



c/o National Engineering Centre, NSE Headquarters, Behind National Mosque, Central Business District, Abuja.
4th Floor, NICON Plaza, Central Business District, FCT, Abuja.
www.niwe.org.ng; e-mail: info@niwe.org.ng; niwenational@gmail.com

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

ENGR. CHINYERE NNENNA IGWEGBE, FNSE, FNIWE
Tel: 0813 883 8747 E-mail: chrissieng@yahoo.com

VICE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

ENGR. DR. ADEYINKA SOBOWALE, MNSE, MNIWE
Tel: 0806 210 1020

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

ENGR. DOMINIC O. AKUBOH, MNSE
Tel: +234 806 069 1042

Our Ref. No. _____

Date _____

14th October, 2021

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

issued at the

4th INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTION OF WATER ENGINEERS WITH THE THEME "INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO WATER SUPPLY AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA" HELD AT THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING CENTRE, CBD, ABUJA FROM 12TH TO 14TH OCTOBER, 2021.

Preamble:

Water is central to human existence. The entire socio-economic development and environmental sustainability revolves around it. The unacceptable access level to potable water in urban and rural areas as well as the attendant infrastructural deficit and challenges and the quest to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal on water led to the above choice of theme for the conference.

The Nigerian Institution of Water Engineers (NIWE) is a division of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE). The objective of NIWE is to bring together practicing Water Engineers and allied professionals for technological, social and economic cooperation and advancement. NIWE also seeks to create a platform through the organisation of International Conferences, Product exhibitions for the pragmatic discussion of the problems and synthesize solutions through networking, synergy, collaboration and partnership among experts, managers, decision makers and other stakeholders in the water sector. Establishment of Water Clubs in Secondary Schools to nurture the young ones is also one of the initiatives of NIWE.

The theme of the 4th NIWE International Water Conference "Innovative Solutions to Water Supply and Water Infrastructural Challenges in Nigeria" is apt. Three (3) lead and Eleven (11) technical papers on topical issues were presented at the conference. Presentations from about ten (10) reputable water infrastructural product companies and exhibition were also made at the conference. The lead papers were presented on the conference theme by Ing. Michel De Vivo, Executive Secretary of the International Committee of Large Dams (ICOLD) and Engr. Kashim A. Ali, FNSE, mni (Chairman, FCT Water Board, Former COREN and NSE President). The third lead paper was presented after panel discussions by Dr. Dennis Daniel Mwanza, WASH Advisor,

PAST CHAIRMEN

ENGR. TUNDE
AJANAKU, FNSE, FNIWE
2010 - 2012

LATE ENGR. J. A. O.
AKINBOWALE, FNSE, FNIWE
2013 & 2014

ENGR. JOSEPH ANAYO
EZIE, FNSE, FNIWE
2015 & 2016

ENGR. ADEKOLA
OGUNDAYO, FNSE, FNIWE
2017 & 2018

ENGR. ABOLADE RASAKI
LAWAL, FNSE, FNIWE
2019 & 2020

Research Triangle Institute (RTI), UK on the title “Nigeria’s Urban WASH Crisis – What Next?”.

The conference which was held physically and virtually was attended by over 160 participants including the Hon. Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FA.Eng represented by his Senior Special Assistant, Engr. Tauheed Amusan, FNSE as well as the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Barr. Mrs. Esther Didi Watson-Jack, mni represented by Mr A. Nwakpa N. Peter, the Director Special Duty.

Summary of Deliberations:

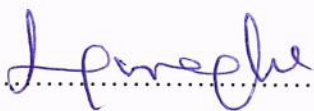
1. Water is a finite resource which cycle have not been disrupted but its timelines disrupted.
2. Runoff from places with abundant rainfall are not presently being conveyed to semi-arid regions at the moment for use.
3. State Water Corporations needs to be empowered to fulfil their statutory mandate, while State Government are encouraged to establish regulatory agencies to regulate the Water supply subsector for efficiency and performance.
4. All MDAs involved in Public works in the states should liaise with all stakeholders including water agencies during the planning of public infrastructures. Water agencies are advised to construct markers to indicate water pipelines location.
5. Government should encourage local manufacturing of water/irrigation equipment in the Country.
6. There is a need to pursue aggressively, the revegetation of semi-arid zones in the country to combat climate change.
7. Government should prioritize the use of complimentary solutions to improve the operation and maintenance of existing water infrastructures.
8. Dam safety is crucial to the sustainability of downstream communities and ecosystem.
9. Nigeria has over 140 large Dams and about 330 small Dams all over the country, these infrastructures should be optimized for better service delivery.
10. There is the need to bridge the obvious gap between policy, research and industry in the water sector.
11. Water resources development is still in the concurrent list on the present Nigerian Constitution, hampering other federating units from playing their roles in developing and managing water at the local level.
12. There is a need of conserving excess water for future use, particularly in drought prone areas inter-basin water transfers and the use of managed aquifer recharge is highly recommended.
13. Groundwater is not an exclusive resource and needs to be regulated and surcharge applied for over abstraction.
14. The National Assembly is enjoined to pass the National Water Resources Bill to promote rapid development in the water sector.

15. Life Cycle Analysis of infrastructures is key to sustainable development.
16. There is the presence of a WASH curriculum from Primary to Tertiary Schools developed by the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), Kaduna and three Universities have adopted it and implementing it at the moment. This should be replicated nationwide.
17. Waste water is being used for vegetable farming in urban centres such as Kano, Kaduna and Lagos with attendant health effects on the populace. Regulators and public health officials should come to the aid of local people by ensuring that irrigation water is of adequate quality.
18. Nature-based water Treatment materials such as plants etc. have no negative health implications and can improve economy and create jobs if pursued.
19. Water and wastewater treatment infrastructures can be simulated and optimized using relevant software. This was found to be very effective for the management of such facilities.
20. Capacity Building is key to effective planning, operation and maintenance of water supply and water infrastructures.
21. Engineers need to increase their participation in politics for effective engineering related legislations.

22. State governments and industries are encouraged to construct waste water treatment facilities all over the country.

Recommendations:

1. Appointment of Professional Boards for Water Sector Agencies and competitive recruitment for Chief Executive Officers is recommended.
2. State Water Boards need to be empowered to manage their own finances and procurement.
3. Establishment of waste treatment facilities in states is crucial to water quality management, sanitation and pollution prevention.
4. Establishment of clear regulatory framework for the water sector is key – tariff, quality of service, production of annual performance reports.
5. Nature-Based water treatment solutions are viable alternatives to chemical coagulants and research must be intensified in this regard.
6. The passage of the National Water Resources Bill has become an imperative to be urgently done without any delay.
7. Local Government Areas (LGAs) should be empowered to develop and manage water supply infrastructures in their areas while existing State Water Agencies should become regulators in their respective states.



.....
Engr. Chinyere N. Igwegbe FNSE, FNIWE
National Chairman

Signed:



.....
Engr. Dominic O. Akuboh, MNSE, MNIWE
National Programme Coordinator