

COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIRST MANAGEMENT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES CAPACITY BUILDING NETWORK (NWRCBNet) HELD ON THE 20TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.

PREAMBLE:

The first Management meeting of the National Water Resources Capacity Building Network (NWRCBNet) was held on the 20th of September, 2011 at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun reiterated the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Education Funds (UNICEF) assertion that over 1.1 billion people in the world currently do not have access to clean and safe drinking water sources and 85% of these people live in the rural areas. He said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set at the Millennium Summit of 2000 included the reduction by half, in 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to have access to affordable safe drinking water. It would however, require concerted effort to achieve the goal about four years from today to 2015. A World Bank Project Performance and assessment study produced by the bank's Independent Evaluation Group, recently raised fears on Nigeria's march towards the Millennium Development Goals in the water sector. Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index had earlier in 2006, indicated that Nigeria had a '*Low Human Capacity Development status in the water sector*', and is rated 159th out of 177 countries under review. He opined that whatever policy would be formulated at the meeting, should clearly contain steps and strategies that would achieve increased service in the provision and supply of good water quality standard at levels that will be affordable and accessible to all.


The Executive Director of National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna, Dr. Olusanjo A. Bamgboye informed the meeting that the Network was conceived and is being run to respond to the challenges of the water sector's low human and institutional capacity status as can be seen in the mission and objectives of the Network. He said that the Administrative Structure of the Network which include the Management and Technical Committee will meet as follows: The Management Committee will meet once a year and their members are:- the Executive Director, NWRI Kaduna, Director of Training NWRI Kaduna, the Vice Chancellors of the partnering institutions or their Representatives and the Coordinators of the partnering institutions established for the network while the Technical Committee which include Director of Training NWRI Kaduna and the Coordinators of the partnering institutions is to meet quarterly and this meetings shall be rotated among the partnering institutions. He further briefed the meeting of the challenges of the network which include: Network Management, Administration and Functionality; Adaptation of Network models suitable for Nigeria/West African

region; Funding for Sustainable Network; Strategy for Network Expansion and Contributions to UNESCO Category 2 RC-IRBM. During the one day event, Ogun-Oshun River Basin Development Authority and Ogun State Water Corporation (member of the South West Network) presented papers on the challenges facing their organizations. The two organizations lamented the shortage of young and experienced Engineers/Scientists to operate and maintain existing water infrastructures. They pointed that the establishment of NWRCBNET is a positive step to address shortage of manpower in the sector. Thereafter, each coordinator of the partnering institutions presented activities of their zone within the last one year.

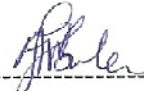
During the meeting, several issues and challenges in the Water Sector were discussed and the following communiqué were reached:

- The Network Partners congratulate the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, Mrs. Sarah Reng Ochekepa on her appointment and plan to pay her a courtesy visit at the earliest opportunity.
- Each Network Institution to embark on training needs assessment in their areas of operation with a view to proposing relevant courses geared towards solving their specific problems.
- The network Zonal Centers are to conduct Water Resources Facilities Assessment in their zones.
- Each partnering institutions to commence the Post Graduate programmes developed by the network for the water sector, especially MSc. in Integrated Water Resource Management
- Small Units/Centers/Academic Departments within the Network are advised to find a way of incorporating the 2-unit course on Integration of Water for Sustainable Livelihood in their academic curriculum
- Network Partner Institutions to organize zonal workshops to sensitize and mobilize all other institutions in their zones with a view of recruiting them into the Network.
- A model building structure to serve as Zonal Centre in the Partner Institutions to be designed by NWRI for possible funding.
- Technical Committee to meet and come up with research topics in areas of Water Resources challenges in their various zones and develop proposals for solutions.
- Next Management Meeting to be held at Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka in September, 2012 and the next Technical Committee Meeting is to hold during the 3rd week of November, 2011 at the University of Calabar, Calabar.

Signed:



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