

APWEN HOLDS HER 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CALABAR

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) held her 2024 International Conference Exhibition and Annual General Meeting on Monday 23rd – Friday 27th September 2024 at the Calabar International Convention Centre, Summit Hills Estate, Calabar, Cross River State with the Theme; **“Engineering Innovations and Energy Security for a Sustainable Future”**.

The conference convened a distinguished array of professionals, academics, and industry leaders from Nigeria and abroad to explore and discuss innovative solutions to the pressing challenges in the energy sector.

This hybrid conference (offering both physical and virtual participation) commenced with a FunSTEM event sponsored by Worley Foundation, where about two hundred secondary school students, teachers, and parents in Calabar engaged in interactive workshops and hands-on experiments, sparking interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The official opening ceremony was graced by notable dignitaries, including His Excellency; the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Edet ably represented by his Commissioner for Transportation, Ekpenyong Cobham; the Minister of State for Petroleum (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri; President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engr. Margaret Aina Oguntala, FNSE represented by the Vice President, South East zone, Engr. Felicia Agubata, PhD, FNSE; COREN President, Engr. Prof. Sadiq Zubai Abubakar, FNSE; Engr. Adokiye Tombomিয়ে, OON, FNSE, Patron, APWEN; Vice-Chancellor, Akwa Ibom State University, Prof. Nse Essien; Vice-Chancellor, University of Calabar, Prof. Florence Banku Obi; Chairperson of the Kenyan Women

Engineers Committee, Engr. Jennifer Gache and other distinguished guests.



APWEN President, Engr. Dr. Adebisi Osim, FNSE making her opening remarks

The conference featured three keynote presentations by Managing Director SEPLAT East, Engr. Ibiada Itotoi; Director, Business Planning and Integration, Cypher Crescent Ltd., Engr. Tombari Emeka-Duruzor and Minister of State for Petroleum (Gas), Hon. Ekperikpo Ekpo. Twenty (23) technical papers addressing contemporary issues related to the conference theme and a general technical presentation on ‘the strategies to unlocking research funding’ by an astute scholar, Engr. Dr. Imhade Okokpujie of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti was presented. Lead papers were presented by Dr. Evi Viza, CQP, CQI, MIET, FRSA, from the University of the West of Scotland, UK and Dr. Amaijaan Bertram Ikuru, Director of Corporate Services at Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board.

The event also hosted two panel sessions: one focused on "Innovative Approaches to Achieving Sustainable Energy Independence" for practicing engineers, and a second aimed at young engineers titled "Next-Gen Innovators: Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Energy Sector." These sessions fostered

Highlights of the deliberations were:

1. The energy sector remains one of the fastest-growing industries worldwide, with a 30% increase in energy startups globally over the past five years, 20% of which are led by women. In Nigeria, 37% of jobs in the renewable energy sector are held by women.
2. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy demand is projected to increase by 40% by 2040, while Nigeria's renewable energy market is expected to grow by 12% annually over the next five years.
3. Viable entrepreneurial opportunities in energy sector in Nigeria are solar power, biogas, waste-to-energy technologies, mini-grid solutions, AI-powered energy solutions, and energy storage innovations.
4. Key drivers of cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions include environmental concerns, energy security, economic benefits, technological advancements, and policy frameworks.
5. Challenges impeding engineering innovation and energy security in Nigeria include complex regulatory and policy environments, inadequate energy infrastructure, and insufficient application of AI in renewable energy solutions.
6. Additional challenges in the gas sector include limited gas storage capacity, insufficient gas infrastructure, and regulatory bottlenecks.
7. Barriers to entrepreneurship in the energy sector include limited funding opportunities for startups, inflation, foreign exchange gaps, inadequate public-private partnerships, resistance to market penetration, and brain drain.

A total of 435 participants from across Nigeria, alongside international delegates, exhibitors, and sponsors, actively participated in the conference.



Cross section of participants at the conference

APWEN PAYS VISIT TO OBONG OF CALABAR PALACE.

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), led by the President, Engr. Dr. Adebisi Osim, FNSE paid a visit to Obong of Calabar Palace after the opening ceremony of the 2024 APWEN conference.



Group photo with the Obong of Calabar

APWEN PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO THE MD/CEO NIGCOMSAT, ENGR. JANE EGERTON-IDEHEN.

The President of the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), Engr. Dr. Adebisi Osim, FNSE led a delegation of APWEN members on a courtesy visit to the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of NIGCOMSAT, Engr. Jane Egerton-idehen.

During the visit, the President appraised the MD of APWEN activities, extended an invitation to the upcoming APWEN conference and explored potential areas of collaboration between APWEN and NIGCOMSAT.

The MD, Engr. Jane Egerton-Idehen, expressed her delight and willingness to collaborate with APWEN, acknowledging the

significance of promoting gender diversity and inclusion in the engineering sector.



APWEN President, Engr. Dr. Adebisi Osim, FNSE presenting Plaque to the MD/CEO NIGCOMSAT, Engr. Jane Egerton-Idehen

The visit marked a significant step towards fostering a strategic partnership between APWEN and NIGCOMSAT, paving the way for future joint initiatives and knowledge sharing.



Group photo with the MD/CEO NIGCOMSAT, Engr. Jane Egerton-Idehen

APWEN HOLDS HER TOWN AND GOWN EVENT

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) Town and Gown online event was held on Thursday 12th September 2024 with the theme: "Empowering Young Female Engineers: Bridging the Gap between Industry and Academia". The event was well attended and insightful, with a lineup of distinguished resource persons from the industry.

The event featured three exceptional speakers;

- Engr. Omolara Ibikunle, FNSE, Customer Engagement Coordinator, SLB Alaska.
- Engr. ThankGod Egbe, CEO, CyperCrescent
- Tolulope Falola, MD, Digiscape Solutions Limited

They shared their valuable insights on the theme, emphasizing employability skills and personal stories of their journeys to success in their respective fields. The participants were engaged and motivated by the speakers' experiences and advice.

The event also included a quiz session, with winners receiving cash prizes. Notably, during the question-and-answer session, three young engineers; Ebubechukwu Ezeani, Tijesunimi Rachael Aina, Owenosa Favour Aguebor were offered 3-month internship positions at CyperCrescent, and one engineer Ulelu Daniella Chinonyerem at Digiscape Solutions.



Ebubechukwu Ezeani



Tijesunimi Aina



Ulelu Daniella Chinonyerem



Owenosa Favour

The program was well organized, and the online platform ensured seamless participation from attendees. The event achieved its objectives of bridging the gap between industry and academia, empowering young female engineers, and providing a platform for knowledge sharing and networking.

The President thanked CypherCrescent and Dihiscape Solutions for offering the young engineers the opportunity to intern in their companies, she also informed them that APWEN will be looking forward to future collaborations.

APWEN HOLDS FUNSTEM PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) held its FunSTEM Program for secondary school at the Event 45 Douglas Avenue, State Housing Estate Calabar, Cross River State on Monday 23rd September 2024, with the theme:

“Expanding Horizons in STEM Education and Professional Development Across Nigeria”.

The opening address read by the APWEN President, Engr. Dr. Adebisi Osim, FNSE is as follows;

Protocol

It gives me immense joy to stand before you today at this exciting FunSTEM event, where we are not just celebrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, but we are transforming how it is learned, appreciated, and embraced by the younger generation.

At the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), we have always believed that STEM is not just a field of study; it is a way of thinking and solving the world’s most pressing challenges. And today, we are injecting fun, creativity, and excitement into how STEM can shape our future.

Why FunSTEM?

STEM careers are the building blocks of tomorrow. In the world we live in today, from artificial intelligence to renewable energy, from infrastructure development to health innovations, STEM fields play a crucial role in defining our collective future. But to truly inspire the next generation to be part of this transformative journey, we must first ignite their passion.

We must show them that science and engineering are not distant, abstract subjects, but engaging, fun, and practical areas that have the power to change the world.

STEM is for Everyone

STEM is not limited to any gender, background, or religion. It is for every young mind that dreams of discovery, who is curious about how things work, and who wants to be part of creating solutions for today’s challenges. APWEN, as a body, has continually championed the cause of diversity in STEM, and this event today is another testament to that commitment.

We want to break stereotypes and show that science and engineering are for everyone. The gears, tools, formulas, and technology you see today represent what young girls and boys across Nigeria can use to build a brighter future for themselves and our nations.

As professionals, teachers, and parents, it is our responsibility to mentor and guide these young minds. The children here today are future engineers, scientists, mathematicians, and innovators. Let us help them nurture

their curiosity, fuel their passion, and support them as they embark on this incredible journey.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Worley, our sponsor, for their unwavering support. With your partnership, we are making great strides in ensuring that STEM education is accessible, fun, and transformational for the next generation.

To our dear participants, the young stars of today, I have one message for you; keep asking questions, stay curious, and don’t be afraid to explore.

STEM is not just about textbooks or exams; it’s about creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. The challenges you solve today can impact the world tomorrow. So, take what you learn today and build on it. Your future, are indeed the future of our nation, is in your hands.

To the parents, guardians, and educators in the room, I encourage you to continue fostering an environment where these young minds can thrive. Support their dreams, nurture their curiosity, and give them the tools they need to succeed.

As we move forward, let’s make STEM not only a pathway to a better future but an enjoyable and enriching experience for every child. Together, we can inspire the next generation of trailblazers, engineers, and problem-solvers.

Thank you all for being here today, and I look forward to seeing the exciting innovations and ideas that will come from this event. Let’s make STEM fun, and let’s make the future bright!

Thank you

ENGR. ADEBISI R. OSIM, FNSE, FNICE, FIMC
APWEN PRESIDENT



Group photo after the event

APWEN 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PICTURES

FUNSTEM PROGRAM IN PICTURES





SOCIAL DIARY

FELLOWSHIP CONFERMENT

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) heartily congratulates and rejoices with the following distinguished members on their FELLOWSHIP conferment by the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

- Engr. Mosebolatan Kehinde, FNSE
- Engr. Atinuke Wuraola Owolaabi, FNSE
- Engr. Omotayo Medinat Tella, FNSE
- Engr. Unyimeabasi Aghadihuo, FNSE
- Engr. Theresa Omolola Banjo, FNSE
- Engr. Enajite Ebiem, FNSE
- Engr. Lilian Chigozie Okorie, FNSE
- Engr. Abimbola Mojosola Tijani, FNSE
- Engr. Colarede Kunuji, FNSE
- Engr. Eberchi Ijeoma Ebeze, FNSE
- Engr. Chizoba Cecilia Iroegbu, FNSE
- Engr. Olufunke Omolola Saka, FNSE

RECOGNITION

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) heartily congratulates and rejoices with ENGR DR. IMHADE OKOKPUJIE on her RECOGNITION by Elsevier among the World's Top 2% of Scientist for 2024.



Engr Dr. Imhade Okokpujie

CONGRATULATIONS

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) heartily congratulates and rejoices with the following distinguished members on their election as Chairmen of various Branches of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.



Engr. Tola Alawode, FNSE
ADO EKITI BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Engr. Edima Ekanem, MNSE
EKET BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Engr. Oluchi Mary Jane Okoli, MNSE
AWKA BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Engr. Nimot Mulli, FNSE
IKEJA BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Engr. Tina Emwinghare Oigiagbe, FNSE
BENIN BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Engr. OluKored Kesha, FNSE
LAGOS BRANCH CHAIRMAN



APPOINTMENT

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) heartily congratulates and rejoices with Prof. Nazmat Surajudeen Bakinde on her appointment as the Vice Chancellor of University of Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology, The Gambia.



WEDDING CEREMONY

The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) heartily congratulates and rejoices with the 11TH President of APWEN, Engr. Dr. Ini Usoro, FNSE on the Traditional Wedding of her daughter.

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