

PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL
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Theme: Private Sector Participation in Nigeria's Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Sector: The Prospects, Challenges and The Way Forward.

Welcome Address

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The Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil),
The Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas),
Chief Executives and Captains of Industry,
Representatives of Government Agencies and Regulatory Institutions,
PTDF Management Team,
The Keynote Speaker, Mr. Oladapo Filani,
Members of the Academia and Research Community,
Members of the PTDJ Editorial Board,
Distinguished Panellists and Discussants,
Members of the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the of the pioneer inaugural PTDF Journal Summit. On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), I sincerely appreciate your presence and participation in this significant gathering.

The theme of this Summit, ***“Private Sector Participation in Nigeria's Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Sector: Prospects, Challenges, and the Way Forward,”*** is incredibly timely. Nigeria's petroleum industry is experiencing a substantial transformation, presenting growing opportunities in areas such as exploration, geophysics, refining, gas development, processing, transportation, storage, and distribution. However, to fully realize these opportunities, we need not only investment and infrastructure but also the right policies, technical capacity, technology, research, and effective collaboration among government, industry, and academia.

Distinguished Guests,

The Petroleum Technology Development Journal (PTDJ) plays an essential role in today's Summit and serves as one of the key avenues through which PTDF advances its mandate in research, technology development, and human-capital development. The Journal provides a platform for disseminating research findings, technical innovations, industry experiences, and professional knowledge across the petroleum value chain.

As a peer-reviewed, open-access publication, it connects researchers, academic world, industry professionals, and policymakers with new paradigm that translate knowledge into innovation, industry practice, and evidence-based policy.

Thus, the PTDJ complements PTDF's research and innovation programs by offering a credible means to document and disseminate knowledge. The Summit extends this role further by transforming ideas beyond the pages of the Journal into dialogue, collaboration, and practical solutions for the industry.

The growing involvement of private investors in refining, gas processing, logistics, storage, and the distribution of petroleum products present substantial opportunities for economic growth, job creation, technology development, and building local capacity. However, we are also confront with challenges related to financing, infrastructure, regulatory certainty, access to technology, market efficiency, and technical capacity, all of which require open and constructive discussion.

As an institution dedicated to human-capacity development, research, and innovation, PTDF is particularly focused on ensuring that research outputs go beyond mere publication and move towards application, intellectual property development, and commercialization. Stronger partnerships between industry and research institutions will be critical in achieving this goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The PTDF Journal Summit has been established as a platform for ongoing engagement on critical issues affecting Nigeria's petroleum and energy sector. We anticipate that today's discussions will yield practical ideas and recommendations that can inform policy, investment, research priorities, capacity development, and industry practice.

I would like to commend our distinguished keynote speaker, Mr. Oladapo Filani, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Waltersmith Petroman Oil Limited, and our esteemed discussants for accepting our invitation to share their perspectives and experiences.

I would also like to recognize the PTDF Journal Editorial Board for initiating this program and express appreciation to the professional bodies, industry operators, government institutions, regulatory agencies, academic institutions, researchers, members of the media, and all other stakeholders whose contributions have been vital to the success of this Summit.

I encourage all participants to engage actively and constructively. Let us share experiences, examine issues objectively, and identify actionable solutions that will contribute to the sustainable development of Nigeria's petroleum sector.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all to the 2026 PTDF Journal Summit and wish us fruitful discussions and a successful event.

Thank you, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.