 Brace Yourself! SPE 2.0 Begins...  
Okwuoma Nnajiofor

It is no secret that these are challenging times for our industry. To suggest that nerve-wrecking thoughts such as: “Where is the oil price dropping to?” “What is the impact to the future of E&P?” “What long is the “famine” going to last?” “What do we need to do to survive?” has occupied many a minds within the industry would be stating the obvious. However, with these challenges comes the activation of the “creative juices” in each and every member of this 153,000 member strong society. As it’s always said “necessity is the mother of invention” and there is “blessing in every adversity”. Being part of the solution and being able to come up with alternatives are certainly at the core of SPE’s vision in enabling the E&P industry meet the world’s energy needs. The industry is looking up to people (the society’s greatest asset) to solve their multi-disciplinary quagmires with sound solutions. Leveraging the abundant technical knowledge available within the SPE space and creating platforms for focused sharing of innovative ideas at this critical moment will help the industry sustain her competitive edge. In other words, this is the time for SPE and her members to embrace each other tightly as we navigate this challenging journey. We in the SPE Lagos section 61 will be focusing on doing just that. What a time to come on board!

In the past few months, the board of SPE, led by the 2015 president (Helge Hove Haldorsen), released several communications calling for ideas for SPE 2.0: SPE for the future. This received a significant response from her members and thousands of ideas were tabled on how SPE should constantly renew and adapt to “stay fit” in the view of its members and the industry. While the SPE Board committees will determine how we can implement these suggestions, I will like to share with you some of the focus areas highlighted in the various brainstorm sessions and what we within the Lagos section are doing and plan to do in those regards:

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Brace yourself! SPE 2.0 Begins....

- Volunteerism: By better articulating volunteer opportunities and recognizing those who do, SPE will grow and be enhanced and gain company support for members who want to volunteer. We proactively sought for volunteers for the numerous programs earmarked for this board year. We intend to create a “bigger tent” for the SPE family, by widely advertising these volunteer opportunities through our various platforms.

- Member Engagement and Loyalty: We plan to strengthen the engagement with our members, throughout their career journey from student through retirement and beyond. We are actively updating our various distribution lists and upgrading our social media outlets to achieve this. Please stay connected!

- Skill Development: This is aimed at helping YPs develop their skills. With the understanding that 80% of E&P project risks are non-technical, it is imperative to structure trainings and programs that provide YPs with the key non-technical skill sets to continue to add value to their respective companies. The YP forum is a veritable platform for this. We have already held a couple of these well received programs that have been well packaged to help students and YPs understand the different skill sets required to function optimally in the industry.

- Company Engagement & Partnership: We are very much aware of the critical role of industry partners in our sustenance and achieving the section and global vision of SPE. The support to member’s volunteerism and sponsorship remains the key factor to SPE growth. In this regard, we have re-packaged our courtesy visit to companies and tailored our Board meetings to be an avenue where we interact with senior management of the host companies. The feedback and ideas provided in such platforms has helped us refocus our programs, appreciate the expectations of our partners and improved our relationship.

Beyond these programs mentioned above, we will strive to hold our regular technical meetings; to continue to create the opportunity for technical discussions around innovative solutions to our industry challenges through study groups and forums. Furthermore, we plan to reach out to our communities in unique manners this year; details will be provided as we firm up the plans. It is certainly shaping up to be another eventful and value-adding year.

In wrapping up, let me bring to your remembrance, some of the invaluable resources available on SPE. www.onepetro.org is the online library for technical literature relating to the oil and gas business. Papers presented at SPE local, regional and international conferences can be found there. Petrowiki has recently been launched and was created from the petroleum engineering handbook. Members can update and expand content with approval from the moderator. The SPE bookstore has a range of books available. SPE webinar is another great resource where members can watch live or recorded videos on technical presentations. SPE Connect enables members to connect with other professionals in their technical disciplines. I encourage members to make use of these available resources.

Lastly, I will call for increased communication between the organization and her members in order to improve each other. Like our page (www.facebook.com/pages/SPE-Lagos-Nigeria-Section-61) on facebook, join “SPE Lagos Section” group on LinkedIn and get regular updates from our website (www.spelagos.org). In the words of the 2015 SPE President, Helge Hove Halderson, we will be listening loudly! I will like to hear from you and you can reach me on:

spelagos-chairman@spemail.org or okwuoma.nnajiofor@addaxpetroleum.com.
When you meet certain people their personalities and values need not be mentioned; you can perceive it in every word that comes out of their mouth. Such is the case with our special guest for this edition of the Newsletter. Engr. Alex Neyin’s penchant for excellence and integrity is unquestionable. Join us as we go down memory lane on personal life, SPE matters and Industry affairs with someone who is eminently qualified to discuss these.…

Please tell us about you and your family make up.

I was born in Ikpisan-Warri in the present Warri South LGA of Delta State, Nigeria. I am the second child of Mr. & Mrs. Neyin, my father a retired PWD staff and my mother a trader. I am married and blessed with five children of whom two of them are engineers also.

Briefly describe your educational and career history.

I attended the African School Warri now Ogiame Primary School where I obtained my first school-leaving certificate in 1961. I commenced my secondary education at African Secondary Modern School Warri. In 1965, I moved to Urhobo College, Effurun, Warri where I obtained my WASC and HSC in 1969 and 1971 respectively. I was employed by my Principal, Mr. J. W. Ireland to teach Science and Mathematics in Urhobo College after my HSC with a plan of Urhobo College sponsoring me to the University to study Sciences and come back as staff of Urhobo College. In September 1972, I gained admission to three Nigerian Universities and opted for University of Benin due to choice of desired course. I was admitted to study Engineering and was on Scholarship from Itsekiri Land Trust in Warri who earlier sponsored me for my HSC. In January 1995, I won a USAID Scholarship to continue my University education at the Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA in Petroleum Engineering. I graduated on May 7th 1977 with B.Sc. Petroleum Engineering.

I was given an employment offer by Gulf Oil Company, Houston, USA on May 4th 1977 and I resumed work in Gulf Oil Company District Office, Houston on May 9th 1977. Due to my desire for high education and Gulf Oil Company’s desire to retain me, I was transferred from Houston to Lafayette, Louisiana in August 1977 where I had gained admission into the University of South Western Louisiana, Lafayette to study for an M.Sc. degree in Petroleum Engineering. I completed this M.Sc. program in December 1978 while working for Gulf Oil Company, USA.

In March, 1979, I was transferred to Gulf Oil Company Nigeria as a Reservoir Engineer. Within the twenty- seven (27) years I worked for Gulf Oil Company and Chevron Nigeria Limited I held several positions such as Reservoir Engineer, Production Engineer, Remedial and Completion Engineer, Well test Engineer, Supervisor Production Engineering, Supervisor Delta South Fresh Water Injection Project, Supervisor Meren Sea Water Injection Project, Senior Petroleum Engineer, Lead Depletion Engineer, Well head Services/South Offshore Area Superintendent, Acting Operations Manager – Escravos, Eastern Operations Manager –

“the Idama Dumpflood Project was my most fulfilling moment. Apart from being a low cost solution to a reservoir management challenge, the result was outstanding; improving production from about 450 bopd to about 5,000 bopd”

You were obviously involved in so many “firsts” in the course of your career. What would you describe as the most fulfilling moment of your professional career?

You are right; it is difficult for me to choose giving the numerous exciting projects I worked on during my career. Nevertheless, the one I would categorize as most fulfilling is the Idama Dumpflood Project for a number of reasons. First of all, it was a low cost solution to a reservoir management and production attainment challenge we had in field. The alternatives would have been many times more expensive. The result was outstanding; improving production from about 450 bopd to about 5,000 bopd. Even more critical was the fact that given that it was a relatively new technology, we didn’t have the necessary support to see this through. However because of our technical conviction in the project, we stuck to our proposal. At the end it was a success story; failure would have been disastrous.

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If you could rewind the time 35 years back, what would you have done differently?

Hmmmm. Interesting question. If I could rewind time, the one thing that I would have done differently would have been to push through and stick with my decision to leave Chevron in 1985, when I got another exciting job offer from Mobil to be their Operations Manager in Eket. A job of that pedigree for a relatively young Engineer would have been a remarkable achievement. I had already handed in my resignation but was coaxed to remain with Chevron. That decision I believe would have sent a message to some people who probably sacrificed merit on the altar of nepotism and tribalism. That runs contrary to my ideals in life and was very displeasing.

Going back to your personal life. Do you feel you should have given your kids more time than you did in the course of building your career?

I would say YES and NO. Within the limits of my work time, I made out time for my kids as much as possible; especially, when I was doing a rotational job. Whenever, I was home, I inculcated a routine for my interaction with each of them on their coursework. Because I had to catch up a lot on their academic progress within my time-off, I believe it was hard on the kids. I however, made time for some fun to compensate them.

What motivates you to excel?

This is quite simple. I was born and raised in Warri. Very early in my development (I was probably in Primary 3 then), I observed that most of the top school officials were not from my locality. This got me thinking and asking questions. That was when I realized that instead of starting work after standard 6, most of these top officials went further in their education. The motto that my principal back then often told me was: “it is either the best or nothing”. He counseled me that I had the potential to be anything I desire; however I have to work hard to realize these potentials.

You have maintained a good level of activity within the industry even after your retirement. What is your typical day like now?

The 5:30 am wake-up time which I inculcated since my active work life still remains (except on days that I have jetlag). Once I am up, I pick up my chief companion (my iPad) and go through my emails. Thereafter, I check through technical websites to see acquaint myself with whatever is new. That way, you are constantly in touch with this point, he digresses and gleefully discusses one of the new technologies in the Industry “Aero Magnetic Survey” and touches on how valuable the technology would be to exploration in difficult terrains).

When I have projects that I am consulting on (FDPs, Simulation Studies, Lease Evaluation, etc) I get to them with my team. I go to Ikoyi club once in a while to swim or play tennis. I have a small gym at home where I do light exercise. I am also careful about what I eat, in order to stay healthy.

You personify SPE in Nigeria. Why the passion for SPE?

My passion for SPE originates from my days as a student at Texas A&M. As a student, you were automatically a member of SPE and you were urged to participate actively. SPE was the platform through which the industry influenced petroleum engineering education; funding the programs and even having inputs into the department’s curriculum. I believed that similar model when deployed in Nigeria would have a huge impact. One of the things I advocated for was the student free membership and e-library for each of the student chapters. I am happy that those things exist now, thanks to SPE.

Sir, for the benefit of those who might not know, please outline the history of your participation in SPE?

I joined SPE in 1975 at Texas A&M University. Since then I have been an active member of the organization. I held several executive positions including SPE Council Students Affairs Chairman 1996/97, Chairman Lagos Section 1996/97, Past Chairman Lagos Section 1997/98, SPE Nigeria Council Member 1997/98 and SPE Nigeria Council Chairman 1998/99. I led the SPE to the first ever SPE International Conference in Abuja in August 1999 and you can still see the outcome of that conference in the present professional direction the Petroleum Industry in Nigeria. I have also participated in several SPE international conferences in Houston Texas, New Orleans Louisiana, Denver Colorado, San Antonio Texas, Dallas Texas etc. I have received several recognitions and awards.
The SPE section 61 Lagos held her Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Award Night on 26th July, 2014. The event, held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, was full of glitz and glamour. This event usually marks the end of a board year and hence accounts of stewardship are rendered by members of the board on the performance of the section for the year in question. Beyond activities carried out during the year, the Audited Financial report is also discussed. This forum also presents opportunity for the leaders of SPE in this section to share a sneak peak of the future plans for the organization in Lagos. The event usually culminates with the election and inauguration of a new board to steer the affairs of the society in this section.

The event started with the arrival of guests from different companies and schools. These guests were accredited and ushered into the meeting venue. This was quickly followed by the opening prayers and welcome remarks.

**Highlight of The Section Report**

For the section report, the outgoing section Chairperson, Oghenero Ozobeme presented a summary of the activities of the section under her leadership. She recounted the numerous technical meetings and Distinguished lectures hosted within the board year. She highlighted the growth in the attendance of the section’s technical meetings and appreciated the members for supporting the section in her various activities. She also spoke about the improvements in communication between the section leadership and the university students and faculties. Highlights of her stewardship included the partnership with the Lagos state’s Power Kids Program to bring the energy4me to 50 secondary schools in Lagos reaching 1,000 students and the organization of the first field trip to Qua Iboe Terminal.
Mr. Wale Ajao (the Treasurer) presented the audited financial report for the year ending March 31, 2014. This was well received by the members as it demonstrated the healthy financial status of the organization.

The African Regional Director (Mr. Anthony Ogunkoya), The Managing Director Addax represented by the General Manager Development and Asset Management (Mr. Chikezie Nwosu) and the Managing Director Seplat, represented by the General Manager Technical (Mr. Fidel Onichabor) all presented addresses subsequently. While the African Regional director spoke on the strides made by SPE in the past 1 year and commended the leadership team, the Managing Directors spoke about their various company’s commitment to SPE and reiterated their future support of the organization; highlighting it’s value to the industry.

Several awards were given to distinguished members of the society for various contributions to the society and or the industry at large as well as for outstanding accomplishments. Some of the awards received include:

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<td>Outstanding Individual Support to SPE</td>
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<td>Olubusola Ogunbanwo (Seplat Petroleum)</td>
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<td>Young Professional (YP) Support</td>
<td>Joseph Ofili (Seплат Petroleum)</td>
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<td>Soye Adeleye (Danso Energy Resources)</td>
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<td>Uzoma Echagiri (South Atlantic Petroleum)</td>
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<td>Catch Them Young (CTY) Winners</td>
<td>Awamba Abraham Izuochukwu (Kings College)</td>
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<td>Nwanmah Chibueze (Kings College)</td>
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<td>Abbas Abdul Lateef (Honeyland College)</td>
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<td>Fambegbe Olamileke (Doregos Private Academy)</td>
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<td>Best Faculty Sponsor</td>
<td>Dr. O.D. Orodu</td>
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<td>Outstanding Volunteer Service</td>
<td>Nkechi Anasoh (First E&amp;P)</td>
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Mr. Hani Al-kalifa, of Saudi Aramco, an SPE distinguished lecturer, was hosted by the Lagos Section on April 9th 2014. He presented the topic: “Produced Water Re-Injection: Flexibility vs. Efficiency”. It was an interesting session that discussed the typical challenges associated with the optimization of produced water re-injection in mature fields. He dealt with the typical considerations during design with regards to the balancing acts in terms of limited expenditure to support the desired infrastructure, design optimization to cater for the flexibility required at high need periods as well as low need periods; keeping in mind the constraints of water treatment and discharge. Several participants utilized this opportunity to ask clarifying questions on the methodology described by Mr. Hani.

The event was sponsored by SPE Lagos Section 61.

Mr. Hani Al-Khalifa (The Distinguished Lecturer)

AlKhalifa is Senior Process Engineer and a group leader at North Ghawar Producing Department. AlKhalifa was a warded a patent for the development of a new control system for gas treatment and was awarded the CEO’s distinguished innovator of the year in 2008. AlKhalifa issued several technical papers and presentations on Produced Water Re-injection System optimization.
from the SPE Headquarters. I was a the Chairman of the ten (10) man local content Advisory Committee of the SPE Nigeria Council to the Federal Government through the Ministry of Petroleum Resources. I am a member SPE Worldwide committee on Career Guidance and Student Development. I counsel both graduate and Post-graduate Petroleum Engineering Students. I served in the SPE International Board for three years. I am currently the Chairman, Board of Trustees, SPE Nigeria Council.

Some people believe that SPE is not pulling her weight in the area of influencing national policy/and general issues affecting the industry such as the PIB, bunkering, gas prices.........What are your views on that?

SPE is an international organization based on dissemination of information on technical knowledge, and educating people to enable one become a seasoned professional so SPE doesn’t get involved in political issues. SPE additionally emphasizes high ethical standards amongst her members and official. The numerous members of SPE who hold political offices know the ethical expectations on them. These and other SPE members can attempt to influence policies as individuals; not as SPE.

However, I would like to add that Nigeria always has the option to maximize the availability of SPE in the country. For instance, they could leverage the several published works or outcomes from seminars, workshops and conferences on oil theft, Industry Bill, etc.

Our industry is obviously going through a metamorphosis in the past few years. If you were the Minister of Petroleum Resources, what would be your priority?

The Essence of the industry is to generate revenue and employment for the citizens of Nigeria, achieving these two things will be my priority. Reducing development cost, increasing efficiency are ways to achieve this. Why is our cost higher when compared to other parts of the world? Why should it cost me $8m to drill a well in the USA and cost me $30m to drill a well in Nigeria? We need to ask some hard questions in order to drive down our development cost.

We also need to have a long-term approach to things and act strategically. We need to monitor global trends and not be caught unawares. For instance today’s oil price should not come as a surprise to us; contingency plans should be in place.

We need grow our knowledge base and intensify our manpower development. Given the numerous technological accomplishments of Nigerians in the industry in the yesteryears, I would have expected that by now we should be able to completely man this industry by ourselves; but we are not there yet. That implies that there was no definite plan put in place to actualize that goal.

Finally, I think the regulation of the industry needs to be strengthened. DPR should be made up of very experienced Engineers seconded from the oil majors and service companies and they should be truly empowered to do their jobs without interference.

What is your opinion on the local content advancement and Asset Rationalization drive within the industry? Any red flags or potential pitfalls or is it an all-round success story?

This issue is dear to my heart. I remember in 1999 when we presented a document to the Former Minister of Petroleum Resources Dr. Rilwan Lukman when Nigeria was contemplating her continued existence in OPEC. Some key things which we suggested while advocating for our continued stay with OPEC included (1) The need to press for production quota based on current and future trend of each country’s population, (2) The need to rationalize marginal fields in order to build our reserve base and put us in a good position on the production quota allocation and (3) grow our local content capacity within the industry. Hence I am happy that we are moving in this direction. In itself, Asset Rationalization is a good thing. However, the major challenge facing its success is corruption. A situation where a “briefcase company” buys an asset and the company with the capabilities of developing the asset has to “play in the secondary market” would definitely have an impact on the cost of development and hence pace of development. Transparency is key; the open bidding system is what should be run.

What in your view is the greatest challenge of independent and marginal field operators in Nigeria?

The inefficiency in our system is significantly impacting the cost of development. There is a need for a complete overhaul of the system to reduce regulatory delays for approvals of costs, work programs, and others. Why should FDP approval take 1 – 2 years? How can a business man take a bank loan and have to wait for months to get necessary approvals to execute his work program? All that nonsense has to stop. Somebody has to wake up and break this mess.

Thank you sir for creating the time for this interview. It has been a pleasure speaking with you.
SPE Young Professionals at Unilag

The SPE student week in the University of Lagos commenced on the 22nd of September 2014. It was a week-long event. Members of the SPE section 61 board were invited to participate. In line with our SPE objectives, the Young Professional and the Student affairs subcommittee liaised with the Student SPE president to align various activities with the student week as follows: Ambassador Lecture Program, Women in Energy Seminar and Drilling Engineering Workshop (With an opportunity to engage the students on career guidance/mentoring).

The different segments of the event address specific educational and career needs of the participating students. Ehimhen Agunloye took the Ambassador Lecture and her presentation focused on the vast resources available to students through SPE membership; the opportunities and benefits therein. During the “Women in Energy Seminar”, Augusta Opusunju shared her career experience, highlighted the need to be persistent and diligent at work despite the challenges that comes with excelling at career and managing a family. Aasif Ali thrilled the students by teaching them the different aspects of well design, directional drilling, MWD/LWD, etc.

The event was interactive enabling the students to ask as many questions to which the YPs responded. The participating students appreciated SPE leadership for organizing these events and facilitating the coming of the guest speakers.

Ehimhen Agunloye delivering the ALP lecture
Augusta Opusunju inspiring the ladies during her “Women in Energy” Seminar
Aasif Ali delivering the Drilling Engineering Workshop

A cross-section of Unilag Student during the event
A group photograph with the Unilag Student members after the event
The high point of the AGM was the election of the new board members. The new board to be led by Okwuoma Nnajiofor (of Addax) was inaugurated that night by Mr. Tony Ogunkoya. Members of the 2014/2015 board include:

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<tr>
<td>Okwuoma Nnajiofor</td>
<td>Addax</td>
<td>Section Chairman</td>
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<td>Oghenero Ozobeme</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Past Chairperson</td>
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<td>Ernest Mkpasi</td>
<td>ExxonMobil</td>
<td>Program Chairman</td>
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<td>Fanyama Okoli</td>
<td>Schlumberger</td>
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<td>Michael Oyere</td>
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<td>Temitope Oshuntuyi</td>
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<td>Augusta Opusunju</td>
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<td>Olatunde Kuku</td>
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<td>Collins Osuji</td>
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<td>Oando</td>
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<td>Yetunde Orenuga</td>
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<td>Augusta Igweze</td>
<td>Seplat</td>
<td>Student Affairs Chair</td>
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<td>Olufemi Odusote</td>
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<td>Asst. Students Affairs Chair</td>
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<td>Olisaka Onugbolu</td>
<td>Chevron</td>
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<td>Aasif Ali</td>
<td>Schlumberger</td>
<td>Career Guidance Chair</td>
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<td>Wale Ajao</td>
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<td>Paul Fwangkwal</td>
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<td>Awan Eli</td>
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SPE Lagos Section 61: 2014 Annual General Meeting

1. Mr. Horace Awi receiving his award
2. Mr. Chikezie Nwosu displaying his award
3. Fidel Onichabor receiving an award on behalf of SEPLAT
4. Wale Ajao receiving an award on behalf of Afren’s MD (Mr. Adebayo Ayorinde)
5. Mrs. Adeidunnu Ubah receiving an award on behalf of Addax
6. Olubusola Ogunbanwo receiving his award
7. Francis Nwoaechi conducting the election
8. Guests having their dinner
9. Section of student awardees
10. Outgoing board pose for picture with dignitaries.
SPE Lagos Section 61 shines at 2014 ATCE!!!

At the recently held SPE International Annual Technology Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) in Amsterdam, SPE Lagos section 61 was honoured as a recipient of the President’s award for section excellence. This was given to her in recognition of her deployment of several high impact programs that were exemplary demonstration of SPE’s objectives. The award was also in recognition for sustained membership. The pictures below show the 2013/2014 SPE Lagos Chairperson, Oghenero Ozobeme clutching the award while being flanked by some past and present SPE International and Lagos Chapter officials.

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SPE Lagos Section 61 Young Professional (YP) Forum: Building Tomorrow’s MVPs from Today’s Rookies

On Saturday 27th September, SPE Lagos Section 61’s Young Professionals (YP) gathered at the Hardley Suites, Victoria Island to participate in 2014 YP Forum (an integrated mentoring and networking event). The theme for discussion for the event was “Building Tomorrow’s MVPs from Today’s Rookies”. A carefully selected list of guest speakers who did justice to this topic included: Mr. Anthony Sawyerr (Head – Well Engineering and Services, Oando Energy Resources), Mr. Ugo Oguamanam (Subsurface Engineering Manager, ExxonMobil Nigeria) and Mr. Olafioye Akinrinlola (Head of Exploration – Addax Petroleum).

The welcome address was given by the section’s YP Chair Mrs. Priscilla Enwere. During her presentation, she highlighted the section’s YP activities in the past year and the proposed YP activities in the new board year; calling for support from all the members to ensure optimal benefits from the planned programs. Thereafter, the speakers took turns to deliver their individual insight to the topic of discussion and proffered varied advice to YPs. Tony Sawyerr highlighted employer expectation for progression, different leadership styles available and gave a few tips on how to make it to the top and be outstanding in one’s career. Lafioye Akinrinlola discussed a list of success factors and a list of things to develop, acquire, think on, decide on and do in order to be an MVP and stand out in one’s career. In addition, Ugo Oguamanam of Exxon Mobil reiterated the need to constantly plan, re-focus and re-evaluate.

This was followed by a session of Q&A and wrapped up with a period of refreshment and networking amongst YPs.
On Friday September 12th, the SPE Obafemi Awolowo University chapter organized a Technical presentation Forum. The forum was geared at providing a platform for cross-learning amongst students from colleagues returning from various internship experiences. This forum also provided the presenters opportunity to hone their presentation preparation and delivery skills. This maiden edition was well attended, with participation from over 150 students. They had six (6) presenters for this event. See the event’s picture gallery below:

Abosede Oladipo presenting on Facility Engineering
Olumide Oladoyin presenting on Drilling & Completions
Damilare Akinloye presenting on SPE: The World if Opportunities
Mobolaji Abegunde presenting on Subsurface Engineering
Phillip Akinomiora & Michael Nosa presenting on Reservoir Engineering
Solomon Enenche presenting on Production Engineering
Cross section of participants at the event
The Presenters in a group photograph with the PE executives
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We can easily be reached at:
Society of Petroleum Engineers
Lagos Section 61
SPE House, Block 109, Plot 8, Henry Ojogho Crescent,
Lekki Phase 1
Lagos
Tel : (01) 876-8895, 08139339076

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**SPE NAICE 2015**

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