

ADDRESS BY
MR. RICHARD A. O. EDEBIRI,
CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
PETROLEUM TRAINING JOURNAL
AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE JOURNAL.
ABUJA - NIGERIA. 26TH SEPTEMBER 2002.

Members of the National Executive Council,
Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman,
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.

Today is a glorious day for me, for members of the Editorial and Editorial Advisory Boards of the PTJ as well as members of the Forum of PTI Management and Training Managers in the Petroleum Sector. It is with this deep feeling and happiness that I welcome you to this historic ceremony - i.e. the launching of Volume 1 Number 1 of the Petroleum Training Journal.

We are indeed very honoured to not only have the Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy and President of OPEC launch and publicly present this Journal, but to have such a distinguished audience witness and participate in the event. The journey that got us here today has been on for quite a while. The publishing of this first volume of the PTJ is therefore a dream come-true. We envisage that the Journal will help to actualize some of the important principles involved in training to meet the ever-changing challenges in the petroleum sector.

The idea of this Journal was mooted at a meeting of the Management of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) and the Training Managers in the Petroleum

Sector (upstream and downstream) in Nigeria in February 1996. The issue of the journal remained on subsequent agendas of the meeting between PTI Management and Training Managers in the Petroleum Sector every February and September till September 1998 when Dr. Momodu Kassim-Momodu hosted the meeting as the Manager Training and Human Resource Planning of Chevron Nigeria Limited. He promised at that meeting to assist in realising the training journal dream. He thereafter made several trips to Effurun from his Lagos base to mount pressure on me for us to establish the Editorial Board and set up a small administrative structure to work on the first issue of the journal.

The Editorial Board under his leadership embarked on the search for writers of publishable materials and a fundraising drive, to raise funds for the firm establishment of the journal. Funds for this first volume came from the direct financial assistance of Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd., National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS) of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, and Pipeline and Product Marketing Company Limited. Other sources of initial funds are the paid advertisement placements in the journal by Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company Unlimited, Chevron Nigeria Limited, Multinational Expertise Limited and Ages Nigeria Limited. It was not easy getting publishable articles. That caused some delay in publishing this volume after constituting the Editorial Board and the Editorial Advisory Board. We hope that the publishing of this volume and today's public presentation of the Journal will attract more writers to the Journal.

The need for the training and high quality development of Nigerians for the petroleum sector cannot be overemphasized. Apart from formal training, there is the need for the development of avenues for continuous learning in the sector. There is also the need for the establishment of formal and informal forum or forums for engagement in intellectual exchange of ideas and discussion of issues by petroleum sector people. This journal we believe will be one such forums. It will serve as a reference training journal in which petroleum sector researchers and training professionals will publish or disseminate their findings. We enjoin

researchers to make their positive contributions by highlighting their production-related problems and discussing the necessary solutions that would enhance future development of the petroleum sector.

The dissemination of research finding by individuals and corporate bodies in any area of petroleum business would enhance the development of petroleum business. The underlying philosophy behind applied research dissemination is that petroleum sector companies with similar identified production/training problems will through the information provided by the Petroleum Training Journal spend less fund and time overcoming the particular problem. The multiplying effect resulting from this will definitely produce the needed rapid industrial growth in the sector.

We expect that academics in the tertiary institutions will make very effective use of the journal in publishing their research findings and opinions. We also hope that professionals and consultants in the private sector will use it in expressing their views and debating issues. We expect policy makers in the public sector to find it an effective means of publicizing or explaining their policies. While thanking the individual contributors to this maiden edition, we expect to receive from the production and field people in the petroleum sector for subsequent editions, articles relating to practical experience in solving production related problems.

We in the Editorial Board and the Editorial Advisory Board are jointly committed to ensuring that the Journal survives and remains a sustained current and independent authoritative international petroleum training journal.

Let me once again welcome you all to this formal launching and public presentation of the Petroleum Training Journal.

Richard A. O. Edebiri
Abuja, FCT.
26 September 2002