Housing Estate. Today, he was pleased to have kept to his promise even as he set to pass on the mantle of leadership to another administration.

The outgoing President, while highlighting major achievements recorded during his tenure said, the lawyer and contractors that sued the Cooperative had settled out of court and had completed their contracts of building to pre-lintel level, fifty-one (51) 4 bedroom duplexes and thirty-seven (37) bungalows along with their



Newly sworn-in PTI CMPCS Excos. R –L: The President, Mr. Blankson G. Esiti; the Vice President, Mr. Kesiena Esiri; General Secretary, Mr. Felix Olupinla; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Josiah K. Onyia; Treasurer, Mr. Godstime Ugavah, Financial Secretary, Mr. Jerry O. Ajuomiwe and Welfare Officer, Engr. Walter Ikpo.

respective boys' quarters.

Engr. Ogunyemi said the filling station which hitherto runs at a loss, has been restored as observed in the profit made under the fiscal year, while the ultra-modern complex which began under the erstwhile leadership of Mr. Peter Agbude has since been completed by his administration and commissioned.

He also noted that to further strengthen the Cooperative Society, insurance on loans has been fully activated at 1% flat rate for the duration of the loan especially when sufficient collateral seem unavailable on occasion of the demise of any Co-

operator.

Engr. Ogunyemi thanked all Cooperators for their support, trust; understanding and advice rendered to his Management team as well as the Cooperation from the two in-house unions.

On his part, the Chairman of the 19th AGM, Mr. Adamu Aliyu showered encomiums on the outgoing executive for the great work done and for the smooth transition from one administration to another.

Mr. Aliyu called on the incoming Executive to fill the big shoes of their predecessor, while encouraging the younger staff coming behind to sustain the

... cont'd from pg. 27

good climatic factors (20-35°C, and 1800-4000 mm annual rainfall) required for the growth of rubber trees and good yields of NR.

Unsuccessful trial cultivations were carried out in some Northern States of Nigeria where annual rainfall rarely exceeds 650 mm in the months of June to August considered as peak periods of rainy season (Umar et al., 2010).

Rubber tree has a growth period of 6 to 9 years before commercial production of latex, but the seeds spring out between 4 and 6 years of growth (Eka et al., 2010). At present, non-edible rubber seed oil has the potential to generate about 8,000 tons/annum biodiesel in Nigeria using waste rubber seed shell as bio-catalyst (Onoji et al., 2017).

The collection of rubber seeds for biodiesel production can be an additional source of income to rubber farmers who also practice intercropping with arable crops such as cassava, pineapple, yam, pepper, bitter leaf, maize, groundnut, and rice for sustenance, soil improvement and weed control mechanisms before NR production commences

Natural rubber ...

(Esekhade et al., 2019).

The Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) genetically developed Nigerian rubber seedlings code named NIG800 and NIG900 series with yields 3,000 to 3,500 kg dry NR/ha/year when compared with imported seedlings from Southeast Asia countries, whose yields range from 900 to 1,600 kg dry NR/ha/year (Umar et al., 2010).

The Nigerian seedlings are presently made available to small-scale rubber farmers and estate rubber planters for cultivation to address the challenges of low NR production. It is expected that in the next two decades, Nigeria will play a leading role in global NR production in a diversified sustainable agricultural-based economy.

Due to expansion of the transportation sector in Nigeria, expired and used tyres are commonly dumped in unregulated dumpsites. This constituted an environmental hazard and exacerbated health problems to humans when these wastes are not properly disposed of. Pyrolysis is a thermochemical process that can be scaled-up to process the waste tyres in Nigeria

into useable products, and recover the energy for domestic and industrial applications.

METHODOLOGY

Google scholar, a fast internet-based search engine was used to obtain information from online databases which include: Directory of Open Access Journals, Web of Science, African Journals Online, ScienceDirect, Research4Life, ResearchGate, etc.

Furthermore, publications from peer reviewed journals, conference papers, proceedings of national and international workshops, RRIN's manuals, government and biennial reports, FAO and corporate organizations' publications, book chapters and postgraduate theses published from year 1997 to 2020; and field interviews with rubber farmers were considered for this review.

The materials were screened and relevant data extracted, analysed/or studied, and recorded for the review write up.■

To be concluded in the next edition.

PTI CMPCS Capital Base Hits ...

► Cooperative and grow it to an enviable height.

The chairman charged the incoming President to be a father and leader to all irrespective of the fact that not all cooperators voted him into office, but should strive to treat all fairly, equally and justly.

The election held on 3rd of July, 2020, produced Mr. Blankson Governor Esiti as the 11th President of the PTI CMPCS. Mr. B.G. Esiti polled a total of 195 votes to beat

Mr. Ewhujakpor Davies who polled 188 votes.

Other elected officers were Messrs Esiri Kesiena, Vice President; Ajomiwe Jerry, Financial Secretary (unopposed); Olupinla Felix, Secretary; Onyia Josiah, Assistant Secretary; Ugavah Godstime, Treasurer; and Engr. Ikpo Walter, Non-portfolio member.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Esiti thanked the outgoing

President and the executive for the great work they had put in. He assured all that his team would build on the gains already made with best practices and procedures, stating that this call to service comes with a tremendous sense of responsibility, trust and faith to ensure the continued success and sustainability of the Cooperative. ■

Thanksgiving: To The Glory Of God, We Did Not Lose Any Staff or Students To COVID-19 - Dr. Adimula

As the year 2020 ended, the Acting Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Dr. Henry A. Adimula has called on the Institute's staff and students to become more dedicated to the service of the Lord. This is even as he expressed gratitude to God Almighty for preserving the lives of all staff and students throughout the year and in the face of the ravaging Corona Virus across the globe.

Dr. Adimula who made the call during the end of year Thanksgiving/Carol Service & Retired Staff Sendforth of the Petroleum Industry Christian Fellowship International (PICFI) PTI chapter, declared thus, "We must thank the Lord for bringing us back on campus after so many months of lockdown and other disturbances that ensued afterword. To the glory of God Almighty, we did not lose any staff and students during the COVID-19 episode. What we are doing today is a testimony that God is faithful in our lives. There were so many calamities in the year but God kept us alive".

The Chief Executive who was represented by the Director of Research and Development, Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde, noted that year 2020 was a very turbulent one with the advent of the much dreaded Corona Virus which severely disrupted academic calendar, crippled global economies and left thousands of people dead. Adding that death tolls are still being recorded daily but in all these, "We have been made more than conquerors as the Lord has graciously preserved our lives and that of our students".

Speaking further, he said, "Consequently, I exhort everyone, in gratitude of all that we have received from God, to become more dedicated to the service of the Lord in this land and particularly to our Institute. We must remember that to whom much is given, much is also required. Faithfulness, loyalty, diligence and excellence must

Onyinyechi Udemezue

remain our guideposts and God will reward us immensely".

The Chief Executive expressed his sincere appreciation to God Almighty for his exceeding grace to the entire Management and staff of PTI and for their immense contributions to the success and progress of the Institute. He also thanked the Students Union Government (SUG) and the students' bodies for their resourcefulness and cooperation as well as every member of the PTI community for all their support and goodwill.

Earlier in his sermon, Bishop Simeon Okah, the presiding Bishop of Flock of Christ Mission Inc, Warri, opined that God has been so faithful to our country Nigeria despite being classified as one of the poorest countries in the world.

The Cleric pointed out that God did not create Nigeria poor but because the leaders and citizen choose not to heed to God's words and learn from past mistakes as a country. He however declared that Nigeria shall change and be great again.

Speaking on the Theme: "Abundant Mercy", Bishop Okah stated that it is the mercy of God that has kept Nigerians strong in the face of the COVID-19. "God sees our hearts and not the colour of our dresses, He does not count our sins

once we repent and return to Him. I come here today with the message of assurance, Nigeria will be great again".

He urged the congregation to always study the word of God as well as acting on the word, regretting that Nigerian Christians have taken the word for granted hence the so many challenges in the country.

Let us study the word of God and act on it. The word of God can never fade; Nigerian Christians had taken the word of God for granted. Heaven is real, hell is real. I encourage you to rely on God's mercy. Those oppressing us and by extension Nigeria shall surely bow", he assured.

On his part, the PTI staff fellowship President, Mr. Olushola Idowu pointed out that without a shadow of doubt; PTI is a proof that the undeserved mercy of God is real.

According to him, "Like a woman in travail, PTI went through a season of labour pains but the mercy of God midwifed the Institute into a new season with the promised delivery of hope, new beginnings, and the glory of God. Your being here today and joining in our celebration is also proof that you are enjoying and basking in the abundant mercy of God".

Quoting the Scriptures in Romans chapter 9 verses 16, Idowu said, "This scripture very clearly show us that, the trajectory of a man's life is not a function of his own desire or effort but the product of the superfluous and multifaceted dimensions of the mercy of God". ■



Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde, Director R&D, Rep of PCE (4th L), the retiree, Mr. Otisi O. Osondu (5th L), (now late), Mrs. Osondu (5th R) and the PTI staff fellowship President, Mr. Olushola Idowu flanked by other worshippers and well-wishers.

Ag. PCE Pays Courtesy Visit to Ovie of Uvwie Kingdom

Akaighe Lucky



HRM, Dr. Emmanuel E. Sideso, Abe I, OON, JP, the Ovie of Uvwie Kingdom, middle; flanked by the Ag. PCE Dr. Henry A. Adimula (4th R), Mr. Isaac Fregene, Deputy Director HRD (3rd R); Mr. Brown A. Ukanefimoni, Deputy Director PAD (2nd R), Mr. Akinjide I. Korede, Technical Assistant to PCE (1st R), Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde, Director R&D (3rd L); Dr. Samuel E. Onoji, Director, Services (2nd L); and Mr. Lucky O. Akaighe, Officer I, Public Affairs.

In a bid to sustain the harmonious relations between the Petroleum Training Institute and its host community, the Acting Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula paid a courtesy visit to the HRM, Dr. Emmanuel Ekemjewewa Sideso, Abe I, OON, JP, the Ovie of Uvwie Kingdom at his palace recently.

Accompanied by other Management Staff of the Institute, Dr. Adimula said that the visit to the Royal father of Uvwie Kingdom was necessitated as a result of his appointment as the Acting Principal and Chief Executive of PTI by the Governing

Council on 4th July, 2020, following the end of the four year tenure of his predecessor, Prof. Sunny E. Iyuke on 3rd July, 2020.

Speaking further, the Chief Executive recalled his time in Uvwie since he joined the employ of the Institute over two decades ago was very wonderful and the Uvwie were hospitable people, such that he christened one of his children with an Uvwie name out of the love he has for the land.

Dr. Adimula paid tribute to the Royal Majesty for the support given to the Institute and for the peaceful environment the Institute has been operating for over four decades in meeting the mandate

of the Federal Government.

His Royal Majesty, Dr. Emmanuel E. Sideso, while congratulating the Acting Principal on his appointment, said he was thrilled by the visit.

The Uvwie Monarch admonished the Institute's Don to take the welfare of both staff and students seriously. He further charged the Chief Executive to carry the community along in areas of skills development, admissions, employment and empowerment of youths.

The King blessed Dr. Adimula and wished him a successful tenure and to take the Institute to the next level. ■

Fallout of 142nd Council Meeting:

Adegbite Emerges Director of Engineering

- 12 Staff Move up to Mgt Cadre
- 17 Others Move Between Ss6 & SS1
- 6 Staff Upgraded

Brown A. Ukanefimoni

Dr. Michael A. Adegbite has been promoted to the post of Director of Engineering with effect from January 1, 2021.

The Institute's Governing Council ratified the promotion at its 142nd meeting held on March 4, 2021, at the Executive Club Lounge, Fraser Suite, Abuja.

In the same vein, six Officers were moved to the position of Deputy Directors (M5), while six others joined the Management rank on M6.

17 Officers climbed the rung of the ladder between SS6 and SS1, while six others were upgraded.

The new Director of Engineering, Dr. Michael Adedokun Adegbite joined the employ of the Institute on March 2, 1989, as then lecturer in the

Department of Welding Engineering and Offshore Technology.

Dr. Adegbite holds a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc.) in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering from the now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, in 1987, two Masters of Science (M.Sc) in Welding and Adhesive Bonding of Engineering Materials, and Offshore and Ocean Technology (Offshore Material option) from Brunel University, Uxbridge, London, United Kingdom, and Cranfield University, Cranfield, United Kingdom, in 1993 and 2003 respectively. He also hold a doctorate degree (Ph.D.) from Cranfield University, United Kingdom in 2014.

Dr. Adegbite is a sedulous scholar with 39 erudite publications to his credit. Notable among the papers were "Asset Integrity Management of

Ageing Infrastructures: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities" delivered at the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Abuja Branch Technical session, 2020; "Metals Offshore Applications: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities" presented during the Monthly Technical Section of Nigerian Institution of Metallurgical, Mining and Materials Engineering, Abuja 2020, amongst others.

He is a fellow and member of 12 Professional Bodies; with 14 award in recognition of his excellence services. Among the awards were SPE Distinguished Lecturer for 2021/22; SPE Africa Regional Projects, Facilities and Construction Award 2019; Outstanding Contributions Award, by African Federation of Non-Destructive Testing and others too numerous to mention. ■

OBITUARY

PTI Pioneer Council Chairman is Dead

- Ofurhie laid to Rest

Brown A. Ukanefimoni

Mr. Festus Remileku Ayodele Marinho, pioneer Chairman of the Governing Council of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) is dead.

Marinho who was the Institute's Governing Council Chairman from July 1975 - July 1977, passed away on January 19, 2021, at the age of 87.



The Late Mr. Festus Remileku Ayodele Marinho, Pioneer Chairman of the Governing Council of the Petroleum Training Institute

He was born on the 30th of December, 1934, at Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State. Besides his primary education, he attended the famous St. Gregory's college, Obalende, Lagos State. The late Council Chairman, held a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University college, Ibadan in 1960; and a Post-Graduate studies in Petroleum Reservoir Engineering from Imperial College, London in 1961.

In 1960, Chief Marinho joined the then Hydrocarbon section of the Ministry of Mines and Power and Lagos Affairs. He rose speedily ultimately becoming the pioneer and two-time Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National

Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) 1977 - 1980 and 1984 - 1985.

In a related development, the remains of Chief Macauley Agbada Ofurhie, former Council Chairman of PTI and Director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) from 2001 - 2005, has been laid to rest at his country home, Sapele, Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State on July 24, 2020.

Mac Ofurhie died in Lagos on June 1, 2020, after a brief illness.

In a condolence letter signed by the Registrar of the Institute, Mr. Onobrorhie C. Siakpere described the late Ofurhie as an astute administrator, a great technocrat and a stickler for transparency. The statement added, "The late Chief Macauley was a quintessential gentleman with a steady stride in the oil and gas sector; who will be remembered for his forthrightness in the establishment of institutional control".

Mac is survived by a wife, four children and eight grandchildren. ■



The Late Chief Macauley Agbada Ofurhie, former Chairman of the PTI Governing Council and Director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) from 2001 - 2005

O B I T U A R Y

Engr. Ochonogor, Okeregha, Andenyangtso Laid to Rest

Lucky Akaighe

The cadaver of Engr. Charles Ubanatu Ochonogor has been laid to rest at his country home, Emu-Uno in Ndokwa west Local Government Area of Delta State on Saturday 14th December, 2019. Engr. Ochonogor who bowed to the cold hands of death on 31st July, 2019, after a brief illness, served the Institute for 28 years and was aged 58.

Until his demise, the late Engr. Ochonogor who joined the services of the Institute on 12th July, 1991, as then lecturer II in Electrical Electronics Engineering Department, rose through the ranks to the position of Deputy Director.

He is survived by a wife and three children.

In the same vein, it was a sorrowful sight never to behold in the little town of Orhoakpor, in Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State

when the remains of Mrs. Mercy Okeregha (Nee Afagha) was committed to mother earth amid grief, pains, anguish, sorrow, lamentations and gnashing of teeth among family members, relatives, friends, colleagues and sympathizers who thronged the burial ground to catch a glimpse of the deceased.

Preceding the burial, staff members turned out enmass to pay their last respect to their ever smiling colleague at the Institute's Administrative Block. The late Mrs. Mercy Okeregha who was born on 25th December, 1984, joined the services of the Institute on 26th February, 2015 as Officer I in the Procurement Department from where she rose to the rank of a Senior Officer until her death on Tuesday, 20th August, 2019.

Mercy who served the Institute for four years and seven months holds a Bachelor Degree in Mass Communication from the Rivers

State University of Science & Technology (RSUST) in 2010, and a Master's Degree in Logistic and Supply Chain Management from the University of Central Lancashire, England, United Kingdom (UK) in 2013. She is survived by a husband and two green children.

Also, the remains of Amos John Andenyangtso of the Mechanical Engineering Department had been laid to rest in his country home of Takun Local Government Area of Taraba State on Friday, June 12th, 2020.

The late Amos joined the services of the Institute on 4th June, 2012, as Technologist I, from where he rose to the rank of Assistant Chief Technologist until his untimely death on Saturday, May 30th, 2020, at the age of 56. He has since been buried in his country home of Takun on Friday, June 12th, 2021. He is survived by a wife and five children. ■



The Late Engr. Charles U. Ochonogor



The late Mrs. Mercy Okeregha



The late Mr. Amos John Andenyangtso

We'll Partner with PTI to Return it to its Sporting Days of Eldorado - Christian Obodo

Lucky Akaighe

Former Super Eagles, and International star, Christian Obodo has assured the Principal and Chief Executive of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Dr. Henry A. Adimula of his dreams to partner with the Institute and return it to its sporting days of Eldorado.

Christian Obodo who gave this hint recently when he paid a courtesy visit to the Institute's

Management said the need to partner with the Institute to set up a football academy that would pull out the youths from the street and get them hone their skills in football cannot be over emphasized.

Obodo recalled his early years when he played football matches on PTI sport ground before sojourning to play for eleven deferent top division clubs in Europe.

Continuing, Obodo said he

was dismayed by the relocation of Warri Wolves, the State's representative in the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) to other towns to play her home matches because of the dilapidated state of the Warri Township stadium, hence the need for the Institute's Management to quickly address the present state of the PTI stadium and return it to its grandeur days where fans would throng the stadium to watch football matches.

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Principal & CE, Dr. Henry A. Adimula; 4th(R), Christian Obodo; 3rd (R), Mr. Obiajulu Emeka; 2nd (R) and Dr. Bamidele S. Oyetunde; Dir. R&D 1st (R), Others: Mr. Clements O. Siakpere, Registrar; 2nd (L) and Engr. John O. Ewodere, Ag. Head, PNGPD; 1st (L), and others.

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The 2006 African Cup of Nation's bronze medalist said if the Institute's stadium is fully revamped, teams that plays local and international competitions would like to use the facility based on the serenity of the environment and the strategic location it has, as well as the security coverage it offers.

Also, he promised to give back to the society his wealth of experience garnered in Europe for over 20 years through skills development to the teeming youths who sees football and sports in general as a veritable tool in earning a living. Obodo pledged to offer his services to the PTI staff football team through coaching and trainings in preparation for the next oil and gas industry games at no cost.

The former Nigerian International player while pleading with the Institute to make available the facility to him, assured the Principal that exceptional talents discovered through the football academy would be marketed abroad for clubs to sign them and the proceeds from such contracts would be shared between the Institute and his Agency on percentage that would make it a win-win for all.

He promised the Principal &

Chief Executive that he would bring his former colleagues in the Super Eagles notably Two time African Footballer of the Year and Arsenal legend Kanu Nwankwo, former Bolton Wanderers midfield maestro and Two time BBC African Footballer of the year, Austine jay-jay Okocha, Joseph Yobo, Wilson Oruma, Yakubu Aiyegbeni and a host of others to PTI to launch the project when the proposal comes on stream.

Responding, the Principal and Chief Executive, Dr. Henry A. Adimula while appreciating the former Nigerian footballer, recalled how he had being a keen follower of his exploits in the Italian Serie A and Eastern Europe due to his love and passion for the game of football and was grateful that the midfield maestro was back home to give to the society particularly the Petroleum Training Institute where he first honed his skills before moving abroad.

The Principal bemoaned the idea of football matches being played away from Warri to other locations in the state. He further pointed out that the Institute which has all it takes based on its facilities, the serene environment, the 24 hours uninterrupted power supply, its

security coverage, the conference centre accommodation facilities and the strategic location in the heart of Warri coupled with the fact that it had hitherto played host the National U17 team (Golden Eaglets in preparation for the FIFA World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago in 2001 and Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), campaigners in the Nigerian Professional Football League in time past, ought to be the place of action.

Continuing, the Principal noted that work has been ongoing at the stadium to address its drainage system.

He assured the former Udinese star of the Institute's readiness to partner with him to fix other parts of the stadium for the proposed academy.

The Principal however, observed that the processes and procedures for such would be carefully followed so as not to fall short of government's standard of awarding contracts.

Dr. Adimula advised the former Eagles star to put up a partnership proposal to the Institute which would be carefully studied before a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be drafted and signed by both parties. ■



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Contact Address:

Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria
P.M.B 20, Effurun - Delta State

Website: <http://pti.edu.ng> **E-mail:** info@pti.edu.ng

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All correspondence to the Editor-in-chief, PTI News,
Mr. Brown A. Ukanefimoni, 08035954165

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