



CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

OF THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE WITH THE THEME GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER RESOURCES – PROCESSES, IMPACTS AND ADAPTATIONS, HELD AT THE OLUSEGUN OBASANJO PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, ABEOKUTA FROM 15th – 17th OCTOBER, 2018.

Preamble:

Water is central to human existence. So, the entire socio-economic development and environmental sustainability revolves around it. The importance of this finite resource to the lives of all Nigerians prompted the need to developing a framework towards making the water sector a pillar for food security, job creation, water supply, sanitation and hydro-power generation. It is on this background that Nigerian Institution of Water Engineers (NIWE) was established to serve as the platform for people dealing with water to interact.

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 organisation of International Conferences, Product exhibitions for 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 2nd NIWE International Water Conference “**Global Climate Change and Water Resources – Processes, Impacts and Adaptations**” is apt and in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Number 13 (Global action against Climate Change) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Fourteen (14) technical papers and a CPD Training on Procurement were presented in addition to the Lead Papers on topical issues in the fields of Water, Environment, Renewable Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change.

Observations

At the end of the three-day discussion, the conference observed that:

1. Climate Change is a gradual process triggered by greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse effect and global warming. Its impacts including temperature rise, extreme weather conditions such as drought and flood, changing rainfall patterns and attendant economic losses amongst others are felt by both developed and developing countries, the rich and the poor in all sectors of the society. Therefore, every country must take climate change seriously.
2. River Basins in the country are structured based more on political region considerations rather than hydrological areas considerations.

3. Lake Chad is fast moving towards total extinction as available data shows that it has shrunk by more than 90% within the last 45 years orchestrated by climate change, therefore saving the Lake Chad is a task that must be done to restore the environment, means of livelihood and mitigate conflict and rural-urban migration amongst others.
4. There is insufficient manpower and low capacity in available manpower required to provide the needed services in most water related institutions in Nigeria, while required skill to predict disasters is a necessity.
5. Most water facilities, especially Dams in the country require proactive attention in terms of auditing, integrity assessment and monitoring.
6. There appears to be inadequate collaboration/cooperation between the government and private sector. Instead of being partners in progress they seem to be in competition.

Recommendations

In view of these, the following are recommended:

1. The United States (US) should be persuaded to reconsider its stand on the implementation of the Paris agreement and return to the negotiating table at the next climate change summit holding in Katowice, Poland in December, 2018.
2. Cooperation, collaboration and continuous commitment of the Lake Chad Basin Commission member states and indeed the international community is required to save the Lake Chad from Total Extinction.
3. Massive and continuous enlightenment of policy makers and citizens on the issue of climate change, impacts and adaptations is strongly recommended.
4. Government should take the lead in encouraging public-private partnership in the delivery of adequate and functional infrastructure in the water sector as well as a sustainable maintenance culture.
5. The Government should ensure efficient and effective mechanisms are in place towards achieving the sustainable development goals on climate change, clean water and sanitation alike.
6. Periodic Institutional water audit recommended.
7. Strengthening of collaboration of professional bodies such as NIWE, meteorological agencies, Water MDAs, Industries, the private sector, development partners and the academia is highly recommended for information sharing and further beneficial actions.
8. MDAs and organisations without procurement Units are recommended to establish one to enhance value for money.
9. The Nigerian Institution of Water Engineers (NIWE) should proactively provide expert advice to government and industries on matters of national interest in the field of water, environment and climate change as well as water-related disasters.

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National Chairman