

COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED AT THE END OF THE 10th MANDATORY CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MCPD)

Communique issued at the end of the 10th Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) workshop of the Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (ICCON), held at the banquet hall, airport hotel, Ikeja, and Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIIRO) Oshodi, Lagos State on 9th & 10th May, 2018.

INTRODUCTION The Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (ICCON) held its 10th Mandatory Training Workshop with the theme "ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHEMISTRY: A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT" on Wednesday, 9th and Thursday, 10th April, 2018 at Airport Hotel, Ikeja, and Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIIRO) Oshodi, Lagos State respectively. There were Hundred and Thirty One (131) participants in attendance, from both public and private sectors. The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Felix E. Okieimen, President, Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (ICCON) and the key note address was delivered by Mr. Abimbola S. Babatunde, Managing Director, BLENDTECH Nigeria Limited. Workshop was declared open by Dr Jacobs, CEO Jacobs Wine and President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN). The objective was to impart knowledge and skill to the chemists with the aim of exploiting available materials to create value and hence wealth. It is also meant to showcase chemists as major players in any country's economy by means of utilizing knowledge gained from Chemistry. Two technical papers were presented at the workshop and there were three practical sessions.

The two papers presented were: · Waste Utilization in the Development of Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs), by Dr Chima Igwe, Director/ Head Chemical, Fibre and Environmental Technology Department, FIIRO. · The Role of Chemists in Innovation and Start-up Enterprise by Dr Dele Oyeku, Director, Extension and Linkage FIIRO. The practical sessions were demonstrations on the Production and packaging of Zobo drink, Orange juice and Electroplating by Christian Eziolise, Micheal Okebugwu and Philip Ige (FIIRO Staff). The interactive sessions provided opportunities for participants to ask questions, make valuable comments and contributions while the presenters provided answers.

OBSERVATIONS The workshop observed that: · ICCON is playing a laudable role in capacity building in ensuring effective growth of Chemistry profession in the country. · Nigeria is still a virgin nation with a lot of resources to be explored and exploited therefore Chemists should utilize these opportunities to develop small scale industries that can be scaled up to grow Nigeria's economy. It should be noted that, what grows economy are raw materials produced in large quantity. · Chemist entrepreneurs should become resource managers, job and wealth creators so contribute to the Nation's economic development through establishment of Micro, Small and Medium- Scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

· There is need for Chemists to continue to identify opportunities of entrepreneurship in order to stop the influx of non-Chemists and quacks into the practice of the profession. · Waste-especially agricultural waste, should be harnessed by MSMEs as potential raw materials. · Chemists are encouraged to invest in product value-addition chain for overall wealth creation. · Innovative efforts of Chemists with entrepreneurial skills that have begun to commercialize are commendable. · Entrepreneurship development is still at its lowest ebb in Nigeria despite concerted efforts from relevant stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ICCON as a regulatory body should be involved in curriculum development and review at all levels of education with an aim to raising future entrepreneurs.
2. There is need to have a paradigm shift and Curriculum re-engineering from the secondary education into the tertiary education from the conventional chemistry teaching of taking the molecules out of the laboratory to the plant-scale entrepreneurial chemistry approach, where students are connected with the present day realities giving students the opportunities to develop informed mind set towards creating value-addition thus bridging the demand gaps of humanity.
3. The course "Entrepreneurship Chemistry" which will include accounting, bookkeeping, Warehousing and some Industrial Chemistry should be incorporated into the curriculum.
4. Chemistry Entrepreneurship is needed to take the nation to the next level of industrialization through the Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs).
5. Collaboration of ICCON, CSN and MAN towards commercialization of research findings in Nigeria, will be a giant stride in the right direction.

COMMUNIQUE GROUP

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