

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME ADDRESS
USAID/IE TRAINING WORKSHOP 1st-5th DECEMBER
2003 AT ARCADE HOTEL ABUJA

OBSERVE PROTOCOL

Distinguished representatives of the Energy group of the Institute of International Education (IIE), USAID, Ministry of Power & Steel, Utilities Charges Commission, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Ministry of Economic Planning and the Bureau of Public Enterprises; Workshop Participants, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great enthusiasm that I warmly welcome you all to this strategic Workshop that is an offshoot of the thriving Energy Co-operation between the United States of America and Nigeria.

This workshop is sequel to the series of previous workshops that have also been sponsored by the United

States Government under the auspices of the USAID to develop the capacities and build the skills of key participants in the Nigerian Electricity sector so as to enable them function effectively in a privatized and de-regulated power sector.

These series of training workshops could not have taken place at a more appropriate time than now that the Federal Government of Nigeria is very committed to liberalizing the electricity sector to enhance operational efficiency.

The importance of planning in any Power Utility need not be overemphasized, for lack of planning is a panacea for failure. I expect that participants will come out better equipped with current planning techniques that will facilitate their job performance.

Also, the inclusion of strategic investment as part of the workshop is most timely. This to me should agitate the minds of participants particularly those from the financial sectors. The global downturn in investment in Utility, following the corporate failure of some major strategic investors calls for venturing into new investment horizon for the prospective Nigerian Investor, in power sector. This will be very interesting and a major challenge

On behalf of NEPA, I sincerely thank the USAID for assisting with this initiative that will enable us bridge this knowledge gap. The feedback I have received from previous workshops informs me that the Energy group of the Institute of International Education (IIE) is doing an excellent job in this direction.

I am confident that the wealth of experience, that spans over 20 years, which the IIE has, in conducting such trainings for key stakeholders of energy sectors globally will be evident during this workshop and that the expectations of participants will not only be met but exceeded.

I wish the participants and facilitators a fruitful and knowledge impacting workshop.

Thank you