



PTDF Mandate

Petroleum Technology Development Fund

...Nigeria's catalyst for sustainable capacity building in the oil & gas industry.

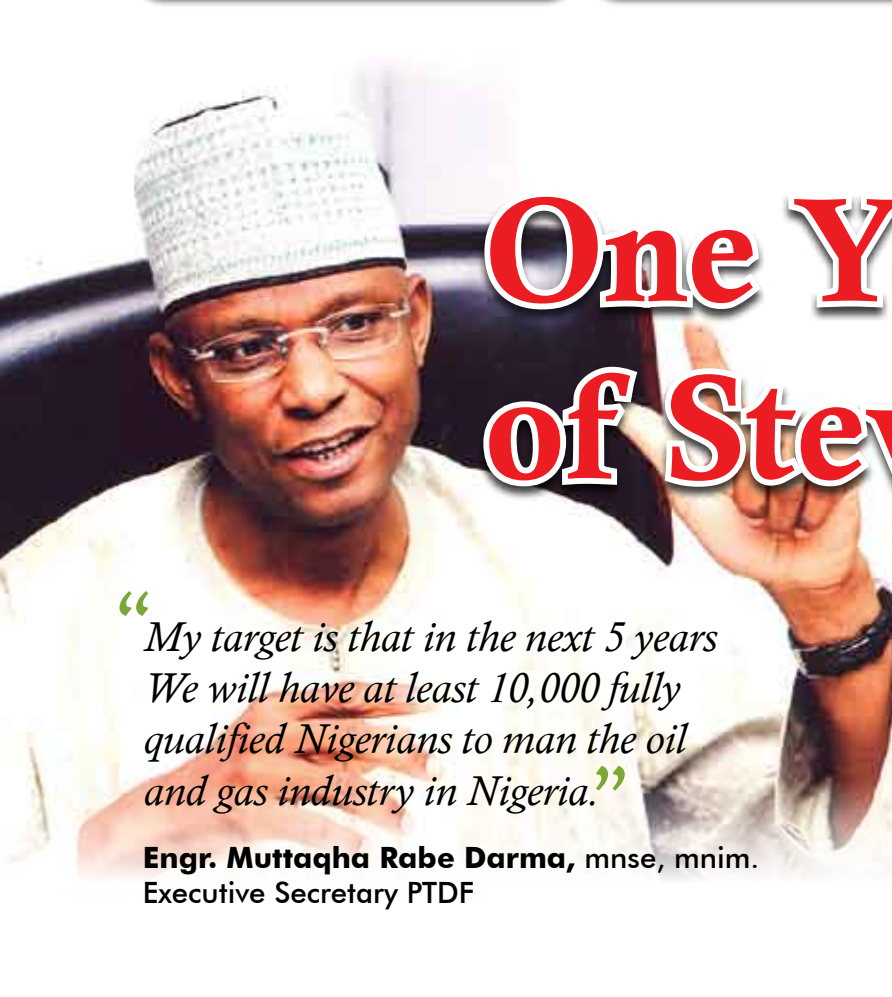
A Quarterly Publication of PTDF

April - June 2010

Who we are...

What we do...

How we do what we do...



One Year of Stewardship

“My target is that in the next 5 years We will have at least 10,000 fully qualified Nigerians to man the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.”

Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma, mnse, mnim.
Executive Secretary PTDF



PTDF 2010/2011 OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP

- 11,500 Received Applications
- 5,500 Short-listed for Aptitude Test
- 450 Awards



Meet
DIAMOND BLESSING
First African Female
International Welding
Specialist produced by
PTDF

“...people tend to discourage me on the ground that Welding is purely a profession for the male and that I cannot make it.”



Mission

To train Nigerians to qualify as graduates, professionals, technicians and craftsmen in the field of engineering, geology, science and management in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria or abroad.

Vision

To serve as a vessel for the development of indigenous manpower and technology transfer/acquisition in the petroleum industry as well as to make Nigeria a human resource center for the West African sub-region.

The Mandate

To develop the capacity, capability and competencies of Nigerians to play effective roles in the operational and management segments of Nigeria's oil and gas industry. This is achieved through Human Capital Development (Education and Training Programmes), Institution and Systems Development (PTI, NCPSK, University Upgrade Projects, Skills Development and Training Centre, NTI Bonny, Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas Ekowe etc), Promotion of Research and Acquisition of Relevant Technologies (Research Grant Competition, Professorial Chair Endowments), Manufacturing and Materials Development.



Petroleum Technology Development Fund
Plot 672, Port Harcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street,
off Ahmadu Bello Way,
Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

Tel: 234-9-3142216-7
Fax: 234-9-314229
Email: info@ptdf.gov.ng
www.ptdf.gov.ng

Contents



PTDF Mandate

Petroleum Technology Development Fund

...Nigeria's catalyst for sustainable capacity building in the oil & gas industry.

Editor's Column	4
From the Executive Secretary	5

Focus

About the Fund	7
----------------	---

Dialogue

One Year of Stewardship	
Executive Secretary PTDF speaks on his one year in office	12



Innovations

PTDF "Catch Them Young" Competitions for Secondary Schools in Petroleum Technology	16
On-line Application for PTDF Overseas Scholarship	17
University Lecturers Skills Enhancement Programme (ULSEP)	19

Industry News

Hosting of Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) 2009	21
PTDF takes over publication of Petroleum Training Journal (PTJ)	22
Albinos get Scholarship slot	22
PTDF signs MoU with top universities in the UK for placement of PTDF scholars	24

Nigerian Content Development

Welders Training and Certification Programme	25
Nigeria secures International Certification in Welding	26
Meet Diamond Blessing - First African Female International Welding Specialist produced by PTDF	27
Nigerian Airforce in partnership with PTDF	28
PTDF and the Nigerian Content Development Initiatives	29

PTDF Interventions

Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas Ekowe, Bayelsa State	30
National Centre for Skills Development and Training, Port-Harcourt	31
PTDF Projects Implementation in Pix	31

Collaborations

US Education Advising Centre Seeks involvement in PTDF OSS	32
--	----

Events

Media Reach Photo Gallery	33
---------------------------	----

Research & Development

PTDF Annual Oil and Gas Research Grant Competition	36
Annual Endowment Peer Review Meetings	36

Views

Source of funding of PTDF and budgetary control	37
---	----

Opportunities

How to become a PTDF Scholar	39
2010 OSS: List of Courses	40
From PTDF Scholars	41



EDITOR'S COMMENT

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief

Kalu Otisi Esq.

Head, Press & External Relations PTDF

Associate Editor

Timilayefa Nwajuebo

Contributing Editors

Prof. Dulu Appah

Head, Planning, Research & Statistics

Dr. Zayanna Shehu

Head, Monitoring & Evaluation

Usman S. Pindar

Head, Mid/Downstream Dept.

Olayinka Agboola

Head, Upstream Dept.

Hamasani Jauro

Head, Admin

Nasiru Ahmed

Head, Projects Dept.

Tanimu A. Ahmed

Head, Training Dept.

Rabi Adamu Waziri

Head, Education Dept.

Secretariat

Ebele Nnoli

Shaibu Idris

Graphic Design

David Alich



PTDF Mandate

is a publication of the Press and External Relations Unit, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). ©2010

Enquiry:

ptdfmandate@ptdf.gov.ng

www.ptdf.gov.ng

As a practicing Television Journalist, my perception of PTDF was conditioned by the EFCC/Senate probe of the Fund and the related revelations arising there from. The probe was a consequence of the political problems between former president Olusegun Obasanjo and his deputy Atiku Abubakar.

The revelations clearly showed the brazenness and the ease of access to the Fund by the political leadership for purposes that are not connected with the Fund's mandate and enabling law. An example was the registration of Nigeria's Galaxy Backbone for which PTDF was directed and indeed paid a whopping 250 million naira to a private legal practitioner. All these culminated in shaping the perception of the public about the Fund.

The Fund was seen by many as a 'slush' Fund to service all manner of programmes and activities not connected with its core mandate. To the undiscerning the Fund operates mainly to satisfy political interests and for the patronage of politicians.

It is regrettable that despite the laudable work of the Fund in emancipating the oil and gas industry from the strangle hold of international oil companies who have shut the gate of employment against qualified Nigerians under the guise of not being properly trained, most Nigerians have simply refused to give the Fund a chance, preferring rather to cling on to their perceptions of the Fund shaped by the EFCC/Senate probe of the Fund.

By honestly and transparently adhering to the Fund's mandate, some of these perceptions are beginning to clear. By refusing to be swayed by demands of organisations not



connected with the mandate of the Fund, Nigerians are beginning to see a re-invented PTDF.

This publication though late in coming is a further effort at laying bare to the public, the mandate, programmes and activities of the Fund which hopefully will clear the maze of misunderstanding, uncertainty and deeply held cynicism and mistrust about the management of the Fund. We are by this publication opening up ourselves to public scrutiny and this is why we have anchored PTDF Mandate on "who we are", "what we do" and "How we do what we do"

We hope this will contribute in breaking barriers, build public trust and understanding, and provide a platform for public participation in the multifaceted products of the Fund. Welcome to PTDF Mandate, a forum for public dialogue on the Fund's programmes and activities.

KALU OTISI Esq.





From

The Executive Secretary



The evolution and development of the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry has witnessed significant transformation in terms of its effect and impact on the national economic and other activities. It is even more so within the last five years where a maturing onshore production base is being replenished through new offshore findings and Government's expenditure on offshore exploration and production is estimated to be in excess of \$15 billion per annum.

However, this exponential growth in both reserves and production coupled with the aggregate rise in price of crude in the global market has not translated to value addition in the Nigerian economy, nor has it led to the growth and diversification of the industrial base of the country. Experts have identified capital flight through expatriate domination of the operational activities of the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry as being primarily responsible for this state of affairs.

The Government's reform agenda for the industry and the objective of optimal utilisation of indigenous resources as well as in-country value retention has made the Petroleum Technology Development Fund, as Government's catalyst for the development of indigenous capacities and capabilities for the Oil and Gas industry, a critical development organ whose activities need to be focused towards areas that will impact directly and positively on Government's economic vision through Oil and Gas activity reforms.

A careful analysis of the legislation creating the PTDF as well as its operational objectives, establishes the Fund as the vehicle for development of human capabilities, institutional capacities as well as the acquisition of technologies for the oil and gas industry

with the purpose of promoting optimal value retention for the general good of the nation.

Consequently, one important objective for the general directive of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund is the development of new technology and increased expertise in the oil and gas industry. This is essential in order to ensure that the industry will continue to contribute to the growth of Nigeria's GDP and rapid development of the other sectors of the economy for the overall welfare of Nigerians.

Over the years, from inception the fund has faced numerous stiff challenges within and outside the industry as well as from other arms of government. Hence, there is a need to be proactive and adopt long term survival strategies in order to remain not only relevant but indispensable to the industry.

Since my appointment in November 2008, I have devoted a considerable amount of time in determining how best to address some of the identified capacity and capability deficiencies and challenges bedeviling the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry generally and specifically to see how the Fund can refocus its activities and engender the rejuvenation required to place the industry reforms on a solid footing through development of capacities and competencies.

The "How's" above can only be answered through the identification of new ways of sustaining our on-going programmes, develop new activities as well as areas of intervention, towards re-emphasising PTDF's pre-eminent responsibility in capacity building for the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry. My belief is that PTDF must concentrate on robust activities which will positively impact on the multiple

facets of the Nigerian Oil and Gas sector.

The Fund as a matter of fact, must explore new paths of remaining not only relevant but take our birth right and leadership role in capacity building in the oil, gas and mineral sector which I believe is the main purpose for establishing the Fund. We must go for that which will define the future and that which will dramatically and positively impact on the multiple facets of the Nigerian human capacity building in the oil and gas industry.

It is in furtherance of the above that my thoughts have been crystallised into five broad areas where the PTDF can intervene positively, and discharge its responsibilities effectively in a dynamic industry operating in a period of significant but surmountable economic and societal challenges. The five point agenda which is expected to serve as a long term survival strategy of the Fund include:

- Development of capacities and competencies in Petroleum technology to strategically position PTDF as the primary capacity and competency building, utilization and optimization vehicle of choice in the development of Petroleum Technology.
- Development of innovative and cost effective Gas Technologies to address new challenges in gas exploration, exploitation and utilization.
- Development of improved environment technology for oil and gas management to make Nigeria the cutting-edge knowledge centre in environmental technologies with a view to minimizing the

Cont'd on pg. 6



Cont'd from pg. 5

impact of oil and gas industry activities in the environment.

- Development of New Technologies for enhanced oil recovery that will increase Nigeria's capabilities to be one of the world's leading oil producing countries.
- Development of a sustainable platform for effective collaboration and partnership among stakeholders for building capacities and competencies in the oil and gas industry to

make PTDF the lead catalyst for effective collaboration and partnership in capacities and competency building for the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

As Executive Secretary and (functus officio) chief vision officer for the Fund, I can do no less than to commit my personal determination to ensure that PTDF assumes her national role as the oil and gas industry capacity building partner of choice, providing quality and qualified manpower, enhancing institutional capacity, ensuring acquisition of technology

and thereby positioning Nigeria as the Human Resource hub for the West African sub-region in the Petroleum sector.

It is my hope that the five point agenda will assist towards meeting Governments aspirations for the Petroleum Industry, ensure the availability of quality human and institutional (indigenous) resources to continuously assure optimal in-country value retention from activities of or related to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry ■

GLOSSARY OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TERMS – by NEITI

Acreage	An area, measured in acres that is subject to ownership or control by those holding total or fractional shares of working interests. Acreage is considered development when development has been completed. A distinction may be made between “gross” acreage and “net” acreage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross – All acreage covered by any working interest, regardless of the percentage of ownership in the interest. • Net – Gross acreage adjusted to reflect the percentage of ownership in the working interest in the acreage.
Bonny Light	Is a high grade of Nigerian crude oil with API gravity (low specific gravity), produced in the Niger Delta basin and named after the prolific region around the city of Bonny.
Cash Call	Cash advance required to be paid by each joint venture company to meet the net cash requirement of the joint venture.
Down Stream	The activities in the oil and gas industry taking place after production including transportation, refining and marketing.
OML	Oil Mining Lease - A legal right to develop and produce hydrocarbons discovered in a specified area for a specified time period.
OPL	Oil Prospecting Lease - A legal right to explore for hydrocarbons over a particular area for a specified time period.
Upstream	The exploration and production phases of the oil and gas industry

About The Fund



It may come as a surprise to many that PTDF going by its enabling law is 37 years, having been created by Decree 25 of 1973 for the purpose of development, promotion and implementation of petroleum technology and manpower development through research and training of Nigerians as graduates, professionals, technicians and craftsmen in the fields of engineering, geology, geosciences, management, economics and relevant fields in the petroleum and solid minerals industry in Nigeria or abroad.

However, though the law came into force in 1973, actual operations of PTDF started in 2000, which means the Fund has been in effective operation as an organization for just 10 years. Even at that, not many Nigerians believe that the Fund has a clearly defined mission and vision encapsulated in its mandate. This is why people tend to perceive the Fund as just one of those agencies of government created without clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Some believe PTDF only grants overseas scholarships to young Nigerians to pursue oil and gas related courses abroad.

Certainly, the OSS is the most popular programme of the Fund but it is just one of the many programmes of the Fund that positions it as the only agency of government responsible for the development of indigenous manpower for the oil and gas industry. Let's take you through these programmes.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (OSS)

The Overseas Scholarship Scheme (OSS) which is the Fund's flagship programme, is designed to meet the long-term capacity requirements of the oil and gas industry through training of young Nigerians in related fields of Engineering, Geological Sciences, Environmental and Energy Studies at both master's and doctoral levels. The expectation is that beneficiaries will fit in directly to the oil and gas industry and/or the academia and hence contribute positively to nation building. In the long term, this will help to make Nigeria the hub of oil and gas personnel development for the West African sub region and the Gulf of Guinea.

To ensure quality training, PTDF Scholars are trained mainly in the best ten acclaimed universities in the United Kingdom (UK) while plans are on to extend the training to universities in North America and some other parts of Europe and Asia.

So far, a total number of 1, 585 MSc and 195 PhD scholars have benefitted from the Overseas Scholarship Scheme.

TAKE OVER OF THE ENTIRE MANAGEMENT OF OSS PROGRAMME

A fundamental development in the operations of the OSS is the complete takeover of its management by the Fund. Before now, a consultant was overseeing the overseas management of the scheme by providing pastoral services to scholars of the Fund. After the expiration of the contract with Messrs Univation Ltd, PTDF had a review of the operations of the OSS and decided to take over the management of the scheme in general as enough experience had been gained in-house while running the programme for over 8 years.

Management of the entire scheme by PTDF has resulted in the saving of over three hundred million naira paid yearly to the consultants. The Fund has direct contacts and has equally established credibility with a number of top universities in the United Kingdom. The Fund's direct dealing with the scholars has assisted in making better and informed decisions than when PTDF relied on the recommendations of the consultant which may not always be correct.

In spite of the resultant benefits due from the takeover, it is not without challenges which can be categorised into communication and payment related issues/problems. The time it takes to receive invoices from the service providers abroad coupled with the time it takes to process the payments internally has made scholars face various problems including few losing their accommodation while some were threatened with eviction and some logged out of the university system.

Based on these lapses, the Fund provided a dedicated phone line to enable scholars communicate directly with the Education Department as well as a 24 hour emergency phone line. Also three e-mail addresses were opened to enable the universities and service providers to forward invoices for tuition and accommodation fees of its scholars. The scholars could also forward their requests to the Fund via the e-mail addresses. The Fund also uses a property management company to secure accommodation for scholars in case of emergency.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The PTDF Local Scholarship Scheme (LSS) which commenced as from the 2007/2008 academic year was conceived to derive direct and maximum benefit from the PTDF Universities Upgrade Project and the Endowment Programmes of the fund. The scheme is designed to encourage outstanding students in Nigeria to pursue programmes relevant to the development of the oil and gas industry. There are two components of the Local Scholarship Scheme;

Cont'd on pg. 8



Cont'd from pg. 7

- The Undergraduate Component
- The Postgraduate Component

As a pilot, it commenced in the six universities which the Fund had instituted endowment programmes, but will in due course be expanded to cover other universities nationwide. For the undergraduate component, the target beneficiaries are students at the 200 level with a strong academic background in the departments of environmental, civil, Chemical, Electrical/Electronics, Mechanical, Industrial, Petroleum and Gas Engineering as well as departments of Chemistry, Geology, Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics. It is envisaged that the scholars in both the MSc and PhD programmes will be sent overseas for six months to enable them bench work with new technologies as may be relevant to their programmes.

UPGRADE OF PETROLEUM TRAINING INSTITUTE EFFURUN, DELTA STATE

The various components of the project include Educational upgrade, Organizational upgrade and Infrastructural upgrade. The Educational and Organizational upgrades have been completed while the infrastructural upgrade which involves construction of new buildings, procurement of workshops/laboratory equipments, renovation of existing structures and improvement of the electrical system is on-going.

The Petroleum Training Institute Warri, Delta State was established to train indigenous middle and low level manpower for the oil and gas industry. PTDF is carrying out extensive upgrade of the educational curricula, staff development, organization and systems development.

PHYSICAL UPGRADE AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM STUDIES, NCPSK, KADUNA

PTDF was mandated in 2007 to upgrade the National College of petroleum studies, Kaduna, into a world class institute with facilities for first class training of senior technical and management staff of the entire oil and gas industry in Nigeria. The mandate of PTDF in this respect is to transform the college originally established by NNPC in 1995 for the training of its senior management staff, into a flagship institute for training senior management personnel in the industry to become general management staff with proficiency in petroleum policy and strategy. It will be to the oil and gas sector what the Nigerian Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies represents in the public service and what the Defence College is to the Military.

Work at the college sitting on a 90 hectares expanse of land is progressing satisfactorily and will on completion eliminate the capital flight arising from the training of this category of personnel in the industry abroad yearly.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (NTI) BONNY, RIVERS STATE

The project is mainly infrastructural development. Components include construction of new hostels, classrooms, laboratories, workshops and provision of water and electricity facilities. Works are on-going and the first Phase is expected to be completed this year. Arrangements have also reached advanced stage for the commencement of the second phase of the project.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OF OIL AND GAS, EKOWE, BAYELSA STATE.

Components include construction of laboratories/workshops, administrative buildings, classrooms, seminar halls, student hostels, electrical/water facilities and renovation of existing buildings. Arrangements have also reached advanced stage for the commencement of the second phase of the project

UNIVERSITY UPGRADE PROJECT

The Fund's effort to develop the local capacities of Nigerian Oil and Gas related Undergraduate programmes culminated in the conceptualization and execution of upgrade of selected departments of some universities.

Components include construction of departmental building, procurement of laboratory and workshop equipment, provision of books and journals, provision of IT Hardware/Software, Electricity and water facilities

In 2009, eight (8) Universities were completed under the Phase II of the project, while the selection of Universities for Phase III of the project has been concluded.

i) Phase II (Completed)

Benefiting Institutions

1. Bayero University Kano - Electrical Engineering Dept.
2. University of Uyo - Chemical/Petroleum Engineering
3. University of Ilorin - Geology and Mineral Sciences
4. University of Calabar - Applied Chemistry Dept.
5. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi - Chemical Engineering
6. Obafemi Awolowo University Ile Ife Geology dept.
7. Federal University of Technology Minna - Chemical Engineering
8. Federal University of Technology Owerri - Petroleum Engineering

ii) Phase III

Benefiting Institutions

1. Benue State University - Chemistry Dept.
2. Katsina State University -



- Renewable Energy Centre.
3. Nigerian Defence Academy - Mechanical Engineering Dept.
 4. Federal University of Technology Yola - Mechanical Engineering Dept.
 5. University of Abuja - Physics Dept.
 6. University of Lagos - Chemical Engineering Dept
 7. Nnamdi Azikiwe University Mechanical/ Production Engineering
 8. Rivers State University of Science and Technology - Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering
 9. Niger Delta University, Wilberforce - Island, Bayelsa Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering
 10. Enugu State University of Science and Technology - Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

ICT PROJECTS

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is crucial to all fields of specialization in the Oil and Gas industry. From Geosciences to Drilling Engineering and Petroleum Economics, upstream exploration, appraisal of oil locations to the downstream marketing and retailing and the automation of various aspects of the Oil and Gas Industry, ICT application is critical.

Towards this, the Fund in line with its mandate commenced the development of ICT Centres in **24 Universities, 20 Federal Colleges of Education and 102 Unity Schools** spread across the Country. The centre will comprise of an ICT building equipped with computer workstations, a server room, independent power supply, VSAT and air conditioning facilities.

100% of the benefiting institutions in the Phase I component have been completed while the Phase II component of the ICT Project has commenced with the selection of 70 educational institutions across the Country.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PORT HARCOURT

The Fund is embarking on the development of a Skills Development and Training Centre in Port Harcourt. The concept behind the development is the provision of a centre to provide basic skills required in the Oil and Gas Industry to youths who are unemployed. The disciplines will include; automobile works, basic electrical works, basic requirements in HSE, catering, electronics repairs, masonry etc.

UPSTREAM RELATED PROGRAMMES

Review of Skills Gap Audit

The Fund is expected to engage the services of a consultant in partnership with the upstream department to identify

current skills gap in the industry to enable the appropriate allocation of resources in-country for development of professionals and technicians that would be required to meet the needs in the industry.

Engineering Design Training Programme (EDTP)\

The EDTP is designed to provide training on the use of engineering design softwares to enable trainees acquire the skills to participate effectively in the execution of engineering projects in the industry in furtherance of Nigerian Content Short Term Directive No.1. A high number of engineers have been trained under the first phase of the programme. A continuation of the programme is being planned for execution in the following areas in 2010; Electrical & Instrumentation Engineering, Subsurface Engineering, Project Management e.t.c.

EDTP Attachment Programme

The programme is designed to create opening for EDTP trainees in various collaborating engineering companies to practice and acquire hands-on experience on the skills acquired during the EDTP. The programme is currently on-going.

Seismic Interpretation Software Training For University Lecturers

The training is aimed at building capacity among Universities lecturers on the use of software for seismic interpretation. The programme is expected to be done in collaboration with Shell Petroleum Development Company (workstation donor) as well as Danvic Concepts (software donor). Forty eight (48) lecturers from PTDF upgrade institutions would benefit from the training.

Geosciences Training Programme

The programme is designed to provide training to geoscientists on the use of geosciences software in order to bridge identified gaps in exploration and production activities in the upstream sector of the industry.

Collaborative Activities With Stakeholders

This is a support and collaboration initiative with stakeholders in furtherance of capacity building and Nigerian Content development in-country. The activities to be executed include Oil & Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN) capacity building enhancement programme, collaboration with United Nations Office for Special Projects (UNOPS), hosting of the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) conference, collaboration with stakeholders on the review of curricula of petroleum related courses in Federal institutions and industry/institution collaboration.

UNIVERSITIES ENDOWMENT PROGRAMME

The principal purpose of the endowment programme is to advance indigenous research in petroleum and related disciplines for the nation's oil and gas industry. Generally, these Universities are expected to serve as centers of excellence for research in specialized disciplines, and

Cont'd on pg. 10



as such facilitate Industry-University collaboration in developing local capacity for the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

The PTDF endowment programme is part of a strategy to address the specific concerns of stakeholders on the quality of teaching and research at local universities, especially for oil and gas related disciplines. As such, the programme's conceptualization is aimed at overcoming barriers related to finance that impede universities from conducting strong scientific and technical research that are of relevance to the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

Basically, the PTDF Endowment Programme utilizes an approach that simultaneously endeavors to be sensitive to the needs of capacity building for research, responsive to the industry needs and ensures high quality research output. A balance is usually struck between the objective of maintaining a reasonable level of research scope and that of building the capacity of undergraduate and graduate students.

Currently PTDF has endowed Professorial Chairs in seven Federal Universities. University of Ibadan (Petroleum Engineering), University of Port-Harcourt (Gas Engineering), University of Maiduguri (Basinal Studies (Geology)), Ahmadu Bello Universities, Zaria (Chemical Engineering), University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Geological Sciences), Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (Petroleum Chemistry) and University of Jos (Geology and Mining).

The tenure of the chair holders in all the universities, except University of Jos, expired in June 2009 and the process of selecting new chair holders is currently ongoing. University of Benin endowment chair, in renewable energy, will take off this year (2010).

TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE SHARING PROGRAMM (TKSP)

A critical success factor in oil and gas capacity building is the ability to effectively transfer knowledge. Despite the several years of oil activities in Nigeria and the large number of experts (foreign and indigenous) that have operated in this sector, there has not been a major success in transferring the knowledge and experiences of these experts to other growing professionals. As a result, many of the experts have on retirement left for other countries, either returning home or seeking other pastures, with their wealth of untapped knowledge.

PTDF Technology Knowledge Sharing Programme (PTDF-TKSP) was, therefore, introduced in 2009 to facilitate the sharing, dissemination and utilization of the knowledge of senior or retired experts in the oil and gas sector for purposes of indigenous capacity building and technology development.

The PTDF-TKSP simply provides a platform by which successful oil and gas practitioners (on retirement, sabbatical or leave of absence) who have made significant practical contributions to the oil and gas development process in Nigeria, Africa or other regions, and are willing to share their knowledge and experiences, are targeted for the purposes of extracting tacit knowledge for the benefit of future efforts at Petroleum Technology Development amongst Nigerians.

Currently Universities where PTDF Endowment Programme is ongoing are contacted to declare **PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY WEEK** in their respective Universities, once a year. The Experts visit the University to give relevant lectures and share memoirs to students and staff of the PTDF Chair department and other related departments. This programme, besides contributing to extracting and sharing tacit knowledge for the benefit of petroleum technology development in Nigeria, also enhances the performance of beneficiaries (researchers/practitioners) based on best-practice methodologies, strategies and instruments. In addition, it provides effective linkage among the industry, academia and future industry experts, thereby creating an opportunity for mentorship.

The first series was successfully held at all the universities, where the Fund endowed chairs. The program will also take place this year in the eight universities where the Fund has chairs.

ANNUAL RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

Recent research (World Bank, 2002; Saint, 2006) suggest that competitive research funding mechanisms are an effective means of developing programmes of strength in postgraduate teaching and research. It is in line with this reasoning that PTDF introduced **"The Annual Oil and Gas Research Grant Competition"** in 2007.

The objective of the Competition is basically three-fold: to enhance capacity of locally-based researchers in conducting research relating to Oil and Gas Technology Development; to promote the retention of such capacity; and encourage its application in the industry context. The long-run expectation of the Grant Competition is to motivate Nigerians who have capacity and ability to conduct research that will aid technological development in the Oil and Gas Sector in Nigeria.

At present, four research proposals have been awarded the PTDF Research grant as shown in Table 1.

Cont'd on pg. 11



S/No.	Title of Research	Address of Researchers
1.	Immobilized Oil degrading microorganisms in local cellulosic materials for refill deployment in bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils	Industrial Safety and Environmental Engineering department. Petroleum Training Institute , Effurun, Delta State
2.	Hydrocarbon Source Rock Evaluation in the Cretaceous to Neogene basins of Southern Nigeria and implications for the Niger delta basin petroleum systems	Department of Geology, University of Ilorin
3.	Improving rheological and filtration properties of locally formulated drilling muds with addition of Nigerian lignite at high temperature and pressures	Energy Research Group, Department of Geology, University of Ibadan
4.	Development of bentonite mineral as a drilling mud additive in petroleum industry	Centre for Energy Research and Training, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

TAKE-OVER OF PETROLEUM TRAINING JOURNAL

Petroleum Training Journal (PTJ), a bi-annual journal, is dedicated to promoting training, learning and development in the petroleum sector. It provides an international forum for discussion and debate, stressing the critical importance of training, learning and development to the sector. The journal covers all aspects of learning and development, including training strategies.

PTDF has taken over the PTJ to be known as **PTDF Journal for Academic Research in Petroleum Exploration and Production**. The publications and management of the journal will now be solely handled by the Fund. The bi-annual journal will be fully published by PTDF this year.

COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Fund is in collaboration with Professional Associations. This is aimed at bridging the gap between industry and institutions. The Fund has been collaborating with professional associations like NMGS, NSE, NAPE, PETAN & SPE by supporting and participating in their activities.

WELDERS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME (WTCP)

The WTCP is designed to train 2500 welders.

Due to inadequate manpower in-country to prosecute the WTCP up to international certification level, a train-the-trainer programme was conceived out of the WTCP to train 30 welders to international certification in various programmes such as International Welding Practitioner

(IWP), International Welding Specialist (IWS), International Welding Technologist, International Welding Engineer (IWE) to be trained in South Africa as well as in Germany. By end of 2009, 20 Nigerians have been trained to IWP levels and another 9 to IWS levels at the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW) in Johannesburg South-Africa successfully.

ENHANCING THE FABRICATION CAPABILITIES OF NIGERIA (EFCN)

EFCN is being prosecuted based on the MoU between the government of Nigeria and Norway. The objective is to enhance the Fabrication Capabilities of Nigeria (EFCN) for the oil and gas industry. Local fabrication yards have been selected in-country to benefit from the intervention.

PTDF 'CATCH THEM YOUNG' COMPETITIONS IN PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY

The 'Catch Them Young' is a competition targeted at Senior Secondary school Students to create awareness and interest in Petroleum Technology. The programme is designed to hold at the state, zonal and national levels and the competition includes essay writing, schools quiz and debate.

PTDF NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

This is a publicity enhancement programme to recognize PTDF scholars of exception, celebrate research break through from the Fund's Endowment and Research Grant Competition ■

ONE YEAR OF

It is over one year since **Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma** took over as the Executive Secretary of PTDF. Apart from anchoring his programme of action on a five point agenda, he also made some fundamental changes in the structure of the Fund.

PTDF Mandate interviewed the Executive Secretary who spoke extensively on his activities in PTDF within the past one year.

“ I regard all the positions I have occupied as positions of responsibility and not as positions of authority. I am mindful of the fact that I am responsible for something and therefore strive to discharge the responsibilities of office with utmost diligence bearing in mind that I will answer for my actions not only in this world but hereafter. ”



May we meet the Executive Secretary of Petroleum Technology Development Fund

My name is **Muttaqha Rabe Darma**, I am an Engineering graduate of the Bayero University Kano. I also hold a Masters Degree in Production Engineering from the University of Benin and Masters in Business Administration. I have attended several Management and Technical Courses in and outside Nigeria, and an alumnus of the London Business School. I was born in 1966 in Katsina and had both my primary and secondary education in Katsina. After graduation I was recruited by the department of Mechanical Engineering, Bayero University as a lecturer and was there for about seven years.

From there I moved to the then NEPA, (now PHCN) as Assistant Manager Mechanical Egbin Thermal Power Station. One year later, I left to join SCOA industries, Lagos as Head of industrial Engineering Systems at the car assembly plant of SCOA. I served in that capacity for two years and thereafter moved to an oil servicing firm where I

served for only three months. My next appointment was with Coscharis Motors as BMW/Rovers sales Manager in charge of diplomatic and multilateral organisations. From there I became a consultant to the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund on water supplies. After PTF I moved back to my state Katsina, and was appointed the State Director of Research, Government House, Katsina and later Executive Director, Katsina State Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2003, I was appointed Commissioner for Social Development, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports, Katsina. In November 2006, I was given the additional responsibility of supervising the Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport, thereby overseeing two Ministries. I remained as Commissioner in my State until May 2007. In February 2008, I was appointed the first National Co-ordinator of Women and Youth Empowerment Programme (WOYEP) a foundation established by the first lady to look at health and economic empowerment of women and youths.

STEWARDSHIP

In November 2008, I was appointed Executive Secretary, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

I regard all the positions I have occupied as positions of responsibility and not as positions of authority. I am mindful of the fact that I am responsible for something and therefore strive to discharge the responsibilities of office with utmost diligence bearing in mind that I will answer for my actions not only in this world but hereafter. God watches what we do and will hold us accountable. This is my philosophy. I do my best to do the right thing.

Sir, you were saddled with the responsibility of heading the Fund as Executive Secretary precisely on the 26th of November, 2008. Can you tell us what your perceptions of the Fund were prior to your assumption of office and what you discovered it to be after you took over?

Well, of course before I resumed here as the E.S, my perception of the Fund was in line with the general perception of Nigerians. They viewed the Fund as a good for nothing organization that was just there, principally established with limitless resources, and all these resources are used for political purposes to stuff other people's pockets. Generally this was the perception of Nigerians and I was having this concept of PTDF before I resumed here. But on coming here I realized that, this is an organization that in its very small years of existence about 7 to 8 years, the organization has done tremendously well. You can hardly find an organization either owned by federal, state or local government that within a short period of time has performed as much as PTDF in its own mandate. And I also found out that the staff of the Fund are also very committed and very professional and thorough in their work and are really learning to deliver. The staff of the Fund are very good people who work very hard and are dedicated and have from the time I got here till now been very helpful in trying to reposition the Fund.

Sir, how were you able to take PTDF to its current state?

Like I said it is dedication and team work. To me any position you find yourself be

it a position of responsibility or any other position, it's a position that first of all you will have to account before your God that is if you believe in one. And secondly it's a position that you can account in the eyes of the people. Thirdly, even if you don't have a God you are responsible for all your actions yourself. So I believe that when I resumed here, of course one will see that it is a position of authority but I took it as a position of responsibility and I tried to discharge my responsibility with three (3) things in my mind. First, is to satisfy my conscience, to satisfy myself that I'm doing right. Secondly, satisfy the Nigerian people. Of course it is very difficult to do that. And thirdly, I know that God will eventually ask me to account for my stay here. So generally we work as a team, so it is not me who brought PTDF to this very state, but the entire team. But of course as a team leader, as a captain I'm always called to make either pre-match or post match comments.



There are also some internal reforms that you have made. What are the benefits of these reforms to the overall objectives of the Fund?

Yes you see, as a manager, the first thing you should be able to do in management is to recognize the internal arrangement, the chemistry of the system or the organization that you are working with. Of course if you want to understand the chemistry and you have your focus, I want to get to this place. Look at the nucleus of the organization, the chemistry within the system, attract thinkers here and there so that you can achieve your focus and your aim and that is what we did. They are the same people,

Cont'd on pg. 14



“You see the whole issue is that in management you should have a vision, focus and you should know where you are going. And your vision could be in a single line, your vision could be pages of documents but all we are saying is that you should have a vision, you should know where you are going to, you should know how to arrive at where you think you are going to.”



Cont'd from pg. 13

only that people are moved from one place to another, new departments are created. In some instances new divisions are created just to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. That is the only reason why we did that. And so far we are achieving some result.

Sir you created the Fund's Application Committee which is not something one finds in most departments and organizations knowing that you have absolute authority to determine what should be approved, the expenditure that ought to be made but you still went on to create a Fund Application Committee. And one wonders, does it deter from the powers you have?

No it doesn't. But the only thing is that when you are talking about authority like you mentioned, authority in management could be anything. I mean it will have different perspectives, shapes, different definitions and other things. By creating the Fund Allocation Committee or fund application committee we are only bestowing a nominal authority of spending the funds to the management. Of course as Head of a division you only know the activities within your division, you only know the amount of money that will be spent within your division but you may not know the amount spent in another division. So with the Fund application committee you are now integrating, divisions are now integrating to know what is going to be spent by another department or division how it is going to be spent, for what purpose and for what reason. If you have any reason to move against that expenditure that is being done by another department, you can move against it. The only thing that will be done is that the department that initiates the expenditure should be able to defend it, to convince you that no, this expenditure is right and correct just as they convinced me to approve it. So it is just like taking everyone along not only in administration but also in financial management.

Part of the internal reforms you brought about includes the creation of new departments out of existing ones. For instance, the Nigerian content division now has two departments, upstream, mid and downstream. What informed the separation into upstream, mid and downstream? And for training and Education Division we now have training and education departments. Is it not likely to create functional overlaps?

No it's not. You see, when you are talking about upstream in petroleum industry you are talking about hard core engineering. And that hardcore engineering means critical and in-depth thinking. That's why we created upstream department within the Nigerian content, principally for upstream activities. Now if you are talking about mid and downstream, you are talking about software engineering. But additionally you are talking about 70% of the entire industry which is resident within the mid and downstream sector of the industry so you will need to separate these two because they are both important. If you don't have the upstream activities you can never have the mid and downstream activities. But the mid and downstream activities actually initiate and create upstream activities. So that is why we separated them. Another reason is simply because of the reform coming into the industry. The reform in the Nigerian industry will be mainly domiciled in the downstream and the midstream. For example there is a Nigerian gas master plan. Most of the activities of the Nigerian gas master plan will be transporting of gas, and distributing of gas.



In this regard you are talking of midstream and downstream activities. You are talking about trans-Saharan gas pipeline, moving gas from the West African coast down to Europe. You are talking about midstream activities of the industry and eventually, downstream activities of the industry. So you can see how diverse it is. And again if you take a look at the reforms, the reform is trying to more or less privatize the entire industry with the government agencies only coming there as regulators of the industry. So, if you are talking about privatization of the industry, companies within the industries that operate as private



“We came here with the notion that PTDF has not been doing well and we are happy to learn that people are now seeing PTDF as a very important organization.”



concerns all over the world, are more of the downstream and the midstream than they are in high tech upstream sector. Of course you need to separate and look at upstream and downstream because more Nigerians and I repeat more Nigerians will be in this sector than they will be in the high tech upstream sector. For Education and Training, they are two completely different things, of course the line that divides them is very thin, that's why people confuse them. But I can put it in lay man's term that in education you aim at getting a certificate after going through rigorous reading process that may span a minimum of one year. So that's why we limited education to a means of getting a degree or a diploma. But in training, you could have one day training. It is only when you have education that you need training because training will only help you up skill the education that you already have so that you focus or narrow the focus on a particular specific requirement. So, the two are distinctively different. Education will give you a broader knowledge, broader understanding of both processes, whereas training will up skill you and narrow you into a particular requirement in the field.

Sir we've heard of the five point agenda, could you explain what it is all about and what prompted the five point agenda?

You see the whole issue is that in management you should have a vision, focus and you should know where you are going. And your vision could be in a single line, your vision could be pages of documents but all we are saying is that you should have a vision, you should know where you are going to, you should know how to arrive at where you think you are going to. That is the aim of the five point agenda. We want to improve on gas technologies. That is the vision. It is where we want to arrive at. We want to make sure that the skills of Nigerians in gas technologies, is enhanced. Now how do you arrive at that, is it through training, is it through education? Is it trying to make people understand what gas technology is all about? That means bringing people to the know-how or knowledge of the gas technology before you start bringing people to know how to use the knowledge of gas technology and convert science into engineering and into value because these are all the processes of technology. So like I said vision is very important, focus is very important in management

and that is why we have the five point agenda. Fundamentally, it is just to give us directions.

Sir what level of achievement would you say you have realized based on your set goal or target within this one year period?

Within the one year period I can say that personally I believe we have achieved a lot. We came here and met programs that were designed five years back and we started them. We came here and met the education Nigerians receive from PTDF. In one year we provided scholarships to more than half the number of students that were given scholarships in the last seven years. We came here and realized that we had problems with the institutions and systems that are in the process of being established by PTDF. We have turned the process of education, development of these institutions and systems. And we have now seen the result of this outcome. We came here with the notion that PTDF has not been doing well and we are happy to learn that people are now seeing PTDF as a very important organization. Let me tell you this, the month that I came here was November 2008, two weeks after I was invited to the national assembly for a public hearing I think on the global energy options. There, somebody stood up and described PTDF as a good for nothing organization, that it was useless, good for nothing and it should be scrapped. Just last month I heard somebody on television calling PTDF a very important organization in this country. So we have been able to start reversing the perception, psyche of Nigerians that PTDF is good for nothing. Now, Nigerians are beginning to learn that PTDF is a very important organization. So I believe we have achieved a lot and it's just the beginning. In the next six months or one year everybody will believe that PTDF is an important organization in this country ■



“In the next six months or one year everybody will believe that PTDF is an important organization in this country.”



PTDF "CATCH THEM YOUNG" COMPETITION

For Secondary Schools in Petroleum Technology

As part of efforts to popularize Petroleum Technology and to arouse the consciousness and interest of Nigerians about the oil and gas industry, the Petroleum Technology Development Fund has initiated a new programme that is targeted at the youths in developing capacity for the industry.

The programme known as "Catch Them Young" Quiz/Debate Competition for secondary schools is intended to raise the interest and participation of senior secondary school students in science subjects that are relevant to oil and gas courses and disciplines. The competition which is in three categories comprises of Essay Writing, School Quiz and Schools Debate and is contested at state, zonal and national levels.

The state contest commenced on February 22, 2010 and ended on March 17, 2011. The best contestants from each category at the State level received cash awards, and were also sponsored to compete in the same category at the zonal level. The best student from each of the six geo-political



The Executive Secretary PTDF, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma presenting an award to one of the winners during 'the catch Them young' zonal competition in Kaduna

zones in each of the categories of the competition (Essay writing, schools quiz and schools debate) also received various cash awards and will be sponsored for the national competition, the climax of the programme.

The competition at the national level will hold on 19th and 21st May 2010. First prize winners of the

various categories at the national level of the competition will receive cash prizes of N100, 000. (One hundred thousand naira), a laptop and a fully sponsored trip to local and international oil and gas installations accompanied by their school teachers ■



ON-LINE APPLICATION FOR PTDF OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP AND OTHER I.T INNOVATIONS IN THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE AWARDS



The on-line application is one of the I.T innovations introduced by the Fund to enhance the management of the scheme, it entails the candidate going on-line after purchasing a scratch card from any of the branches of first bank nationwide and with the PIN on the scratch card, log on to the PTDF site for scholarship and apply accordingly. The site takes you through the various steps of the application process until you get to the last step. A confirmation page which appears at the end is an indication that your application was successful. Applicants print the confirmation page as evidence of having applied for the scholarship. PTDF Mandate spoke with the Technical Consultant on the management of the IT platform for the processing of the 2010/2011 OSS, Mr Ibifuro Asawo.



PTDF-M: During the process of applying online some difficulties were experienced by the applicants. How are such difficulties solved?

Ans:- As at the time the online application commenced dedicated lines were available in addition to an e-mail address, which applicants could easily access on the home page of the scholarship portal. If you take a look at the home page, there is a provision for comments and how enquiries can

be made. For example if you want to make enquiries concerning this scholarship how do you go about it? How do you make use of this number? So the numbers were published in the home page, the numbers are also behind the scratch card close to the PIN of the scratch card. While applying, if you come across any difficulty, just call those numbers and the help desk will be able to assist you solve those problems.

PTDF-M: Can you give examples of such difficulties that were experienced and the measures that you used in solving them?

Ans:- Some of the challenges that most of the candidates encountered was basically as a result of their uploads. When we started, we knew that uploads needed to be restricted, we need to ensure that the right size of documents are uploaded into the server so we prescribed a size which candidates are not meant to over shoot. And we know that due to some of the ICT literacy level we have in the country, some of these candidates may not know how to go about them. So we also had to publish on the home page how to go about such things. One of the notable issues that candidates faced was may be over scratching of their scratch card, and when they do that may be some numbers are not eligible again for them to use and then it gives them an error message that their PIN is invalid or so and then when they call back we ask them to may be give us the serial number. We are able to give them the correct PINs and then they use those PINs to actually log on. In the area of the upload also we tell them how to go about the upload. Some of them have this difficulty of having the right size of bandwidth, maybe in the cafes that they are using and all of that. We try to ensure that the form is a form that you can visit over and over again as long as the time for application is still

on. So it wasn't just a thing of maybe I get down to the cafe today, the cafe is not working properly, maybe I was doing something and there was a power outage or black out and all of a sudden I can't continue, no. The next time you put your PIN it will take you to the page you stopped and then you continue from there. So I think with the help desk that we had, most of them posted their comments, so the help desk was able to address most of those problems.

PTDF-M: What are the measures put in place to ensure the integrity of the technical process?

Ans:- In terms of integrity we try to ensure that for now it's basically the candidates. The candidates have their own platform to register. As they are registering, you have to monitor the registration process. So as the candidates are registering, the statistical charts were also generated simultaneously. So it is possible to see the statistics of registrations. You can actually click on a particular day and see the various segments in terms of time and hour these people were actually doing their registration. If you click a particular hour you will also see the list of candidates that registered within that hour. These are checks that we had to put in place so that people can see how the application is actually progressing.

PTDF-M: When was the site interface taken down?

Ans:- The site wasn't actually taken down, what happened was the application was automated. So when they gave the deadline all we did was just to put that deadline and then midnight of that day, the system just automatically withdrew the application form and candidates couldn't have access to the forms anywhere ■



The desk officer of PTDF Overseas Scholarship Scheme **Mr. Wariso Ibifubara** in an interview with PTDF Mandate elaborates on the OSS process.

PTDF-M: What are the stages of the OSS process?

Ans:- Well, normally every year the programme begins with the printing and distribution of application forms to all the States of the Federation including FCT. For this year 2010/2011 session, we distributed and retrieved applications nationwide, and screened these applications to select those qualified to sit for the aptitude test.

PTDF-M: Can you explain further on this process?

Ans:- We are continuing to improve on the process. A couple of years ago, we relied completely on paper application forms which were screened manually by a number of staff but last year for the first time we introduced the on-line application but still we had to go and collect credentials from the different States and match to the application that has been filled on-line. This year we have moved a little further than that, we have enabled applicants to attach their credential on-line for us to review and compare with the information they have given us on-line.

PTDF-M: What criteria are being used in the screening, and who takes the final decision on those to be screened out?

Ans:- Well as you know the programme has been on for over nine years now so a lot of experience has been gained.

The final decision on who is qualified or not is domiciled with the Head of Department. And the criteria used is very simple. It just simply reflects the admission requirements of most of the Universities in UK. Most of them require 2.2, others require 2.1 and first class students are always welcome. For people to benefit from the Federal Government Scholarship programme administered through PTDF, they must have rendered some services to the country in the first instance. So the NYSC is also considered, so are their class of degrees as well as evidence of proficiency in English Language since they are going to study in an English speaking environment. A credit in English is therefore a requirement, so we look out for that as well.

PTDF-M: What follows after the screening?

Ans:- Those who scale through are invited to sit for an aptitude test. This year 2010, we received 11,500 applications out of which 5,500 were short-listed for the aptitude test. In synchrony with the electronic application we also conducted electronic aptitude test for the first time. We used a service provider that provided six locations in each of the geo-political zones. So applicants who are closer to any of the centres went to the States closest to them. They sat in front of computers and wrote the exams on their own, after which the answers will be scored electronically and results given to PTDF for the

selection based on performance, beginning from the top most.

PTDF-M: So can the candidates get their results automatically after the exam?

Ans:- Yes, because how the electronic system works is that the questions and answers are built into the computer, so the computer checks the responses by the candidates against the answers at the same time, so the answers are generated automatically.

PTDF-M: You equally had hard copy applications and paper and on-line applicants sat for the same exam. How did you harmonize the two?

Ans:- For easy management, the direction we're heading is electronic, seamless flow of information. Yes, we made provisions for small amount of paper applications. That in itself is an indication that we are moving away from the traditional paper application. Yes after the screening, we merged the information that we collated from paper applications and put on the systems so that we had a seamless flow of information as we went. Owing to the large number of electronic records generated as a result of the migration of OSS selection process from paper to electronic system, the Fund has commenced the process of acquiring the Electronic Records and Documents Management System which will assist in effective management of the electronic records ■



UNIVERSITY LECTURERS SKILLS ENHANCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME (ULSEP)

By **Tanimu M. Ahmed**



The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) is mandated by Law to train Nigerians to qualify as graduates, professionals,

technicians and craftsmen, in the fields of engineering, geology, science and management in the petroleum industry in Nigeria and or abroad.

The PTDF over the years has developed effective processes for the administration and management of a number of programmes and projects among which is the Overseas Scholarship Scheme (OSS) and Local Scholarship Scheme (LSS). The two schemes have been the Fund's flagship programme and they entail the sponsorship of Nigerians to undertake postgraduate/undergraduate training programmes. The Fund has also invested heavily in research and development, our endowment fund in the University and the PTDF Research Grant are eye-catching to dedicated researchers. In the same vein, PTDF as part of its mandate and commitments to ensure that Nigerian graduates compete in terms of learning and employment in oil and gas industry globally has upgraded, commissioned and handed over buildings, laboratory, equipments, ICT, books, journals etc in Sixteen Federal Universities in Nigeria.

Although these programmes and projects have recorded remarkable successes and generated commendations from various sectors of the economy, particularly in the oil and gas sectors, the underlying principles for the institution of these laudable programmes and projects to enable the addition of significant value in the development of the Nigerian oil and gas industry is yet to be fully realized.

In view of the foregoing, PTDF introduced the Universities Lecturers Skills Enhancement Training

Programme (ULSEP), a continuing academic training programme for lecturers in Training Positions in PTDF upgraded departments in Universities.

The ULSEP

The ULSEP is a continuing academic training programme for University lecturers in Nigeria geared towards development of technical competencies; improve academic quality and ability to engage the Nigerian oil and gas industry in areas of applied research.

The main objectives of the training programme are:

- i. Build in-country capacity in the nations ivory towers;
- ii. to enrich and improve the practice of teaching and research activities in core oil and gas and related disciplines among University lecturers;
- iii. Improve on the development and implementation of academic quality recognized internationally and capable of transforming the graduates as choice candidates for the Nigerian oil and gas industry, or respected members of the scientific community and;
- iv. Provide an effective platform between the Nigerian oil and gas industry and the Academics for the research fraternity.

The training programme will be in two (2) modules spanning over a period of (3) three months. The first module is a one month intensive classroom based programme. Participants will be given case studies to solve prior to their arrival for the programme. Areas to be covered include but not limited to development of modern techniques of teaching, research, supervision,

assessment and marking procedure, presentation skills, leadership, strategic thinking, planning, change management, partnership, shadow teaching/learning etc. The second module is research based and includes modern techniques of conducting research, research presentation, shadow teaching/ mentoring, industry visits, general administration etc.

Participants will understudy an expert/University Professor on how they conduct research; develop relationships with the industry, academic and general administration of the University. Attachment of the Participants to Experts in their respective fields as Research Assistants for some months will undoubtedly develop their competence. In that capacity, the research assistants would attend lectures delivered by the expert/professor, attend staff and postgraduate students seminars and public lectures, conduct tutorial classes for students, do some research for the professor (this may lead to a joint publication), etc. In the process, the lecturers would learn a lot on teacher-student relationship, a very critical area in teaching which, unfortunately, suffers huge neglect in our Universities.

The programme is to be run in partnership with interested United Kingdom universities. At the end of the programme participants will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice by the participating University. The certificate is approved by the British Council of Continuing Academic Education and is recognised worldwide.

Cont'd on pg. 20



Cont'd from pg. 19

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

A critical success factor of the programme is the need for the Fund to engage the authorities of the 16 upgraded universities as key stakeholders with a view to getting their buy-in into the programme.

Participants of the programme would be lecturers in Training Positions selected from the 16 upgraded Universities in line with the Fund PhD selection processes. The beneficiaries will be paid stipends tied to what is obtainable for a single PhD scholar during the programme.

Another critical success factor is the engagement by the Fund of an experienced academician to serve as programme Consultant for proper coordination.

What ULSEP Seeks to Achieve

i. To enhance the capacities of Participants in areas of Modern Techniques of Research and Teaching, Presentation

- Skills, Leadership, Change Management, Strategic Planning, Relationship management/ Collaborations Techniques, , Confidence Building among others;
- ii. To acquire tools for a life of continuous learning, the skills of creativity, problem-solving and leadership;
- iii. To acquire the needed professional, technical knowledge that will enhance their capacity for effective participation and engagement in the petroleum industry in Nigeria in research and development;
- iv. To acquire skills that will facilitate bridging of the existing gap between the academia and oil and gas industry in Nigeria, thereby creating a workable platform for effective partnership between the two stakeholders;
- v. To promote and expand

international understanding, development and friendship by stimulating and supporting scientific, educational, professional and intercultural activities through education and training in engineering, geology science and management;

vi. Reflect on and appraise their own professional practice and demonstrate evolution of practice where appropriate;

vii. Learning from the wider university community is not limited to the classroom. The community of different nationalities, ethnicities, beliefs and ages offers a great opportunity for learning. This could be through day to day activities or special events organised by various relevant societies and associations in the University.

Details of modalities of the selection and other processes will be made available in the PTDF websites ■

Quote

“We are not empowered to ensure employment of our scholars. We train a number of people in the best universities abroad who come out tops in their courses. These scholars provide us with reason to be proud of them. Unfortunately, when they come out, they don’t get employed because the places in the oil and gas industry are occupied by expatriates without necessary skills and competences like them. I cannot do anything but to draw attention to the situation. I will give you two instances of this situation. Somebody came from a bank asking me to bank with them. He believes he had a better chance of getting my patronage because he is a former PTDF scholar who was sponsored to Cranfield University in the United Kingdom where he studied process Engineering. For the reason that huge sums of money were spent in training this particular scholar in process engineering and he is wrongly applying this knowledge, I refused to patronise the bank.”

- Executive Secretary PTDF lamenting the non-engagement of PTDF scholars by the Industry

HOSTING OF NIGERIAN CONTENT CONSULTATIVE FORUM (NCCF) 2009

By Olayinka Agboola



GM Nigeria Content Division PTDF, Hajia Habiba Wakil addressing the Forum

With the introduction of Nigerian Content as a policy of government, and the reforms of the Oil and Gas industry, the Fund has identified stakeholder buy-in and industry participation as perhaps the single largest challenge to the implementation of Governments' Nigerian Content aspirations, targets and policies.

The Fund in a bid to address this issue has resolved to facilitate the creation of a platform for collaboration among stakeholders in the industry.

One of the programmes that was earmarked to address this issue is the hosting of a stakeholders forum. The Fund met with different industry stakeholders to get their support for the forum following which the Fund then partnered with NNPC in co-sponsoring the hosting of the NCCF 2009 conference and exhibition.

The conference was held from 19th – 20th, October at the International Conference Centre in Abuja. It was well attended with participants from Local service providers, International Oil Companies, Multinationals, Government and Regulatory agencies as well as other stakeholders in the industry. The Fund also invited a number of lecturers from its Upgrade institutions, industry personnel as well as officials of some Government regulatory agencies to attend the event. The Fund specifically sponsored the following activities for the conference:

- a. Invitation and participation of PTDF stakeholders: National University Commission (NUC), Standard organization of Nigeria (SON), Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN), National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), The Academia (Heads of respective departments from PTDF Upgrade institutions – first phase) and Marginal Field Operators
- b. Presentation by PTDF invitees; NUC, PTDF Upgrade institutions (1 representative) and Marginal Field Operators (1 representative)
- c. Exhibition by PTDF Invitees (stakeholders)
- d. Special meeting session which deliberated on the possible review of curricula in institutions offering Oil & Gas courses in the Country. Session also deliberated on the issue of non-engagement of Nigerian graduates/ PTDF trainees in the industry. Members of this session were drawn from the NUC, Academia, and industry organizations.

The programme featured an opening remark by the GM (NC) PTDF (representing the Executive Secretary), GM NNPC-NCD as well

as a keynote address by the GMD NNPC. This was then followed by exhibitions (sponsored by the Fund) and presentations by various industry organizations on Nigerian Content issues. The Fund also delivered a presentation with the theme: Nigerian Content Development- The PTDF approach, the presentation highlighted the various activities of the Fund in furtherance of Nigerian Content enhancement.

In the course of the conference, a documentary, also sponsored by the Fund was aired to showcase the successes/ achievements on Nigerian Content development in the industry. An interview of the Executive Secretary and some of the previous PTDF Engineering Design Training Programme (EDTP) trainees was featured in the documentary.

The programme also featured a PTDF special interactive session designed to open dialogue on the possible review of curricula of oil and gas courses in Universities as well as address issues of industry – institution collaboration in the Country. This was well attended with participants making far reaching contributions to address the two issues. Consequently, an interim committee was formed to fast-track the issues identified. Following the above, a steering committee and 2 technical sub-committees have now been constituted. These committees will brainstorm and chart the way forward on the issues of interest. The NC division of the Fund will facilitate the meetings and activities of the committees subsequently ■





PTDF TAKES OVER PUBLICATION OF PETROLEUM TRAINING JOURNAL (PTJ)

Publication of the Petroleum Training Journal was conceived in 2001 as the only authoritative journal for the oil and gas industry. Some international oil companies initially supported the publication while PTDF undertook the cost of printing the journal.

With the retirement of the pioneer chairman Editorial Board of PTJ, Momodu Kassim Momodu and dwindling resources for sustaining the publication, it became obvious that the journal will become extinct without an immediate intervention. This prompted an appeal to the Fund to take over the publication of the Journal.

The Executive Secretary is conscious of the role of the Journal as a credible reference document in the industry whose absence will create a vacuum. But for the management of PTDF to consider taking over the publication of the Petroleum Training Journal, it must have recourse to the mandate of the Fund, the roadmap it has set for itself, and the legal implications. At a meeting with the former editorial board of the Journal, the Executive Secretary while reacting to the request for the Fund to take over the publication said "This is a very apt request that has come in time it will be considered. I am sure that this Journal is geared toward realising PTDF Mandate" ■



ALBINOS GET SCHOLARSHIP SLOT

The Executive Secretary of Petroleum Technology Development Fund **Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma** has announced the grant of a special concessionary award of an Overseas Scholarship yearly by the Fund to at least one candidate belonging to the vulnerable group of Nigerians living with albinism. This he said will add to the criteria for the selection of candidates for the award of Overseas Scholarships which include, merit, oil producing States, and gender considerations.

Engr. Muttaqha Darma who received the board and members of the **Albino Foundation** led by the founder **Jack Epelle** on a courtesy visit to PTDF, said "Nigerians are faith based people. Because of the faith we have in God, Nigerians will not willingly discriminate against our brothers based on disabilities, defects or condition. Those that do that are deviants. The family of PTDF will not discriminate against people living with albinism. The Overseas Scholarship Scheme is open to all Nigerians irrespective of conditions. You are talented people who may not be in the picture as to the procedures and processes for the award" He said the Fund will still grant one scholarship slot to a qualified albino that meets the requirements and strict conditions. This he said accords with the Fund's determination to harness the potentials of every Nigerian notwithstanding his or her conditions. He said PTDF is a Fund set aside by government to promote Petroleum Technology in the upstream, mid and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. The Executive Secretary added that while albinos might have certain conditions that impair their ability to do certain tasks, they still play prominent roles in other sectors of the economy.

Mr. Jack Epelle, founder of the **Albino Foundation** commended PTDF for its activities towards developing appropriate local manpower in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, and called for the strengthening of the capacities of albinos most of whom are gifted in the areas of science, mathematics and engineering. He further explained that giving albinos the opportunity in these areas, will help address the stigma and other psychological challenges faced by many albinos ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th May, 2010
One-Day Workshop with the Steering Committee Members of Research Grant Competition

19th - 21st May
Catch Them Young National Competition

19th - 26th June
In-house Capacity Building
 "Development of Indigenous Capacity - PTDF's Role"

June 2010
PTDF Night of Excellence



PTDF AND THE FEDERAL CHARACTER QUESTION



The Executive Chairman of the Federal Character Commission Professor Shuaibu Oba Abdulraheem, has attributed the misconceptions held by the commission about the application of Federal Character in the operations of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund to absence of communication between it and the Fund. He was therefore happy at the appearance of the Management of the Fund, led by the Executive Secretary, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma before the power and energy committee of the Commission to clear the haze on some issues bordering the Commission on the operations of PTDF.

He noted that equity is being practiced at the level of Management of the Fund, which underscores the main purpose of the constitutional provisions on the application of Federal Character principles to achieve national unity. He urged the Management of the Fund to expand and broaden the Fund's operational base and make it possible for a greater number of Nigerians especially those at the grassroots to take advantage of the Scholarship Scheme of the Fund. According to him "a lot of Nigerians in the remote areas who are qualified to be offered Scholarships need to be fished out by bringing your activities closer to the people. At the level of awarding Scholarships, there appears to be lopsidedness in favour of those in urban cities, and this will impair the federal character principles when eventually the scholars trained by the Fund take up positions of authority in the oil and gas industry".

At the interactive session with the Power and Energy committee of the Federal Character Commission, the Committee Chairman commended the Executive Secretary for responding to the invitation by the Commission which he said will contribute in building mutual co-operation, trust and confidence between PTDF and FCC. He said however that the Federal Character Commission is concerned about the administration of the Overseas Scholarship Scheme by PTDF and the conduct of recruitments into the Fund.

He said the Commission has been inundated with complaints by some states alleging marginalisation of their indigenes while in some cases non indigenes are awarded Scholarship by impersonation.

The Executive Secretary in his elaborate response to the allegations said some of the assertions of the Commission are completely and totally wrong and exhibits a lack of understanding of the operations of the Fund. He regretted the stance of the complainants which he described as an unfortunate perception. According to the PTDF Executive Secretary, the Fund in processing applications for its Scholarship Scheme relies on the letter of indigeneship attested to by chairmen of Local Government Councils and which is also a condition precedent for the Scholarship awards.

"When PTDF is considering candidates for Scholarship awards, it does not go to each and every Local Government to enquire if such eligible names come from the Local Government; go and show me his father, his grandfather in order to authenticate indigeneship of the state. Once a letter of indigeneship is issued by the Local Government, PTDF will not challenge its authenticity. So if a Local Government gives somebody who is not from that Local Government, a letter of indigeneship for whatever reason, then it is not the fault of PTDF. That indicates, even if the bearer's name is not indigenous to the area that the person is from the Local Government. Then there is nothing PTDF can do other than to locate that candidate in the Local Government". Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma told

the committee that the Fund is in the process of establishing a data bank of past and present Scholars of the Fund, as the Petroleum industry bill requires PTDF to not only award Scholarship for the training of Nigerians in oil and gas related fields but to also ensure that the Scholars of the Fund are gainfully employed/engaged within the industry.

The Fund he said collaborates with some top Universities in the UK in the placement of its Scholars. As a result, PTDF he said ensures that only candidates who meet the stringent requirements of these top Universities are selected for the award. "So we accept a minimum qualification of a second class lower division (2.2), a credit pass in English at WAEC". The Executive Secretary made it clear that the nature of oil and gas related courses for which Scholarships are awarded to deserving candidates is derived from a skills gap audit in the industry.

"The skills gap audit determines the manpower requirements in the Petroleum Industry and PTDF tailors its course to satisfy the human capacity requirements". The Executive Secretary said that the National Content Initiative also plays a role in determining the courses for which the Scholars will be sent abroad to study. "The National Content Initiative mandates that about 70% of human capacity requirement in oil and gas industry are sourced in-country by 2010 and what the skills gap audit reveals as being the requirement, we train Scholars in relevant disciplines to fill up". Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma said ■



PTDF SIGNS MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TOP UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK FOR PLACEMENT OF PTDF SCHOLARS



With the takeover of the management of the overseas aspect of the Overseas Scholarship Scheme by the Fund, the Executive Secretary, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma, led a delegation to the United Kingdom to meet with principal officers of Universities selected as study centres for PTDF scholars in the United Kingdom. The PTDF delegation visited the University College London, Imperial College, University of Leeds, Cranfield University, University of Aberdeen, University of Abertay, University of York and the University of Central Lancashire, all top rated Universities in the United Kingdom.

The team met with the authorities of the Universities and informed them of the takeover by PTDF of the overseas aspect of the scholarship scheme formerly managed by a consultant, UNIVATION LIMITED. The Universities are as result expected to deal directly with the Fund in matters relating to PTDF scholars that are sent to study in their Universities. Contacts were therefore exchanged to facilitate direct dealings on issues concerning PTDF scholars and the scholarship. An MOU was signed between PTDF and the Universities to formalize the new relationship, especially with regard to guaranteeing that PTDF scholars are accepted for placement in

appropriate courses in oil and gas. The MOU specifically provides that the Universities will accept up to a maximum of 50 PTDF scholars who meet the minimum requirement for admission. The Universities will also designate an officer with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting on the academic progress of scholars as well as welfare issues. Under the regime, scholars tuition and accommodation will be remitted directly to the Universities.

It will be recalled that PTDF management led by Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma terminated the consultancy agreement with UNIVATION LIMITED last year resulting in the saving of 300 million naira paid annually to the consultants. Components of the offshore management of the Overseas Scholarship Scheme which PTDF has taken over include placement of scholars in suitable universities in the UK, monitoring the progress of scholars, provision of pastoral care and services, payment of scholars tuition, accommodation and living allowances directly to the Universities of placement and the scholars and getting involved more closely with the school authorities ■





WELDERS TRAINING CERTIFICATION EXERCISE

By Usman Pindar

The PTDF (in collaboration with other stakeholders) has, in line with its mandate, developed several capacity building programmes geared towards providing the skills required to meet identified human capital for the development of Nigerian Content for the oil and gas industry. The Welders Training and Certification exercise (WTCP) is one of such key programmes, and it was conceived, in line with governments Nigerian Content initiative and in consideration of the major shortfalls of indigenous human resources identified in the welding and fabrication sectors of the oil and gas industry. Its aim is to train & certify a sizeable number of welders with diverse skills to complement the human capital requirements of the country and enable the implementation of Government's (Nigerian Content Short Term) directive to domicile certain fabrication activities in-country (NC-Directive NO. 9).

As a result of this, a pilot phase of the Welders training programme involving the participation of 100 candidates, was run in collaboration with the NNPC and SPDC to serve as a test run for the main phase which was expected to train up to 2500 Nigerian welders. The execution of the Pilot phase however, threw up three very fundamental challenges:

1. There was an acute lack of internationally qualified/certified (IIW recognised) indigenous trainers
2. The absence of the requisite certified training facilities with the necessary equipment and facilities for the training
3. And therefore a lack of capacity (as a result of the above factors) to provide the contemplated IIW certification to products (trainees) of this programme.

As a result of these challenges, and based on recommendations made in that regard, the PTDF management approved a refocus of the WTCP in the following areas:

- A Train-the-Trainer programme



to enable the development of the critical mass of trainers necessary to conduct the Welders Training and Certification

- To assist the Nigeria Institute of Welding enhance its internal capacity towards carrying out their responsibilities as the Nation's Authorised National Body (ANB) as well as ensure the facility upgrade of certain fabrication based Government institutions (Petroleum Training Institute, Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria, and Air Force Institute of Technology) to ATB status.
- The achievement of the above two would therefore culminate in the proper conduct of the WTCP

In implementing the Train-The-Trainer Programme, the Fund determined the minimum human capital requirement necessary to prosecute the Welders' Training. Consequently, 20 qualified Nigerians were selected after a

transparent process to undertake training to become International Welding Practitioners (IWP), the 10 best of whom also received further training to the level of International Welding Specialists (IWS). The training was undertaken at the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW) in Johannesburg where participants were accommodated, fed, transported, paid stipends and trained at the expense of the Fund. The result of this facet of the training scored a 'first' on several fronts: It is the first set of Nigerians to be trained to the level of International Institute of Welding (IIW) International Welding Practitioners (IWP); it is the first set of Nigerians to be trained to IIW International Welding Specialist (IWS); and the programme also produced the first African International Welding Specialist.

In hindsight, the credit for these should be rightly laid at the doorstep of Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma, who upon assumption of office dusted off the 2 year old approval granted to the Fund to train 2,500 Nigerian welders for the oil and gas industry and spearheaded the bullish determination of an effective implementation strategy, the result of which are welding practitioners and specialists.

Upon completion, the WTCP of the Fund is expected to equip Nigeria with internationally certified welding personnel and also upgrade the facilities of certain fabrication based government institutions ■





NIGERIA SECURES INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN WELDING

By Kalu Otisi Esq



three years lead to the training of 10,000 Nigerians to become internationally certified welders. One way of achieving this is to facilitate the recognition of the Nigeria Institute of welding (NIW) by the International institute of welding (IIW). So we are trying to bring all the necessary elements that will make NIW a recognized National body that can certify Nigerians as welders”. This he said will help solve the crisis of confidence among oil companies operating in Nigeria who believe that Nigerian Welders having not received international certification by the International Institute of Welding lack the relevant skills and proficiency to operate in the oil and gas industry and are therefore unemployable. “What we are doing is to provide the Nigerian Welder with the relevant skills and proficiencies in modern welding techniques that will equip them to function effectively in the oil and gas industry by coping with the complex welding demands of pipeline, and deep sea welding and fabrication.”

The Nigerian Content Directives of the Federal Government mandates PTDF to train up to 2,500 Nigerian welders in various welding Skills up to certification level recognized by the International Institute of Welding which is the global standards and regulatory agency for welding. It is only through such international certification that Nigerian welders are accepted to practice in the oil and gas industry.

To fast track the process, PTDF embarked on the Train-The-Trainers scheme by up skilling a core group of Nigerian welders with the requisite practical capabilities and global certification to enable them provide the required training of Nigerian welders under the PTDF welders training and certification programme.

At the graduation ceremony, held in the South African Institute of Welding, Johannesburg, fourteen (14) of the Nigerian welders who participated in the programme received the International Institute of Welding diploma as International Welding Practitioners. This authorizes them to train other welders in Nigeria in different welding processes. Six (6) others received the

International Welding Certificate in plate welding and fillet welding and were thus certified to train welders in any of the two areas of proficiency. Their citation read

“Having met the Education and Training requirements of International Institute of Welding guideline on (International Welder) and by examination having satisfied the requirements of the Examination Board of the International Institute of Welding Authorized National Body, the (recipient) is hereby awarded the diploma of (International Welding Practitioner, International Plate Welder, International Fillet Welder) as the case may be.

Executive Secretary, Petroleum Technology Development Fund, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma, said at the passing out ceremony, that the twenty (20) Nigerian Welders, who will form the core of the Fund’s Train-the-Trainers component of the Welders Training and Certification programme, were painstakingly selected through a strategic technical partnership with the Nigerian Institute of Welding.

According to him “we have designed a programme that will in the next two to

The PTDF Executive Secretary said the Fund is also training another batch of twelve Nigerian Welders at the Defense Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) out of which the best 10 will be sponsored by the Fund to undergo specialized training abroad that will qualify them as International Welding Technologists and International Welding Engineers. “All these are part of the requirements of IIW for the Nigeria institute of welding to become a recognized National body for Nigeria to become a welding Nation. There is also the need for us to have training bodies for IIW to inspect and certify as having met the standard that is required. We have chosen two places, DICON in Kaduna, and PTI in Warri. These places are being upgraded to make them standard training bodies for welding and fabrication”.

The Executive Secretary of PTDF, who was represented by the General Manager, Finance and Accounts, Mr. Jolomi Arenyeka said these efforts will also crystallize in Nigeria becoming a centre for quality human resources in the oil and gas sector.



The President, South Africa Institute of Welding, Professor Koursaris said Nigeria has taken the first major step in becoming an International Welding nation. The Initiative of training Nigerian welders in South Africa he said will enhance regional co-operation with potentials for self-sustainability. The graduates of the programme who will be returning to Nigeria to train local welders for international certification will be instrumental in upgrading skills that will empower the local population to take advantage of work opportunity especially in the oil and gas and power generation industries.

The Nigerian Institute of welding appreciates the certification of the Nigerian welders as International Welding Practitioners as a positive step towards conferring the status of an Authorized National Body on the institute as well as improve welding education in Nigeria.

President, Nigeria Institute of welding, Mr. Solomon Edebiri said "you have been trained to train other Nigerians and through your efforts under the supervision of the Nigeria Institute of Welding and cooperation from PTDF, it is hoped that Nigeria will produce over 400 competent welding instructors and 5000 certified welders by December 2010".

For some time, there has been persistent condemnation of the oil companies for their propensity in engaging foreign Nationals especially Filipinos in the oil and gas industry while refusing to engage Nigerian welders for the reason of not being certified by the international Institute of Welding. The process of acquiring such certification is long and tedious. First there must be an Authorized National Body that must have received International Certification. In the case of Nigeria, the Nigeria Institute of Welding is yet

to acquire the full status of an Authorized National Body.

To achieve this, there must also be in place an authorized training body. In this case, the welding and fabrication workshops of PTI, DICON are being upgraded by PTDF to satisfy the requirements for certification as an Authorized Training Body. An additional requirement is that there must exist qualified training instructors using IIW accredited training curriculum and following an IIW procedure for welding instruction.

With the training and certification of 14 Nigerian welders as International Welding Practitioners and six others in Plate and Fillet welding, Nigeria has commenced the march towards curtailing, if not eradicating the influx of foreign welders and other welding professionals in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria ■

Meet

DIAMOND BLESSING

Nigeria has scaled the first major hurdle towards securing international recognition as a welding nation capable of producing certified welders for the oil and gas industry. This followed the successful completion of a three months intensive training programme for twenty (20) Nigerian welders at the South African Institute of Welding. This training which was fully sponsored by PTDF led to the emergence of Diamond Blessing as the first African Female Welding Instructor under the welders training and certification programme (WTCP) of the Fund. PTDF Mandate interviewed this Lady that has represented the female so well in a male dominated profession. Here are excerpts.

Can you give us details about yourself?

I am Diamond Blessing from Afuze, Owan East L.G.A of Edo state. I am

39 years old, a mother, an academic staff of mechanical engineering department, Auchi Polytechnic Auchi in Edo State.

"...with regard to the PTDF training programme, fairness, excellence and hard work are the basic criteria for selection. They are not biased".

Is there a difference between the welders we see on the roadside and your kind of welding?

The basic difference between the road side welder and my type of welder lies in the fact that I am an educated and experienced welder who deals with both theory and practical welding. The road side welder's knowledge about welding is limited and shallow compared to my type of welding as regards materials and they solely operate on the principles of trial and error.

How did you get into this profession that is dominated by men and how



President SAIW assisted by Mr. Jolomi Arenyeka GM (F&A) PTDF presenting Diamond Blessing with her Certificate

does it feel being a female in a male dominated profession?

Firstly, I had a formal education on welding at the Petroleum Training Institute Effurun, Delta State, where I obtained a General welding certificate and thereafter proceeded for an HND in welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology. Although a female in the profession, I feel great and fulfilled to be a professional in the field despite all odds especially being the first African lady to obtain the International welding practitioner (I.W.P) and International welding specialist (I.W.S.) certificates.

Cont'd on pg. 28



Cont'd from pg. 27

Could you tell us some of the challenges you face as a female in this profession?

There have been a lot of challenges in the profession chief among which is discouragement, discouragement from employers who feels as a female I should not been given such opportunity to be interviewed or even given a position as a welder in their establishment. Secondly, as a female, people quickly pick holes in my work to discourage me in the profession. Finally, people tend to discourage me on the ground that welding is purely a profession for the male and that I cannot make it

How did you get to know about the PTDF welders training programme?

The knowledge about PTDF welders training programme came from my Dean, Engineer J.I. Momodu, Dean of School of Engineering Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu. Edo State and an advert placed by PTDF on the Thisday Newspaper.

What were your expectations during the training and what was your experience?

My expectations were basically to meet the target set for us, to pass both my practical and theory classes in south Africa. My experience at the training was Herculean and taxing as I discovered that in achieving success, hard work, dedication to duty, respect and obedience counts.

“My advice for other female who might like to go into the welding profession is that they should not be scared of the male counterpart in the profession. The basic thing is that ‘what is worth doing at all is worth doing well’”

I heard you were also amongst the best trainee during the programme?

Yes, I was one of the best ten after the first three months training and I stayed back in South Africa for another four weeks with nine other trainees for the international welding specialist training programme and I was also successful.

“...people tend to discourage me on the ground that welding is purely a profession for the male and that I cannot make it”.

What are the opportunities available in the industry as a certified welder?

As an internationally certified welder

one has the chance to compete with the expatriates and also the chance of training others. There is no need for expatriates in Nigerian industries especially in the oil and gas sector. Another opportunity is that one can work in any part of the world as an internationally certified welder.

What advice do you have for other females that might like to be in this profession as a form of motivation especially in the PTDF welders training programme?

My advice to other females who might like to go into the welding profession is that they should not be scared of the male counterpart in the profession. The basic thing is that ‘what is worth doing at all is worth doing well’. Aspiring female welders should be focused, determined, dedicated, hard working and obedient at all times as these are the only means to

success in the profession, welding profession is for brains not for frustrated people. Finally, with regard to the PTDF training programme, fairness, excellence and hard work is the basic criteria for selection ■

AIRFORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS PTDF IN THE TRAINING OF WELDERS



As the name implies, the Nigerian Airforce is that arm of the Military responsible for the operation and maintenance of Nigeria’s Military aircraft/ airspace to safeguard the territorial integrity of the nation. But in the process of maintaining its large fleet of Military aircraft, it realized that it required to train not only specialists in aircraft technology, but also those proficient in welding technology. This was the background that gave rise to the establishment of Airforce Institute of Technology.

The Commandant of the Institute, **Rear Admiral T. J. Lokoson** told the Executive Secretary of PTDF Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma during a courtesy visit that the Institute has developed specialised programmes in welding technology that can satisfy the requirements of the oil and gas sector in Nigeria. This type of training he said is being extended to civilians with the aim of “producing the required manpower for the oil and gas industry, and mitigate the dominance of expatriates”. He therefore wants PTDF to partner with the institute in the area of training in welding and fabrication.

The Executive Secretary of PTDF said the Fund has

designed a programme that will ensure the training of not less than 10,000 Nigerians in the next two to three years to become internationally certified welders. To achieve this objective, PTDF he said is bringing together all the necessary elements that will make the Nigeria Institute of welding to be recognised as a national body by the International Institute of welding.

According to Engr. Darma “If the Nigeria Institute of welding is recognised as a national body, it can now certify Nigerians as welders, and such certification will be recognised anywhere in the world with the stamp of the international Institute of Welding”. He stressed the need to have internationally recognised training bodies. In this regard, the Fund he said has chosen two institutions, DICON in Kaduna, and PTI in Warri both already having welding and fabrication workshops. The Fund he said will upgrade welding facilities of these institutions to make them standard training bodies. He promised to send a team from the Fund to visit and assess the facilities in Airforce Institute of Technology with a view to strengthening the institution to become also an authorised training body for welders ■



PTDF AND THE NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The imperative for Nigerian Content development is to moderate the operational dominance of the local industry by foreign concerns, and ensure that the percentage of locally produced materials, personnel, goods and services rendered to the industry are increased. Towards achieving this target, the Federal Government issued various directives one of which is to domicile Front End Engineering Design (FEED) and Detailed Engineering Design (DEED) in-country.

The Nigerian Content Development Short Term Directives further prescribes that fabrication of all piles, decks, anchors, buoys, jackets, bridges, flare booms, and storage tanks are to be done in Nigeria. In addition Fabrication of all subsea systems including riser, flow-lines, subsea assemblies, and ancillary facilities including system integration test are to be done in Nigeria.

PTDF is statutorily charged with the responsibility of developing capacities, competencies and capabilities in Nigeria's oil and gas industry to address the problem of shortage of skilled human resource capital in the industry. The focus of PTDF is to generally achieve world class human resource standards, the provision of quality goods and services in Nigeria's oil and gas industry thereby responding to government target of 70% Nigerian Content by 2010.

PTDF's Nigerian Content vision as implemented by the Nigerian Content Division seeks to engender job creation by developing indigenous capabilities and competencies to ensure active participation of Nigerians in the greater proportion of the work in Nigeria. An industry-wide skills audit and survey in 2004 to ascertain the relevant skilled manpower required to meet government human resource for

the oil and gas industry revealed that the necessary human resource capital to be developed and processes to be engaged to achieve 70% Nigerian Content compliance by 2010 must employ:

- Stimulation of technology transfer.
- Training in specific skills/development of competencies.
- Mentoring and apprenticeship for Design Engineering Works, Fabrication, Construction, Services.
- Maintenance and upgrade of existing organisational and educational facilities for Nigeria's vast but unskilled human resources.

Amongst the Nigerian Content Development by the PTDF's NCD are:

SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR ENGINEERS

It's aim is to prepare graduate engineers for the industry. The objective is to train 2500 graduate level Engineers in oil and gas software by end of 2010. Full implementation of the programme is bogged down by slowdown in take off of oil and gas projects in the country due to global recession, lack of buy-in by (oil) majors and lack of capacity to absorb trainees by service providers. The resultant effect has been the loss of skill by trained engineers.

WELDERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

It's aim is to provide a pool of internationally certified oil and gas welders to service Nigeria's oil and gas industry. Its objectives is to train 2500 welders in various levels to obtain international certification, to replace current imports of Koreans and Phillipinos. This programme has so far trained 20 International

Welding Professionals (IWP) and 10 International Welding Specialites (IWS). However, there is an on-going plan to train 11 International Welding Technologists (IWT) and International Welding Engineers (IWE) this year. The challenges this programme has faced include the delay in the roll out of mass training because of the absence of internationally certified trainers in-country, which has necessitated the initiative of Train-The Trainer. Another impediment is the fact that there are no ready centres to carry out the training audit. There are also issues such as preparation of centres, time money and delays. Of major concern is what happens to the trainees after the training. Will they be immediately assimilated into the industry? This depends on the regulators of the industry as PTDF has no power to compel the oil majors to employ them. It is however expected that the passage of the PIB will bring about transformations in the oil and gas industry, including making it mandatory for a prescribed percentage of Nigerians to be employed in specific areas of the industry.

SKILLS GAP AUDIT

This programme is intended to conduct a skills gap audit of the mid/downstream sector of the industry in the light of proposed deregulation of the downstream and new gas master plan. The objective is that training will be tied to actual needs of the industry. The major challenge faced with this programme is access to credible information.

The Nigerian Content drive in the oil and gas industry is in response to the global resource nationalization and in-country optimisation of value from oil and gas resources ■

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OF OIL AND GAS EKOWE, BAYELSA STATE BY PTDF



In October, 2009, the Federal Executive Council approved the award of several major contracts for the comprehensive infrastructural development of the Niger Delta region as a consequence of the post amnesty implementation programme. One of such projects is the second and final phase of the upgrading of the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Ekowe in Bayelsa State by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). The Polytechnic which will specialize in the study of petroleum, oil and environmental technologies is expected on completion to empower the Niger Delta youths with technical skills required to give them the opportunity for job placement in the oil and gas industry. PTDF being a major player in the Federal Government Post Amnesty Committee provides the requisite skills to those who are not skillful in oil and gas operations while upskilling those with requisite background and knowledge of the industry.

PTDF involvement in the development of the Polytechnic was sequel to a stakeholders forum on the Niger Delta in 2006 in which the Fund was mandated by the Federal Government to intervene in the provision of necessary infrastructural facilities for the existing Polytechnic. PTDF thereafter in 2007, commenced the first phase of the development with the award of 18 contracts, for the construction of new department buildings, lecture halls, laboratory/workshop, hostels, library, administration blocks and auxiliary facilities, and the rehabilitation of some existing structures. Unfortunately, although the contracts had delivery periods of between 16 and 30 weeks, execution of most of the project lots had

not progressed beyond 2% to 20% at the time Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma took over as the Executive Secretary of the Fund in November 2008. This is in spite of the fact that over two hundred million naira had been paid to the contractors as advance payments backed by Bank Guarantees.

In March 2009, PTDF revoked the non-performing contracts in the first phase of the development of the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Ekowe, while the contractors were compelled to make some refunds to the Fund. All disputes arising from the revocations were resolved to pave way for the restructuring of the project implementation strategy. In this regard, PTDF decided to consolidate the uncompleted projects in the first phase with additional works to form the second and final phase of the development of the Polytechnic. The project is expected on completion to be a world class facility for the first class training of students in oil and gas related disciplines. The total project cost is 14.8 billion naira.

The second phase is grouped into 3 lots made up of general building works (N7.5b), civil works (N5b) and electrical and mechanical services (N2.1b). Three reputable contractors have also been awarded the contracts for the various lots. These contractors are local with adequate knowledge of the area and well experienced to handle these projects.

Lot 1 comprises staff quarters made up of 5 No. 3 Bedroom Block of Flats, 5 No. 2 Bedroom Block of Flats, Rectors Quarters and Boys Quarters, 4 Hostels for Students, Administrative

Block, Auditorium Library, ICT Centre, Lecture Theatre, Classrooms, Department Building,

Lot 2 comprises the construction of a jetty, helipad, roads, drainages, general filling, parking and walkways.

Lot 3 comprises the supply and installation of main services which include power supply, telecommunication and ICT facilities, 2 No. 1500 KVA generating sets, transformer, underground armoured cable network, integrated street lighting system with solar energy panels, V.SAT, server, optical fibre cable network, water supply and distribution network, water treatment plants, storage tanks, pipe network, fire fighting stations, etc.

The process for the award of contracts conformed with the due diligence requirement of the Public Procurement Act. The contractors for these projects were chosen after a rigorous and transparent prequalification and tendering process and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Act. In line with PTDF vigorous approach to project implementation, the contractors will be made to abide by the delivery periods indicated against their lot. Being a fixed term and a fixed sum contract there is no room for variation both in terms of duration and sum.

PTDF is developing a new Polytechnic as part of its intervention in manpower development for the oil and gas industry. The Polytechnic is owned by the Federal Ministry of Education which has already developed a structure for the school that is up and running

with a Rector and Governing Council already constituted. Its academic and administrative structures are already in place with students admitted for academic programmes designed by the National Board for Technical Education.

The community leaders have welcomed the positive efforts of the Federal Government to change the story of the Niger Delta through projects implementation. King Joshua Igbugburu, the Ibenanawei of Bomo kingdom and pioneer chairman, Bayelsa State council of traditional rulers commended the Executive Secretary for the changes witnessed in the implementation of the project within the short period of his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Fund. "I appeal to PTDF to closely monitor the projects for early completion. On our part, Ekowe Community in Bayelsa State will protect the contractors and their equipment" his royal majesty said ■

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PORT-HARCOURT

The National Centre for Skills Development and Training was conceived by PTDF to train Nigerians in various specialised skills which will enable them provide services to the oil and gas industry in Nigeria. The vision is to make the centre, the most effective oil and gas skills centre in the West African sub region. The centre comprises of an Administrative Block of six floors, consisting of a computer centre, continuing education section, business and managerial skills section, hair and dress making section, telecommunication centre. There will be two adjoining buildings within the centre; one for lightweight industries with workshops and laboratories, polymer and by product processing, catering, restaurant, bakery, beverages and food laboratory, soap and detergent making, tailoring and designing, leather works, shoe, plumbing, carpentry and painting. For heavy and medium scale industrial training, the centre will have a section for heavy vibrating equipment that will provide construction skills, masonry, electrical, automobile, welding and fabrication, repairs of heavy duty equipment etc.

Ancillary facilities in the Skills Centre will include a library, hostels, outdoor games, e-learning facilities, and computer repairs workshop. The centre is expected to develop the skills of Nigerians who may or may not have any formal educational background, but can be trained to also provide services in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria ■

PTDF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN PIX



AGM Projects and Tech. Services Jide Adebulehin with Exec. Sec. PTDF at the Commissioning of the upgraded Dept. of Applied Chemistry UNICAL



250 Seater Auditorium University of Ilorin



Petroleum Training Institute Laboratory Block



Petroleum Training Institute Conference Hall



US EDUCATION ADVISING CENTRE SEEKS INVOLVEMENT IN PTDF OSS

The United States Regional Education Advising Co-ordinator of West and Central Africa Nancy Keteku visited the Petroleum Technology Development Fund to seek ways of attracting PTDF scholarship to American Universities. The Education Advising Centre of the United States Embassy in Abuja works with students and helps in procuring study University centres in the United States based on their study interest.

Nancy Keteku said there are over 4,000 accredited institutions of higher education in the United States of which over 1000 offer Master's and Doctoral degrees. Currently, she said there are 2.5 million students enrolled in graduate level education in the United States.

She said 60% of the degrees are awarded to international students which means there is already in place a global system that is not only accustomed to welcoming students from countries outside the United States, but those coming from international backgrounds essential to the success of the University Education System. United States Universities she said sponsor 30 to 35% of all science and technology based research in the world. Last year alone 49 Billion dollars was spent on research by Universities in the United States. She therefore expressed the desire of the United States Education



Advisory Centre to partner with PTDF in helping Students to get access to the enormous wealth of education in America.

Edward Flynn, Diplomacy officer, and Head of Public Affairs, US Embassy Abuja, thanked PTDF for supporting the education fairs and graduate college fairs organised by the Embassy. He called for dialogue that will lead to better co-operation and partnership with the Fund.

The Executive Secretary of PTDF, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma commended the focus of the United States Government in research and development for which it devotes several billions to its universities yearly for that purpose. This he said is an attraction for Nigerian university faculty members. PTDF he said has the mandate to train Nigerians for the oil and gas industry for which the Fund has over the years been sending scholars to the United Kingdom.

In the last 7 years, the Fund he said has trained over 1000 scholars in top ranked Universities in both M.Sc and PhD. "It is a good thing that the embassy recognises what PTDF is doing and has offered to provide some help and assistance for PTDF to send scholars to the United States".

He acknowledged that the United States harbours most of the highly ranked Universities specialising in oil and gas fields, such as the University of Texas, University of Houston, Colorado School of mining, some of which occupy the top ten positions in the world. "But it is very difficult for PTDF to sponsor students to the United States Universities for two reasons- one is the cost to sponsor a student for an M.Sc. It takes 2 years, meaning that the amount spent in sponsoring two students in the U.S can pay for 4 students sponsored to universities in the United Kingdom".

Engr. Muttaqha said the duration of study for M.Sc and PhD is also a disincentive as it takes much longer time to qualify in the United States than in the UK. He said it is more cost effective to sponsor a student to Imperial College London, which is ranked no 2 in the world, than to university of Texas which is ranked no 3 in the ranking of universities in the world. "With your assistance, we will find a way to hedge the cost such that you bear part of the cost" ■

Feedback

For comments and contributions,
please contact us on
ptdfmandate@ptdf.gov.ng
or visit our website: www.ptdf.gov.ng



MEDIA REACH



Executive Secretary PTDF on set with veteran broadcaster Sadiq Daba at the Independent Television (ITV), Abuja



Executive Secretary PTDF with Sadiq Daba during an interview



Executive Secretary PTDF with Director General FRCN Mallam Nuhu Yakubu



Director General FRCN presents a gift to Executive Secretary PTDF



Executive Secretary PTDF received by the General Manager ITV, Abuja Allan Sule



Daily Trust MD Mr. Ajibola with GM Nigerian Content Division PTDF Hajia Habiba Wakil during a visit to PTDF



Executive Secretary PTDF with Chairman Leadership Newspapers Sam Nda Isaiah



Executive Secretary PTDF Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma in a warm handshake with Sam Nda Isaiah



Executive Secretary PTDF with Gov. Liyel Imoke of Cross River State at the commissioning of Department of Applied Chemistry, UNICAL built and equipped by PTDF under the University Upgrade Project



NTI Bonny. Project Consultant explaining to Gov. Rotimi Amechi of Rivers State and Executive Secretary PTDF the level of development of the project



GM Finance and Accounts PTDF, Head Mid/Downstream Dept. PTDF, President Nigerian Institute of Welding inspecting facilities of the South African Institute of Welding



DG Energy Commission of Nigeria Prof. Abubakar S. Sambo and Exec. Sec. PTDF Engr. M. R. Darma at a consultative meeting on engagement of PTDF scholars by the industry



Group photo of PTDF staff and NYSC members during the Send-forth of 2009 batch 'B' Corp members



GM, Nigerian Content Division, Hajia Habiba Wakil flanked by other staff of PTDF during the 2009 retreat at the TINAPA Resort, Calabar



Executive Secretary PTDF exchanging gifts with Engr. Felix Atume Registrar Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN) during a courtesy visit



PTDF Staff during the commissioning of the upgraded Department of Applied Chemistry - University of Calabar



AGM Legal PTDF Balarabe Ahmed distributing contract papers for the development of Ekowe Polytechnic



Exchange of contract documents with one of the contractors witnessed by the paramount ruler of Ekowe King Joshua Igbugburu



GM Nigerian Content Division PTDF Habiba Wakil and AGM (Admin & HR) during a facility visit to DICON Kaduna



Undergraduate Students in Science and Engineering Department, University of Benin writing the PTDF 2010/2011 Local Scholarship Scheme Aptitude Test

Ist Quarter *Celebrants*

Congratulations on your Birthday. May God grant you long life, good health and prosperity.

JIMOH Z. ABDULMALIK
CHINATU J. OMULU
ZAYYANA SHEHU
AISHA IYA ABUBAKAR
AMINU A. DOGARA
SARATU A. IDRIS
MASUD MOHAMMED
IBIFUBARA WARISO
SULE ALI ZIYAK

1ST JAN
6TH JAN
6TH JAN
19TH JAN
23RD JAN
23RD JAN
25TH JAN
26TH JAN
27TH JAN

ODO SUNDAY
NDIDI GERTRUDE NWANOCHE
JACQUELINE N. GUYIL
JUWARETU O. ZUBAIR
RITA AMAKA EZEObi
MUHAMMED A. ISA

3RD MAR
5TH MAR
11TH MAR
13TH MAR
14TH MAR
28TH MAR

STEPHEN AGBOYINU
ALHASSAN, USMAN ALUKMAN
ARMYAU UMAR BABA
SOBOMABO W. WESST
AUGUSTINE A. OCHANG
AHMED GALADIMA AMINU
PETER O. EGHENEJI
IBRAHIM B. MUSA

2ND FEB
3RD FEB
7TH FEB
11TH FEB
14TH FEB
26TH FEB
26TH FEB
28TH FEB



ANNUAL ENDOWMENT PEER REVIEW MEETINGS

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund has endowed professorial Chairs in some universities with departments offering oil and gas related courses. These are:

- i. University of Nigeria- Geological Sciences.
- ii. University of Ibadan – Petroleum Engineering.
- iii. University of Maiduguri – Basinal Studies/Geology.
- iv. University of Port-Harcourt- Gas Engineering.
- v. Ahmadu Bello University- Chemical Engineering.
- vi. University of Jos- Geology and Mining.
- vii. University of Benin- Renewable Energy Sources.
- viii. Usman Dan Fodio University- Petroleum Chemistry.

Professorial Chairs are endowed to promote innovative research in oil and gas technology and advance indigenous research in petroleum related disciplines. They are endowed in Universities that benefitted from PTDF departmental upgrade of teaching and learning facilities. In this regard, PTDF is in the process of endowing additional professorial chairs in these universities with upgraded departments:

- University of Calabar with upgraded dept of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
- University of Uyo, with upgraded dept of Petroleum and

- Chemical Engineering.
- Bayero University kano, with upgraded dept of Electrical Engineering.
- University of Ilorin with upgraded dept of Geology and Mining Sciences.

To ensure that for each University the Chairholders research plans and steps are in line with contemporary research in the area, and of relevance to industry needs, PTDF introduced the Peer Review Programme where experts from both the academy and the industry technically examine the research focus of the Chairholders so as to provide guidance and direction. The evaluative criteria include relevance of research, currency of the literature, appropriateness of data collection, procedure and methods of analysis and review of results obtained so far.

The Fund ensures there is synergy between the chairholders research focus and indigenous technology development in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

Among the Professorial chairs to be endowed will be in offshore Petroleum Technology. The Chairholder will lead innovative research in deep and ultra deep technology challenges, and is expected to create a centre of excellence for research and development in offshore drilling and productive technology ■



PTDF ANNUAL OIL AND GAS RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund annual oil and gas research grant competition was instituted as a result of the major deterrent to research excellence, that has affected mostly academic institutions in Nigeria, namely the virtual absence of major research grants in-country and lack of serious competition. The objectives of the program are:

- a. Enhancing the capacity of local based researchers to conduct industry-relevant research in the oil and gas industry.
- b. Promoting the retention of such capacity in the country.
- c. Encouraging application of such research results within Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

A steering committee was set up in 2007 to identify Research themes for the competition focusing on petroleum technology development research. In 2008, out of the 147 proposals that were received, 15 candidates were shortlisted and invited for interview. After the presentations/final screening workshop, 5 candidates were adjudged to be successful.

As part of ensuring that the set objectives of the program are met, a peer review to assess the progress of work carried out so far by the lead researchers based on agreed milestones, took place in September 2009.

The review examined the progress made so far by the various researchers with a view to finding a point of convergence between the strategic objectives in setting up the grants and achievements attained so far.

The research areas which were reviewed include:

- iv. Hydrocarbon Source Rock Evaluation in the creataceous to Neogene Basins of Southern Nigeria and Implications for the Niger Delta Petroleum System.
- v. Development of Bentonite Mineral as Drilling Mud Additive in Petroleum industry.
- vi. Improving Rheological and Filtration Properties of Locally Formulated Drilling Muds with addition of Nigerian Lignite at high temperatures and pressures.
- vii. Immobilized Oil Degrading Micro-organisms in Local Cellulosic Materials for Rapid Development in Bioremediation of Petroleum contaminated soil.

The objectives of PTDF in respect of Research are:

- Local capacity building.
- To ascertain that the PTDF funded research is carried out on time within schedules and within approved budget using industry's best practices.
- That the research studies are relevant to the oil and gas industry.
- That the results of the research can successfully be commercialised after completion so that the sponsors (PTDF) can also derive financial benefits from the work.

The Peer Review is designed to get expert and other stake holders to assess the quality and quantity of work done and to chart a way forward ■



SOURCE OF FUNDING OF PTDF AND BUDGETARY CONTROL

- Kalu Otisi Esq

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund Act No. 25 of 1973 is the enabling law establishing PTDF as a Fund for “purposes of training Nigerians to qualify as graduates, professionals technicians and craftsmen, in the fields of engineering, geology, science and management in the Petroleum industry in Nigeria or abroad”. Section 2 of the enabling legislation specified clearly the ways and means through which the Fund’s Management can apply the Funds:

- a. To provide scholarships and bursaries, wholly or partially in universities, colleges, institutions and in Petroleum undertakings in Nigeria or abroad.
- b. To make suitable endowments to faculties in Nigeria universities, colleges or institutions.
- c. For sponsoring regular or as necessary, visits to oil fields, refineries, petrolchemical plants, and for arranging any necessary attachments of personnel to establishments connected with the development of the petroleum industry; and
- d. For financing of and participation in seminars and conferences which are connected with the petroleum industry in Nigeria or abroad.

The main functions of the Fund can therefore be summarised into 3 compartments:

- i. Human capital Development.
- ii. Institutional and systems Development.
- iii. Materials and manufacturing.

Under section 1 of the PTDF Act No. 25 of 1973, the main source of funding of the Fund is through

signature bonuses ie monies accruing to government through various agreements signed for the exploration of oil blocks. Section 1(b) of the Act states “there is hereby established a Fund into which shall be paid moneys comprising all sums payable to or received by the Ministry charged with responsibilities for matters relating to petroleum development in terms of agreement made by the Government and company in relation to petroleum oil prospecting or mining concessions”.



Going by the enabling law, such moneys derivable from signature bonuses are supposed to be paid directly to PTDF when collected. But in reality, the money after collection by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), is paid into an account with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) called PTDF Reserve Account and is under the control of the Accountant-General of the Federation.

The Management of PTDF is not a signatory to that account, but at the

beginning of every year, whatever is due to the Fund based on approved programme of action for that year, is released to it by the Accountant-General of the Federation on the approval of the Federal Executive Council and the President. This is what is used to Fund the operations of PTDF for that year, and whatever is left in the PTDF Reserve Account remains in the name of PTDF although the Fund does not exercise direct control over the money.

The issue of budgetary approval and allocation for the Fund’s operations has been a controversial one and has generated a lot of heat between the Fund and the National Legislature. It is a yearly ritual for MDA’s to go before the National Assembly to present and defend their budgetary estimates for subsequent approval by the National Assembly. It is also a painstaking ritual by MDA’s to appear before the National Assembly to defend the implementation of the budget so far approved in the yearly Appropriation Act. These constitutional responsibilities of the National Assembly is derived from their power of appropriation of all monies that are paid into the Federation Account of the Government which requires an act of parliament

before being validly disbursed to the Federating entities and MDA’s through yearly budgets.

The Management of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund has always been invited by the various committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to brief them on the activities of the Fund. At every of such meetings,

Cont’d on pg. 38



Cont'd from pg. 37

the issue of budget and budgetary approvals have almost always been contentions, creating tension between the Fund and members of the National Assembly.

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund always adopts the position that by virtue of section 80(1) of the 1999 constitution, PTDF is not subject to appropriation. S.80 (1) of the constitution establishes the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation and provides that all monies accruing to the Federal government should be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account as Consolidated Fund. By virtue of S (6) of the constitution, the National Assembly is empowered to appropriate Funds accruing to the Consolidated Revenue Account. However S 80 (1) which established the Consolidated Revenue Account also exempts certain Funds from being paid into that account. These are:

- i. Any Fund payable under the constitution itself for example Funds going to the judiciary and other excluded entities.
- ii. Monies payable into any Fund for a specific purpose by an Act of the National Assembly. PTDF falls under this exception, to the extent that the PTDF law being an Act of the National Assembly specifically provides in section 1 that whatever is obtained from Signature bonuses should be given

to PTDF directly and not paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and as such not subject to appropriation by the National Assembly. The purposes to which the Fund is to be applied are clearly stated in S.2 of PTDF Act, and that creates a Special Purpose Fund within the contemplation of S.80 (1) of the 1999 constitution.

The National Assembly, particularly the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) while accepting that the Funds of PTDF is not subject to appropriation by virtue of S.80(1), draws attention to S.80 (3) which provides that no public Fund shall be withdrawn without the authorisation of the National Assembly. PTDF Management agrees with this position of the law but adds that the National Assembly in making the PTDF Act (being an act of the National Assembly) inherently endorses the law itself. So it is no longer plausible that anytime PTDF needs to withdraw money, it will have to go to the National Assembly and seek approval. S. (3) of the PTDF Act on disbursement of Funds provides that the Funds shall be disbursed in accordance with rules made by the Minister of Finance pursuant to powers conferred on him under S.23 of the Finance Control Management Act which in itself is considered to be an inherent authority in the law itself as conferred by the National Assembly. It is the understanding of the PTDF Management that on the basis of the

provision of the law, Funds of PTDF can be validly withdrawn, disbursed, and applied for the smooth operation of the Fund without recourse to the National Assembly for approval.

This accords with the position of the chief law officer of the Federation, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice who in response to a request for interpretation and legal opinion on some constitutional and legal issues posited "that the powers of the National Assembly to authorise the issuance of public Fund and prescribe the manner of disbursement under section 80(3) and (4) of the constitution were expressed in sections 1, 2, 3, of the Petroleum Technology Development Act, Cap P15 LFN 2004 and section 23 of the Finance Control and Management Act 1958 Cap F21 LFN, 2004".

This position however does not derogate from the power of the relevant committees of the National Assembly to oversight the activities of PTDF particularly regarding how the Fund carries out its training programme, number of Nigerians trained by the Fund yearly and areas of training. What they cannot validly do is to appropriate for the Fund as by the combined effect of the provisions in S.80 (1) of the constitution, section 1 of PTDF Act, and S.23 of the Finance Control Management Act, PTDF Funds are not subject to appropriation by the National Assembly ■

PTDF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS COMES ON STREAM



Model of Head Office Building of PTDF

Following the approval of the Federal Executive Council, contract for the construction of the Head Office building of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund was awarded to Julius Berger. The building on completion will provide a conducive work environment for the management and staff of the Fund. It is also expected to generate revenue for the Fund. According to the Executive Secretary, the building on completion should be able to generate enough money to take care of staff salaries and entitlements in addition to funding operational costs.

The twelve storey edifice will accommodate staff of the Fund while some floors will be let out to corporate organisations that will be interested in paying enough money for an "intelligent" building.

HOW TO BECOME A PTDF SCHOLAR



October is the beginning of the last quarter of the year. For the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), the month of October ushers in the process of selecting Nigerians for the award of PTDF Overseas Scholarships under its OSS Scheme, the flagship programme of the Fund. The Scholarship Scheme affords young Nigerians, the opportunity of being trained in highly rated Universities abroad to specialise in related fields of Engineering, Geological Sciences, Environment and Energy Studies both at Master's and Doctoral levels.

The expectation is that beneficiaries will fit in directly to the oil and gas industry and ultimately contribute towards PTDF's goal of attaining 70% Nigerian Content target of government in the oil and gas industry by 2010.

Since the commencement of the overseas scholarship scheme, some concerns have been raised about the transparency, integrity and impartiality of the process. There are also insinuations that certain parts of the country are favoured in the allocation of the awards. It is not unlikely that those who raise these concerns do so from lack of understanding of the way the scheme works, and failure to appreciate the rigorous steps taken by PTDF to ensure equity in the allocation of the awards, without compromising the high standards and strict adherence to the guidelines for the award.

Generally, PTDF is guided by four factors in the award of scholarships to deserving Nigerians.

1. Federal character: Under which all states/Geopolitical zones are given equal number of scholarships.
2. Merit: Under which the highest scorers in the aptitude test/interview from each state and the Federal Capital Territory/Geopolitical zones are selected for the awards.
3. Oil producing states: In which additional scholarship slots are

given to each of the oil producing states.

4. Gender consideration: In which the best female candidate(s) with the highest scores in the aptitude test from each are awarded scholarships.

To be eligible for the M.sc scholarship award, the applicant must not be more than 35 years, and should possess a minimum of second class lower Degree in oil and Gas related fields. The related fields include the physical sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computing, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Geology, Geophysics, Microbiology and Biochemistry while supporting courses open for sponsorship include the Management Sciences and Law, Petroleum Law and policy, Energy Economics, Energy Finance, Petroleum Accounting and Oil and Gas Management, depending on need of the industry. It is also expected that the applicants are computer literate, possess a certificate of proficiency in English Language, from any of the following Examination bodies GCE, SSCE, TOEFL, GRE, IELTS, or GMAT and must have served the mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) with an NYSC discharge certificate or certificate of exemption as evidence of service.

To be eligible to apply for the scholarship in the Ph.D category, aspiring candidates must possess a good first and second University Degrees or HND and PGD/ Masters Degree certificates. They are also expected to submit a research proposal of between four to five pages in the areas of Environmental Studies and Health Safety and Environment; Marginal fields Development; flow assurance and pipeline Engineering; Geology, Civil and Marine Technology; Renewable Energy, Reservoir Engineering and Petroleum Technology; Refining Technology and Applied Geophysics. The research

proposal must indicate the expected results and relevance to the oil and gas industry. Other requirements for the Ph.D category of the PTDF overseas scholarship scheme include the presentation of a valid admission letter by the applicant who must not be more than 40 years of age. However lecturers seeking the award must not be above 45 years of age. All applicants must include their Master's Degree project. Applicants for M.sc scholarship who meet the requirements are invited for an aptitude test conducted simultaneously in six centres in the six geo-political zones, while applicants for PhD scholarship who meet the requirements are invited for an interview usually conducted in Abuja on fixed dates. The interviews are conducted by reputable University professors and industry experts with requisite knowledge and background in the areas of relevance. The best performing candidates in the aptitude test on State by State basis are selected for the award of Overseas Scholarship (M. Sc), the number (depending on the award for the year) while a given number of the highest scorers are selected on zonal basis in respect of Ph.D.

This rigorous process is deliberately put in place to safeguard the quality and integrity of the scholarship scheme. This has manifested in the consistent high performance of PTDF scholars in their Universities of study abroad, the United Kingdom where PTDF scholars are reputed to be among the first ten and in some cases among the first five top students, with some of them passing out with distinction as well as winning various awards.

The Management of the Fund therefore assures Nigerians that every effort will be made to ensure the maintenance of the credibility and integrity of the selection process, guided by transparency and due process at all time ■



2010 OSS

List of Courses

1. Applied Instrumentation and Control
2. Basin Evolution and Dynamics
3. Bio fuels Development
4. Biochemical Engineering
5. Computing
6. Corrosion Engineering
7. Diving and Underwater Technology
8. Drilling and Well Engineering
9. Energy Systems Engineering
10. Engineering Geology
11. Environmental Engineering
12. Environmental Remote Sensing
13. Exploration Geophysics
14. Fire & Explosion Engineering
15. Gas Engineering and Management
16. Gas Pipeline Economics & Engineering
17. Geographic information System
18. Geosciences of Subsurface Exploration Appraisal and Development (GEOSEAD)
19. Health Safety and Environment
20. Hydrocarbon Enterprise
21. Marine Computational Fluid Dynamics
22. Maritime Operations
23. Mechanical and Production Engineering
24. Naval Architecture & ocean Engineering
25. Offshore and Ocean Technology
26. Offshore Engineering
27. Oil & Gas Engineering
28. Operations and well Site Geology
29. Petroleum , Gas & Energy Engineering
30. Petroleum Engineering
31. Petroleum Geochemistry
32. Petroleum Geophysics
33. Petroleum Geosciences
34. Petroleum Production Engineering
35. Pipeline Engineering
36. Process Engineering Management
37. Process System Engineering
38. Purchasing and Supply Chain Management
39. Reaction Engineering
40. Refinery Design and Operations
41. Remote sensing and computing
42. Reservoir Engineering
43. Safety Engineering and Risk Management
44. Structural Geology with Geophysics
45. Subsea Engineering
46. Thermal Power (Gas Turbine Option)
47. Welding Engineering

In addition, the PTDF will also award a limited number of scholarships in the following areas:

1. Petroleum Accounting
2. Energy Finance
3. Oil and Gas Law
4. Oil and Gas Management
5. Petroleum Law and Policy
6. Energy Economics

PhD Priority Research Areas

The PhD research areas in addition to the afore-listed MSc program areas may also include any of the following related areas:

- Environmental Studies and HSE (Health, Safety and Environment).
- Marginal Fields Development.
- Flow Assurance and Pipeline Engineering.
- Geology and Petroleum Geology.
- Civil and Marine Engineering.
- Renewable Energy.
- Reservoir Engineering/Production Technology.
- Refining Technology.
- Applied Geophysics.
- Ship Building & Marine Technology.

PTDF 2010/2011 OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD HIGHLIGHTS

- 11,500 Applications received
- 5,500 shortlisted for aptitude test
- 363 awarded scholarships from non-industry candidates based on performance at aptitude test

The breakdown is as follows:

- 9 awards for each state in the order of performance at the aptitude test = 324
 - 3 awards for FCT = 3
 - 4 additional awards for each of the 9 oil endowed states = 36
-
- 363**
- 47 candidates whose awards were deferred last year due to no fault of theirs are accommodated in the 2010/2011 awards while another 40 awards are for Nigerians who are already working in government owned agencies within the oil and gas industry.

In this regard, a total of 450 awards have been made in respect of the 2010/2011 PTDF Overseas Scholarship Scheme (M.Sc). Please note that deferred candidates and industry awards are not on the published list posted on the PTDF website: www.ptdf.gov.ng





VIEWS FROM OUR SCHOLARS

Today marks the confirmation of a history that was made sometime in March, when I received information that I won the scholarship, because when I received the news I never believed that a government parastatal from what we know could be transparent as what we are seeing today. It gives me this inner most conviction that our country is at the verge of having a u-turn from what the rest of the world knows it for. It brings me closer to the fact that tomorrow cannot be the same compared to what today is. And foremost of all, it makes me understand that there are Nigerians not minding the ethnic divide, not minding whatever, who could still stand their ground and say we can and we will. So Mr. Executive Secretary, I am so glad I cannot express myself in words by saying thank you. I know I am speaking the minds of a great number of Nigerians who are out there watching.

- **PTDF Scholar during the 2009/2010 induction programme in Abuja.**

I am Miss Ejoke Onoyase from Delta State. I graduated from Delta State University. Sometime last year I collected the form and i put-in for the scholarship and wrote the exams and i was so surprised when my folks called me and said that my name came out in the papers and I won the scholarship. I have always heard about PTDF scholarship but i never really believed in it. I thought it was all politics, until last year some friends of mine put-in for it and got it. I know them very well. They didn't have any connections anywhere and it made me believe that there is a high amount of transparency. I went in for it and I came out the best female candidate in my state under the merit consideration.

I would like to say, I'm still in a very big shock, it's really a shock I can never get over it in my life. My parents are so happy for me and I think everyone here is also happy and ecstatic. If it was possible for me to dance or something, I would have done that. I am really very grateful for this wonderful opportunity and I am promising on behalf of hundreds of students here that we are not going to disappoint PTDF, we are going to do our best and we are going to come back to this country to make things better for us and to improve the oil industry. We are going to do that I assure you. Thank you very much.

- **MISS. EJOKE ONOYASE**



Studying in the UK through the overseas scholarship scheme (OSS) paid off alot of dividend. As a 2003 scholar I arrived in the UK with lots of mixed feelings; what is it going to be like, what to expect in a foreign country and resigning from my job in Nigeria, what is the prospect of getting another after the post graduate program. However arriving at the UK was contrary to what I had expected, friendly staff and a more organised and structured mode of study. Adjusting to the new study pattern was the interesting part.

My class was made of Europeans, British and other Nigerians, the understanding that grew amongst us was lovely. We saw ourselves as a family and did our best to have a study group whenever we are faced with a course work or group project. That paid off at the end though. In addition to that, working closely with industry professionals also gave me a closer insight to the balance between the academic taught modules and the practical aspect. This spread to my MSc dissertation which I did with one of the leading subsea installation and construction companies in the world - Subsea 7 who provided me with materials and professional support during the period of my dissertation.

I work for Halliburton Energy Services Limited, Pipelines and Process Services Aberdeen, United Kingdom. I have in the past taken up various responsibilities and presently providing technical support to our regional Business Development team in country. I have worked on various projects amongst which are the Erha deepwater project Nigeria, Agbami deepwater Nigeria, Greater Plutonio Angola, Dhirubhai Project India and also engineered lots of pipeline and umbilical precommissioning projects in the North Sea and Europe. I have also been involved in the development of new technologies for the company. The OSS I believe is a long term project for Nigeria and training of Nigerian scholars will go a long way to harness the oil and gas industry by providing improved expertise in form of new technology and also improving on the health safety and environment legislation of the country.



Already we have scholars working for oil producing companies in country who have brought back expertise acquired internationally to assist in this development. The OSS has assisted Nigeria scholars to be recognised in the competitive oil and gas market globally, the experience gathered both from the academic and practical point of view has given confidence to many.

Personally, the OSS is a positive move whose dividend may not be felt in a large scale at the moment but looking at the bigger picture it is a wise step to the development of Nigerian nation.

- **CHUKWUEMEKA EMEA: MSc. FIELD AND WELL MANAGEMENT (2003 - 2004).**



My name is Usani Unoh Ofem, I am a beneficiary of the PTDF 2008/2009 Overseer Scholarship Scheme (OSS) where I was sponsored to study an MSc in Welding Engineering from the renowned Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, UK. To say that the PTDF scholarship provided a platform to launch my career to another level is merely stating the obvious. But most significantly, it was a rare opportunity for me to study abroad in a multi-cultural environment like Cranfield University where I obtained a distinction in a highly specialised area as welding engineering. It is pertinent to note there is a dearth of highly skilled manpower in this field, which makes welding professionals highly sort after by industry.

I will use this medium to commend the efforts of PTDF for training manpower for the oil and gas industry through its various sponsorship programmes, and consequently contributing to the local content development policy of government. However, the overall objectives of this lofty programme may remain a mirage if after expending such huge resources to train hundreds of Nigerians abroad; they can not be employed locally to contribute towards the local content initiative.

I believe that our dear nation will be the better for it if the oil and gas industries are made to absorb these crops of highly trained professionals who have excelled in their various fields of endeavour. I say this because during my studies I interacted with students from different countries, most of whom were also on scholarship and I discovered that their sponsorships were tied to their returning home to work.

Finally, I want to thank the management of PTDF for contributing to my career development through this scholarship programme.

Usani Unoh Ofem

Raw Materials Research and Development Council
Abuja



PTDF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES OF THE FUND:

EDUCATION:

- Overseas Scholarship Scheme(OSS)
- Local Scholarship Scheme(LSS)

TRAINING:

- Strategic Institutional Interventions

NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

- Project Specific Industry Demand-based Interventions
- Engineering Design Training Programme (EDTP)
- Welders Training and Certification Programme (WTCP)

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

- University Upgrade Projects

STRATEGIC SUPPORT & COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- Annual PTDF Research Grant Competition
- Universities Endowment Programme

STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INTERVENTION

PETROLEUM TRAINING INSTITUTE (PTI) UPGRADE PROJECT:

Educational, organizational and infrastructure upgrade, to achieve a world class institution of international standard at Effurun, Delta State

UNIVERSITY UPGRADE PROJECT:

The upgrade of facilities to international standards in selected departments (related to oil and Gas) in 24 Universities spread across the country in order to train Nigerians to compete on equal footing with their counterparts in the global industry.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY (ICT) CENTRES:

Provision of Information Communication & Technology (ICT) Centres in 24 Universities, 38 Polytechnics, 19 Technical colleges, 20 Colleges of Education and 102 Unity schools nationwide to encourage information technology which is the bed rock of activities in the Industry.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM STUDIES KADUNA (NCPSK)

The establishment of a National College of Petroleum Studies, Kaduna (NCPSK) as a world class institution for training of senior and executive staff in the Industry

CENTRE FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING (CSDT), PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

The development of a centre for basic skills development for artisans and craftsmen to enhance community participation in the Oil and Gas Industry

NIGER DELTA PROJECTS

As a strategic intervention towards improving man power and socio-economic development of Niger Delta region, PTDF embarked on:

- Construction of National Technical Institute in Bonny, Rivers State
- Establishment of Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas at Ukwue, Bayelsa State
- Development of Secondary and primary schools at Okerinkoko and Oporoza, Warri, Delta State.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (NTI), BONNY, RIVERS STATE

The Institute was conceived to serve as a feeder institute for human resource and technology development to meet human resource requirement of the NLNG and related projects. Components include; construction of New hostels, classrooms, laboratories, workshops and provision of water and electricity.

FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC UKWUE, BAYELSA STATE

The Polytechnic was established following the desire of the Federal Government to improve Local Content skills levels in the Niger Delta Region.

Components include; Construction of New hostel, staff quarters, administrative building, workshops, classrooms, dining hall, generator house and craft centre.

UNIVERSITIES ENDOWMENT PROGRAMME:

This is aimed at advancing indigenous research in oil and gas related disciplines for the nation's oil and gas industry. To date the Fund has endowed seven (7) professorial chairs in various universities within Nigeria.

THE PTDF ANNUAL RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION:

This programme is geared towards enhancing the capacity of Nigerian based researchers to conduct research in areas relevant to oil and gas technology development, by promoting the retention of such capacity and encouraging its application in the industry.

STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS:

The PTDF collaborates closely with various strategic stakeholders in the industry in the areas of sponsorship of publications, annual conferences, participation in local and international conferences and dissemination of information relating to the industry.

WELDERS TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME (WTCP)

To complement National efforts directed at enhancing capabilities of the Nigerian Oil & Gas industry, a welders training and certificate programme is being executed in conjunction with key industry players where 2,500 welders would be given advance training in various aspects of welding, leading to globally accepted certification.

ENHANCING FABRICATION CAPABILITIES OF THE NIGERIAN OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (EFCN)

As part of the Steering Committee, the PTDF is leading efforts at enhancing the fabrication capabilities of the Nigeria Oil & Gas Industry (NOGI). The EFCN which arose from a co-operation agreement between Nigeria and Republic of Norway is being funded and driven by the PTDF, as well as other Nigerian & Norwegian Key Oil & Gas industry players.





www.ptdf.gov.ng