

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE HIGH LEVEL  
POLICY FORUM ON ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION AND  
MOBILITY IN AFRICA HELD AT NICON LUXURY HOTEL,  
ABUJA, NIGERIA FROM 17<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2016**

**PREAMBLE**

A High Level Policy Forum was organized by the joint collaboration of Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (**COREN**), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) Regional office, Jakarta, UNESCO Regional office, Abuja, Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (**FEIAP**) and the International Science Technology and Innovation Centre (**ISTIC**) for South-South Cooperation.

The Forum was on Engineering Accreditation and Mobility in Africa with the aim of forging intra and inter-regional cooperation for Engineering Accreditation and mobility of certified Engineering Personnel within Africa and between Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

The Forum was made up of engineering experts, academicians and focal national and international entities from Jakarta, Malaysia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Sudan and Cameroon. They met for deliberations at the NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Accreditation visits were carried out between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, **Engr. Babachir David Lawal** represented by **Amb. Olukunle Bamgbose**, the Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs was the Special Guest of Honour invited for the Opening Ceremony while the Chief Host of the event was the Honourable Minister of Power, Works & Housing, His Excellency, **Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN**, represented by **Engr. Bala Danshehu, FNSE**.

**Engr. Kashim A. Ali, FNSE, mni**, President of COREN addressed the forum during the opening ceremony with a welcoming address on how Engineering Education has evolved in Nigeria.

Addresses were also made by both UNESCO Regional Director in Nigeria, **Dr. Benoit Sossou**, represented by **Dr. Enang Moma** and the Representative of UNESCO Office, Jakarta, **Prof. Shahbaz Khan**, as well as by the Immediate Past President of FEIAP, **Ir. Dr. Chuah Hean Teik**

Goodwill messages were delivered by:

- i. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Environment, represented by **Dr. Bukar Hassan**.
- ii. The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria, **His Excellency, Datuk Lin Juay Jin**
- iii. A Member of the House of Representatives, **Engr. Ali Wudil, FNSE**.
- iv. The Honourable Minister of Power, Works & Housing, **Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN**, represented by **Engr. Bala Danshehu, FNSE**.
- v. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Communications, **Barr. Adebayo Shittu**.

vi. The Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Rural Development, **Engr. Suleiman Adamu, FNSE.**

The Honourable Minister of State for Industries, Trade and Investment, **Mrs Aisha Abubakar** and the Secretary to the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, **Engr. Prof. Michael Faborode, FNSE** also attended.

The Technical papers presented were:

- UNESCO's Role in Standardization of Engineering Education by **Prof. Shahbaz Khan**, Director and Representative of UNESCO Office, Jakarta
- Engineering Mobility, International Accreditation and FEIAP Engineering Education Guidelines by **Ir. Prof. Dr. Chuah Hean Teik**, Immediate President, Chairman, Standing Committee on Engineering Education Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP)
- The Role of COREN in Mentoring Engineering Qualifications and Mobility in Africa by **Engr. Kashim A. Ali, FNSE, mni**, President of COREN
- Overview on the Benchmark Minimum Academic Standard for Engineering Qualifications in Nigeria by **Prof. J. A. Olorunmaiye, FNSE**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ilorin, Ilorin. Nigeria, Former Member of Council of COREN.
- Engineers' Accreditation and Mobility in Tanzania and East Africa by **Engr. Benedict Mukama**, Assistant Registrar, Engineers Registration Board, Tanzania.

- Highlights of Engineering Council Act (Ghana), Accreditation of Engineering Practitioners and their Mobility in West Africa by **Ing. Augustine Kuuire** (Chairman of the Governing Board of the Engineering Council, Ghana)
- Engineering Qualification in Sudan by **Prof. Dr. Ingr. Ali A. Rabah**, Engineering Council of Sudan
- High Level Policy Forum on Engineering Accreditation and Mobility in Africa by **D.M Wanjau**, Chairman of Engineers Board of Kenya
- Engineering Accreditation in Cameroon and Efforts for Standardization in Central Africa by **Pr Robert Nzengwa**, Faculty of Industrial Engineering, University of Douala, Cameroon

There were also plenary technical sessions for establishing cooperation and mobility program that supports joint postgraduate programs, researchers and university staff as well as joint projects to enhance higher education worldwide.

#### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

At the end of the High level Forum the following observations/recommendations were made:

- 1) At the recently concluded General Assembly of Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) in Malaysia, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) was officially accepted as a full member of FEIAP.

- 2) Engineering is a major driver for social, economic and human development; therefore there is a strong need for mobility of personnel, hence the need for harmonized accreditation and mutual recognition of qualifications
- 3) The initiative to internationalize Nigerian Engineering Qualifications clearly demonstrates the determination of COREN to align with current trends and development in Engineering across the globe and to provide a framework for other African countries in meeting international engineering education qualification standards.
- 4) COREN may need to promote exchange programmes within global academic institutions and professional engineering bodies.
- 5) There are significant challenges in the development of Engineering in Africa. Some of which include the following:
  - Decline of interest and enrolment in engineering education and training by young people, particularly women
  - Problems of brain drain of the most talented engineers for many African countries (and other developing countries)
  - The need for greater public and policy-maker awareness of the need and importance of engineering in African countries
  - Shortage of Engineers to support the development of the continent which includes slow development, absence of opportunities, reduced quality of products & services,

reduced sustainability of solutions, and absence of harmonization of the accreditation systems.

- 6) There is need to harmonise gaps and opportunities and the development of a road map for engineering qualifications standardizations in Africa
- 7) There is need for COREN to help pilot other African countries in meeting the international Benchmark and in recognition of engineering qualification globally.
- 8) Transportability of qualifications will be critical in the future not only for academic credits but potentially for accreditation as is currently being developed. The need exist for increase mobility between countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific hence
  - All African countries need to rise up to the level of international Standard for universities through an African Network.
  - Involving a number of African Universities to offer jointly supervised PhD qualifications leading to a doctoral degree that is recognized by participating countries.
  - Establishing cooperation and mobility program that supports joint undergraduate and postgraduate programs, researchers and university staff as well as joint projects to enhance higher education worldwide.
- 9) There is need to periodically review and update the BMAS in view of increasing knowledge and changing technologies in the world.

- 10) Developing and emerging economies like Nigeria can leverage this mobility platform for international cooperation and development which is in line with UNESCO's vision.
- 11) There is need to have more industries to establish professorial chairs in the universities and build more Industry/Academia integration.
- 12) In order to develop green or sustainable engineering which is critical for engineering mobility, there is the need to explore new models of engineering education with global perspective
- 13) There is need for African Governments and relevant stakeholders to key into this initiative of ensuring mobility of Engineers by being supportive of this initiative of COREN
- 14) There is a need for hands-on post graduate training to enrich Engineering proficiency just like the Supervised Industrial Training Scheme in Engineering (SITSIE)

In conclusion, the participants commended the efforts of COREN, UNESCO Jakarta, UNESCO Abuja, FEIAP, ISTIC for organizing this High Level Policy Forum.

***Engr. W. Kamila Maliki, FNSE, mni.  
Registrar, COREN***