



President of NAPE
UAP Chairman
Executive Committee Members of NAPE
Members of NAPE
Conference Participants
Ladies & Gentlemen

The Local Organising Committee welcomes participants to the University of Port Harcourt for this 7th edition of NAPE Mini-Conference for Tertiary Institutions. Our gathering here today is the culmination of preparatory activities which started nearly two years ago with the bidding for – and winning of - the hosting rights of the conference. Our Chief Host, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who by the way, is a petroleum engineer, and whose keen interest in the activities of NAPE has never been in doubt, led the bidding process himself. With his commitment the entire university and its various organs seamlessly keyed into the preparations. We thank the Vice Chancellor and the administrative organs of the University for the encouragement and support.

The Executive Committee of NAPE, led by the President Mrs. Adedoja Ojelabi, and the University Assistance Programme of NAPE, led by its Chairman Mr Olafioye Akinrinlola, have been generous with moral, material and financial support towards the hosting of this conference. With the University of Port Harcourt providing its facilities, NAPE covered the entire operational costs of the conference. The LOC is grateful to NAPE for awarding UniPort the hosting rights and for providing the funds.

As many of you already know, the University of Port Harcourt given its favourable location in the Niger delta, which is the hub of Nigeria's oil industry activities, decided early in its development to become an international centre of excellence in petroleum studies. Several departments, institutes and centres attest to this: strong departments of Geology, Geophysics, etc. are based in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences; leading departments of Petroleum Engineering, Gas Engineering, etc. are located in the College of Engineering; the independent Institute of Natural Resources, Environment & Sustainable Development (INRES); and our famous, world-class Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) which houses the Centre of Petroleum Engineering & Project Management, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals (CGRP), Centre for Offshore Technology, Emerald Institute of Petroleum Economics &

Strategic Studies, Centre for Occupational Health & Environmental Management, Centre for Petroleum Research & Training and the newly-established World Bank African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemical Research. All of these departments, institutes and centres have mutually beneficial partnerships with industry and foreign research entities. Whilst you are here please find time to visit these units to see what they are doing.

This 7th NAPE Mini-Conference is recording many firsts: It is the first time it is taking place in the heart of the Niger Delta, the oil capital of Nigeria, and indeed of Africa. Recently, Nigeria's economy became the largest in Africa – and much of this has to do with our oil and gas resources, the ripple effect of which has impacted every sector of the national economy. Secondly, the technical programme is rich, and fittingly so, because it is the technical programme that constitutes the essence of a conference such as this. The theme and sub-themes capture the various areas of our industry and beyond. Even the new and emerging technologies will be dealt with, from local raw material inputs into our E&P technologies - to shale, shale oil and shale gas and their impact on oil-based economies such as Nigeria's. Already the impact of shale gas in the US and Europe is taking its toll on OPEC countries' economies, whereas the fracking technology itself is fraught with unresolved controversy in the western world mainly due to environmental concerns. In NAPE Mini conferences, some thirty papers or so are delivered but for the first time more than double that number will be delivered, out of about one hundred papers submitted to the LOC Technical Sub-Committee. Consequently, we shall be running two parallel sessions for the first time. Also for the first time, we will be having a robust Young Professionals programme – and we are grateful to the sponsors (SPDC and others) and the NAPE YP Programme Chairman, Mr Adedoyin Orekoya and his committee for all their effort in putting the programme together.

A number of entertaining evening programmes have be scheduled for all participants. Please avail yourselves with these opportunities designed for your relaxation.

Finally, an interesting one-day field excursion will take off on Sunday 8th June from Port Harcourt to Enugu to see beautiful exposures of siliciclastics and carbonates of parts of the Anambra basin.

In closing this address, let me once again thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt and the university management, the NAPE President & her Executive Committee, the UAP Chairman, the officials of NAPE Port Harcourt chapter, members of the LOC, the keynote speaker and lead paper presenters, as well as all other paper presenters, and indeed all others not specifically mentioned here for all their hard work and contributions to ensure a successful conference. The LOC wishes you all a great time in *Unique Uniport*.

Thank you.

Michael N. Oti
LOC Chairman