



FUTA NEWS

EXPERT X-RAYS NIGER DELTA OIL AND GAS CONFIGURATION

An expert in the oil and gas sector has highlighted loss of primary well control, selection of wrong casing types and grades, wrong mud weight, wrong casing depth and pressures exceeding equipment rating as major consequences of drilling risk in the exploration and distribution process of oil and gas for the nation's consumption. Dr. Berti Maduka Ozumba, Head, Regional Geology and Data Integration of the Shell Petroleum Development Company, Port-Harcourt, made this assertion while delivering the 2014 Annual Lecture of the School of Earth and Mineral Sciences of the Federal University of Technology, Akure. Ozumba who spoke on "Niger Delta Regional Stratigraphy and Oil and Gas Prospecting" dwelt extensively on the configuration of the oil and gas distribution in the region.

He described the process as a lifecycle in various phases from exploration to abandonment. He explained that to proceed with development and generate income in the short to medium term, the main size of the field must be taken into consideration as a risk factor, describing risk as delay of first oil and maybe changes in economic scenario. The guest lecturer emphasized that an exploration project which is usually an expensive long-term undertaking involves life cycle from concept to initial production and can take as long as ten (10) years.

He listed strategic planning, play generation, acreage acquisition, prospect definition, initial discovery, appraisal and development and production as life cycle elements

affecting the exploration process. He traced the distribution process from exploration to maturity and to abandonment, disclosing pore pressure prediction challenges as major hindrances in the successful drilling of oil. He noted however that factors like price, energy sources, supply and demand alongside technology and climatic change would impact the future of the region and by extension the nation in the area of oil and gas distribution.

Speaking earlier the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola described the guest lecturer as a pride to his profession who has acquitted himself creditably well and contributed immensely to the development of the oil and gas sector in the country. He lauded the Management of the School for also using the occasion to honour some outstanding alumni who are adding value to the nation and flying the flag of FUTA loftily. He stated that the Institution was proud of its alumni whose exemplary efforts have assisted the University in its quest to become one of the best Universities of Technology in the world.

He added that the award recipients who had distinguished themselves in their professional callings possess unique and sterling attributes which stand them out amongst their peers. He urged them to bear in mind that more responsibilities have been bestowed on them, emphasizing the need for them to always remember their alma mata and devise ways of giving back to the Institution. He called on them to encourage colleagues who are making waves in the diaspora to remember their routes to sustain its glory.

Daramola stated that the distinguished awardees have become global citizens contributing to peace and economic productivity across the globe. He admitted that the School of Earth and Mineral Sciences has successfully re-linked the University with the industry through its relentless activities evident in the relationship with the guest lecturer, describing it as a product of transformational leadership which is uniquely characterized by the cooperation and commitment of staff of the School towards collective Institutional success.

In his remark, the Dean, School of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Professor Idowu Odeyemi celebrated the awardees, describing them as worthy ambassadors who have

continued to stand out in their chosen fields. He commended the efforts of the awardees for making the University proud, haven distinguished themselves and for their enormous contributions to national and international development.

Professor Odeyemi lauded the contributions of the first substantive Dean of the school of Earth and Mineral Sciences (1983-1985), Professor Adebisi Afonja who is also the first Professor of Engineering in FUTA for laying a solid foundation to thread on. He added that the School of Earth and Mineral Sciences is committed to constantly honouring its alumni and citizens who have added value and are keeping the dreams of the School alive and contributing to national development.

SEMS 2014 honours list:

Dr. Berti Maduka Ozumba, Mr. Benson Awomewe, Mr. Deji Filani, Mr. Dotun Oyetunde, Mr. Elliot Ibie, Dr. Ernest Afesimama, Alhaji Ishiaku Mohammed, Mr. Nosa Nomorodion and Mr Wole Shebioba.