



From left, External Communication Lead, Mr Francis Nwaochei; Chairman, Mr Osayande Igiehon and Vice-Chairman/Chairman Elect, Mr Bernard Oboarekpe, all of Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Nigeria Council, at the press conference preparatory to SPE Nigeria Annual International Conference & Exhibition (NAICE 2013), in Lagos, recently.

Stakeholders to brainstorm on remedies for crude oil theft

STAKEHOLDERS in the oil and gas industry are meeting soon to brainstorm on remedies to the increasing crude oil theft, depleting reserves and dwindling revenues from crude oil sales. Oil theft and lower oil revenue are currently giving serious concern to the Federal Government.

This is because Nigeria is a mono-economy which relies heavily on crude oil sales to generate about 95 per cent of her foreign exchange earnings.

To this end, experts said they would use the occasion of this year's exploration conference being organised by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to look at the major solution to the problem of oil theft and its attendant problems in the economy.

The conference, tagged Nigeria Annual International Conference and Exhibition (NAICE), comes up in Lagos between July 30 and August 1, 2013.

In a chat with the *Nigerian Tribune* at the weekend, the SPE Nigeria Council

chairman, Mr Osayande Igiehon, stated that the theme of the conference: 'To Grow Africa's Oil and Gas Production: Required Policy, Funding, Technology, Techniques and Capabilities', was carefully chosen having observed that crude oil reserves in the region have continued to nosedive.

The conference aims to provide a robust platform for the governments, industry operators and academia to position themselves for the aspired production growth in the oil and gas industry as this is crucial towards achieving needed economic growth in Africa and meeting the world's growing energy needs.

Igiehon noted that: "As exploration of crude oil never ceases, there is the need for discovery of more reserves to replenish those already extracted from oil wells.

From inception of oil discoveries in Nigeria, you would have observed that after much exploration from a well, it will be abandoned for other oil wells when that one becomes less economical to operate.

"So, the challenge of inventing new technologies to aid new crude oil discoveries and to reduce cost of operation would be discussed. More so, incessant crude oil theft in the region and possible lasting remedies would also be discussed because of the spate of crude oil theft in the region."

The participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas industry has increased dramatically since the enforcement of Nigeria Content Act and experts say there are possibilities that more opportunities would be given to indigenous operators and modalities as this would be discussed at the conference.

The marginal field best practices workshop will feature seasoned experts who have successfully put marginal fields on production and they are expected to share their experiences and challenges.

At the end of the conference, participants through the SPE Nigeria Council will issue a communiqué to regulators on the outcome of their deliberations.

oil consuming nations disagree on oil pollution

MAJOR oil consuming nations have renewed their battle against crude oil producers over alleged pollution of the environment. They maintained that crude oil and natural gas were responsible for the pollution of their nations and the global community.

The petroleum importing nations, through the platform of International Energy Agency (IEA), has launched a programme known as "The Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative" to boost the development of renewable and eliminate the application of fossil fuels which they alleged was responsible for pollution in different parts of the world.

The Executive Director of the IEA and a member of the Advisory Board of the SE4ALL initiative, Maria van der Hoeven stated that, "The Sustainable Energy for All initiative is a rallying cry to tackle the twin crises of energy poverty and climate change, and this global tracking framework is an important first response." Crude oil importing nations include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. These nations posited that: "By measuring the scale of the challenge, it provides a crucial reference against which the partners of the SE4ALL initiative, and all of us, can track progress towards building a cleaner energy system for all."