



The Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt

Members of the University Governing Council

Members of the University Senate

Registrar, Secretary of Council and other Principal Officers of the University

Provost College of Sciences and all other Provost/Deans of Faculty

LOC Chairman and Members of the 2014 Mini Conference LOC

University of Port Harcourt Professors and Faculty

Captains of the Industry here present

Great Nigerian Students and Young professionals here present

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed

On behalf of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) Executive Committee (ExCo), and the University Assistance Program (UAP) Zonal Coordinators and Faculty Advisors, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this 7th Mini Conference organised jointly by NAPE and the University of Port Harcourt. I would like to thank immensely Prof Mike Oti (LOC Chairperson) and all other members of the LOC. This conference is sponsored financially by Addax Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited (APDNL), the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), while ExxonMobil, Danvic International, Niger Delta Exploration and Producing Limited and Geoterrain sponsored the Lead Papers and paid for the lead paper presenters to attend and participate fully in the conference. The Keynote Speaker and paper is sponsored by Shell SPDC. The University of Port Harcourt provided the funding for the Ice Breakers, the logistics, the venue and released and deployed "their structure" to ensure the success of the conference. My sincere and heart felt appreciation to all the members of the LOC, Secretary and Sub Committee (SubCom) chairpersons, many of whom are here present. I also enjoy cordiality, support and cooperation from the NAPE

President Mrs 'Doja Ojelabi and her team in the executive council, and I would like to thank her immensely and the NAPE leadership team, and all other ExCo members. The President Elect (PE) of NAPE Mr Chikwe Edoziem is also here with us. Our special appreciation goes to the Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt Prof Joseph Ajenka, who was personally present in Ibadan during the 2013 UAP Leadership Forum between 15th – 17th March 2013, to make a case for the hosting of the 7th Mini Conference in Port Harcourt. We are happy that UniPort enjoyed overwhelming support to host this conference.

I warmly welcome all of you distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Please ensure that you enjoy yourself during the 3-days conference. Take out time to visit places of interest within the University of Port Harcourt and the Garden City of Port Harcourt, as much as you can safely do so. There is a brief write up by the LOC about the history of the University of Port Harcourt and the Garden City in the Book of Abstract and Proceedings. Please make new friends and initiate new business contacts and/ or contracts. Get to know NAPE and our programs. The NAPE Executive Director and her staff are here to assist you with any information you may require. If you have not been a member of NAPE, you may seize this opportunity to register and participate actively in the activities of the Association. We have a vibrant NAPE Port Harcourt Chapter that would love to see you participate in their activities. This is not a forum to discuss the benefit of NAPE, but just to let you know that the UAP Program is one of the several benefits that you can be a part of, and provide the platform to showcase your talent and love for the next generation of leaders in the industry and academia. The Young Professional Program (YP) would enable you to mix and interact with the brightest minds and feel the pulse of what the next generation would look like. The YP have a lot of interesting programs that you will always enjoy and you will like them. During this 7th Mini Conference in Port Harcourt, they have a lot to provide and showcase. I encourage you to visit their booth and spend quality time with them.

May I also seize this opportunity to invite you to the Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE) in Lagos. The venue is Eko Hotel and Suites between November 9th and 13th 2014. We have a lot of interesting UAP and YP programs that would be of interest to you. Your students can also be, and are invited to be part of the Basin Evaluation Competition (BEC).

One of the things that NAPE is encouraging is the geological field trips and excursions. Since the last 3 or 4 years, we have resolved and ensured that during all our conferences, there must be a geological excursion. Therefore I invite you all to register for the geological field trip during this conference. Details would be provided in the course of the conference. The field guide book is behind the Book of Abstract and Proceedings. We know of the limitations of the university system. Nonetheless, we want to encourage all geoscience departments in all Nigerian universities to ensure that all our students do not graduate without the benefit of conducting supervised and independent geological field trips. The industry has noticed the gap, and NAPE is making efforts with the support of the industry and our universities to ensure that the gap is bridged as a matter of urgency. Lecturers, faculty and students are also encouraged to register for the geological excursion during the AICE in November. My sincere appreciation to Prof Amajor and Dr Mrs Oloto, and indeed to all the Field Trip SubCom members. On behalf of NAPE President and Leadership, I assure you that your contribution to this conference and the future of earth science profession cannot be quantified, and is immeasurable.

I would like you to know that there is a Grant-in-Aid (GiA) fund that is available within the NAPE UAP. The fund is meant to support brilliant students. Some of the fund is dedicated to certain specific universities and programs by their donors. We would like you to be part of the GiA as much as is possible. Visit our NAPE desk during the next three days to know more about the GiA. Some additional information is provided in the Book of Abstract and Proceedings. You may also visit the NAPE website for more information.

Let me also seize this opportunity to inform you of the Nigerian Outstanding Earth Science Lecturers Award (NOELA). This award is dedicated primarily to Nigerian lecturers who have distinguished themselves in the teaching of earth sciences. This is one of the NAPE initiatives to promote, showcase, encourage and honour our professors and other members of faculty who are actively involved in the teaching and research of earth sciences in our universities. We also want the lecturers and professors to have pride in their chosen career and honour those who have selflessly contributed to raising the standard of the earth science profession. The nomination is now open for the current year 2014. The award would be made in November during the AICE Award Ceremony. Please check the NAPE website for details of NOELA and how to download the form. Some forms are available at the NAPE desk for you to fill and submit. There is no restriction whatsoever on the number of years or academic qualification. Those that have made distinction in the geological field work and excursion, and have published field guide books and publications are strongly encouraged to participate. Emeritus professors are also qualified to be nominated and to compete.

Discussions are on-going at very high levels among the different earth science professional bodies on the need for certification in the earth sciences. Details are sketchy and therefore are not available for discussion and sharing. It may be useful to let you know, as you may already be aware, that many other professional associations now write professional examinations, and subject themselves to rigorous practical and professional process in order to get certified. In some cases, career progression and advancement is delayed until such professionals are professionally qualified. For example, many professors of law would like to be a SAN. Similarly, many professors of engineering would like to be COREN and NSE registered. The building industry, i.e. architects, land surveyors, etc., as well as the finance and accounting profession, including stockbroking and banking professionals are well known to have progressed this so far. NAPE is in collaboration with NMGS and COMEG in this and it is aimed to improve the teaching and practise of the earth sciences profession. Once certified, there would be a seal delivered to each candidate and would represent ability to execute and sanction projects in the different areas of earth sciences.

The Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) competition, Basin Evaluation Competition, technical report writing, free style mentoring, annual university geoscience competition (sponsored annually by Geoterrain Nigeria Limited) are a few of the other programs of the NAPE-UAP that you should be aware of, and students and faculty are encouraged to participate actively in these different programs. Nigerian students, in addition to being skilled in field work and geological excursion, would need to improve their technical writing, communication and presentation skills. Industry has identified effective communication as a major challenge of the Nigerian graduate in general, and the geoscience graduates in particular. This is one of the reasons why the YP initiated the free style mentoring program and teaches students on how to write CV's and technical reports with the aim of improving their communication skills. Please, encourage your students to participate actively in the students and YP programs and events.

My warm congratulations to those students whose paper were accepted and would be presenting their research findings during this mini conference. Beyond this, we expect you all to submit full papers for publications. In fact, **all best paper presenters must submit their full papers for publication.** The same abstract and papers could also be submitted to the NAPE Editor in Chief (E-i-C) for consideration, and if accepted, you will have a chance to present it during the Annual International Conference (ICE) between November 9 – 13, 2014 in Lagos. I and the NAPE leadership would hope that you will continue to develop your talent and use the many NAPE platforms and fora to further develop your capabilities. Writing, speaking and making your research finding known can only help to develop your communication and presentation skills. Many would be employers may get to know about your research interest and would approach you for further discussion. Please be proud of this opportunity to make technical presentation and it is a great achievement.

The theme of this conference “Enhancing Geoscience Education to Meet Future Energy Demands” is quite applicable to solving our energy problems. Let me quickly point out that we have left the space for many other professionals to take up opportunities that rightfully belong to us. These people are in engineering, environment and the sciences. This we hope can be corrected, especially now that there is a lot of demand for us in other areas to solve energy problems. The energy industry is not limited to petroleum industry alone. Renewable energy, solar power, gas to power, nuclear power, waste management, bio-energy, geotechnical engineering, underground water, hydro power, borehole drilling, oceanography, meteorology and weather studies, geomorphology, earthquake studies, borehole stability, clays and mud chemicals studies, quarrying, etc. are some of the spaces we have left for others to occupy. All of these have direct and indirect impact on energy supply and demands. I would like to encourage the current students and young professionals and post graduate students to explore some of these disciplines and take advantage of the available space. We have a significant role to play in the energy industry and in providing energy security, and I would like us as geoscience professionals to take up the challenge.

The 7th Mini Conference starting on Thursday 5th to Sunday 9th November, 2014 would witness the presentation of about 65 technical papers. I was told that over 100 abstracts were accepted and it was a tough decision to prune the number down to 65. This is the largest so far in the history of mini conference since inception. This is also the first time that we would be having two parallel sessions. I am really proud, and the aspiration and vision of the initiators, the founding fathers of the UAP Mini Conference is gradually being achieved. Those whose papers were stepped down did in fact pass the quality assurance test, but could not make it due to space constraints and theme relevance. May I encourage you to submit your papers in the future, and you may indeed submit same for consideration and presentation during the ICE in November. My heartfelt gratitude to the Technical SubCom members. My congratulations to all whose papers were accepted. We look forward to the best paper presenters at the end of the conference.

I would like to appreciate all the NAPE UAP Zonal Coordinators and all the Faculty Advisors.

ZONAL COORDINATORS

- SW-1 – FUTA - Dr Mrs Mary Olowookere
- SW-2 – OAU - Dr Adekunle A Adepelumi
- SE-1 – UNN - Prof Mosto Onuoha
- SE-2 – UNIZIK - Dr B. I Odoh
- SS-1 – UniPort - Prof Mike Oti
- SS-2 – UniCal - Dr Nse Essien
- North Central – Unilorin - Prof Sam Akande
- North East – ABU - Dr T. Najime

ExxonMobil has been in the forefront of supporting the University Assistance Project. Just a few weeks ago, they sponsored about 70 faculty and students from across the Nigerian universities on a 4D seismic course, and UniPort was ably represented. This is in addition to sponsoring field trips and geological excursions, and donating equipment to the universities. SHELL is sending their campus ambassadors to Nigerian universities to assist the students to build up soft skills in presentation and communication, and to raise awareness among students on the practise of petroleum engineering and recruitment guides. Schlumberger is donating interpretation and modelling software and hardware to assist students and faculty across the universities. TOTAL sponsor a large number of faculty on a yearly basis to AICE. Other companies play similar roles to assist the universities either directly, and or through the NAPE UAP. This is to let you know about a few things that the industry is doing to promote the practise of petroleum geoscience and earth science in general. If you would like to benefit, you may contact the industry representatives directly or through the NAPE UAP.

My sincere appreciation to all the members of the Advisory Committee and the UAP Chairmen, who worked tirelessly to build the institution of UAP to this enviable height. Three of them are lead paper presenters during this conference, and would serve as judges of the technical papers.

Chairmen

- Dr. Prince Kunle Adesida, fnape (Geoterrain)
- Dr. Mayowa Afe, fnape (Danvic)
- Dr. Wasiu Odufisan (ExxonMobil)
- Olafioye Akinrinlola (Addax Petroleum)

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt. The Vice Chancellor and all members of Council and Senate, the Provost College of Science, and all the principal staff of the university, professors and faculty. I also want to thank all those universities that are participating: students and advisors. Thank you all.

The mini conference is a bi annual event. The next conference would hold in 2016, and now is the time for other UAP zones to indicate interest early. The only zone that is exempted would be the South South (SS) Zone-1 under the leadership of Prof Mike Oti – host of the 7th Mini Conference in Port Harcourt. All other zones are free to indicate interest. These are the previous hosts – OAU (2012), Unilorin (2010), FUT Akure (2008), FUT Owerri (2006), ABU Zaria (2004), UniCal (2002).

Next year 2015, we shall be having the UAP Leadership Forum. This is mainly for lecturers and faculty, university administrators and education policy makers only. The date and venue would be communicated during the November conference in Lagos. The last one was hosted by the University of Ibadan in 2013. The discussion on certification may happen during the next Leadership Forum. NMGS, COMEG and the Curriculum Development Committee would be making presentation and we shall be reviewing the COMEG decree in some detail.

Finally, and once more, let me thank and appreciate most warmly the Local Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of Prof Mike Oti. NAPE President, ExCo and I are indeed grateful to you for all the hard work and coordination. Thank you sir. I also thank all our sponsors and co-sponsors: – Addax petroleum, PTDF, ExxonMobil, Shell (SPDC), Danvic International, Geoterrain Nigeria Limited, and Niger Delta E&P.

Thank you to Madam ED and all the staffs of the NAPE secretariat. Some of them may not be here in Port Harcourt but they all provided quality service to NAPE and are doing very good work at the

secretariat. I also know that I have stressed some of them a little bit, but it is a call to duty. Thank you all.

I must not forget to mention the support I received from the NAPE Port Harcourt Chapter Coordinator, Secretary and some dedicated young professionals in Port Harcourt. They made the work a lot easier for me. They provided selfless service to NAPE spending their time and resources to ensure the success of this mini conference.

The NAPE President and I would like to interact with you individually during the next few days while we are here in Port Harcourt. Please do not hesitate to contact us on any issue of professional interest that may be in your mind. We would try to provide the answers, and if we cannot provide the answers, we can at least provide the necessary guidance and point you in the right direction.

Please enjoy the conference and your feedback at the end of the conference would be appreciated.

Stay safe please, and God bless you.