

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON
PETROLEUM AND ENERGY MATTERS,
DR. RILWANU LUKMAN,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF
THE PETROLEUM TRAINING JOURNAL .
ABUJA - NIGERIA, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2002.**

Members of the National Executive Council,
Distinguished Members of the National Assembly,
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources,
The Group Managing Director, NNPC
The Executives and Chieftains of the Petroleum Sector,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen.

Permit me to start by expressing my personal appreciation to the Editorial and Advisory Boards of the Petroleum Training Journal (PTJ) for not only considering me worthy, but also having to delay the launching of the PTJ for over a year in order to ensure that I am personally present to carry this duty. I therefore feel greatly honoured to be called upon to deliver a speech and to launch this international training journal.

On a history making occasion like this, I wish to recall, that the Nigerian petroleum sector has come a long way in terms of her Hydrocarbon production capacity and human resources training and management, since the Nigerian Bitumen company a German outfit, pioneered petroleum exploration activities in the 1930's. However, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the commercial discovery of Oil at Oloibiri by Shell D'arcy an Anglo/Dutch consortium, now Shell Petroleum Development Corporation of

Nigeria Limited (SPDC). Production of oil has risen steadily from 5,000 barrels in 1958 to about 2.5 million barrel currently, making Nigeria African's leading producer and in the top ten of oil producers in the world.

There are also prospects for increasing Nigerian's current oil reserves from 22.5 billion barrels to a projected 40 billion barrels by the year 2010. These figures are hinged on anticipated new and sizeable discoveries in our deepwater blocks. Several new discoveries in offshore Nigeria made in the past seven years seem to give credence to the projection. Thus, the increasing roles of well trained personnel and a conducive environment, in not only sustaining our production levels, but also in propelling the sector to meet the foregoing targets cannot be over emphasised. In other words, well trained personnel will remain a "sine qua non" if the sector's lofty dreams are to be realised.

It is against this background that I am excited to be part of this epoch making event, that is the formal launching of our own international Petroleum Training Journal, the first of its kind in the whole of Africa. I have been informed that the idea of the Petroleum Training Journal was mooted at the meeting of the Petroleum Training Institute Management and Training Managers in the petroleum and allied sector, sometime in 1996. These regular meetings, I have been further made to understand have metamorphosed over the years into a workshop status and will be holding today here in Abuja after this book launching activities. I commend PTI Management and Training Managers in the petroleum sector for this foresight. I also commend the captains of the petroleum sector for their support in sustaining this important network and forum of petroleum training people.

I am delighted to mention that this maiden edition of the Petroleum Training Journal is unique in several ways. Not only are all the articles written by Nigerians, the journal was published and printed locally, with the high quality hallmark for which the petroleum sector is known world-wide.

Training and retraining of indigenous petroleum sector personnel are crucial to our national economy, particularly as the expectation of the sector are becoming more stringent in terms of skills, job knowledge, right attitudes, capacity growth, managerial potentials amongst others, in view of the ever changing technologies of the petroleum business and operational environment. It is with the foregoing in mind that I hereby call on the Advisory and Editorial Boards of the PTJ to be biased if possible in their concern and commitment in publishing articles on transfer of technology and sustainable capacity building, so that the Journal will continue to be relevant and reputable. Closely linked with the above is the need to ensure that this effort does not become "a flash in the oil pan" as has been the fate of several Journals. It is my earnest desire that the Petroleum Training Journal should be sustained, I am therefore using this medium to solicit the continued support of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) group, the Oil and Gas companies well as service companies in order to ensure sustenance of PTJ by ways of their:

- (a) financial assistance
- (b) regular contribution of articles
- (c) advertisement and
- (d) subscription to this Journal.

I am also please to mention that the Petroleum Training Journal has received international acceptability and arrangements to have it on the internet are already on the way. Here in Nigeria, very encouraging comments have also been received from the petroleum sector, government, private training consultants and researchers.

It is proper at this juncture to commend the Editor of the PTJ Dr. Momodu Kassim-Momodu and all members of the Editorial Board, as well as the Chairman of the Advisory Board Mr. R. A. O. Edebiri and other members of this Board for a job well done. I charge, you all not to relent in your efforts until the PTJ is established as a foremost independent international Petroleum Training Journal.

I also sincerely wish to thank the following companies for their generous donations in cash and by advertising in the journal which has made the publishing of the journal possible:

- Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. (SPDC) – cash donation
- National Petroleum Investment and Management Services (NAPIMS) – cash donation
- Pipeline and Products Marketing Co. Ltd. (PPMC) – cash donation
- Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun – 25 per cent discount on printing of 2000 copies of the journal
- Texaco Overseas (Nig.) Petroleum Company Unlimited - advertisement
- Chevron Nigeria Limited - advertisement
- Multinational Technologies Limited – advertisement, and
- Ages (Nigeria) Limited - advertisement

I wish to also thank the Executives and Chieftain's of the petroleum sector for their support of the Petroleum Training Institute over the years and to use this opportunity to shed some light on the much advertised issue of upgrading of the Institute and the role of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). The PTDF submitted a Programme of Action with one of the highlights being the development and upgrading of the P.T.I. Based on this, a Needs Analysis of the PTI was commissioned by PTDF in conjunction with Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, Scotland to redesign and upgrade the Institute to a Centre of Excellence in low and middle manpower development for the oil and gas sector. After the completion and study of the needs analysis, The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria approved a technical committee on the implementation of the Programme of Action, including supervision of the upgrading programme of the Institute to International standards.

Upgrading the education and training facilities of the Institute, will include:

- i. reorientation and auditing of all staff skill,
- ii. establishment of Continuous Professional Development (CPD),
- iii. review of existing courses,
- iv. developing and establishing academic quality Assurance and Quality control System and a Nigerian System of work place Assessment and
- v. establishing long-term affiliation and staff exchange programmes with Robert Gordon (Energy) University.

The upgrading in terms of facilities and infrastructure at the P.T.I. will include: Electrical Power Installation, IT and Telecom upgrading, building and structural repairs, utilities and services. Work to actualise all these are already progressing in earnest.

I wish at this junction to commend the Executive Secretary of PTDF Alhaji Yasuf Abubakar and his team for their foresight in fathoming and assisting to actualise this laudable programme.

Distinguished Ladies Gentlemen, I welcome you all most heartily to this journal launching ceremony.

Thank you for your attention.