

# Igiehon: Acquisitions and Divestments are Normal Course of Business

The Chairman of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Nigeria Council, Mr. Osayande Igiehon, recently spoke with select journalists on the upcoming conference of the association and recent developments in Nigeria's oil and gas industry. **Ejiofor Alike** presents excerpts.

*Could you please give us an overview of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)?*

The SPE International is not-for-profit professional membership association, founded in 1957, with membership open to all professionals engaged in oil and gas exploration, development and production. The mission is the collection, dissemination and exchange of technical knowledge and related technologies and to provide opportunities for professionals to enhance their technical and professional competence.

The SPE International currently has 104,000 members in 123 countries, with 187 Sections and 238 University Chapters.

The SPE Nigeria started in 1973 with Lagos Section but today, it has five Sections - Abuja, Benin, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Warri with 25 University Student Chapters across Nigeria; and a membership of over 5000. The SPE Nigeria Council, established in 1987, is the umbrella body for SPE Sections in Nigeria.

*What is SPE Nigeria doing to bridge the skill gap between the academia and the oil industry, so as to ensure that Nigerian graduates are equipped for the challenges in the field?*

The first thing is that today, SPE sponsors the Committee of Heads of Petroleum Engineering Departments. This is a forum where we have brought all the heads of petroleum engineering departments together. We sponsor their meetings

